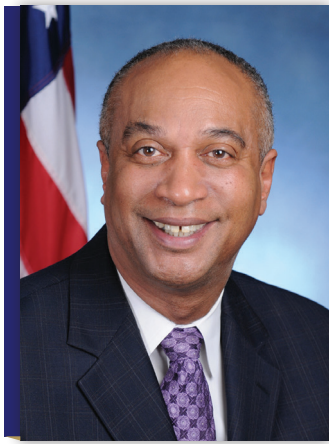




COMMUNITY NEWS

from Assemblyman

J. GARY PRETLOW

89th Assembly District

2026



As we continue through 2026, I extend my warmest wishes to you and your family. It remains a tremendous honor to serve as your representative in the New York State Assembly and to advocate for the needs of our communities.

This year, my colleagues and I remained focused on investing in the priorities that matter most to New Yorkers, including education, healthcare, infrastructure, public safety, and economic opportunity. Through responsible budgeting and thoughtful policymaking, we are working to strengthen our communities and improve quality of life across the state.

In this newsletter, you will find important updates, resources, and information relevant to residents of the 89th Assembly District. Thank you for taking the time to stay informed. As always, my staff and I are here to assist you and welcome your questions, concerns, and ideas.



Education

The enacted State Budget provides a historic \$27.4 billion in Foundation Aid, a \$1 billion increase that includes enhanced support for students experiencing housing instability or foster care placement, increased funding for English Language Learners, and a guaranteed minimum 2% annual increase for school districts. The Yonkers City School District will receive an additional \$26 million in funding.

The budget also invests in teacher training, nonpublic schools, special education programs, arts education, implicit bias training, and resources for students with dyslexia and dysgraphia. Mayoral control of New York City schools has been extended through June 2028.

To support sustainability efforts, school districts now have until 2032 to purchase only zero-emission buses and until 2040 to fully transition their bus fleets.

The budget expands Universal Pre-K with a goal of providing full-day instruction for all 4-year-olds by 2028 and increases access to prekindergarten opportunities for 3-year-olds in New York City.

Families will benefit from significant investments in after-school and childcare programs, including \$116 million for after-school services and \$3 billion in childcare subsidies statewide. Additional funding will also support new childcare initiatives across New York.

The budget continues New York's commitment to educational equity through a \$28 million investment in the My Brother's Keeper initiative, which provides educational, developmental, and mentorship opportunities for young people across the state.

Housing

The SFY 2026–27 Assembly Budget makes significant investments to expand affordable housing opportunities and strengthen public housing across New York State. The budget includes \$85 million in capital funding for Mitchell-Lama developments, \$140 million for the New York City Housing Authority (NYCHA), and \$75 million for public housing authorities outside of New York City. An additional \$20 million is provided in operating support for Mitchell-Lama and public housing developments.

To help address housing affordability, the budget allocates \$50 million for the Housing Access Voucher Program (HAVP), assisting eligible New Yorkers in securing stable housing.

The budget also invests in a range of housing initiatives, including \$250 million for affordable housing development and preservation, \$100 million for the construction of modular and starter homes, \$50 million to support land banks and their operations, \$40 million to rehabilitate vacant apartments outside New York City, \$30 million for infill housing projects, and targeted funding for rural housing preservation, small rental development, home accessibility improvements, housing opportunities for older adults, and energy-efficient affordable housing upgrades.

POWER Checks to Provide Utility Bill Relief

The SFY 2026-27 Enacted Budget includes \$1 billion for the Protecting Our Wallets Energy Rebate (POWER) program, providing direct relief to approximately 8.2 million New Yorkers facing rising utility costs. POWER Checks will be distributed between September and December 2026 and are based on 2024 tax returns.

Eligible residents will receive:

- \$200 for joint filers earning under \$150,000;
- \$150 for joint filers earning between \$150,000 and \$300,000; and
- \$100 for single filers earning under \$150,000.

This initiative aims to help families manage increasing energy expenses and provide meaningful financial relief statewide.

My Brother’s Keeper

A decade ago, New York became the first state in the nation to invest in the My Brother’s Keeper initiative, reaffirming its commitment to expanding opportunities for boys and young men of color. The program works in partnership with families, schools, and communities to provide educational, professional, and personal development opportunities while addressing racial disparities in education and advancing restorative justice practices. The SFY 2026–27 Assembly Budget continues this commitment by allocating \$28 million to support the My Brother’s Keeper initiative.

Aid for Cities

The spending plan includes an additional \$135 million in funding above the executive’s budget proposal to help municipalities across the state balance their budgets and erase structural deficits across the SFY 2026-27 and 2027-28 budgets, including:

- \$40 million for Yonkers;
- \$25 million for Buffalo;
- \$20 million for Albany;
- \$20 million for Rochester;
- \$20 million for Syracuse; and
- \$10 million for Mount Vernon.

This funding is in addition to \$150 million in Temporary Municipal Assistance. The executive’s budget also included \$30 million for Buffalo, \$20 million for Albany and an increase of \$100 million in Temporary Municipal Assistance.

The enacted budget helps New York City close its \$12 billion budget deficit without raising property taxes on hardworking families. Along with \$1.2 billion in savings generated by the city, the budget includes several measures to help close the gap, including:

- \$500 million generated through a pied-a-terre surcharge on certain high-value second homes;
- \$2.3 billion in pension amortization savings, excluding police union and noncity employee pensions;
- \$202 million generated by restoring Line of Duty death benefits to a 50/50 split; and
- Additional savings and funding adjustments, including foundation aid estimates, possible class size mandate changes and additional childcare funding, totaling another \$1.2 billion.

89th ASSEMBLY DISTRICT COMMUNITY HIGHLIGHTS





Your questions or comments are important to me. If you have any concerns or issues you would like to discuss with me, please indicate and return to:

Assemblyman J. Gary Pretlow • 89th District
6 Gramatan Avenue, Suite 201, Mt. Vernon, New York 10550

Name:

Address:



New York State Assembly • Albany, New York 12248



**COMMUNITY
NEWS**
from Assemblyman
**J. Gary
PRETLOW**

PRSRT STD.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
ALBANY, NEW YORK
PERMIT NO. 75

2026

Assemblyman J. Gary Pretlow

DISTRICT OFFICE:
6 Gramatan Avenue, Suite 201
Mt. Vernon, New York 10550
914-667-0127

ALBANY OFFICE:
Room 923 Legislative Office Building
Albany, New York 12248
518-455-5291

Email: pretlowj@nyassembly.gov