



# Assemblymember PATRICIA A. FAHY

109<sup>th</sup> Assembly District



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Winter 2022

Happy Holidays to you and your families! We're looking ahead to the 2023 legislative session and building on our actions and progress made in this year's legislative session to respond to rising inflation and cost of living, regressive Supreme Court decisions on reproductive rights and gun control, and to continue growing our economy in the Capital Region. Infrastructure projects like the \$5 million feasibility study we secured for reimagining I-787 and the Wadsworth Labs and Harriman Campus redesign stand to transform the future of our Capital Region. Since the end of the 2022 session in June, the Governor has signed a number of pieces of legislation we were able to pass into law, while many others still await her signature.

I look forward to building upon the investments we made locally and statewide by continuing to prioritize and support our small businesses, workers, and families. We must also continue combating the transcendent threat of our time – climate change — while creating thousands of good-paying, green jobs, and seizing the full opportunity that the passage of the \$4.2 billion Environmental Bond Act this year presents to our climate action agenda.

This Fall, I was honored to be named the Environmental Advocates of New York's Environmental Champion of the Year and the New York League of Conservation Voters' Environmental Legislator of the Year for our work on preserving the environment and climate action. Proudly, we were also able to secure a host of legislative grants to benefit our local communities. Next year's state budget must include meaningful investments to address the housing crisis and expand affordable housing, improve public safety, and reduce health care professional burnout while improving retention and recruitment.

I continue to be inspired by our community's resilience throughout what has been a tumultuous year. I am honored to represent each of you in the New York State Assembly and I remain committed to ensuring the Capital Region has a strong voice in the State Capitol. Wishing you all a healthy and happy holiday!



Sign up for our weekly email-blasts that we have on each newsletter by visiting:  
[www.bit.ly/109ENews](http://www.bit.ly/109ENews)

## Bills That Have Been Signed Into Law:

This year, we acted aggressively to combat gun violence, bolster our economy and help lower the cost of living and inflation, and more. Legislation I sponsored signed into law by the Governor includes:

### Combating Gun Violence in our Communities and Hate on Social Media — A7865/S4511

As part of New York's landmark 10-point gun sense package passed and signed into law this year, I was proud to sponsor the bill requiring social media platforms that operate in New York State to maintain easily accessible reporting mechanisms for hate speech and conduct on their platforms. Additionally, this legislation fines companies for noncompliance and requires them to report on how they've responded and dealt with specific requests.

### Energy Efficiency in Building Codes — A10439/S9405

The Governor signed my legislation to add the implementation of the state's climate mandates set forth under the CLCPA to the state energy conservation construction code, increase the efficiency and energy standards of appliances and equipment, and deliver a projected \$15 billion of total utility bill savings by 2035 for New York consumers, including \$6 billion for low-to-moderate-income households. This bill will ensure consumers receive the most savings possible under the new standards.



I was happy to join Malik Dare for his third annual 'Dare to Donate' food drive at the South End Children's Cafe and of course, to give a quick book reading too!



This fall, I gathered with the Families for Safe Streets Coalition and other advocates to urge the Governor to sign life-saving 'complete streets' legislation into law that would encourage greater use of pedestrian and cyclist-friendly infrastructure in transportation infrastructure projects.

Continued on next page



## Our Bills That Have Been Signed Into Law (Continued)

### Outdoor Dining Extension — A9820/S8820

Legislation I sponsored to extend the use of municipal space for outdoor dining in our communities has been signed into law! After two years of weathering the effects of the pandemic, this is another financial lifeline that will help to support our local restaurant industry. As we continue to explore ways to support our small business and restaurant industry — the cornerstones of our communities — we can start by driving more foot traffic to our downtowns, economic hubs, and these businesses through commonsense policies such as this.

### BALLOT PROP #1: New York's Environmental Bond Act

- ✔ Funding for clean drinking water.
- ✔ Support nearly 100,000 jobs.
- ✔ Update infrastructure including roads, sewers, and drinking water pipes.
- ✔ Conserve wildlife habitats, farms, forests, wetlands.
- ✔ Funding for planting street trees, reducing lead exposure, and increasing energy efficiency in public buildings.



**PASSED** — New York Voters Approve Environmental Bond Act: Ballot proposition 1 delivers \$4.2 billion for clean energy, good-paying green jobs, clean air, clean water, preserving open space and natural resources, and improving climate resiliency in our local communities to minimize the effects of climate-driven natural disasters.

## Legislation Still Awaiting Action

We passed several pieces of legislation this year but not all have been acted on by the Governor, and we've introduced or are planning to introduce new legislation in the 2023 legislative session as well.

