



Scarsdale Forum

with 5th District Legislator Ben Boykin

February 8, 2024

AGENDA

- Role of County Government
- Role of County Legislators
- New Legislative Term for 2024 – 2025
- Key Legislation Passed in 2023
- 2024 Budgets
- County Property Tax Levy - Scarsdale
- Long Term Bond Ratings
- 2024 Joint Legislative Package
- Key 2024 Initiatives
- 2024 Elections
- New Election Law
- New York State Association of Counties (NYSAC)
- Scarsdale Community
- Questions & Answers
- Staying Connected

ROLE OF COUNTY GOVERNMENT

- Serve as the regional government between federal/state agencies and local municipalities
- Provide vital and essential services to Westchester County residents
- Provide safety and security and emergency protective measures
- Serve as the social safety net for those in need
- Protect drinking water, air quality, manage wastewater treatment
- Manage transportation – bus mass transit, regional airport
- Work with businesses, local municipalities and state agencies to create jobs and improve regional economy
- Serve as the administrative arm of NY State for mandated services and advocate for mandate relief

ROLE OF COUNTY LEGISLATORS

- Legislative, policy-making branch of Westchester County
- Co-equal branch with County Executive
- Approve budgets and spending
 - 12 votes for issuance of bonds
 - 9 votes for other items
 - 12 votes to override County Executive's veto
- Levy County taxes
- Approve appointments of County Executive
- Pass laws, acts and resolutions
- Serve constituents

NEW LEGISLATIVE TERM (2024–2025)

- Board of Legislators (BOL) Reorganizational Meeting was held Monday, January 8, 2024
- All Legislators sworn in by County Clerk Tim Idoni
- Board Chair and Board Vice Chair elected by full BOL on January 8, 2024
 - Vedat Gashi elected Board Chair – District 4
 - Jose Alvarado elected Board Vice Chair – District 17
- Majority and Minority leaders selected by each Caucus
 - Tyrae Woodson-Samuels – District 13 (Majority Leader)
 - Terry Clements – District 11 (Majority Whip)
 - Margaret Cunzio – District 3 (Minority Leader)
 - James Nolan – District 15 (Minority Whip)

