



Westchester County Legislator
NANCY E. BARR
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Westchester County Board of Legislators NEWS

Voice of the People of Westchester County for over 300 years

Fall 2018 Newsletter



Nancy E. Barr

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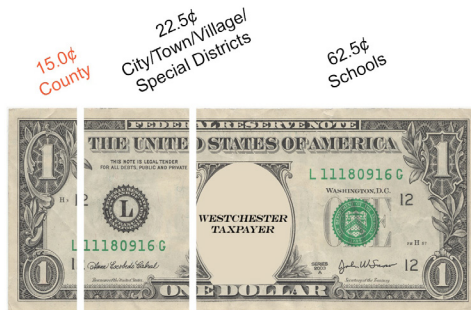
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Your Property Tax Dollars

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
 Harrison

FEBRUARY
 Port Chester

MARCH
 Rye Brook

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.

Dear Friends and Neighbors,

As I near the end of my first year in office, I want to thank you for placing your trust in me, and share some of the great progress we've made in 2018.

My colleagues and I passed several laws to improve the lives of Westchester residents. These include prohibiting gun shows on county-owned property, raising the age to purchase tobacco and vaping products from 18 to 21, encouraging the hiring of service-disabled veterans in county contracts, banning the practice of "conversion therapy" for minors, and the Immigrant Protection Act. Some of these initiatives had been stalled for years, but 2018 brought many new legislators to county government -- including a history-making majority of women -- and we are working together for the benefit of all Westchester residents.



Making HERstory-- a record number of women now serve on the Westchester Board of Legislators

As Chair of the Environment, Health and Energy Committee, I have advocated for increased transparency related to Westchester County Airport and Indian Point. I introduced legislation for a county-wide ban on single use plastic bags, which I hope to pass in the coming months. Increasing the use of energy saving technology, including exploring ways to store solar energy, as well as improving programs for mental health are some of my other legislative priorities.

I'm also learning more about our county facilities by visiting county courts, jails and wastewater treatment plants. I've met with many organizations that support and enrich our communities, including the Women's Justice Center at Pace University, ArtsWestchester, Open Door Medical Center and Sustainable Westchester, to name just a few. The more I learn about the people, operations and institutions throughout Westchester, the better I can serve you.

There are considerable challenges ahead. Westchester endured many years of budgetary mismanagement, which put the county under great fiscal pressure. We are exploring creative solutions to put the county on a stronger financial footing going forward, including updates to vendor contracts and expanded shared services.

As always, I appreciate hearing from you, whether by email or phone or a casual conversation at a community event. Many of you have told me how much you enjoy receiving my constituent emails so I will keep them coming. If you are not receiving these updates, you can subscribe to them at westchesterlegislators.com/subscribe-to-updates. And I can always be reached at Barr@westchesterlegislators.com or (914) 995-2834.

See you around town!

Airport Updates



Since my arrival at the Board of Legislators, I've dedicated a great deal of time and attention to the county airport, located on the northern border of our district. I now sit on the Westchester County Airport Advisory Board and consult regularly with those who monitor airport traffic, noise and water pollution. I am also vigilant about the threat of a change in governance at the airport, which could take away our authority to oversee actions that impact our environment, health, property values and quality of life. Fortunately, since County Executive George Latimer took office this year, we've seen increased transparency in airport matters. Earlier this year, three public hearings were held and hundreds of Westchester residents were given the opportunity to share their concerns. At this newsletter's press time there is no official 'privatization' offer being considered by the Board of Legislators. However, there is continued pressure to expand hangar space and flights so it is imperative that all of us living in the shadow of the airport remain informed and engaged and speak out to protect our environment, health and quality of life. ■

A few highlights of the 2018 Legislative Session

WAGE HISTORY ANTI-DISCRIMINATION ACT

Although as a nation we've made enormous strides in hiring equity, persistent gender- and race based wage gaps remain. That's why we took action to combat these issues by banning questions about a job applicant's prior salary. Women and minorities often start out earning less than their peers, and when future wages become tethered to previous salaries, that gap becomes institutionalized.

GUN VIOLENCE

Gun violence is one of the most pressing issues of our time. I'm proud that the first major piece of legislation in 2018 was a law banning gun shows on any county-owned property. I also joined my fellow legislators in passing a resolution to support a state "red flag" law allowing the courts to keep guns out of the hands of people shown to be dangerous to themselves or others. And I was honored to speak at the Blind Brook High School walk out for school safety on March 14, joining hundreds of students protesting gun violence.

IMMIGRANT PROTECTION ACT

In a bi-partisan vote, the County Legislature passed the Immigrant Protection Act to help protect the safety of all people in Westchester. The law sets ground rules for how county officials share information with federal immigration authorities. It removes concerns that immigrants might have about seeking help if they've been victims of crimes like domestic violence or human trafficking, or concerns about coming forward if they've witnessed a crime. It is not a "sanctuary" law. In fact, it requires county officials to cooperate with federal authorities when violent crime, or terrorist activities are suspected. All Westchester resi-

dents are safer when local authorities and citizens work together.

TOBACCO 21

Protecting the health and welfare of residents is one of county government's most important jobs, and raising the age for the sale of tobacco and vaping products from 18 to 21 will likely save many of our Westchester children from a lifetime of nicotine addiction and related health problems. Research shows that long term addiction to nicotine is more likely when people get hooked at a young age. In considering this new law, we heard testimony from many local young people about the explosive growth of high-nicotine vaping products amongst both high school and middle school students.

HONORING VETERANS



I introduced a resolution supporting the creation of special "Veteran" pins for the uniforms of Westchester firefighters, police officers and emergency medical personnel who served in our nation's armed forces. Many thanks to Port Chester Veteran Gerald Donahue who approached me last January with this wonderful idea to honor those who served our country and now serve our local communities. I'm pleased to say the resolution passed unanimously! Although the pins are just a small token, they represent the enormous gratitude we feel for the selfless men and women who have made it their life's work to protect others. ■

PHOTO GALLERY



Introducing legislation to fight wage theft



Enjoying lunch with Harrison seniors following the Memorial Day Parade



Ribbon-cutting to welcome the new medical multi-specialty center in Rye Brook



Advocating for residents' concerns at the first of three airport public hearings



Coffee and Conversation with George Latimer at the Port Chester Senior Center



Onsite at a controlled fire during an airport safety drill



Celebrating with local officials at the NAACP Effie Gordon Tea



Reading to students at Thomas A. Edison elementary school in Port Chester



Harrison High School summer intern Alex Kaplan



Blind Brook 'senior options' interns Josh Schiactus and Arianna Kohilakis