

STATE BUDGET UPDATE



ASSEMBLYMAN
J. GARY PRETLOW

Dear Neighbor,

The recently passed 2023-24 state budget is full of funding and programs that will make Mount Vernon and Yonkers stronger. This newsletter highlights some of the most important budget wins for our neighborhoods.

We made great strides toward improving local schools, combating climate change, safeguarding our environment and supporting working families by raising the minimum wage and expanding access to child care programs.

That's exciting progress, but the work is far from finished, and I'll continue doing what I can to help Mount Vernon and Yonkers thrive. If there is any way I can assist you, please feel free to contact my office. I'm here to serve you!

Sincerely,

Assemblyman
J. Gary Pretlow



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Ensuring high-quality education and expanding access to child care



Education is the key to a bright future. In this year's state budget, we invested in our children and young adults to give them the best possible start in life and provide resources for continuing education, so every New Yorker has an opportunity to learn.

We fully funded Foundation Aid for the first time since the program's inception in 2007 and invested in universal pre-kindergarten programs, ensuring that all New York schools and students receive equitable assistance. And, to support students' health, we delivered funding for free school meals.

Additionally, we increased operating aid to our vital SUNY schools while rejecting tuition increases that would hurt students.

Especially in these challenging economic times, it is essential to provide sufficient support to working parents doing their best to balance careers and family life. This budget invests heavily in expanding access to affordable, high-quality child care and after-school programs, ensuring that children are safely looked after while their parents are at work. We also successfully pushed to expand the Child Tax Credit to include families with children age 4 years old and younger.

Providing inflation relief and supporting working families

To help with closing costs and down payments for low- and moderate-income first-time homebuyers, the budget includes \$25 million for the new First-Time Homeowner program. We also help SNAP recipients purchase more fruits and vegetables with \$2 million for the Double Up Food Bucks program.

The budget provides some of the strongest support in decades for hardworking New Yorkers, continuing the phase-in of personal income tax cuts for working and middle-class families to the lowest they have been in over 70 years. It delivers \$391 million in much-needed funding toward affordable housing, covering COVID-era arrears for tenants of New York City Housing Authority (NYCHA) and other public housing authorities, as well as Section 8 and other subsidized tenants.



I will always be a strong voice for you in Albany, fighting to serve Mount Vernon and Yonkers best interests and bring home much-needed resources so we can continue to thrive. When community members told me what we needed from this year's budget, I listened and delivered.

Protecting our environment and combating climate change

New York has long been a leader in environmental protection efforts, passing some of the strongest laws in the nation. To continue this fight to preserve our beautiful natural resources and combat climate change, we passed a budget that requires most new buildings to be all-electric beginning in 2026.

This year's budget also supports the state Environmental Protection Fund to protect our clean air and water and prepare our most vulnerable areas to withstand natural disasters in a time when climate change is making "once in a lifetime" storms and floods commonplace.

Did you know there are federal tax breaks, tax credits and rebates that could save you thousands on energy-efficient home renovations, appliances and vehicles purchased this year? Visit <https://www.irs.gov/pub/taxpros/fs-2022-40.pdf> to find out more!

Supporting workers and stimulating the economy

We made the workers that keep our state running smoothly a major priority during this year's budget. We are funding workforce development, waiving the fee for state civil service exams so workers can advance in their chosen fields, and connecting unemployed and underemployed youth with services to improve their employment opportunities.

Most importantly, the budget implements long-awaited raises to New York's minimum wage to contend with inflation. These changes will take effect on January 1, 2024, and increase incrementally over the next three years, as follows:

Year	NYC & Downstate (Westchester, Nassau, Suffolk counties)	Rest of State
1/1/2024	\$16.00	\$15.00
1/1/2025	\$16.50	\$15.50
1/1/2026	\$17.00	\$16.00

Improving public safety and the wellbeing of our communities



We fought to protect the health and safety of all New Yorkers in this year's budget. We're investing \$1 billion in mental health services to ensure that everyone from our youngest students to adults in the workforce can receive vital care and avoid crisis situations. We also are investing \$1 million to establish the Daniel's Law Task Force to improve responses during mental health or substance-use related crises.

To help keep our communities safe, the budget reforms our bail laws to give judges more discretion, provides \$130 million to support anti-gun violence programs and delivers \$30 million in funding to Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) community groups to defend against hate crimes.

Enhancing our transportation system and lowering commuter costs

Investing in New York's infrastructure and public transportation services is vital to building stronger, connected communities. Significant funding is provided in the budget to upgrade local roads and bridges, including a \$60 million increase for the Consolidated Local Street and Highway Improvement program (CHIPS), support for the needs of our rail and aviation systems.



Message to the 89th District



I hope this message finds you well. I am writing this newsletter to share some exciting news regarding the recent passage of the state budget, and to express my immense pride in fighting for the best interests of the 89th Assembly District and NYS throughout the budgetary process. I am thrilled to announce that after tireless efforts, collaboration, and advocacy, we have successfully secured crucial funding and initiatives that will greatly benefit our district. The state budget for this fiscal year reflects our collective vision for a prosperous and inclusive

community, and I am humbled to have played a part in shaping it. I would like to express my deepest gratitude to each and every one of you for your ongoing support, engagement, and valuable input during the budgetary process. Your voices mattered, and it is an honor to represent your interests in the New York State Assembly.

New York State Assembly
Albany, NY 12248

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**Assemblyman
J. Gary Pretlow**

*Serving the
89th Assembly District*



"You can count on me to keep fighting for our district. Feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns about current events or community issues. I'm here for you and happy to help."

— Assemblyman **J. Gary Pretlow**

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