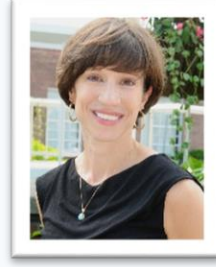
LEGISLATORS FOR THE 2024–2025 TERM



Colin Smith
1st District



Erika Pierce
2nd District



Margaret Cunzio
3rd District



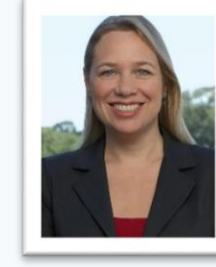
Vedat Gashi
4th District



Ben Boykin
5th District



Nancy Barr
6th District



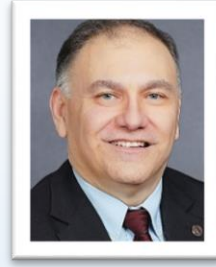
Catherine Parker
7th District



Jewel Williams Johnson
8th District



Emiljana Ulaj
9th District



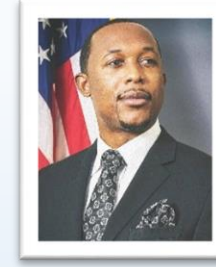
Judah Holstein
10th District



Terry Clements
11th District



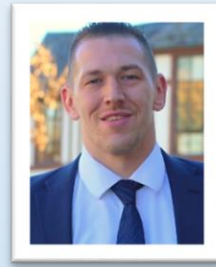
David Imamura
12th District



Tyrae Woodson-Samuels
13th District



David Tubiolo
14th District



James Nolan
15th District



Shanae Williams
16th District



José Alvarado
17th District

KEY LEGISLATION PASSED IN 2023

- 2022-523 LL - Single Use Foodware - Date Passed: 03/06/23
- ACT-2023-87 ACT - Amending County's Annual Financial Disclosure Statement - Date Passed: 03/06/23
- RES-2023-15 - Resolution in Opposition to the Discharge of Contaminated Water into the Hudson River - Date Passed: 03/06/23
- 2023-86 LL - Truthful Disclosure by Candidates for Elective Office - Date Passed: 03/20/23
- 2023-131 RES - Opposition to Consolidated Edison's Proposed Rate Hikes - Date Passed: 04/03/23
- 2022-124 LOCAL LAW - Authority to Lease Property-143 Grand St., White Plains - Date Passed: 04/17/23
- 2022-126 LOCAL LAW - Enter Into Lease Agreement.-143 Grand St., White Plains - Date Passed: 04/17/23

KEY LEGISLATION PASSED IN 2023 (CONT.)

- 2023-91 LOCAL LAW - School Bus Stop-Arm Demonstration Program - Date Passed: 03/03/23
- 2022-262 LOCAL LAW - Office of Housing Counsel - Date Passed: 05/15/23
- 2023-149 LOCAL LAW - For-Hire Vehicle Law Amendment - Date passed: 05/01/23
- 2023-107 LOCAL LAW - County's Human Rights Law and Fair Housing Law - Date Passed: 06/05/23
- 2023-246 LL - Amending the Redistricting Maps - Date Passed: 06/20/23
- 2023-307 ACT - Amend Procurement Policy - Date Passed: 09/18/23
- 2023-258 LL - Amending Chap. 209 of the Laws of Westchester County to Allow Strikethrough Formatting in Amending Local Laws - Date Passed: 09/18/23
- 2023-188 LOCAL LAW - Establishing a Subcommittee of the African American Advisory Board - Date Passed: 10/02/23

KEY LEGISLATION PASSED IN 2023 (CONT.)

- 2023-190 ACT - Lead-Free Parks Act - Date Passed: 10/02/23
- 2023-191 ACT - Renewable Energy Database Act - Date Passed: 10/02/23
- 2023-189 ACT - Equity in Environmental Legislation Act - Date Passed: 10/02/23
- 2023-316 LOCAL LAW - Regulation of Lithium Ion Batteries - Date Passed: 10/16/23
- 2023-486 RES - Solidarity with the People of Israel - Date Passed: 10/16/23
- 2023-400 - LL - Instituting Actions and Settlement Authority - Date Passed: 11/13/23
- 2023-454 LOCAL LAW - Tax Exemption for Volunteer Firefighters and Volunteer Ambulance Services Members - Date Passed: 12/11/23
- 2023-500 ACT - County Act to Digitize Records - Date Passed: 12/11/23

2024 BUDGETS

- **Operating Budget** \$2.44 billion, \$68.61 million increase from 2023
 - County property tax levy flat compared to 2023; fifth year County property tax levy reduced or flat in the Operating Budget
 - Preserve essential services
 - Increased funding for Public Safety, Public Health and Community Mental Health
 - Expand support for nonprofit partners
 - \$5.6 million to continue Project Alliance funding to address the needs of Westchester County residents with behavioral health issues
 - \$56 million for childcare subsidies which includes \$3.3 million for child care scholarships
 - \$1.3 million for food insecurity

2024 BUDGETS (CONT.)

- **Capital Budget** \$510.7 million, \$170.7 million less than 2023
 - Roads
 - Bridges
 - Buildings
 - Rolling Stock
 - Parking Facilities and Lots
 - Parks
 - \$100 million for affordable housing development
 - \$5 million for EV charging infrastructure grant program for local municipalities

2024 BUDGETS (CONT.)

- **Special Districts Budgets** \$251.8 million, \$16.2 million increase from 2023
- Tax Levy increased \$14.4 million for all districts or 7.9%

Sewer Districts (13):

