

Westchester County Legislator

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Proudly Serving the 15th District



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**INCREASED
COUNTY
REVENUE
RESULTS IN
INFLATION
RELIEF
FOR TAX PAYERS**



Mid-year 2022 sales tax revenue has exceeded mid-year 2021 sales tax revenue by almost \$40 million

American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Funds for COVID-19 Relief

- Westchester County was allocated \$187,926,698 in March 2021, and received the 2nd installment of \$93,963,349 in June 20221
- 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
 - Wastewater Infrastructure
 - Revenue Replacement

Westchester County Board of Legislators NEWS

Voice of the People of Westchester County for over 300 years

Fall 2022 Newsletter



James Nolan

District 15 ~ Yonkers and Bronxville
Chair, Appointments Committee



Dear Friends and Neighbors,

As I look back at my first few months in office, I can't believe all the work we were able to get done! From the first constituent service call I had, which was to work with the Yonkers City Council to help an LD 15 resident get their yard cleaned up after a vicious prank, to helping our drivers get gas tax relief at the gas pump to the e-mails I get every day about problems facing LD 15. I love this job! Yet, there is so much more work to do to help make Westchester a better place for everyone.

Sincerely,

Bronxville Footbridge Replacement Project

Heeding the calls of eager residents wanting to take advantage of the County's award-winning parks system, the County announced the full replacement of the Bronxville pedestrian footbridge on the Bronx River Pathway located off Pondfield Road. The footbridge was destroyed during the remnants of Hurricane Ida, which passed through Westchester County last year. The bridge's abutments, borings, and deck were washed away during last year's flooding and will need complete replacement. This park's infrastructure upgrade also comes at my behest, who, like the County, heard from residents about the need to repair the footbridge. When my office received numerous correspondence on this issue, I knew we had a partner in the County Executive who was just a phone call away. Use of the County's extensive trail network is vital to the recreation residents enjoy and I am eager to see this project commence.



UPDATE: The Bronxville Footbridge is expected to finish construction in the next year. At this date, the project is still in the design phase. The Bronxville Footbridge Project is being funded from a FEMA grant.

National Night Out

I was thrilled to help raise \$4,000 in community funds for the Yonkers Police Department for all our precincts' National Night Out festivals. National Night Out is an important community-building event that promotes police-community partnerships and neighborhood camaraderie to make our neighborhoods safer.

National Night Out is an annual community-building campaign that promotes police-community partnerships and neighborhood camaraderie to make our neighborhoods safer and more caring places to live. National Night Out enhances the relationship between neighbors and law enforcement while bringing back a true sense of community. Furthermore, it provides a great opportunity to bring police and neighbors together under positive circumstances.

[Read more inside...](#)

Gas Tax Relief

On March 22, 2022, I became the first elected official in Westchester County to urge the state legislature in Albany to pass Gas Tax Relief via relieving or suspending the state sales tax at the gas pump during the “Gas Price Crisis of 2022”.



Committee on Appointments

As Chair of the Appointments Committee, I have helped oversee close to 120 appointments or re-appointments to Advisory Boards, Commissions, and Task Forces including:

- Advisory Council on People with Disabilities
- African American Advisory Board
- Arab American Advisory Board
- Asian American Advisory Board
- Board of Election
- Board of Ethics
- Board of Health
- Citizen's Consumer Advisory Council
- Community Services Board
- Council for Seniors
- Cybersecurity Task Force
- Hispanic Advisory Board
- Domestic Violence Council
- Housing Opportunity Commission
- LGBTQ+ Advisory Board

I was happy to join the County Executive and fourteen of my colleagues in suspending the County sales tax as gas pumps and other cost-saving measures during the Summer of 2022. The following were sent out in conjunction with the County Executive Office:

GAS TAX HOLIDAY – capping tax at \$.12 per gallon from June 1 – August 31, 2022

SUSPENSION OF FEES FOR BEE-LINE BUSES from June 1 – August 31, 2022

FEE WAIVER FOR CIVIL SERVICE EXAMS through December 31, 2022

SUSPENSION OF WEEKDAY FEES FOR COUNTY POOLS AND GLEN ISLAND BEACH from July 5 - August 31, 2022

District 15 First Annual “Back to School Drive”

On August 25, 2022, I held my first annual “Back to School Drive” to help children in District 15 get the supplies they needed for the upcoming school year.

Our office partnered with St. John's Riverside Hospital, Yonkers Rotary Club, IAFF Local 628 Yonkers Fire Fighters, and Staples to help make this happen. Thank you to everyone that supported and helped make the Back to School Drive possible. I was happy to announce that we handed out 150 backpacks with supplies inside to students. The remaining backpacks were dropped off at schools within District 15 to help as many students and families as possible.



