



Westchester County Legislator
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Proudly Serving the 10th District



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Westchester County Board of Legislators NEWS

Voice of the People of Westchester County for over 300 years

Fall 2018 Newsletter



Damon R. Maher

District 10 ~ Eastchester, Tuckahoe, New Rochelle



Dear Friends and Neighbors,

It has been an exciting 2018 at the County Board of Legislators. As your legislator, I have worked with my colleagues to pass legislation designed to help protect the health, environment and economic well-being of the county and all its residents.

I'm proud that our first major piece of legislation this term was a law banning gun shows on County-owned property. Gun violence is one of the most pressing issues of our time. County-owned property should never be used as a place for people to obtain firearms or ammunition that could result in the death of county residents by suicide or gun violence.

Protecting the health and welfare of residents is one of county government's most important jobs, and we took a big step in that regard this June when we raised the age for the sale of tobacco and related products from 18 to 21. This bipartisan measure applies both to tobacco and to vaping products for sale in Westchester. In considering the new law, we heard moving testimony from many young people about the explosive growth in use among high schoolers and even middle schoolers of high-nicotine vaping products. These products threaten not only the health of these young people today, but can also create lifelong addictions.

Although as a nation we've made enormous strides in hiring equity, persistent gender- and race-based wage gaps remain, and that is why I am so pleased that we took action to combat these issues by banning questions in hiring about an applicant's prior salary. The law protects women and people of color who often start out in job making less than other job seekers as well as people who may have been laid off or are returning to the job market after a hiatus - maybe to raise children or to care for a family member - ensuring that their new wages will not be tied to old wage levels.

It is an honor and privilege to work for you and all the residents of Westchester County. Please do not hesitate to contact me at (914) 995-2817 or email me at Maher@westchesterlegislators.com .

Sincerely,

Damon R. Maher



HISTORIC BOARD OF LEGISLATORS

I am excited to be part of an historic era in Westchester County, with women taking the majority on the Board this term for the first time in history. The legislature today is the most diverse in county history, with the highest number of people of color. Voters have chosen a group of 17 representatives that embody the diversity of our county.

HIGH SCHOOL INTERNSHIPS AVAILABLE

Legislative internships are available to high school students who live in District 10. These part-time and unpaid internships focus on legislative research, analysis of county and local issues, correspondence and assisting constituents with problems they may be having with governmental agencies.

If you are interested in applying for the winter or spring academic term or for the summer 2019, please send a cover letter and resume to me at Maher@westchesterlegislators.com.

SNAIL MAIL IS EXPENSIVE – MAKE SURE YOU SIGN UP FOR MY EMAILS!



I only send one piece of mail to you via USPS once a calendar year. If you want to stay up to date with the latest news regarding legislation and county events, please sign up at westchesterlegislators.com/subscribe-to-updates.html.

IMMIGRATION PROTECTION ACT

Showing respect to our immigrant community was one of our campaign principles in the last election. I am happy to say that I was able to join with my colleagues on a bipartisan basis to pass the Immigration Protection Act to ensure the safety of all people living in Westchester County.



The law sets ground rules for how county officials share information about county residents with federal immigration authorities. With this law, everyone in the community, regardless of immigration status, can feel comfortable reaching out to county authorities. This law complies with all state and federal law and has the support of the county Departments of Public Safety, Corrections and Probation, who know that this law will protect the safety of county residents.

FUNDING FOR POLICE NIGHT OUT

When the New Rochelle Police Department reached out to ask for some assistance with funding for the Annual National Night Out event, we were thrilled to be able to help. This family-friendly event in the heart of New Rochelle is a great community get together. With activities, entertainment, demonstrations and presentations National Night Out helps connect our local law enforcement with the community it protects and serves.

CO-OCCURRING DISORDERS AWARENESS (CODA)



When the Department of Mental Health Commissioner Michael Orth invited me to attend the April 10th CODA awareness event at New Rochelle High School, I immediately said yes. This innovative peer-to-peer prevention program is a youth-driven effort to initiate the conversation about COD (Co-Occurring Disorders) and empower our youth to transform the way society perceives and addresses mental health and substance misuse/addiction. I was so proud to join New York State Senators Andrea Stewart-Cousins and Shelley Mayer; Deputy County Executive Ken Jenkins, DCMH Commissioner Michael Orth, the harris project founder, Stephanie Marquesano and of course the wonderful NRHS CODA club students at this event.

