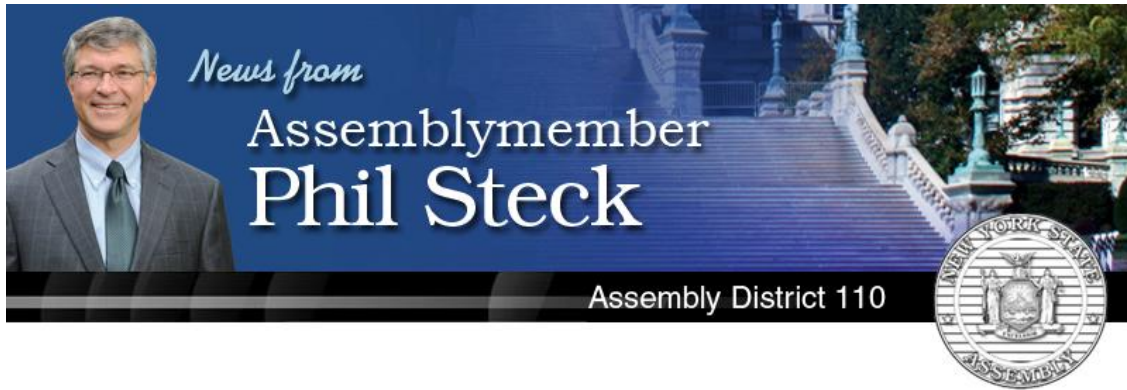




As the legislative session comes to a close, I wanted to take this opportunity to share an update on the work being done on your behalf both in Albany and throughout our community.

This year's session was marked by significant challenges, including a state budget that was finalized 57 days late and a legislative process that continues to require meaningful reform. Despite those obstacles, we were able to advance important legislation to protect consumers, address addiction, support first responders, strengthen protections for seniors, and expand access to healthcare and treatment services.

In this newsletter, you will find updates on several bills that passed the Legislature this session, including legislation to ban dangerous synthetic kratom products, increase support for volunteer firefighters and EMS personnel, combat fatal overdoses, protect older New Yorkers from abuse, and expand access to clean energy. I also share my thoughts on the final state budget, the need for legislative reform, and the priorities I will continue pursuing in the coming year.

You will also find highlights from across the 110th Assembly District, including community events, student recognitions, local celebrations, and visits with organizations that make our region such a special place to live and work.

Please do not hesitate to reach out to my office at 518-377-0902 or SteckP@nyassembly.gov if there is anything I can do to help.

Best,
Phil Steck

Legislative Updates

Reflections on the 2026-2027 New York State Budget

In the other 49 states and in the Federal Government, there is legislative budgeting: the Executive proposes a budget, but the legislature makes the final budget. We have the opposite system here in New York State. With executive budgeting, the Governor creates the budget, and the legislature can only subtract or delete or threaten not to pass a budget altogether. Because the legislature is most reluctant to vote down the budget, the Governor inserted policy items into the budget that would never pass as standalone bills. This year, the Governor severely abused this power, resulting in the budget being 57 days late. The budget this year contained some positive, smaller-scale policy items, but on the big issues, many were deeply problematic.

I am happy to share that we secured \$333,000 in critical funding for community organizations in the 110th Assembly District. Additionally, there is a \$50 million increase in funding, which the Legislature fought for, over what the Governor proposed for the Consolidated Highway Improvement Program (CHIPs). CHIPs funding goes directly to our cities, towns, villages, and counties to pay for repairs and maintenance to local roads and bridges, reducing the burden on local taxpayers while improving road safety for communities across New York. The budget also includes a substantial increase in Aid to Municipalities funding, providing additional resources to local governments and helping communities throughout the 110th Assembly District address local needs and priorities.

As Chair of the Committee on Alcoholism and Substance Abuse, I must point out that the budget contains some improvements in the area of addiction treatment. Since the legalization of online sports betting, New York State has seen a rapid increase in problem gambling. As a state, it is our responsibility to protect the public and help those who are struggling receive treatment. My legislation to require health insurance plans to cover problem gambling was included in this year's budget. This legislation is an important step toward ensuring that those who want help can access the care they need without paying out of pocket or going without treatment altogether. At the same time, we cannot solely focus on treatment after the fact. We need to continue to pass meaningful legislation to establish safeguards to prevent gambling addiction before it starts.

This year's budget continues to provide \$1.2 million for 12 not-for-profit programs that treat co-occurring substance use and mental health disorders. I have heard directly from patients and providers who have benefited from this funding and received it as soon as the budget passed. I will continue to advocate not only for the continuation of this funding

but also for expanding it to more not-for-profit organizations so we can comprehensively treat patients in recovery.

