



Assemblymember
Gabriella A. Romero



End of Summer 2025

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Dear Neighbor,

As of mid-June, the New York State Assembly is out of legislative session. I feel extremely privileged to serve in this role and wanted to share some of the highlights from my first term in office. Summer flew by, and there are incredible outdoor activities to enjoy in the 109th Assembly District. Please take some time to check out all the farmer’s markets, hiking and walking trails, live music, and other events listed throughout the newsletter!

Although session is over, my office is here to assist with your needs. Please feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns - romerog@nyassembly.gov or 518-455-4178.

With love, your
Assemblymember,

■ Bills Passed (Awaiting Governor Signature)

- **Holocaust Memorial Bill (S.5784/A.7614)**
This legislation creates the official New York State Holocaust Memorial. It commemorates the victims of the Holocaust while educating future generations about its history and the dangers of antisemitism, racism, and all manifestations of intolerance. I’m honored to have worked on this with my legislative colleagues in the Capital Region, in addition to the organizations that brought this across the finish line. I look forward to the Governor’s support as we await signing this into law.
- **Civil Litigation Efficacy Omnibus Bill (S.8411/A.8869)**
This bill is an omnibus, meaning there are multiple changes tied into this one piece of legislation. C.L.E.O aims to preserve state and local resources by streamlining legal processes, ensuring expedient justice. The bill also protects whistleblowers from intimidation, secures real-time, direct access to the database for firearms seized by law enforcement, and, most importantly, clarifies the Attorney General’s authority to combat systemic discrimination and abuse of students. As a litigator, I was honored that the Attorney General trusted me with this bill. As a freshman legislator, I was extremely proud to debate it on the floor and bring it across the finish line.
- **Crime Victim Notification Bill (S.7546/A.6332A)**
This bill requires the District Attorney’s Office, or their designee, to mail the final disposition of a felony case to the named crime victim if they do not appear in court for the final sentencing date. This legislation was the result of many months of hard work, had strong bipartisan support, and will provide much-needed clarity and closure to crime victims across New York State.

■ Bills Introduced

I’m proud to have introduced these bills (and many others!) this session to support our community and move the 109th Assembly District forward. It’s been a busy session, and the work is not over! I remain active in introducing legislation, even while we’re out of session - make sure you are signed up for my email blasts and subscribed to my social media accounts so you can stay updated.

- **Potholes Bill, A.8056**
Did you know that if your car suffers damage from a state highway, you are only able to sue New York State if the incident occurred between May 1 and November 15? My bill A8056 will change that. This bill allows for everyone to sue New York State when they need to, year-round, essentially incentivizing government to take care of these potholes and defects in State roads!
- **Towing Fee Bill, A.8858**
This bill ensures that if your car or a larger vehicle is towed outside of New York City, you won’t be hit with sky-high towing or storage fees. It sets a fair limit on what towing companies can charge, protecting people from being exploited by outrageous or unexpectedly high fees, which has become a serious problem in many parts of New York State.
- **Electronic Bail Bill, A.6782**
This bill allows people to pay bail, fines, and other court fees online. Currently, making these payments can be complicated and inconvenient, which sometimes leads to extra penalties for late payments. By offering an online option, it becomes easier and faster for people to take care of what they owe, benefiting both the courts and those making the payments.
- **Gender-Affirming Care Bill, A.8191**
This bill would allow New York State to establish a continuation of care program for people who rely on gender-affirming care. Once this program is created, it would consult subject matter experts to identify providers and offer them funding and resources to support their mission. Now more than ever, this legislation is essential to ensuring that everyone receiving life-saving treatment can continue to access it.

■ Live Music

Check out these exciting upcoming live music events!:

■ **The Arch Stanton Quartet @ Opalka Gallery**

Russell Sage College’s Opalka Gallery (140 New Scotland Ave, Albany, NY 12208) is hosting the Arch Stanton Quartet on Friday, October 3 from 6:30pm to 8pm. Enjoy free, live music with your friends and family.

