



Dear Neighbors,

To begin this week's summary on a personal and profoundly important note, I had the opportunity to speak in support of the resolution to proclaim today, January 27th as Holocaust Remembrance Day in the State of New York. This acknowledgment of the lasting pain and generational trauma endured by so many of New York's families is deeply important as we live in a time when some powerful forces seek to "other" vulnerable minority groups and blind us to each other's humanity. We must not allow history to repeat itself. Click [here](#) to see a video of my remarks.



## Legislative Update

### EQUALITY ACT PASSAGE

I am very happy to announce that the **Equality Amendment to Protect New Yorkers** act (A.1283) has passed both houses of the State Legislature and will go before voters as a ballot referendum in

November 2024. Find more information and the full text of the Equality Amendment [here](#).

You can watch my remarks on the amendment [here](#).



## Around the District

### **PUBLIC FORUM FOR NYSEG COMPLAINTS**

From the Department of Public Service:

“The New York State Department of Public Service (DPS) and Consumer Advocate are seeking public comment regarding alleged billing, meter reading, and customer service issues affecting customers of New York State Electric and Gas Corporation (NYSEG).

The Public Service Commission will hold virtual public forums on January 31, 2023 and in-person forums on February 1, 7, & 8, 2023 to solicit input and comments from your community regarding the issues.”

To provide a comment at the virtual forum, please pre-register [here](#) for 1:00pm and [here](#) for 6:00pm. You can also call 1-800-342-3330 to register by phone.

Additionally, written comments can be submitted [here](#) to be part of the investigation.

Some examples of issues to be addressed:

- Delayed or unreceived bills
- Bills based on estimates rather than meter readings
- Issues with renewable energy credits/billing reconciliation
- Customer service experiences
- Business owner experiences
- Etc.

In-person public hearings will be at the following times and locations:

- **Somers** - Wed Feb 1 - 3pm and 5:30-7:30pm

Heritage Hill Society,

8 Heritage Hills Drive, Somers

- **Rochester** - Tues Feb 7, 1-3pm and 6-8pm,

Rochester City Hall Council Chambers

30 Church St, Rochester

- **Binghamton** - Wed Feb 8, 1-3pm and 6-8pm

Binghamton State Office Bldg, 1st Floor Conf Room

44 Hawley St, Binghamton

---

## **PLAN TO RELIEVE ENERGY AND HEATING BILL DEBT**

In related news, New York State is enacting a plan to relieve electric and gas bill debt.

From [nystateofpolitics.com](http://nystateofpolitics.com): “The debt forgiveness plan allows for one-time credits for residential non-low-income customers as well as small commercial customers for the period through May 1, 2022.” Read the full article [here](#).

---

## **PUBLIC SAFETY TOWN HALL**

Join me and the Vera Institute of Justice for a virtual town hall discussion about public safety. We will be discussing issues relevant to the needs of our district with panelists representing a variety of community interests. The virtual town hall will be held on [zoom](#) on **Thursday, Feb 2 at 6:00PM**.

---

## CELEBRATING EXCITING ADDITIONS TO STEWART PARK

Mark your calendars for **February 9th** at **12:00** PM to join a joyful celebration of some exciting new upgrades and additions to our beloved Stewart Park. I will be speaking along with Ithaca Mayor Lewis in recognition of the hard work of **Friends of Stewart Park** and the **Wharton Studio Museum**. More details will be provided as we approach the date!

---

## HOSPICARE TURNS 40

I would like to congratulate **Hospicare & Palliative Care Services** on their 40th Anniversary, and thank them for their years of dedicated service to the people of Cortland and Tompkins Counties. To learn more about this incredible nonprofit organization and the services they provide, please visit [Hospicare.org](http://Hospicare.org).



Community  
Resources

SNOWMOBILE SAFETY

The snow has finally arrived this year, and as you head out to enjoy some wintertime recreation, New York State Parks would like to encourage snowmobilers to practice safety as you ride!

The Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation has shared their top safety recommendations:

- **SLOW DOWN.** Ride responsibly. Ride within your ability, ride to the right and always operate at a safe and prudent speed.
- **STAY ON MARKED TRAILS,** respect landowners, obey posted signs.
- **NEVER** drink alcohol or use drugs and ride.
- Check over your snowmobile; make sure it is in good working order and carry emergency supplies.
- Always wear a DOT approved helmet and make sure you wear the proper snowmobile gear including bibs, jackets, boots and gloves.
- Always ride with a buddy or group and tell someone who is responsible where you will be riding and the expected return time.
- Riding on ice that is not thick enough can lead to tragedy. Frozen bodies of water are not designated trails; if you choose to ride on ice, proceed with caution and be aware of potential hazards under the snow; wear a snowmobile suit with flotation built in and carry a set of ice picks as a precaution.

Find more information on responsible snowmobiling and a snowmobile safety course [here](#).



As an incredibly busy January draws to a close, I am feeling grateful for the many opportunities I've had this month to fight to improve the lives of my constituents and for the betterment of our community and state. We're off to a strong start this year, and I look forward to the work ahead!

Have a safe and restful weekend!

In good health,



Anna Kelles, Ph.D.

Assemblymember, 125th A.D.

**ALBANY OFFICE**  
LOB 833  
Albany, NY 12248  
518-455-5444

**CORTLAND OFFICE**  
83 Main St  
PO Box 5026  
Cortland, NY 13045  
607-208-2024

**ITHACA OFFICE**  
106 East Court Street  
Ithaca, NY 14850  
607-277-8030

Assembly District 125 | [kellesa@nyassembly.gov](mailto:kellesa@nyassembly.gov)