



Westchester County Legislator
KITLEY S. COVILL
Proudly Serving the 2nd District



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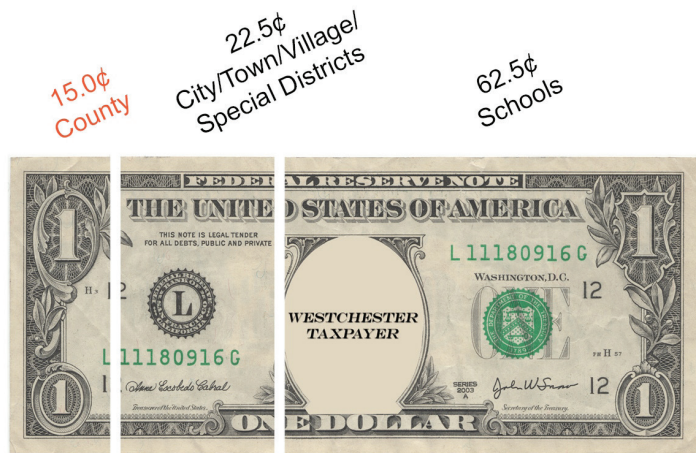
Up-to-date schedules at
westchesterlegislators.com/calendars

Your Property Tax Dollars

Did you know that only 15 cents of your property tax dollar funds County government?

With that money, plus funding from other sources, the county provides the following services:

- Transportation infrastructure: roads, bridges, buses, paratransit for disabled residents
- Sewers, wastewater treatment and solid waste disposal
- Courthouses, prosecutors and defense attorneys, probation and juvenile justice services and the County Jail
- Westchester Community College, preschool intervention and special education
- Emergency services and county police
- Parks, nature centers, golf courses and trails
- Restaurant inspections, rabies and other disease control
- Social services, including Medicaid, homeless shelters and child protective services
- Programs for senior citizens and at-risk youth
- Our election system



COFFEE WITH YOUR COUNTY LEGISLATOR

JANUARY — Lewisboro
FEBRUARY — Pound Ridge
MARCH — North Salem

Subscribe to my county email blasts for information on the times and locations of these upcoming coffees, plus other Westchester news and activities at
westchesterlegislators.com/subscribe-to-updates.

Westchester County Board of Legislators NEWS

Voice of the People of Westchester County for over 300 years

Fall 2018 Newsletter

Kitley S. Covill

District 2 ~Bedford, Lewisboro, Mount Kisco, North Salem, Pound Ridge, Somers

Dear Neighbors and Friends -

As I near the end of my first year in office at the County Legislature, I want to thank you for electing me and for placing your trust in me.

As your Representative, I am responsible for advocating on behalf of residents who need something from government, whether it involves state, county or local issues, considering the needs legislatively of our residents, including our least fortunate, and holding others accountable for services to our District Two. While there are 17 County Legislators advocating for resources throughout the county, it is my job to advocate for us. In my first annual newsletter, I thought I would give district residents an overview of my work as your Legislator, and a sense of where your tax dollars are invested.

On the back of this newsletter is a chart indicating roughly where every local tax dollar goes. The County gets 15 cents of every tax dollar, and it uses that 15 cents to staff and maintain our parks, pave our roads, run a jail, supervise ex-offenders, investigate abuse and neglect of children, fund many of the nonprofit and arts and cultural activities that make our Northeast corridor special, and many other things, some required by the state.

As your Legislator, I have worked together with all 17 County Legislators to hold the utilities accountable for their abysmal service during this past winter, and I have been particularly vocal about the lack of crews and service to the customers of NYSEG. I have also been supportive of many of the newly enacted local laws listed in this newsletter. At least monthly, I speak with your town officials; discussing county issues, working with the county departments to improve facilities, pave our roads, obtain money for clean water, and even expand the Bedford Cemetery among other things. I work hard to protect our reservoirs and watershed, and have reconvened the Septic Subcommittee.

I send out informative emails including everything from lists of events around our district, to information about what is happening at the county including pending legislation, critical health related issues, and opportunities for our community members, along with



A record number of women serving at the Westchester Board of Legislators

other information. I encourage everyone to sign up for these emails, as I have been amazed at the number of fantastic things that happen in our own back yard. Just send an email to me at Covill@westchesterlegislators.com to receive them.