Lastly, throughout the year, my office has repeatedly received numerous calls from constituents rightfully concerned about the actions of ICE and the abrasive tactics they have used throughout the country. The Trump Administration's use of ICE has not only resulted in American citizens being accidentally deported, but it has also resulted in the deaths of several individuals, most prominently in Minnesota. While I have been outspoken in my criticism of ICE, I have also cautioned constituents that we need to strike the right balance to ensure that lawfully issued immigration warrants and proceedings can still occur. I believe the provisions in the budget strike this balance. New York now prohibits ICE agents from wearing masks for the sole purpose of concealing their identities, places limits on how local law enforcement can cooperate with ICE and restricts ICE from entering sensitive locations without a lawfully issued warrant. These provisions do not obstruct our legal immigration system in any way and will not prevent law enforcement from taking action against those who commit crimes or otherwise violate the law.

Unfortunately, there were some policy proposals of the Governor that I could not support in good conscience, the most egregious being the Governor's insistence on weakening New York's climate laws under the guise of "affordability." Around the world, countries like Australia, Northern Europe, and China are reducing energy costs by investing in clean energy. New York is falling behind due to outdated corporate ideology and the subsidization of fossil fuels. This is not just about the environment; it is about how we can meaningfully address the energy affordability crisis that constituents in the 110th District are facing. We need to remember that New York produces very little energy of its own. We cannot afford to leave ourselves at the mercy of the purveyors of natural gas and oil.

In addition to the weakening of our state's climate laws, I could not support the Governor's plan to transfer \$1.5 billion from the general fund to New York City to expand childcare programs for city residents. In 2014, Bill de Blasio was elected Mayor of New York City. He ran on a platform that included a surtax on city residents earning over \$500,000 to fund Universal Pre-K for four-year-old children in New York City. However, Governor Cuomo did not want to increase taxes on high earners, so he redirected funds from the state general fund to pay for universal Pre-K only in New York City. Today, in upstate New York, we have a lottery system where only about 50% of families receive state-funded preschool; the other half must pay roughly \$15,000 to \$20,000 a year to buy preschool in the private sector. It is neither fair nor just for taxpayers across New York State to pay for a preschool program available only to New York City residents. This year Governor Hochul compounded the error by funding 3-year-old pre-K in NYC only when Upstate has no such benefit at all.

I also could not justify voting for the Office of Court Administration to receive an 8% budget increase while the Office of Addiction and Support Services (OASAS) receives a

0.1% budget increase. OCA should be funding improvements and expansion of drug courts. OASAS simply cannot pick up the slack for the Court system.



End of Session Statement

While I am proud of the meaningful legislation we passed this year, I cannot help but think about the opportunities that were lost because of an increasingly cumbersome budget process and the extraordinary amount of authority that has been ceded to the Executive Branch. The state budget was finalized 57 days late, consuming valuable time that could have been spent advancing additional priorities for New Yorkers. Despite those obstacles, we were able to pass several important measures that will improve public safety, address addiction, protect vulnerable populations, and expand access to medical care throughout our state.

One of my top priorities this session was protecting young people from dangerous drug dealers who use social media platforms to sell illegal substances. On December 19, 2024, 16-year-old Avery Ping connected with a drug dealer on Snapchat to purchase MDMA. Tragically, the drug was laced with fentanyl and resulted in his death. After Avery's passing, it was discovered that law enforcement had issued a warrant for the dealer's account eight weeks earlier. Had Snapchat responded to that warrant in a timely manner, the dealer may have been apprehended before selling Avery the fatal drug.

In response, I passed legislation requiring large social media companies to comply with lawfully issued search warrants from law enforcement within 72 hours of receipt ([A8022A](#)). This legislation garnered support from the Police Benevolent Association of New York State, Common Sense Media, World Without Exploitation, Albany County District Attorney Lee Kindlon, and Schenectady County District Attorney Robert Carney. I want to thank Avery's grandfather, Martin Ping, for his tireless advocacy to ensure another family does not experience this tragedy. Various social media companies lobbied against the bill, but public safety comes first.

Building on last year's successful effort to regulate products derived from the kratom leaf, the New York State Assembly unanimously passed my bipartisan legislation to ban synthetic kratom products, commonly known as 7-OH or 'gas station heroin' ([A9156B](#)). These dangerous substances are created by artificially concentrating the active ingredient found in kratom, resulting in a product that is 13 times more potent than morphine and capable of causing addiction, declining health, severe withdrawal symptoms, and fatal overdoses.

As Chair of the Assembly Committee on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse, I am deeply concerned about the growing availability of these high-potency synthetic products and the serious public health risks they pose. I want to thank Assemblywoman Mary Beth Walsh and Assemblymember Jake Blumencranz for their bipartisan support on this issue, as well as Cari Scribner, whose son's death was related to kratom, for turning a personal tragedy into meaningful advocacy that is helping protect other families.

