

Westchester County Legislator
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Proudly Serving the 10th District



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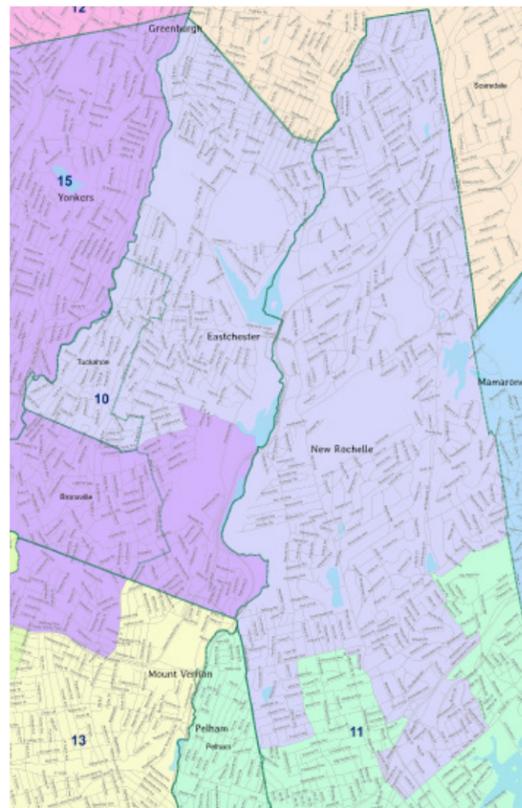
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REDRAWING WESTCHESTER COUNTY'S LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT LINES

A major undertaking at the Board has been the process of revising the electoral maps for Westchester County's 17 legislative districts, as is required after a new census. The 2020 U.S. census revealed that our County's population had increased, putting us over the one million mark for the first time in our history. Because the increase is greater in some parts of the County than others, the challenge was to readjust the district lines to make the population of each district as equal to all the others as possible without splitting up communities of common interest. We conducted five public input sessions throughout the County, as well as the required public hearing at Board Chambers, to engage residents in this important process. Visit westchesterlegislators.com/redistricting2022 for more information.



[District 10 Proposed Redistricting Map >](#)

REOPENING TO THE PUBLIC

The Board of Legislators officially resumed in-person meetings on September 12, 2022. In order to provide fair civic involvement, we instituted a hybrid model, requiring participants to register through Webex (an online teleconferencing system) to participate remotely and attend via livestream, as well as permit physical attendance for all of its meetings. Aside from its bi-weekly meetings of the full board, all County legislative committee meetings are subject to the new model. Information on how to participate for Public Comment and Public Hearings by video conferencing, telephone, or in-person, can be found on the Board's website at westchesterlegislators.com/meetings.

Westchester County Board of Legislators NEWS

Voice of the People of Westchester County for over 300 years

Fall/Winter 2022 Newsletter



Damon R. Maher

District 10 ~ Eastchester, Tuckahoe, New Rochelle
Chair, Law & Major Contracts Committee



We in Westchester County are fortunate to have many resources and services available to help our residents. As we recover from the pandemic, our office has seen an uptick in requests for help with housing, utility bills and other family supports. I have set aside a portion of this newsletter to list some of these resources for you to have and share with any of your friends, family or Westchester neighbors who may need some assistance. Please note that United Way 2-1-1 has a full complement of services and resources. *If You Need Assistance...*

GENERAL

Suicide Crisis Lifeline Nationwide with Referral to Local Services
 9-8-8

Domestic Violence Victim Resources – Westchester Office for Women
 914-995-5972 or
 914-995-6581 (Spanish Speaking)

Westchester County United Way Hotline
 2-1-1

Catholic Charities of Yonkers
 914-476-2700

SENIORS AND VETERANS

Westchester County Office of Seniors Programming and Services
 914-813-6400

Transportation - B.E.A.T. Programs
 914-995-1621

VA Benefits Hotline 800-827-1000

Westchester County Veterans
 914-813-5145

YOUTH, CHILD & FAMILY SERVICES

Westchester Youth Bureau
youth.westchestergov.com/youth-bureau
 914-995-2745

Children's Village
childrensvillage.org/our-programs
 914-693-0600

Family Ties of Westchester
familytieswestchester.org
 914-995-5238

HOUSING

Home Seekers
homes.westchestergov.com/homeseeker-housing

Eviction Assistance/Prevention
Westchester Residential Opportunities
wroinc.org; 914-428-4507

Westhab
mail@westhab.org; 914-345-2800

Westcop
westcop.org; 914-633-0101

Legal Services of the Hudson Valley
lshv.org; 877-574-8529

Choice of New Rochelle
 914-576-0173

Foreclosures
The Bridge Fund of Westchester
thebridgefund.org; 914-949-8146

Human Development Services of Westchester
lhds.org; 914-835-8906

Temporary Shelter
 Office of Temporary Shelter for Families
 914-995-2099

Landlords Assistance
Landlord Tenant Program (LTAP)
homes.westchestergov.com/landlords

Temporary Assistance Program for Families
 914-995-3333

HELP WITH UTILITIES BILLS

HEAP: Home Energy Assistance Program
nyconnects.ny.gov

Veolia Water
otda.ny.gov/lihwap; 833-690-0208

SPECIAL NEEDS POPULATION

Office of Disabled Persons
disabled.westchestergov.com
 914-995-2957; 914-995-7397 (TTY)

Westchester Disabled On the Move, Inc.
wdom.org; 914-968-4717

Para Transit - Rider Smart Phone App
parahelp@westchesterov.com

FOOD/NUTRITION

Eastchester Community Action Program, Tuckahoe
 914-337-7768

SNAP/Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program
 914-995-3333

WIC
health.westchestergov.com/wic
 914-995-6350

HOPE/Help Our People Eat
hopecommunityservices.org
 914-355-5236

Feeding Westchester
Feedingwestchester.org; 914-923-1100

PROTECTING OUR HEALTH, SAFETY AND WELL-BEING

After two years centered around the COVID pandemic, the Board was glad to be able to seek other ways to help keep the general public healthy in mind and body. We passed extensive and substantial legislation to address public health, safety, and well-being.