We hosted four high school and college students from our district as interns this summer, and have had many fifth grade school groups participate in our Mock Legislature program, with more coming this winter. These kids are our future, and it is a joy to work with them firsthand.

It has been an honor to serve as your County Legislator, and I hope this newsletter is informative and helpful. Please reach out to me if you think I can help. Wishing you and your family happy holidays, and with my thanks again.

Sincerely,



Being sworn in by Judge Simon at the Lewisboro Library

WHAT HAS YOUR LEGISLATOR BEEN UP TO?



I am proud of the progress we have made. Highlights from the 2018 session include passage of laws:

- Prohibiting gun shows on county-owned property;
- Protecting immigrants;
- Banning salary history questions in hiring;
- Banning conversion therapy for minors;
- Expanding the Bedford Cemetery;
- Encouraging hiring in county contracts of businesses owned by service-disabled veterans;
- Raising the age for sale of tobacco products, including e-cigarettes and vaping products, from 18 to 21.

WHAT IS CURRENTLY BEING WORKED ON?

As I write this newsletter, the Board of Legislators is reviewing the Budget proposed by the County Executive. With years of budget gimmicks that included one-time revenue sources, county workforce reductions, no raises for county employees, few capital projects, and borrowing for operating expenses, we are looking at a stressed fiscal situation and deterioration of county resources. Much of what the county does is critical to our county, including running an airport, maintaining our roads, supporting our local law enforcement, investigating abuse and neglect of children, prosecuting criminals, maintaining our parks, etc. The budget we are reviewing includes returning the county, slowly, to fiscal stability. While there will be a modest increase to this year’s budget, we are also reviewing creative solutions to ensure that we can invest in our parks, roads and the county resources that we all use. I will be updating residents regarding the budget process through emails as we go forward.

Additional items in the pipeline include:

- Legislation regarding single-use plastic bags and Styrofoam in our county;
- Making the co-op application process more transparent and equitable;
- Finding solutions for our airport;
- Creating a system to help veterans receive the services and financial support they’ve earned;
- Delivering assistance to the five County Parks in our District.

Spotlight on Roads, Utilites and Water

Without having roads, electricity and water in good repair, our communities cannot function. I have worked hard to make certain that stalled infrastructure projects in North Salem and Pound Ridge move forward. Long Ridge Road is now slated to receive \$1.25 million in repaving work. New school bus stop signs have been installed on county roads in Bedford, and I have worked to ensure that local municipalities are reimbursed for plowing and repair of local county roads. We have established a 684 working group that includes all of your state and local elected representatives to find a short term solution while being cognizant that a new design will ultimately be the permanent solution. For our utilities, we have had many meetings regarding storm and other outages, and have sent letters and resolutions to both utility companies about areas in which they need to make improvement. I also met one-on-one with the CEO/President of NYSEG to discuss these issues. I am happy to report that we are beginning to see improvements, including some accelerated tree trimming, smart meter investments and improved NYSEG/community support during storms. As our district is a critical part of the watershed, I was able to deliver \$750,000 back to our district to help pay for the operation and maintenance of the watershed systems.



Pound Ridge Historical Society

Around Our Towns

We have so much going on in our towns: Food Truck Fridays in Pound Ridge; an expanded September Fest in Mt Kisco; a brand new Tri-Festa in Bedford; Lewisboro’s biathlon on Labor Day; celebrating Somers day in September; a horse show in North Salem; spending time in any of our five County Parks or our arts institutions and farmers markets. We are lucky to live here in District Two.

PHOTO GALLERY



Get to Know Your County Parks with your County Legislator at Ward Pound Ridge Reservation



Talking with fifth grade students at Increase Miller Elementary School



Katonah Fire Department Annual Parade



With Bedford Resident Bernard Huapaya; his email led to the installation of new road signs



Lewisboro Fire Department Annual Parade



Cops and Cones in Mount Kisco



Summer interns hard at work: Nicki Ruggi, Harry Bitker, Elyse Sherr and Ryan Dwyer (not pictured)



Meeting Mt Kisco residents with the County Police at Mt Kisco Night Out



Pancakes at Pound Ridge Elementary



Playing chess at the Hammond Museum on the historic chess board built by Eagle Scout Aaron Brethower