Continuing our efforts to combat the overdose crisis, I passed legislation requiring the Office of Addiction Services and Supports to provide test strips capable of detecting dangerous adulterants such as medetomidine, benzodiazepines, and nitazenes ([A9001](#)). This legislation was inspired by testimony before my committee from Dr. Kimberly Boulden and Dr. Joshua Lynch, who highlighted significant gaps in our current harm reduction efforts. Overdose deaths are declining due to harm reduction policies.

In addition, I passed legislation making all FDA-approved opioid reversal agents available in New York ([A265A](#)). Together, these measures will help ensure that New York has a comprehensive toolkit to save lives and respond to the evolving overdose epidemic.

Another significant accomplishment this session was advancing legislation to address the rapid growth of problem gambling. The Assembly passed my legislation requiring commercial health insurance plans to provide outpatient coverage for gambling addiction treatment ([A8518](#)), and this provision was ultimately included in the enacted state budget. While expanding access to treatment is critical, we must continue working to prevent gambling addiction before it begins by establishing stronger safeguards, including restrictions on gambling advertisements during sporting events.

I was also pleased to pass legislation addressing elder abuse by requiring the New York State Office for the Aging to provide training for senior service providers and senior center employees on recognizing, reporting, and responding to abuse ([A582A](#)). By ensuring that

those who work most closely with older adults can identify warning signs, we can better protect vulnerable seniors and connect them with needed services.

Although I am encouraged by the progress we made this year, the reality is that most of the session was consumed by budget negotiations. A major reason for this is the extraordinary amount of authority that has been concentrated in the Executive Branch. Over time, Governors have increasingly used the budget process to advance policy initiatives that would be unlikely to pass through the normal legislative process as standalone bills. As lawmakers were forced to negotiate those policy issues as part of the budget, valuable time was diverted from addressing other priorities facing New Yorkers.

Even after legislation passes both houses of the Legislature, the process is often prolonged by chapter amendments, which are changes requested by the Governor as a condition of signing a bill into law. While some amendments are substantive, many are relatively minor. Nevertheless, they require additional negotiations and legislative action, consuming time that could otherwise be spent moving new legislation forward.

The result is a legislative process increasingly consumed by procedural hurdles rather than focused on solving problems for New Yorkers. This year, the delayed budget prevented movement on several important measures, including the Packaging Reduction and Recycling Infrastructure Act and the REST Act, which would have given municipalities the option to pursue rent stabilization measures if they chose to do so. If we want a government that is more responsive to the needs of New Yorkers, we need to restore a better balance between the Legislature and the Executive Branch so that elected representatives can spend more time advancing solutions and less time navigating delays.

The delayed budget and the Legislature's increasingly cumbersome process also prevented two of my bills that were on the cusp of passing from being voted on: legislation to add two consumer advocates to the Public Service Commission ([A10993A](#)) and legislation authorizing municipalities to participate in county self-insured health plans ([A1766B](#)), which would lower health insurance costs to municipalities.

Looking ahead to next year, I will continue working to advance legislation to eliminate the subminimum wage for workers with disabilities ([A1006B](#)). It is unacceptable that New York still permits people with disabilities to be paid less than minimum wage for performing the same work as others. Many states have already ended this discriminatory practice, and New York should do the same. Only a small number of workers with disabilities remain subject to subminimum wage provisions. No company will go out of business if this outdated practice is eliminated.

I will also continue advocating for the Complex Care Act ([A464B](#)), which would allow parents of medically fragile children to be minimally compensated for providing the care their children need when private duty nurses, which the State is required to provide, are unavailable. Far too many families are forced to leave the workforce because of nursing

shortages, despite performing medically necessary care that would otherwise be provided by paid professionals.

Finally, while effective representation requires collaboration with the Governor, I will continue speaking out when I believe different priorities are warranted. Rolling back environmental protections will increase, not lower, energy costs. New Yorkers should not be left at the mercy of rising prices of natural gas and oil, while Australia, Northern Europe, and China prove that the cost of green energy is lower. Expanding access to pre-kindergarten should benefit communities across New York, not just New York City, as was enacted in this year's budget. And at a time when so many needs remain unmet, I question whether an 8% increase in funding for the Office of Court Administration should take precedence over other pressing concerns.

Although this session was marked by delays and missed opportunities, I remain committed to advancing policies that protect consumers, strengthen public health, support vulnerable New Yorkers, and improve quality of life for the residents of the 110th Assembly District.

Watch my end of session video recap below.

