



Westchester County Legislator  
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*Proudly Serving the 7th District*



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# Westchester County Board of Legislators NEWS

*Voice of the People of Westchester County for over 300 years*

Winter 2019 Newsletter



## Legislator Catherine Parker

District 7 ~ Mamaroneck, Rye, Larchmont,  
 part of New Rochelle, part of Harrison

Dear Friends and Neighbors,

We began the legislative term in 2018 with a mission to stabilize the county's finances and replenish the county's rainy day funds, while continuing to provide essential services to the people of Westchester County.

I'm proud to say that on Monday, the Board of Legislators adopted a balanced and fiscally responsible budget for 2020 which accomplishes:

- A \$1 million cut in the county property tax levy;
- Uses no one-shot revenues;
- Contains no borrowing to fund operating expenses;
- Adds \$10 million to the county's rainy day funds, which had been drained down by half under the prior county executive's administration;
- Sends millions in new revenue to local towns, villages and school districts.



At the same time, the budget strengthens support for Westchester's families through new funding for community-based nonprofits which provide cost-effective services.

The budget enhances child care, expands services for domestic violence survivors, and increases funding for community health centers. It also adds legal services for eviction prevention, which saves the county money by keeping families out of the shelter system.

The capital budget contains an historic \$20 million commitment to county support for the development of affordable housing, which Westchester sorely needs. It also includes funding to speed up repairs to our roads, bridges and parks, as we continue to clear a multi-hundred million dollar capital project backlog. Maintaining our infrastructure is vital to the quality of life for residents and to attract and enhance economic development in Westchester.

The budget shows the commitment I share with my colleagues on the Westchester County Board of Legislators to sound fiscal management of the county's resources, and strong support for our social values. I'm proud that we have been able to turn around the County's finances while also strengthening our social safety net.

For more information please see the release on our website: [www.westchesterlegislators.com/latest-news/3072-board-passes-2020-operating-capital-special-district-budgets](http://www.westchesterlegislators.com/latest-news/3072-board-passes-2020-operating-capital-special-district-budgets).

With gratitude,

*Catherine F. Parker*

## Safeguarding Our Environment by Eliminating Expanded Polystyrene (EPS) Food Containers

There are few things more important we can do as legislators than protecting and preserving Westchester's environment for our health and safety and that of future generations.

That's why I'm proud to say that this May we passed legislation to eliminate the use and sale of expanded polystyrene take-out food containers in Westchester.

Americans throw out billions of tons of EPS coffee cups and other food containers every year. This material clogs landfills, winds up in marine ecosystems, absorbs other pollutants, and is difficult to recycle economically.

This new measure applies to take-out food containers – both those used by vendors and those that have been sold in bulk in stores. The measure also prohibits the sale of loose-fill EPS packing foam in Westchester. Prepackaged food that arrives sealed in EPS packages, packaging



for raw eggs, and butcher case packaging are exempted.

This is common sense legislation that passed with bi-partisan support and

with it, Westchester joins our neighbors in Nassau and Suffolk Counties and New York City in working to leave our environment cleaner than we found it. ■

### Snail Mail Is Expensive – Make Sure You SIGN UP FOR MY EMAILS!

I know we all get a ton of emails too, but I pride myself on not abusing the privilege and only email when there is something that I think is really worth sharing. The majority of county emails will relate to the budget, when we have scheduled public hearings or important events we want to make you aware of, if our health department has an important program to curb mosquitoes, or if there are job openings at our county parks, etc.

Please make sure your family is receiving my emails by signing up at  
[westchesterlegislators.com/subscribe-to-district-7-enews](http://westchesterlegislators.com/subscribe-to-district-7-enews).



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# 2018-2019 Key Legislative Accomplishments