■ **Lark Out Loud**

Lark Out Loud 2025 is a Tribute Band Music Festival featuring a Led Zeppelin Tribute, 80’s Rock, 90’s Hits, and Classic Funk performed by some legendary local bands including Super 400, Hot Cousin, Road Soda Pop, and CC Smokes.

The concert kicks off at 1pm on September 20 in the Lark Tavern Parking Lot at 435 Madison Avenue.

THESE EVENTS ARE FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC.

■ Farmer’s Markets

Farmer’s markets are essential to supporting local farmers and businesses, and providing healthy food to our communities. Luckily, there are so many farmers markets located within the 109th Assembly District!

Check out some of them listed below:

- **Washington Park Farmer’s Market –**
Knox Street Mall Road, Inside Washington Park, Albany, NY 12210; Starting Saturdays in July through the first Saturday in October, 10am till 2pm. Yoga is from 9am till 10am
- **Empire State Plaza Farmer’s Market –**
Empire State Plaza North End, 279 Madison Ave., Albany, NY 12207 (WIC, FMNP, FCC, SNAP); Wednesdays, 10am till 2pm
- **Delaware Community Farmer’s Market –**
331 Delaware Avenue, Albany, NY 12209; July 2 to September 24 every Tuesday, 4pm till 7pm
- **Guilderland Farmer’s Market –**
6147 State Farm Rd. (Behind Star Plaza), Guilderland, NY 12084; Every Sunday through the first Sunday in October, 10am till 2pm
- **New Covenant Presbyterian Farmer’s Market –**
916 Western Ave., Albany - New Presbyterian Church (WIC, FMNP, FCC, SNAP) Tuesdays, 3pm till 6pm
- **Altamont Farmer’s Market –**
181 Main St., Altamont, NY (WIC, FMNP, FCC); Fridays, 11am till 6pm and Saturdays, 10am till 2pm, June-October
- **Voorheesville Farmer’s Market –**
68 Maple Ave., Voorheesville, NY; Wednesdays, 3:30pm till 6:30pm until Sept. 28
- **South End Night Market –**
20 Warren St., Albany, NY (SNAP); Thursdays, 5pm till 8pm
- **Downtown Albany Farmer’s Market –**
SUNY Plaza, 385 Broadway in Albany (WIC, FMNP, FCC, SNAP); Thursdays, 10am till 2pm, May-October

■ Walking/Hiking Trails

We’re fortunate enough to live in an area surrounded by beautiful landscapes and nature. This fall is a perfect opportunity to explore local walking and hiking trails located within the district and just outside of it. Our biggest park is John Boyd Thacher State Park, but there are plenty of others to check out!

- **Albany County Helderberg Hudson Rail Trail -**
722 S Pearl Street, Albany, NY 12202
- **Bozen Kill Preserve -**
6544 Westfall Road, Altamont, NY 12009
- **Tawasentha Park Trails -**
188 Route 146, Schenectady, NY 12084
- **Vosburgh Trails -**
94-50 Frenchs Mill Road, Altamont, NY 12009
- **New Scotland Town Park Nature Trail -**
148 Swift Rd., Voorheesville, NY 12186
- **Five Rivers Environmental Education Center Loop Trail -**
56 Game Farm Rd., Delmar, NY 12054
- **John Boyd Thacher Yellow Trail Loop -**
540 NY-157, Voorheesville, NY 12186

■ Upcoming Events

Between outdoor activities, music festivals, cultural celebrations, and more — there are so many activities in the 109th Assembly District! Take a look at upcoming events for you, your friends, and family to attend!