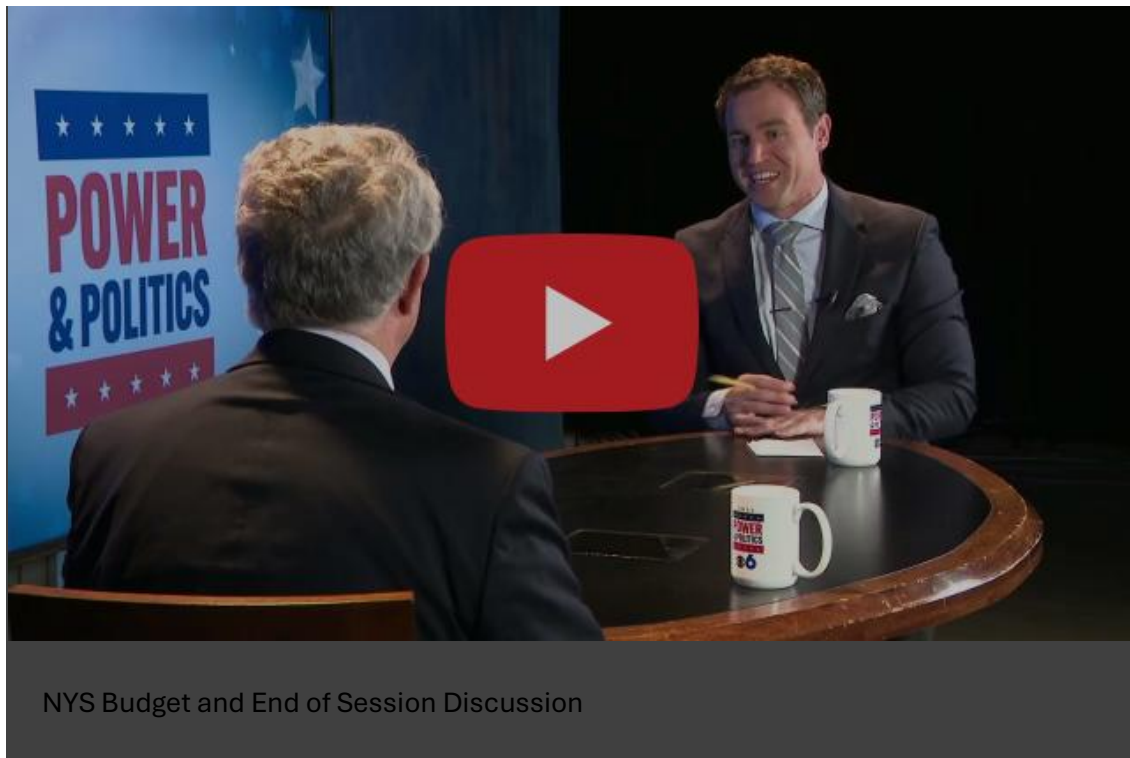


Discussing the Final New York State Budget and the End of Session with Tom Eschen of CBS 6

Last week, I sat down with Tom Eschen of CBS 6 to discuss the conclusion of this year's legislative session, the impact of the delayed state budget, and why meaningful reform is

needed in the legislative process.

When the budget is months late, it leaves less time for lawmakers to debate, refine, and advance important legislation that affects New Yorkers. We owe it to the public to have a process that is more transparent, efficient, and accountable. Check out the full interview below.



Legislation to Ban Synthetic Kratom Products Heads to the Governor

My bipartisan legislation ([A9156B](#)) to ban the sale of synthetic kratom products, commonly known as 7-OH or "gas station heroin," has passed both the New York State Assembly and Senate and now awaits action by Governor Hochul.

As Chair of the Assembly Committee on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse, I am deeply concerned by the growing availability of these dangerous products. While kratom is a plant that has traditionally been used for its mild sedative effects, chemists have used artificial synthesis to create products containing highly concentrated levels of its active ingredient. The result is a substance that acts like an opioid and is often sold in convenience stores, gas stations, and smoke shops in packaging that resembles candy, energy drinks, or even children's bubblegum.

7-OH is approximately 13 times more potent than morphine and can cause addiction, severe withdrawal symptoms, rapidly declining health, and even fatal overdoses. I am already aware of cases here in the Capital Region involving individuals seeking treatment for addiction to these products.

I am grateful to Assemblywoman Mary Beth Walsh and Assemblymember Jake Blumencranz for working with me across party lines to advance this legislation and help protect New Yorkers from these dangerous substances. I am hopeful Governor Hochul will sign this important legislation into law.

To learn more about this issue and the legislation, click the image below to view Spectrum News' coverage.