### The Digital Fair Repair Act – A7006/S4104

New Yorkers spend over \$1,000 a year on new electronics that contribute to a massive e-waste problem thanks to the corporate monopolization of our repair economy. We were successful in passing my legislation that will give New Yorkers a right to repair their smartphones, computers, and other electronic devices. This year we were successful in passing the Digital Fair Repair Act with overwhelming bipartisan support, and it awaits action from the Governor.

Check out this editorial from the [Albany Times Union](https://www.albanytimesunion.com) in support of the Digital Fair Repair Act: [www.bit.ly/turepair](https://www.bit.ly/turepair)

### 30x30 – A5390/S6191A

This year, we were successful in passing my legislation with former Senator Kaminsky to preserve 30% of New York's land and water by 2030 in a historic step towards combating climate change and preserving our environment. Backed by several prominent environmental groups, this legislation awaits action from the Governor.

See if you qualify for heating assistance or the Home Energy Assistance Program (HEAP) to help with heating costs this winter. New Yorkers and their families should not have to shoulder increased utility costs amidst what's been a challenging year for so many financially.



### Complete Streets Funding Increase — A8936/S3897

Legislation awaiting action from the Governor that I've sponsored with Senator Tim Kennedy will help ensure that local governments and municipalities receive increased state funding assistance when undertaking complete streets projects within their jurisdictions. Complete street design improves safety for commuters and communities alike, and increased state assistance will help more local governments undertake these initiatives.

### Banning Toxic PFAS Chemicals in Common Apparel — A7063/S6291

No amount of exposure to toxic PFAS chemicals is safe for human beings, which means they should not be found in common items of apparel and clothing like our gloves, hats, and shirts. This bill, awaiting the Governor's signature, will protect New Yorkers and their families from yet another point of exposure to these hazardous chemicals, building upon our progress in banning them in food packaging, drinking water, and more.



I welcomed Guilderland elementary school students to the Assembly Chambers this Fall and was impressed with their knowledge of state government and the legislature!

### 100% Electric State Vehicle Fleet by 2030 — A10450/S9382

My legislation that will require New York State's vehicle fleet to become 100% electric by the year 2030 is awaiting signature by the Governor as well. The transportation sector is one of the largest contributors to carbon emissions, and having the state lead the way will help further accelerate our transition to EVs. When New York leads, other states and private industries are likely to follow, and this sets a strong precedent moving forward.

Environmental  
Advocates  
NY  
**2022 LEGISLATOR OF THE YEAR**



Assemblymember Patricia Fahy

Thank you to the Environmental Advocates NY for naming me this year's 'Legislator of the Year' for our work on environmental justice, sustainability, and addressing climate change. Together we'll ensure NY continues to lead the nation on Climate Action!



We honored Downtube Bicycle Works owner Robert 'Bob' Fullem by announcing his business had been inducted into the New York State Historic Business Preservation Registry this year – congratulations, Bob!



## Delivering For Our Communities – Grant News and Action

Highlighted below are a number of legislative grants and awards that we secured to primarily improve the quality of life in our local communities, and reduce the cost burden on our local governments. From funding to libraries and community centers to parks and trails, these types of state-local partnerships are invaluable and underscore the importance of collaboration across different levels of government. These are just a few of the highlights in 2022:



Standing with Senator Michelle Hinchey, Town Supervisor Peter Barber, and Guilderland Schools officials to announce funding for a new sidewalk between Lydius St. and Pine Bush Elementary, a sidewalk along Rt. 20 and the Guilderland Public Library, multi-modal access on Rt. 146 bridge, multi-modal access near the Watervliet Reservoir, and new equipment to maintain and improve trails in town parks and open spaces.



Standing in Guilderland to announce a \$250,000 grant we secured for a playground at Abele/McKownville Park, also used to fund 2 Stryker lifts to increase patient weight capacity of ambulances for Guilderland Emergency Medical Services, and improvements at the Mynderse-Frederick House including a new roof, windows, and exterior painting.



Proud to announce with Voorheesville Public Library they've received \$229,292 in library construction aid through the New York State Education Department for a new vestibule, entryway, circulation desk, and children's play area. Additionally, the Albany Public Library's Washington Avenue Branch will receive \$235,985 for HVAC upgrades at the Washington Avenue Branch, for a total of \$467,277 in total library construction aid for 109th District libraries.



I joined Albany County Legislator Carolyn McLaughlin to welcome attendees to New York's 2022 Cannabis Expo at the Albany Convention Center in October. As New York's cannabis industry continues to grow, let's ensure it's both sustainable and equitable.

