



Westchester County Legislator  
**BEN BOYKIN**  
*Addressing the Needs of District 5*



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# Westchester County Board of Legislators NEWS

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

Winter 2024/25 Newsletter



**Ben Boykin**

Legislator, District 5 ~ *White Plains, Scarsdale, West Harrison*  
 Chair, Economic Development Committee



Dear Friends & Neighbors,

It is always great to connect and to continue to represent you. This year has seen a full return to events and activities in District 5 and throughout Westchester County. It has been an outstanding year that was capped with me being named President of the New York State Association of Counties (NYSAC) for the 2024-2025 year in September.

As NYSAC President, I will lead the Association during its centennial anniversary which will include celebrations at the 2025 Legislative Conference in Albany and the Fall Seminar in Niagara Falls. NYSAC is the only Association representing the interest of New York's 62 counties at the state and federal levels.

At the Board of Legislators, I Chair the Economic Development Committee. Many initiatives were completed during this Legislative Year and among them:

- Broke ground for the Mt. Hope Plaza senior housing project with 56 affordable apartments for adults aged 62 and older reserved for those with incomes at or below 60% of the Area Median Income.
- Cut or held County Property Taxes at the same level for the sixth straight year.
- Approved a capital project to study, design and develop a major composting facility to reduce County waste and generate compost.
- Provided free Bee-Line Business service for the summer months and during the holiday season.
- Approved Stop Arm Legislation that will strengthen protections for children at school bus stops, in an effort to ensure their safety on the roads and while boarding and exiting school buses.

Please reach out to me and provide me with your thoughts on how I can better serve you and work to make District 5 and Westchester County a better place to live, work and enjoy.

Sincerely,

*Ben Boykin*



Legislator Benjamin Boykin being sworn in by County Executive George Latimer, Congressman-Elect, NY-16

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## PROTECTING OUR RESIDENTS

**GUN VIOLENCE PREVENTION TASK FORCE**  
A recent CDC report shows U.S. gun deaths at a 30-year high, with firearm injury the leading cause of death among youth. The Board and County Executive have launched a County-wide Gun Violence Prevention Task Force.

### SAFETY MEASURES FOR DOMESTIC VIOLENCE SURVIVORS

The Board passed legislation to provide free home locks and security cameras for survivors of domestic and gender-based violence. Developed with the Westchester County Office for Women, the County Executive's Office, and Pace Women's Justice Center, this Act enhances safety for victims.

### PUBLIC SAFETY ANSWERING POINTS SYSTEM (PSAP)

A \$1.3 million investment to modernize 911 Call Centers for emergency calls and coordination.

## HEALTH AND WELL-BEING FOR RESIDENTS

A \$1 million bond will fund reopening a mental health clinic in White Plains, providing support for urgent mental health needs.

## RELIEF FOR TAXPAYERS

### SENIOR PROPERTY TAX EXEMPTIONS

This excludes Social Security income from eligibility calculations, increasing relief for seniors with fixed incomes.

### AFFORDABLE HOUSING

As of September, the Board approved funding for land acquisitions, development, and rehabilitation in several municipalities: 528 rental units in Mount Vernon; 583 in Yonkers; 404 in White Plains; 128 condominiums in New Rochelle; and 180 rental units in Ossining. In total, 1,821 affordable housing units marketed by income eligibility are planned with amenities like parking and community rooms.

The Mt. Hope Plaza senior housing project in White Plains will offer 56 affordable apartments for adults aged 62 and older, including 20 units with supportive services for seniors experiencing homelessness. All units are reserved for those with incomes at or below 60% of the Area Median Income.



## INVESTING IN OUR INFRASTRUCTURE

### PUMPING STATION REHABILITATION

An \$18 million bond for improvements at the Mamaroneck Water Resource Recovery Facility will enhance infrastructure and efficiency.

### ROADWAY CULVERT RESTORATION

This Bond Act finances a project to inspect and evaluate culvert structures along County roads. It will address flooding and determine necessary maintenance, rehabilitation, or replacement, establishing a priority-based schedule.



## GREEN INITIATIVES

### FOOD SCRAP RECOVERY PROGRAM

A \$1.3 million capital project and Bond Act for the study, design and development of a major composting facility to reduce County waste and generate compost.

### BEE-LINE BUSES & BUS SHELTER RENOVATIONS

The Board approved replacing 95 old buses with new hybrid and electric models and upgrading bus shelters with solar power, ADA accessibility, and other improvements.

## ENHANCEMENTS TO COUNTY PARKS

### PARKLAND AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

The Board approved funding to revitalize a segment of the RiverWalk trailway in Tarrytown, enhancing the trail and preserving over 2,000 acres of open space.

### MOHANSIC GOLF COURSE IMPROVEMENTS

The Board approved upgrades to the Yorktown Heights facility with enhanced electrical services, a new maintenance complex, and modernized recreational areas.

## NYSAC SWEARING IN

ON SEPTEMBER 10, 2024, COUNTY EXECUTIVE GEORGE LATIMER SWORE ME IN AS THE 80TH PRESIDENT OF NYSAC AT THE FALL SEMINAR AT RESORTS WORLD CATSKILLS IN MONTICELLO, NY WITH WESTCHESTER COUNTY ATTENDEES.



## AROUND THE DISTRICT



1. West Harrison - Historic Vehicle Restoration; 2. The Salvation Army of White Plains 34th Annual Community Service Awards Breakfast; 3. Ribbon cutting Apple Cinemas, Downtown White Plains; 4. Scarsdale Sidewalk Sale; 5. Fourth Annual West Harrison Italian Heritage Festival; 6. Park and Read Summer 2024, Saxon Woods, White Plains