Supporting Clean Energy and Lower Utility Bills

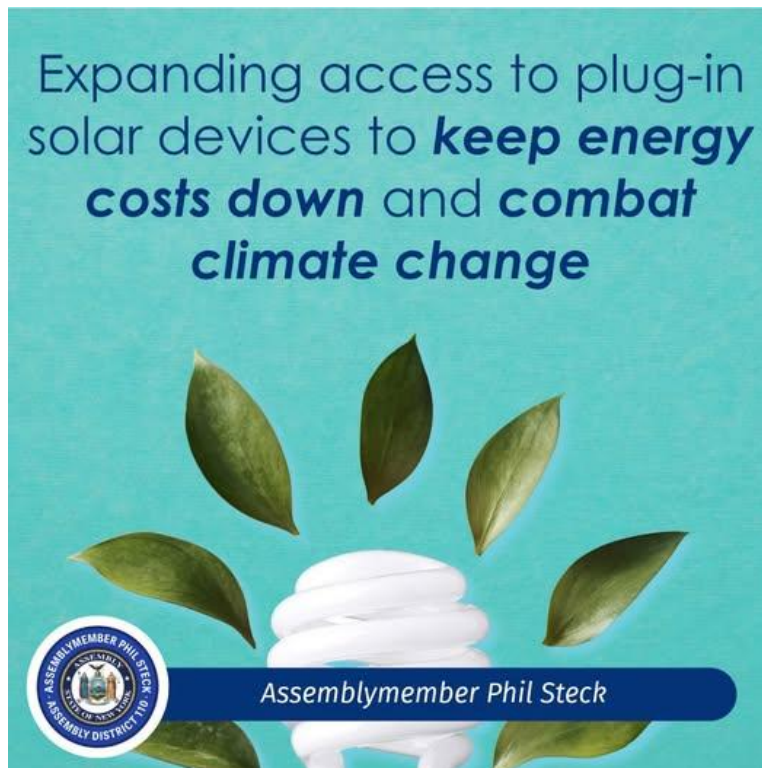
I am pleased to share that the SUNNY Act ([A9111C](#)), which I co-sponsored at the request of a constituent, has passed both the New York State Assembly and Senate and now awaits action by Governor Hochul.

The legislation would remove regulatory barriers to small plug-in solar devices, helping expand access to clean energy for New Yorkers, particularly those who may not own a home but have access to outdoor space.

As energy costs continue to rise, we should be pursuing innovative ways to make renewable energy more accessible and affordable. This legislation is a practical step

toward giving more New Yorkers the opportunity to reduce their utility bills while supporting a cleaner energy future.

I am hopeful Governor Hochul will sign the SUNNY Act into law so that more New Yorkers can take advantage of these emerging clean energy technologies.



Providing Relief for Volunteer First Responders

Legislation I co-sponsored, [A6790A](#), to increase tax credits for volunteer firefighters and ambulance workers has passed both the New York State Assembly and Senate and now awaits action by Governor Hochul.

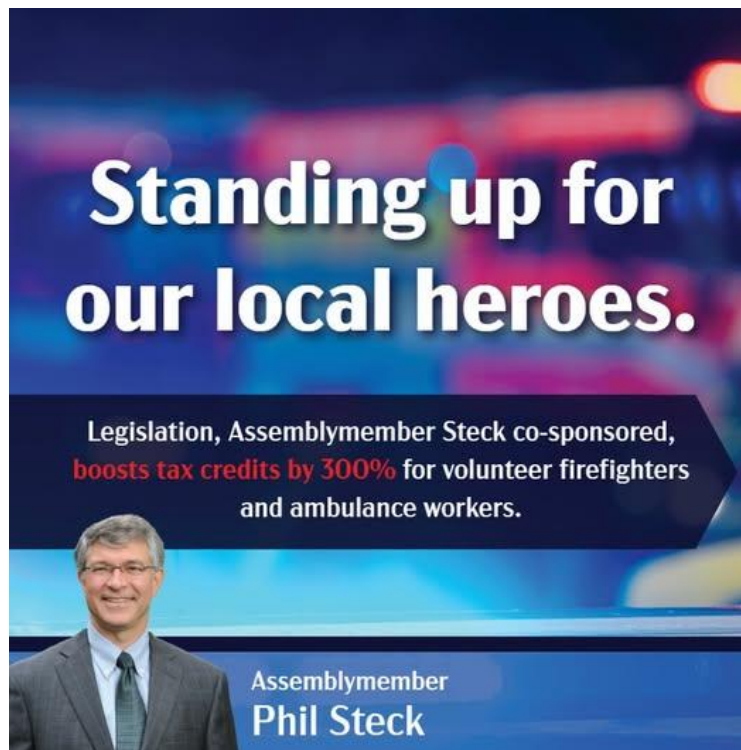
The legislation would increase the state income tax credit from \$200 to \$400 for eligible volunteers and up to \$1,600 for eligible married filers, a recommendation made by the Volunteer Firefighter Recruitment and Retention Task Force. These volunteers dedicate countless hours to protecting our communities, and this legislation is one way to recognize their service and help strengthen recruitment and retention efforts.

Supporting volunteer firefighters and EMS personnel has long been a priority for me. Earlier this year, after speaking directly with a local volunteer firefighter, I introduced legislation to increase the property tax exemption available to volunteer firefighters and

EMS workers from 10% to 20% ([A10613](#)), recognizing that the current exemption has not kept pace with the important role these individuals play in our communities.