- Blind Brook
- Bronx Valley
- Central Yonkers
- Hutchinson Valley
- Mamaroneck Valley
- New Rochelle
- North Yonkers
- Saw Mill Valley
- South Yonkers
- Upper Bronx
- Ossining
- Peekskill
- Port Chester

Water Districts (4):

- District #1
Yonkers, Mt. Vernon,
White Plains, Scarsdale
- District #2
Parts of Cortlandt, Yorktown
and Somers
- District #3
Parts of Mt. Pleasant and
Greenburgh
- District #4
Port Chester, Rye and Rye
Brook

Refuse Disposal District (1)

COUNTY PROPERTY TAX LEVY - SCARSDALE

TOWN OF SCARSDALE

	County Operating Budget <u>Tax Levy</u>	Increase / (Decrease) From <u>Prior Year</u>	County Special Districts Budget <u>Tax Levy</u>	Increase / (Decrease) From <u>Prior Year</u>	Total County <u>Tax Levy</u>	Increase / (Decrease) From <u>Prior Year</u>
2024	\$28,216,583	\$1,324,637	\$11,254,462	\$1,406,326	\$39,471,045	\$2,730,963
2023	\$26,891,946	\$957,414	\$9,848,136	\$1,517,267	\$36,740,082	\$2,474,681
2022	\$25,934,532	(\$1,756,292)	\$8,330,869	\$276,230	\$34,265,401	(\$1,480,062)
2021	\$27,690,824	(\$1,511,295)	\$8,054,639	\$47,849	\$35,745,463	(\$1,463,446)
2020	\$29,202,119	(\$998,043)	\$8,006,790	(\$231,660)	\$37,208,909	(\$1,229,703)
2019	\$30,200,162		\$8,238,450		\$38,438,612	

LONG TERM BOND RATINGS

LONG TERM BOND RATINGS				OUTLOOK
	S&P	MOODY'S	FITCH	
	AAA	Aaa	AAA	
	AA+	Aa1	AA+	S&P-Stable to Positive; Moody's-Affirmed and Stable
	AA	Aa2	AA	
	AA-	Aa3	AA	
	A+	A1	A+	
	A	A2	A	
	A-	A3	A-	
	BBB+	Baa1	BBB+	
	BBB	Baa2	BBB	
Investment Grade	BBB-	Baa3	BBB-	
Noninvestment Grade	BB+	Ba1	BB+	
	BB	Ba2	BB	
	BB-	Ba3	BB-	
	B+	B1	B+	
	B	B2	B	
	B-	B3	B-	
	CCC+	Caa1	CCC+	
	CCC	Caa2	CCC	

2024 JOINT LEGISLATIVE PACKAGE

- Completed jointly between County Executive and Board of Legislators
 - Finance section
 - Legislative initiatives
 - Delegation support list
- Meet with the Westchester County Albany Delegation to discuss

KEY 2024 INITIATIVES

- Keep costs down
- Create jobs
- Public Safety
- Build affordable housing
- Police accountability
- Provide funds to address the mental health crisis
- Protect our most vulnerable residents
- Advocate with Albany to reduce non-funded mandates

2024 ELECTIONS

- Scarsdale Village Elections (March 19, 2024)
 - Three Trustees
 - Village Judge
- April 2, 2024 Presidential Preference Primary
- June 25, 2024 – NY Primary Date (Early Voting, June 15 – June 23, 2024)
- November 5, 2024 – General Election Day (Early Voting, Oct. 26 – Nov. 3, 2024)
 - Presidential Election
 - Congressional Elections

NEW ELECTION LAW

- Shifts many County and Town Offices from odd-numbered years to even-numbered years
 - Applies to County Executives, County Legislators, Town Supervisors, Town Boards, Town Clerks
 - No impact for NY City, Other Cities, Village Elected Officials, County Clerks, District Attorneys, Sheriffs, City Councils, Mayors, many Judicial posts
- No impact of Scarsdale Village Elections
- Transitions start in 2025
 - Shorten term for those on ballot in 2025
 - Westchester CE elected in 2025 will have a three year term
 - Westchester County Legislators will have a one year term (elected in Nov. 2025; serve one year Jan.1 – Dec. 31, 2026)