- **13th Annual Mississippi Day Celebration**
The Underground Railroad Education Center is hosting their 13th Annual Mississippi Day Celebration full of food, music, vendors, kid zones, and family fun on Saturday, September 27 at Lincoln Park in Albany!
- **Senior Citizens Law Day**
Soon-to-be seniors, their loved ones, and their caregivers are invited to Albany Law School at 80 New Scotland Ave. Albany, NY 12208 for this annual event on Saturday, October 4, from 8:30am to 1pm. Participants can enjoy workshops and consultations provided by Albany Law professors, attorneys, and other experts.
- **Upper Madison Street Fair 2025**
Join your family and neighbors for music, art, dance, and free activities for children at the Upper Madison Street Fair on Sunday, September 28 from 12pm till 5pm on Upper Madison Ave.
- **Opalka Gallery Pop-Up Live Music and Food**
Join the Opalka Gallery, located at Russel Sage College (140 New Scotland Ave.) for the first three Fridays in September from 6pm till 9pm for live music, beverages, vendors, and food!
- **Fall @ the Clinton Market Collective (11 Clinton Ave)**
Celebrate the Fall with several events coming to the Clinton Market Collective

Grounded Grooves on Wednesdays, between Sept. 3 and Oct. 29: a free yoga class with a live DJ

First Friday Live Music Oct. 3: Live music on the first Friday of October

Beats & Eats Mondays, Sep. 8 - Oct. 27: Enjoy beats by DJ Trumastr, with food from Slidin' Dirty food truck available for purchase.
- **Ask An Attorney Series**
In Our Own Voices is hosting their final Ask An Attorney event on Wednesday, September 24, from 9:30am to 1:30pm at 255 Lark St., Albany, NY.
- **Reimagine St. Rose Community Open House**
Join Albany leaders and stakeholders as they discuss plans and share feedback about the proposed uses of the former St. Rose Campus. This Open House will be held on September 25 from 4:00 PM to 7:00 PM at the Lally Building Rotunda (1009 Madison Avenue).
- **Guilderland Summer Reading Bash**
Join us on Sunday, September 28 from 3pm to 5pm at the Guilderland Public Library (2228 Western Ave. Guilderland, NY 12084) as we celebrate the success of our 2025 Summer Reading Program with a community-wide event designed for all ages. Students will receive certificates celebrating their summer reading accomplishments and can participate in our Color Powder Party! Please ask children to wear white or clothes they don't mind getting covered in powder.

**THESE EVENTS ARE FREE
AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC.**

■ An Update on Quality of Life

Albany Navigates Health and Housing Program

Albany Navigates is an emerging program that began as a joint city-county pilot on Lark Street in the spring and summer of 2023.

The program has now secured \$1.8 million in funding for the next three years and addresses unsheltered homelessness, mental health, addiction, and housing needs. It will also help participants navigate services through case management and connections to essential resources. The goal is simple but vital: to connect people with the support they need to survive, because no one deserves to be without shelter.

Members of the public can refer to Albany Navigates, but participation must be voluntary. The program prioritizes trust-building before formal engagement begins. A similar initiative, New York State's **Safe Options Support (SOS) program**, works alongside Albany Navigates to coordinate care for Albany's unhoused population. A new effort, **Supporting Your Neighbors Collaboratively (SYNC)**, aims to streamline outreach and case planning while reducing duplication among service providers.

To make a referral to Albany Navigates, call **518-870-3534** and leave a voicemail with a description of the person you're referring, or email albanynavigate@caresny.org.

Involuntary Commitment

This year's budget updated the legal definition of involuntary commitment to include individuals at substantial risk of physical harm due to mental illness that prevents them from meeting their own essential needs. This change allows for earlier intervention, **connecting our most vulnerable neighbors to necessary resources and treatment** before their situations escalate.

From my perspective as a former public defender, this change has the potential to prevent crises for people who actively seek or desperately need help but are unable to get it in time.

I remain committed to protecting our most vulnerable communities and keeping the 109th Assembly District, and all of New York, safe.

Mental Health Resources

- **Modernized Discrimination Reporting Process**
New York State has made it easier to report discrimination. Trained agents can guide you through the process in real time, file the report for you, and offer interpretation services in languages other than English. No attorney is required, and the service is completely free.