I am also pleased to have secured \$50,000 in the budget for Maplewood Fire Department to purchase an air cylinder filling station. This equipment is essential for fire departments, ensuring firefighters have a reliable supply of breathable air when they are in hazardous conditions. A dedicated air cylinder filling station would allow for the rapid refilling of self-contained breathing apparatuses following emergency responses, improving operational readiness.

With 20 volunteer companies serving communities throughout the 110th Assembly District, ensuring these organizations have the support they need is simply common sense. I encourage Governor Hochul to sign this legislation into law and provide meaningful relief to the volunteers who do so much for our communities.



Legislation to Protect Older New Yorkers Passes Legislature

My legislation, [A582A](#), has passed both the New York State Assembly and Senate and now awaits action by Governor Hochul.

This legislation would help protect older New Yorkers from abuse by requiring the New York State Office for the Aging to provide training for senior service providers and senior center employees on elder abuse detection, reporting, and counseling.

Far too many cases of elder abuse go unnoticed or unreported. By ensuring that the people who work most closely with older adults are equipped to recognize the warning signs, we can better protect vulnerable New Yorkers and connect them with the support and resources they need.

Protecting our seniors is a responsibility we all share, and I am hopeful Governor Hochul will sign this important legislation into law.



In the Community

Ending Subminimum Wage for Workers with Disabilities

This session, I was honored to stand with advocates from One Fair Wage and disability rights organizations in support of my legislation that would eliminate the subminimum wage for individuals with disabilities.

Although this legislation did not advance before the close of session, the issue remains just as important today as when it was first introduced. It is simply unacceptable that in 2026, New York still allows people with disabilities to be paid less than minimum wage for

doing the same work as everyone else. Many states across the country have already ended this practice, and New York should do the same.

People with disabilities deserve dignity, equal opportunity, and equal pay for equal work. I remain committed to advancing this legislation and will continue working with advocates, stakeholders, and my colleagues in the Legislature to build support for its passage in the coming session.



Supporting a Great Cause at Pack Fest

I stopped by Pack Fest in the South Colonie Central School District and saw so many students, families, and community members enjoying this wonderful event.

From student-led activities and local vendors to food trucks and plenty of community spirit, there was something for everyone to enjoy. Events like Pack Fest showcase the strong sense of community that makes our area such a great place to live, learn, and raise a family.

I want to thank the students, staff, volunteers, and community partners who helped make the event such a success. Their efforts not only brought the community together for a fun

day but also supported the Albany Housing Coalition and its important work serving veterans and families in need.



Local Students Get a Behind-the-Scenes Look at State Government

It was great to welcome local students to the Capitol last week to shadow me and members of my team. They had the opportunity to see firsthand how state government works, join me in the Assembly Chamber, visit the State Library, and learn more about the work that goes into serving our communities each day.

I always enjoy spending time with young people who are engaged, curious, and eager to learn more about the legislative process. Investing in our youth and helping them better understand government is so important because they are the next generation of leaders who will help shape the future of our communities and our state.



Protecting New Yorkers from Rising Utility Costs

While my legislation, [A10993A](#), did not pass before the end of this legislative session due to the late state budget, I was proud to stand with advocates in support of this important proposal and to continue raising awareness about the impact utility costs are having on New Yorkers.

The Public Service Commission continues to pass significant costs onto ratepayers while major utility corporations benefit. Time and time again, consumers are left with the short end of the stick as families struggle to keep up with skyrocketing utility bills.

My legislation would add two consumer advocates to the Public Service Commission to ensure the interests of ratepayers are represented when decisions affecting utility costs are made. It would also prohibit any employee of a utility company from serving as a PSC commissioner for two years after the end of their employment. Although we were unable to advance this legislation before the close of session, I remain committed to pursuing it next year. New Yorkers deserve a stronger voice in the process, and I will continue working to put consumers ahead of major utility corporations.



Recognizing Together for Youth

I was pleased to welcome representatives from Together for Youth to the New York State Assembly Chamber this month and recognize the important work they do to support children and families across New York.

Together for Youth provides critical mental health, counseling, education, and family support services that help young people succeed both in school and in life. I was especially proud to highlight the organization's impact here in the Capital Region, where they continue to make a meaningful difference in the lives of local children and families.

Organizations like Together for Youth play a vital role in strengthening our communities and ensuring young people have the support they need to thrive. I am grateful for their dedication and the positive impact they make each and every day.



Honoring 75 Years of North Colonie

Last month, I joined the North Colonie Central School District in celebrating its 75th anniversary and to take part in such a meaningful milestone for our community.

For 75 years, North Colonie has provided generations of students with a strong educational foundation while helping shape the future of our region. The anniversary celebration was a wonderful opportunity to reflect on the district's rich history and recognize the educators, staff, students, families, and community members who have contributed to its success over the years.