NEW YORK STATE ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES (NYSAC)

- I was elected NYSAC President-Elect in September 2023
- I will be elected NYSAC President in September 2024 for the one year term that each President serves (Sept. 2024 – Sept. 2025)
- I will be NYSAC President during the 100th anniversary of NYSAC in 2025

SCARSDALE COMMUNITY

- Metro-North Station upgrades
- Rotary Club 100th anniversary
- Supporting our small businesses - Dobbs And Bishop Cheese Shop ribbon cutting
- Recognition high school boys varsity soccer team champions
- Mocks return

SCARSDALE METRO-NORTH STATION UPGRADES

- Station made fully accessible with opening of a second elevator, in an enclosed tower, for travelers on the Grand Central-bound platform.
- Other upgrades of the project include:
 - An ADA compliant sidewalk from the newly installed elevator at street level.
 - A new walkway connecting the elevator platform level landing to station platform and overpass.
 - Benches, leaning bars, new LED lighting, and heaters were installed on the overpass.
 - Motorcycle parking was rebuilt at street level, as agreed to in the public outreach period prior to the commencement of the project.

RECOGNITION OF SCARSDALE ROTARY CLUB 100TH ANNIVERSARY



RIBBON CUTTING CEREMONY AT DOBBS AND BISHOP FINE CHEESE

Thursday, November 16, 2023 at Dobbs and Bishop, Fine Cheese, 35 Spencer Place, Scarsdale



RECOGNITION OF SCARSDALE PUBLIC HIGH SCHOOL 2023 BOYS VARSITY SOCCER TEAM ATHLETIC STATE CHAMPIONS

Wednesday, December 20, 2023 at Scarsdale High School – Legislator Ben Boykin congratulates and presents a proclamation and certificates to the Scarsdale Boys Varsity Soccer team members, The Raiders, Coach Boys' Varsity Soccer, Marcos Monteagudo and Director of Physical Education, Health, & Athletics, Raymondo Pappalardi for winning the 2023 New York State Public High School Athletic Association Class AA Boys Soccer Championship and second straight New York State team title on Sunday, November 12, 2023 at Middletown High School.



MOCK LEGISLATIVE SESSIONS RETURNED IN 2023

Heathcote Elementary School



10/12/23 – Ms. Cristal Edwards' Class



10/13/23 – Ms. Ashley Cooper's Class

Edgewood Elementary School



10/20/23 – Mr. Palmer DelMonaco's Class



10/26/23 – Ms. Joann Mraz's Class



11/3/23 – Ms. Stephanie Pinto's Class

QUESTIONS

Q & A

ANSWERS

STAYING CONNECTED

- Enews
- Emails
- Telephone/Voice
- Social Media
- In Person/Virtual Meetings/Attending Events
- Letters
- Onsite Visits
- Contacts:

Ben Boykin

Legislator, 5th District

Westchester County Board of Legislators

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Josie Ferrara

Personal Legislative Aide to Legislator Benjamin Boykin II
5th District Legislator

Westchester County Board of Legislators

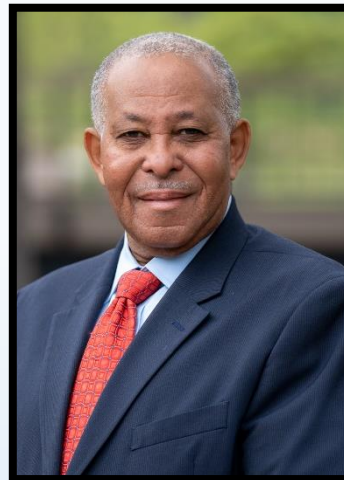
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Thank You !



BEN BOYKIN

Westchester County Board of Legislators, 5th District Legislator