This call center, along with an improved online reporting form, is part of a statewide effort to make filing complaints easier, faster, and more accessible. If you or someone you know has experienced discrimination, visit dhr.ny.gov or **call 844-697-3471** to get started.
- **The Trevor Project**
The Trevor Project is a 24/7 hotline offering call, text, and chat support for LGBTQIA+ youth in crisis and in need of resources. Please **call 1-866-488-7386**, text 'START' to 678-678, or start an online chat at chat.trvr.org.
- **NAMI - NYS Helpline**
The National Alliance of Mental Illness is an incredible organization that connects individuals struggling with mental illness with the necessary resources. If you or your loved one needs access to treatment or care, please do not hesitate to call their helpline at **1-800-950-6264** or **text 'HELPLINE' to 62640**, Monday through Friday, 10am till 10pm EST.
- **Support Groups and Resources for Pride**
Lower Adirondack Pride is offering free virtual support groups for parents and guardians to support LGBTQIA+ children, for LGBTQIA+ adults, and for older adults (55+) to gather together on Zoom from August through December. To register for one of these support groups, call **518-680-7814** or email info@loweradkpride.org.

■ In/Out of Chamber – Best of 2025


■ Something wonderful is coming to the Frank Chapman Memorial Institute! Earlier this summer, I invited Assembly Speaker Carl Heastie to the Chapman Institute for a tour of one of West Hill's most essential nonprofits. We finished the day with a \$1.25 million state investment for both the Chapman Institute and Hood's House of Hoops. This investment will have ripple effects for the whole West Hill neighborhood, and I couldn't be more excited to deliver this for the City of Albany residents.



■ Earlier this year, the federal government stripped Sgt. Henry Johnson of a well-deserved honor by renaming Fort Johnson back to Fort Polk, despite nearly a century of advocacy to secure his posthumous Medal of Honor. I joined Assemblymembers Phil Steck and John McDonald, Senators Pat Fahy and Jake Ashby, and Mayor Kathy Sheehan to announce new legislation that would rename the Patroon Island Bridge in honor of Albany's own Sgt. Henry Johnson.

■ In June, I was proud to attend the announcement of full funding for Phase One of the Empire State Plaza decarbonization plan. I helped secure \$136 million in the FY 2026 state budget for this project, which will cut emissions at the Plaza by 20%, bringing cleaner air, modern energy systems, and good-paying jobs to Sheridan Hollow. I'll continue working closely with community advocates to keep this project moving forward, it's thanks to their efforts that we've reached this milestone.





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Albany, New York 12248

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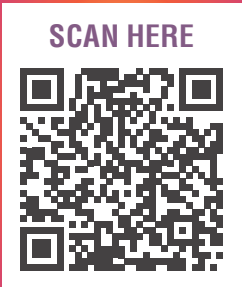
Join a 2025 Fall Frolic with
Assemblymember Gabriella A. Romero

Join me and fellow elected officials for a fun-filled celebration featuring delicious fall treats, lawn games, and plenty of opportunities to connect with local resources! My office is bringing a series of Fall Frolics to neighborhoods across the 109th Assembly District:

- **September 29, 5pm to 7pm:**
with County Legislator Wanda Willingham at Black Lives Matter Park
484 Livingston Ave., Albany, NY 12206
 - **October 4, 2pm to 4pm:**
with Councilmember Owusu Anane and the Pine Hills Neighborhood Association at Madison Park - Corner of Ontario St. and Madison Ave., Albany, NY 12203
- **October 14, 4pm to 6pm:**
with Councilmember Joyce Love at the Frank Chapman Memorial Institute
340 1st St., Albany, NY 12206
 - **October 20, 5pm to 7pm:**
with County Legislator Dustin Reidy at Tawasentha Park Chalet
188 NY-146, Altamont, NY 12009

Let's come together to make this Fall unforgettable!

For more details and updates,
please sign up for my
legislative newsletter:



@AMRomero109