I was also pleased to learn the name of the district's bison mascot, Bryson, a fitting symbol of the pride and spirit that make North Colonie such a special place.

Congratulations to the North Colonie Central School District on 75 remarkable years of service, achievement, and community. I look forward to seeing all that the district accomplishes in the years ahead.



Remembering Our Fallen Heroes

I was honored to join neighbors and community members at the Memorial Day celebration at The Crossings of Colonie to honor the brave men and women who gave their lives in service to our country.

The event provided an opportunity for our community to come together in remembrance of those who made the ultimate sacrifice to protect the freedoms we enjoy today. I am grateful to everyone who helped organize this meaningful gathering and to the veterans and military families in our community whose service and sacrifice continue to inspire us.



Celebrating Our 2026 Women of Distinction Honorees

I had the privilege of hosting my annual Women of Distinction Awards and recognizing an incredible group of women who have made a lasting impact on our community through their leadership, service, and dedication to others.

It was truly wonderful to celebrate these outstanding honorees and hear the inspiring stories of the difference they are making across the 110th Assembly District. Our communities are stronger because of women like these who step up, give back, and lead with compassion.

Congratulations to this year's Women of Distinction honorees:

- **Mary E. Brizzell** has served as a government official for the Town of Colonie since the 1980s, including as a town board member, deputy supervisor and the first woman elected town supervisor in 1996, which she held until 2007. For more than four decades, Brizzell has been deeply involved with the Friends of the Pruyn House, previously serving as its town board liaison and president. She has served the Loudonville Association since the mid-80s, joining its Board of Trustees in 2009 and serving as its president since 2023. She was also instrumental in negotiating the use of land at The Crossings of Colonie for the Colonie Veterans Memorial and helped plan this year's Memorial Day Celebration. Since 2008, she has been dedicated to supporting the Colonie Senior Service Corporation.
- **Linda Harrison** is serving her 13th year as president of the North Colonie Central School District Board of Education, along with co-chairing several of its committees. Harrison began her career teaching social studies at Shaker High School from 1971 to 2005. She then joined the New York State Department of Education's Office of State Assessment as an education specialist, a role she continues to hold, helping to develop and implement statewide exams and assessments.
- **Pamela Pearlman** has served in a number of leadership and financial roles for more than four decades and given countless hours of her time to local organizations. Pearlman was executive director of the YWCA of Albany and worked for over 20 years as a senior tax associate at Ayco Company. She has been a primary organizer and leader of the Rose Garden Restoration Committee since 2005, overseeing major fundraising, volunteering and treasury projects. Pearlman helped register Friends of the Greenhouse as a nonprofit in 2015 and has served the organization as a treasurer, fundraiser, strategic planner and coordinator of city services. In 2023, she joined the Schenectady Foundation and serves as its vice president.

- **Christina Staton** is the executive pastor of Albany's Empire Christian Center, where she has served for over two decades as a pillar of faith and support for her community. Highlights of her ministry include the Great Give Away program, which has distributed over \$100,000 in cash and resources to area women, and her "Help Me" series that provides a safe and transformative space for women's mutual aid and empowerment. The latter initiative has helped hundreds of people across the region and inspired Christina's book "Help Me, I Am a Woman." Last year, she launched the Capital Region Christian Women's Conference, bringing together leaders and congregations for a multi-day summit.
- **Carol Ann Werblin** has dedicated over 55 years to serving as a registered nurse, sharing her expertise to educate school nurses and students, particularly about the challenges of being a person with epilepsy. Carol currently serves as one of the school nurses at Niskayuna High School. She previously served as the school nurse at Van Antwerp Middle School for 33 years. For the past five years, Carol has volunteered for Street Soldiers of Schenectady, where she provides baked goods, clothing and birthday cakes for individuals in need.



From left to right: Mary E. Brizzell, Linda Harrison, Carol Ann Werblin, Pamela Pearlman, Christina Staton and Assemblymember Phil Steck

Recognizing Outstanding Student Achievements

I was proud to introduce an outstanding group of students from the Niskayuna Central School District on the Assembly floor this month.

These remarkable students have achieved success at the highest levels of academic competition, representing New York State in both the National Science Bowl and the National Masterminds Competition. Their hard work, dedication, and passion for learning have earned them recognition on the national stage and brought tremendous pride to our community.

I want to congratulate the National Science Bowl team, which won the regional competition at General Electric and advanced to the national competition for the third consecutive year, as well as the students from Iroquois Middle School who competed at the state level. I also want to recognize the Masterminds team that represented New York in Atlanta.

These students have accomplished so much already, and they represented the 110th Assembly District exceptionally well. The future is bright with young leaders like these, and I look forward to seeing all they achieve in the years ahead.



A New Healthcare Resource for Local 7 Members

I attended the grand opening of the new primary care clinic for members of Local 7 Plumbers & Steamfitters and their families in Latham alongside Colonie Town Councilman Alvin Gamble.

