



10th District Legislator  
**DAMON  
MAHER**

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*Keeping You Informed*



## Know Your Rights: New Rent Laws

In June 2019, New York State enacted legislation establishing the strongest protections for renters in at least a generation. At this forum you will learn about these laws and get answers to your questions.

Tuesday, November 26, 2019 from 6:00 to 7:30 p.m.

**New Rochelle Public Library**, One Library Plaza, New Rochelle, NY

Presenters:

Jill Bradshaw-Soto, Esq., Attorney-in-Charge of LSHV Mt. Vernon Office

Michelle Avery, Esq., Staff Attorney

RSVP to [ESantiago@LSHV.org](mailto:ESantiago@LSHV.org) or call (914) 813-6881

On site Intake opportunities.

Light refreshments and snacks will be available.



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Now for a question to all taxpayers, both those who pay our sales taxes, which is **everybody who ever buys anything**, and real property taxes...

As I said in my eblast last week called "[Take a Hike](#)," I continue to reach out to you *via* this medium to ask your opinions on proposals pending here at the County Legislature. One that's coming up for additional votes in the next month relates to a suggested hike in our own Legislator salaries, and add-ons for committee chairmanships and other leadership roles, by quite a large percentage over our current pay, which was last adjusted in 2005. I was one of only two "No" votes at the first, procedural vote on the matter, but I am not locked into that position on a final up/down vote.

Republican Legislators expressed some concerns in a committee meeting, but all 4 of them (including two lame ducks) then voted "Yes" on the Floor. I am quite concerned about the size

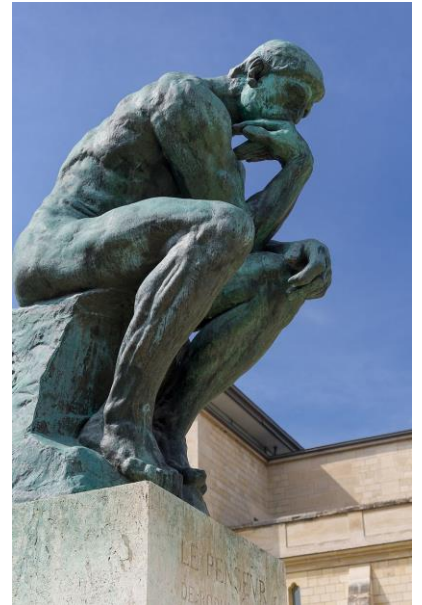
and timing of immediately increased Legislative salaries; less so about the smaller raises for the Commissioners and other high-ranking managers, which would be payable over two years. All union workers in County departments are now under contract; and I have no quarrel with a long overdue increase for our really terrific non-union staffers. Read about the issue and what I said and did about it in these three front-page Journal News/lohud.com articles this week:

- [Westchester considers 52% pay raises for lawmakers, 26% for department heads](#)
- [Westchester considers big pay hikes: Here's who's in line to get them](#)
- [Westchester: Plan for 52% lawmaker raises also includes bigger stipends](#)

For some context on the mention of the proposed reduction in the property tax levy, it works out to about \$6 per annum for the average property. The proposed Legislator raises would take back about \$2.50 of that. So, do we deserve a raise? If so, 52%? Or some other amount?

I would also like some feedback on the [County Executive's proposal](#) to reduce his and his successors' stay in office from three 4-year terms to just two; that is, an overall total of 8 years, rather than 12.

I generally have not been a big fan of **term limits**. If I absolutely *love* the person representing me at any level of government, why should I be prohibited from voting for them until death do us part? My exception has always been the US Presidency, where one person has such tremendous power as Commander-in-Chief of the most powerful armed forces ever assembled and has the proverbial finger on the nuclear button. That person should not get too comfortable with the idea that his or her power is potentially limitless. But I've begun to see the point of having to push the "refresh" button from time to time on other elected offices as well. So you tell me: Should we have term limits? If so, is the current County limit of 12 years OK? Or should it be 8 years? What do you think?



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**2020 Westchester County budget public hearings:**

***Tuesday, November 26, 2019, 7 PM***

Cortlandt Town Hall  
1 Heady St, Cortlandt, NY 10567

***Wednesday, December 4, 2019, 7 PM***

Board of Legislators Chamber  
148 Martine Ave, 8<sup>th</sup> Floor, White Plains, NY 10601

**Public Hearing on Increased Compensation for Appointed Officers:**

***Tuesday, December 3, 2019, 7:30 PM***

Board of Legislators Chamber  
148 Martine Ave, 8<sup>th</sup> Floor, White Plains, NY 10601

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