EARTH DAY CLEAN UP 2018



Each spring the communities of Eastchester, New Rochelle and Tuckahoe engage in a cleanup of our waterways and parks. On Earth Day 2018, I was

proud to once again join my friends and neighbors, this time as your legislator, in helping make our planet a better place to live by participating in the many environmental projects throughout the district including clean-up of the Bronx River, pictured above.

LUNCH AT THE JACKSON AVE SENIOR CENTER



Westchester County is deeply committed to the importance of a meaningful social life for seniors. Eastchester and Tuckahoe have 4 active programs: Jackson Ave, Lake Isle, Garth Road and The Church of the Assumption which all offer food, entertainment and lively conversation all week long.

SHARING SHELF SERVICE EVENT



The first day of school can be one of joy and excitement for a child – a new backpack freshly filled with new school supplies for the coming year. For other children, the first day can be one of stress as they approach the school door without the tools they need to start the

year. In 2016, the average family spent \$122 on school supplies for their child, a sum out of reach for low-income families and those living below the poverty level. On Thursday, August 2, 2018 legislators joined George Latimer and DSS Commissioner Kevin Maguire at the Sharing Shelf in Portchester, N.Y. for the kickoff of their 2018 backpack initiative. The Sharing Shelf operates all over Westchester and provides over 1,000 backpacks for children in more than 30 school districts.

NEW ROCHELLE STREET FAIR

Here I stand on the corner of Division and Main in New Rochelle next to a sculpture painted by my cousin, Carolyn McCarthy Frawley, one of 15 painted by different artists and placed in various downtown locations.



EASTCHESTER COMMUNITY ACTION PROGRAM



The Eastchester Community Action Program (ECAP) in Tuckahoe provides both a food pantry and an after school program. Don Brown, Region-

al Community Services Coordinator, shown here with benefactor and Tuckahoe Village Trustee Omayra Andino, shows off a brand new, renovated 2nd floor club house for kids.

THE GIRL SCOUTS



The Girl Scouts in District 10 knew that they needed improvements to their meeting place, the Girl Scout Cabin. These dedicated troop leaders raised the money with a sold-out Bingo Night at The Greek Orthodox Church on North Avenue. I joined the fun by honoring leaders Cathy Bevilacqua, Lisa Brown, Maryann Calby, Lisa Comuniello, Judy Fix, Sara Gerol, Vivian Groccia, Jean Marie Lebrini, Rita Masterberardino, Jennifer McCartt, Teresa Nicholson, Jennifer Read, Angela Sorgi and Joann Sprinkle.

RELAY FOR LIFE



A forecast of rain could not stop Eastchester High School from staging the annual Relay for Life Fundraiser. As a cancer survivor, I walked the first lap of the overnight relay race with other survivors, and then posed with EHS

teacher and Relay for Life advisor Lina Astarita, her family, and County Executive George Latimer. Mrs. Astarita was honored for her work with Habitat for Humanity, a commitment that led her to lend a hand to Relay for Life, the American Cancer Society signature fundraiser.

LATE BREAKING NEWS!

In October we unanimously approved a plan that will bring 76 new units of affordable rental housing to New Rochelle. Under the plan, the county will acquire the land at 14 LeCount Place where developer Wilder Balter Partners is planning a 27-story, 379-unit development, 76 units of which will be affordable housing for people making around half the area median income. The county will pay \$4.18 million for the land and put another \$1.5 million into the expansion of sewer capacity in the area. I am thrilled to support this plan as it goes above and beyond New Rochelle city requirements, with more affordable units than required and with those units being available to people of lower incomes than is required. In supporting developments like this one, which doesn't separate affordable housing from market-rate housing, we don't just help make Westchester a more affordable place to live, we also ensure dignity, respect and equity for all residents, regardless of income.

So proud that Westchester County has become the latest jurisdiction to enact a law providing eligible employees with paid leave for their own medical needs, those of a family member, or other covered reasons. Under this measure, workers can earn one hour of sick time for every 30 hours worked, up to 40 hours per year. The law will cover the more than one-third of workers in Westchester who currently lack any paid sick time and who may face retribution on their jobs if they take time off for illness. This new law is good for Westchester's economy because it puts money in the pockets of hard-working Westchester residents who in the past were forced to choose between the needed day's wages and taking care of an illness – of either themselves, a child or a loved one. The law will take effect on March 30, 2019.