## Looking Forward to 2023's Legislative Session

As we look forward to the 2023 legislative session, we'll be focused on revolving legislative priorities as well as new legislation we've crafted or are working on.

### International Debt Reduction Act — A10595

This fall, I introduced the New York Taxpayer and International Debt Crises Protection Act (A.10595, Fahy), requiring private creditors to extend the same debt relief to developing nations struggling with debt crises that public creditors extend under international agreements. Additionally, the bill blocks tax money that funds United States' contributions to debt relief initiatives, like the common framework for debt relief, from funding bailouts of private creditors, and ensures it supports spending on health, education, and other services for the most vulnerable in debtor countries. As the hub of the world's financial sector, New York State has unique jurisdiction to lead on this issue.



I joined a coalition of clergy and other debt advocacy organizations to announce the introduction of the New York Taxpayer and International Debt Crises Protection Act (A.10595).

### Gas Transition and Affordable Energy Act — A9329/S8198

To continue tackling the climate crisis, this year I introduced the Gas Transition & Affordable Energy Act (A.9329) alongside Senator Liz Krueger, which would remove statutory requirements and ratepayer subsidies that drive the expansion of the gas system, and require the Public Service Commission to adopt rules and develop a statewide gas service transition plan to ensure equity, reliability, and affordability in the process of decommissioning the gas system in line with New York's climate and clean energy mandates. Fossil fuels burned in buildings for heating, hot water, and cooking account for approximately one third of all greenhouse gas emissions in New York State – underscoring how important it is we rein in our building stock's emissions and meet our climate goals.

### Expanding NY's Earned Income Tax Credit for Working Families and Individuals — A2533/S537

I look forward to again prioritizing my legislation (A.2533, Fahy) expanding New York's Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC). While we were partially successful in a one-time expansion of New York's EITC in this year's budget, both the federal and state level-EITCs have been proven to be some of the most effective economic and social equalizers, lifting millions of Americans and their families out of poverty every year, while rewarding work. Under my legislation, New York's EITC would impact hundreds of thousands of New Yorkers not previously eligible.

### Growing New York's Future Buildout of Electric Vehicle Infrastructure — A3179-D/S7406-C

Legislation I sponsor with Senator Liz Krueger would dramatically expand the requirements for EV-capable and EV-ready parking spaces in new building construction and major rehabilitation projects. New York must accelerate the electrification of its transportation sector, which accounts for almost half of all of NY's carbon emissions in order to meet our ambitious climate emission goals laid out in the CLCPA. It's projected the state needs 73,000 Level 2 plugs and 2,600 fast-charging plugs by 2025 to support other transportation-sector targets, yet currently, only roughly 6,000 Level 2's and 600 fast-charging plugs have been rolled out. By requiring more EV capable and ready charging stations across our building stock, we're placing New York on a fast track to meeting its ambitious climate and emission goals.



## Reimagining I-787



Our legislative highlight of the year was securing \$5 million in the state budget for a feasibility engineering study to reimagine I-787 and reconnect downtown Albany to the Hudson River waterfront. Coupled with the \$750 million Wadsworth Lab and Harriman Campus upgrade and consolidation, these projects have the potential to transform the Capital Region.

## Feature: Stay Active By Staying Outdoors!

Many of us scale back our outdoor exercise or fitness routine when the colder, winter months arrive. Studies show, however, that this can be detrimental to both our mental and physical health. While some parks and open spaces aren't safe or ideal for winter adventures, I encourage you to find a place outdoors to stay active. Here are some of my favorite spots for a quick breath of fresh air that are accessible in the winter:

- Pine Hollow Arboretum
- John Boyd Thacher State Park
- Empire State Plaza (and Skate Rink)
- Washington Park in Albany
- Altamont's 'Museum in the Streets'
- Huyck Preserve
- Albany Pine Bush Preserve
- And so many more! Make sure you check on individual trail and facility restrictions before visiting any park or preserve in the winter.



With White House Infrastructure Czar Mitch Landrieu, Albany Mayor Kathy Sheehan, and Senator Kirsten Gillibrand during Landrieu's visit to Albany discussing reimagining I-787.

*Holiday Blues: The Holidays can be an especially stressful time for some of us, especially those experiencing loss. Please take the time to care for your own mental health this season. Help is always available at the 988 suicide and crisis lifeline.*



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**Minimum Wage Increase:** As part of the continued minimum wage increase in New York State, Upstate New York's minimum wage will increase to \$14.20/hour, from \$13.20/hour.