THE REPRODUCTIVE HEALTHCARE FACILITIES ACT, a law that protects health care facility workers and people seeking medical treatment from being physically prevented or otherwise intimidated while trying to obtain rightful, personal and private services from their reproductive healthcare providers. It bars physical harassment of people entering or exiting, damage to the premises, and attempts to intimidate people within 25 feet of the building. The bill, which took more than a decade to pass, was signed immediately into law by County Executive George Latimer on June 27th.

Studies show that households of lawful firearm owners are in greater danger than households that do not own firearms. Understanding these statistics, the Board was able to pass a commonsense **FIREARM WARNING LABEL LAW**. This measure requires gun stores to post signs warning those with access to firearms of the significantly increased risks of suicide, homicide, death during domestic disputes, and the accidental deaths of children or others. The label also adds contact information for the County's Crisis Prevention and Response Team and the National Suicide Hotline. Besides being displayed at retailers, the warning will also be



Firearms Warning Press Conference

given to people seeking gun licenses in Westchester.

Food allergies are a major health concern for many Westchester families and people across the nation, especially when it comes to choosing where or whether to dine out. In fact, every 3 minutes in the U.S., a food allergy reaction sends someone to the emergency room, and around 1 in 11 Westchester residents live with food allergies. In an effort to further educate restaurant owners and employees on the dangers of food allergies, the Board approved a **FOOD ALLERGY SAFETY TRAINING LAW**. The bill also requires the posting of signs certifying that employees have completed the training, lists the nine major food allergies, as well as symptoms of an allergic reaction and actions to take in cases of a reaction.



Reproductive Healthcare Facilities Press Conference

SPOTLIGHT ON INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENTS

Our County parks provide vital recreation and respite for Westchester residents, which is why we continually invest in their maintenance and renovations. Infrastructure upgrades in all County assets enhance all our lives, whether they ease transportation, refurbish public structures, or mitigate the effects of severe climate incidents.

ONGOING REPAIR OF BRONX RIVER PARKWAY is working its way through Tuckahoe and Eastchester into Scarsdale, as is the financing for reconstruction of several heavily traveled small



bridges farther north.

NEEDED IMPROVEMENT TO AGING REGIONAL SEWAGE PUMPING STATIONS is one of the ways the County is working to keep our waterways clean.

Both the Ossining and Yonkers pumping station are being rehabilitated and ongoing work continues on wastewater treatment facilities on the Long Island Sound.

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS AT SUNY WESTCHESTER COMMUNITY COLLEGE, the County's largest academic institution, will include roof replacements where needed, infrastructure upgrades in the Academic Arts, Science, and Maintenance Buildings, and technology updates for improved communication both on and off campus.

COUNTY SURPLUS RESULTS IN REDUCED RELIANCE ON PROPERTY TAXES

Higher price inflation, a global phenomenon, reached our region this spring. To counteract price increases, the County was able to use surplus sales tax revenue to fund relief measures aimed at keeping more money in your pocket. In partnership with County Executive George Latimer, we were able to deliver these relief measures:

- No-Fare Bee-Line Buses this past summer and again November 19-27 and December 7-26, 2022.
- Free Weekday Admission to County pools and Glen Island Beach from July 5 - August 31, 2022
- Free Commuter Parking at the North White Plains Commuter Lot and the County Center parking lot from July 1 – August 31, 2022.
- County Civil Service Exam Fee-Waivers through December 31, 2022.
- Convened Round Table with Utility Companies to combat spiking energy prices.
- Elimination of the sales tax on residential energy, such as home heating oil, propane, natural gas, electric, coal, and wood, on a quarterly basis beginning December 1, 2022. The savings applies not only to homeowners, but to renters as well.
- The BOL unanimously approved the annual budget for SUNY Westchester Community College with zero tuition increase. The budget includes an additional investment from the County of \$557,000 to maintain tuition affordability for its largest academic institution despite inflation. This marks the second consecutive year without a tuition rate increase. The total budget appropriated is roughly \$149.5 million.
- The Senior Citizens and Persons with Disabilities Home Owner's Tax Exemption, which expands income eligibility for property tax exemptions by increasing the maximum household annual limit from \$29,000 to \$50,000 to allow more residents the ability to age in place within their current communities, especially for those on fixed incomes, by maintaining affordability.

Additionally, through the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA), Westchester County was allocated \$187,926,698 in March 2021 and received its second installment of \$93,963,349 in June 2022. The County has until December, 31, 2024 to obligate the funds according to the Federal guidelines, and has allocated them to these critical areas:

- Public Health Investment
- Healthy Mom, Healthy Baby Home Visiting Program
- Non-profit Grant Program
- Small Business Development Assistance
- Tourism & Hospitality Development and Promotion
- Workforce Development Job Training
- Affordable Housing Development & Multi-Family Unit Rehabilitation



Honoring Judy Delvecchio Fix for Italian-American Heritage Month



Supporting HOPE Community Services, which started as a soup kitchen and is now a one-stop social services provider



HOPE Community Services Backpack Drive



Engaging with our seniors and presenting information on governmental benefits and services, including transit options



Eastchester HS teacher Jean Marie Woods-Ray and the Going Green Club students, who joined me in a volunteer clean-up of the Bronx River



2022 Eastchester Girl Scouts Gold Awards