Protecting Our Health, Safety and Well-Being

REVISION TO LANGUAGE REGARDING PEOPLE WITH DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES

This law amends various sections of the Laws of Westchester County, including the County Charter, to change the language used in reference to individuals with intellectual/developmental disabilities, and to employ the use of person-centered language to comply the person-centered approach used in policy and programs

FOOD ALLERGY SAFETY TRAINING FOR RESTAURANTS

This law will ensure that restaurants have personnel on-site who have been trained in food allergy safety, including designated food safety officers during operating hours. Signs certifying employee training, outlining the nine major food allergies, and listing symptoms of allergic reactions with appropriate measures to take in cases of a reaction will also be posted.

REPORTING OF HATE INCIDENTS

This law creates a process for the County's Department of Public Safety to keep track of hate incidents, in addition to the hate crime data it already assembles, as well as to report these incidents to the County's Human Rights Commission.

Reopening to the Public

The Board of Legislators officially resumed in-person meetings on September 12, 2022. In order to provide equitable civic involvement, we instituted a hybrid model, requiring participants to register via 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 Board meetings, all County legislative committee meetings are subject to the new model. Information on

how to participate for Public Comment and Public Hearings via video conferencing, telephone, or in-person, can be found on the Board's website at westchesterlegislators.com/meetings.

Advocated for the Formation of the Westchester County Police SCUBA Team

On October 11th, 2022, I wrote a letter to County Executive George Latimer asking for the formation of the Westchester County Police SCUBA Team. Since March 2021, there have been 24 requests for divers in Westchester. I was happy to be joined in my advocacy by some of my colleagues!

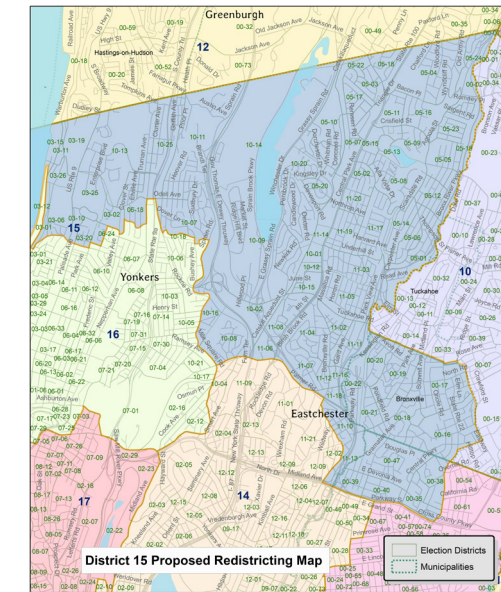
Calling for Repairs at Sprain Ridge Pool

On September 29th, I called on my colleagues in County government to replace the Sprain Ridge Park Pool Building, which is falling apart, with a brand new facility. Over the summer, I spent a lot of time touring the Sprain Ridge Park's Pool Area. I was shocked to see that much of the Pool's infrastructure is in desperate need of repair. I am calling for a brand new building to be built at the pool. This building would consist of a food court area, bathrooms, locker rooms, a bathhouse, storage, and office space. As someone with a background in construction work, a new facility would complement the pool. Repairs to the building would



cost the taxpayers too much money, so instead a new facility should be built in its place. With the budget season coming up soon, the County should make this new building a number one priority. The County shouldn't wait until a pool goer is hurt by the failing construction. We should do this now before anyone gets hurt.

Redistricting the County Legislature



A major undertaking at the Board of Legislators has been the process of reassessing Westchester County's 17 legislative districts, as is required every 10 years after a new census. We conducted 4 four public input sessions to engage residents in this important process. The 2020 U.S. census revealed that Westchester 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 work before us was to readjust our legislative districts so that the population of each was as equivalent as possible. We worked to ensure that our legislative districts reflect our local municipalities accurately, and account for our increased County population so that there was equity in representation for all our residents.



Business of the Month

Upon taking office this January, I have highlighted 16 businesses in District 15 on social media and presented Westchester Board of Legislators' Proclamations to them. If you or a business owner you know are interested in highlighting their business, please feel free to contact our office!

2022 Spotlight on Westchester Parks & Infrastructure Improvements

NEW NATURE CENTER AT CRANBERRY LAKE PRESERVE

in West Harrison

- Funding for larger facility to include main activities room, office, utility room, outdoor classroom area, restrooms and new water, HVAC, septic and communications service.
- Facility will allow for long-awaited expansion of summer camp program

FLOOD MITIGATION

in Dobbs Ferry and Peekskill

WESTCHESTER COMMUNITY COLLEGE

- Roof replacements in various buildings
- Infrastructure upgrades in Academic Arts, Science, and Maintenance Buildings
- Technology updates on and off campus