Celebrating the passage of the Safe Leave Law

- Banning Gun Shows on County-Owned Property (Feb. 5, 2018)
- Immigration Protection Act (March 12, 2018)
- Probe of Poor Storm Preparation and Response by Con Ed, NYSEG (public meetings with utilities on March 19, June 4, & Oct. 2, 2018)
- Resolution Supporting State Bill to Create Extreme Risk Protection Orders (March 26, 2018)
- Combating Gender and Race-Based Wage Gaps by Banning Salary History Questions in Hiring (April 9, 2018)
- Law to Encourage Hiring of Disabled-Veteran-Owned Businesses in County Contracting (April 23, 2018)
- Resolution Opposing Citizenship Question on 2020 Census Short Form (May 7, 2018)
- Raising the Age for Sale of Tobacco and Vaping Products to 21 (June 4, 2018)
- Ensuring Earned Sick Leave for Workers (Oct. 1, 2018)
- Banning Conversion Therapy for Minors (Oct. 1, 2018)
- Pyrotechnic Children's Safety Act (Oct. 1, 2018)
- Approving New Contracts for All County Unions for First Time in Seven Years (Oct. 15, 2018)
- Ongoing Program to Honor Military Veterans Now Serving as Firefighters, Police Officers, EMS Workers (Oct. 29, 2018)
- Home Improvement Licensing Law Changed to Protect Workers from "Wage Theft" (Nov. 19, 2018)
- Co-op Disclosure Law Passed (Nov. 19, 2018)
- Fair Chance to Work Act Passed (Dec. 3, 2018)
- Safe Leave Law Passed (April 23, 2019)
- Resolution in Support of NYS Criminal Justice Reforms (March 25, 2019)
- Ban on Expanded Polystyrene (EPS) food containers (May 20, 2019)
- Resolution to Support Emergency Tenant's Protection Act (June 3, 2019)

- Approval of Lease for New Family Court in New Rochelle (July 15, 2019)
- Displaced Service Employees Protection Law (Sept. 16, 2019)
- More than 800 New Units of Affordable Housing Approved Countywide
  - In Harrison – 14 units affordable housing
  - In New Rochelle – 314 units of affordable housing
- Major Public Works Approved
  - Cross County Parkway ramps
  - Replacing and repairing equipment at wastewater treatment facilities in Yonkers and Mamaroneck
  - Purchase of new energy efficient vehicles, including nearly 80 new Bee-Line buses which will have almost double the fuel efficiency of previous buses
  - Completion of the design and construction of pathway from Rye Metro North Station to Playland
  - Updating technology infrastructure and physical plant repairs at Westchester Community College
  - Replacement of Mamaroneck Avenue Bridge over Mamaroneck River
  - Expand Saw Mill Sewer District to 800 parcels in New Castle
  - Flood mitigation around Avon Circle in Rye Brook and the athletic fields at the Port Chester Middle School
  - Rehabilitation of runway at Westchester County Airport
  - Replacement and repair of more than 30 signs and sign structures on county roadways
  - Rehabilitation of Material Recovery Facility & Transfer Station
  - Final phase of rehabilitation of Department of Environmental Services main facility
  - Flood mitigation near Pinebrook Boulevard in New Rochelle

- Acquisition of new hybrid Paratransit vehicles; retrofitting of cameras on existing buses for high definition and improved mobile data equipment
- Rehabilitation of Glen Island Bridge in New Rochelle
- Road repairs in district as follows:
  - Highland Road and Union Avenue in Harrison
  - Theodore Fremd Avenue and Midland Avenue in Rye
  - Mamaroneck Avenue in Mamaroneck, Harrison and White Plains
- Parks Improvements Approved
  - Repair of Glen Island Sea Wall in New Rochelle
  - Renovation of Maple Moor Golf Course
  - Restoration of Miller House
  - Reconstruction and repair of North County Trailway
  - Study and design of reconstruction and repair of South County Trailway

- Renovation of playgrounds at Willson's Woods Park in Mount Vernon
- Repair of former Wightman Mansion at Lenoir Preserve in Yonkers
- Rehabilitation of ballfields at Saxon Woods and Tibbetts Brook Park
- Development and repair of Merestead site in Mount Kisco
- Repair of 3 dams at Blue Ridge Mountain Reservation in Peekskill and Cortlandt
- Replacement of Playland Bathhouse canopy, renovations to the Grand Carousel and Derby Racer, and shoreline rehabilitation
- Repair and renovation of the Sprain Ridge Pool in Yonkers
- Vetted and Approved More than 300 Key Appointees to Departments, Advisory Boards and Commissions ■



Happy to have been at the opening of the pop-up art exhibit on the Playland Boardwalk

## PHOTO GALLERY



Celebrating Women's History Month



Celebrating a successful end of term with Chairman Ben Boykin and Minority Leader John Testa



Commemorating September 11th



Playland Tour



New Rochelle Family Court Press Conference