This innovative healthcare model has proven successful in New York City, and I am excited to see it expand to the Capital Region. By providing convenient, preventative, and no-cost healthcare services directly to union members and their families, the clinic will help improve access to care while supporting a healthy and productive workforce.

As major projects continue to drive economic growth throughout Upstate New York, investments like this help ensure that skilled tradespeople and their families have access to the healthcare services they need. I commend Local 7 for its commitment to supporting its members and strengthening the future of the trades in our region.



Supporting the Chinese Community Center's Renovation

It was a pleasure to join the Chinese Community Center of the Capital District of New York on June 6 for the celebration of its building renovation project. I was proud to help secure state funding to support these improvements, which have transformed the Center's main gathering space into a brighter, more welcoming place for the community.

It was also wonderful to see so many members of the community and reconnect with old friends as we celebrated this important milestone. The Chinese Community Center has long played a vital role in enriching the cultural fabric of the Capital Region, and I look forward to seeing all that this improved space will make possible in the years ahead.



Celebrating Niska-Day

I joined residents, families, community organizations, and local businesses for another fantastic Niska-Day celebration.

From the parade and live entertainment to the many community groups and activities throughout the day, Niska-Day showcased everything that makes Niskayuna such a

special place to call home. Events like this bring neighbors together, strengthen community connections, and highlight the pride that residents have in their town.

The beautiful weather made the day even more enjoyable, and I was grateful for the opportunity to spend time with so many members of the community celebrating one of Niskayuna's most cherished traditions.



Welcome Our Summer Intern Fin

At the beginning of the month, our summer intern Fin started his internship with our office. In just his first two weeks, he witnessed the passage of the New York State budget and the final week of the legislative session.

Fin was instrumental in helping my Legislative Director with reviewing the budget bills and ensuring that our legislation to prohibit the sale of 7-OH products passed the New York State Assembly. I look forward to continuing to work with Fin over the summer before he finishes his senior year at Northeastern University!



Tips & Information

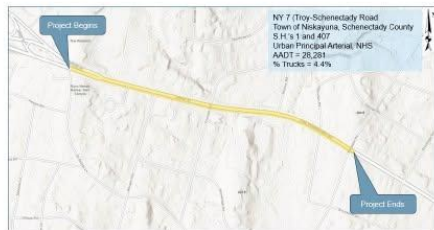
New Route 7 Proposal: Make Your Voice Heard

The future of Route 7 continues to be an important conversation for our community, and there is a new proposal under consideration that would add a traffic signal at the Bellevue Road intersection.

If you live, work, or travel through this corridor, I encourage you to learn more about the proposal and make your voice heard. The New York State Department of Transportation will be hosting a public open house on Wednesday, June 24 at Niskayuna Town Hall from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. and again from 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Project Schedule

Work is expected to occur during the 2027 construction season.



Department of
Transportation

Contact Information

Correspondence should refer to Project Identification Number (PIN) 1306.86.

NY Route 7 Design Team
New York State Department of Transportation
Region 1 Design
50 Wolf Road
Albany, NY 12232
(518) 457-9979
R01-DPC@dot.ny.gov

NY Route 7 (Troy-Schenectady Road) Traffic Calming

Open House

Wednesday, June 24, 2026
11 a.m. to 1 p.m. and 4 to 6 p.m.

Niskayuna Town Hall
One Niskayuna Circle
Niskayuna, NY 12309



Town of Niskayuna
Schenectady County



Department of
Transportation

Open House

This Open House is planned to provide the public with an opportunity to view and provide feedback about proposed project modifications. The changes were made after evaluating public feedback received at the first Open House.

Project Overview

This project was initiated to reduce the number of fatal and serious injury crashes along the NY Route 7 Corridor from Saint David's Lane to Mohegan Road.

The project objective is to reduce vehicle operating speeds to the posted speed limit by introducing traffic calming features to the corridor. The preferred alternative would narrow travel lanes to 11 feet, with striped 4-foot-wide shoulders in both directions, and install intermittent, raised, landscaped medians.

Proposed additions to the project include realigning the eastern driveway of Bellevue Woman's Center with Hickory Road and creating a signalized intersection with crosswalks and fully protected pedestrian accommodations. Access to the northern leg of Vrooman Avenue would be modified to allow only right turns to and from NY 7.

What Will the Project Accomplish?

This project would enhance safety and mobility for all roadway users, including pedestrians, bicyclists and motorists. By calming traffic and reducing vehicle speeds, the project is anticipated to reduce the number and severity of crashes.

Minimizing Construction Impacts

A single lane of traffic in each direction would be maintained during construction. Work would require daily single lane closures, as well as center turn lane closures for the raised median installations.



Proposed Traffic Signal at Hickory Road



Raised Median Simulation

