



Assemblyman

Steve Otis



91st Assembly District

Larchmont - Mamaroneck - New Rochelle - Port Chester - Rye Brook and Rye

June 17, 2022

Dear Friends,

Last week the Regular Legislative Session ended with passage of key legislation on a variety of important issues with other unresolved topics that will continue to receive focus in upcoming months. I expect further legislative action this year.

These are challenging times. The national trend of increasing frequency of mass shootings came home to New York with the murders at a supermarket in Buffalo by a racist 18-year-old. The murders in Texas quickly followed with mass shootings occurring across the country on an almost daily basis.

New York's assault weapons laws are among the strictest in the nation. Informed by recent events, we have taken additional steps, but we cannot control our safety without stronger federal legislation out of Washington. The other sobering reality is that since the federal assault weapons ban was allowed to expire in 2004, estimates now indicate there are 15-20 million assault weapons in circulation throughout the country. We will do what we can in New York, but a broader demand for safety needs to come from Congress and in every home where firearms reside and may be available for misuse.

Major priorities of mine continue to be a number of environmental issues related to climate change, storm resilience, clean water and energy usage. This year we

made some advances with more work ahead with the upcoming NYS Climate Action Council final report due, following public comments earlier this year.

This newsletter includes some legislative updates and Memorial Day reflections I shared in a number of communities as well as consumer and event information for the Sound Shore, including Juneteenth celebrations this weekend.

As always, please contact me regarding issues of concern or any matter with which I can be of assistance.

Warm regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Steve". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

This newsletter includes:

- Virtual Legislative Update with Sen. Mayer
 - EV Infrastructure
 - New Legislation for Reproductive Rights
 - Gun Safety Measures Signed Into Law
 - State Building Code Upgrades for Flooding Mitigation
 - Juneteenth Events
 - CFA Application Resources
 - Homeowner tax rebate credit
 - Statewide Gas and Diesel Tax Holiday
 - SUNY Scholarship Opportunities
 - Primary Voting Information
 - Memorial Day Remarks
 - Construction Careers
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**NYS Senator Shelley B. Mayer &
Assemblyman Steve Otis Host:**

Virtual Legislative Session Update

Tuesday, June 21 • 6 p.m.

**RSVP & Submit Questions:
bit.ly/LegislativeUpdate22**



Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Continues to be a Priority

In February, I co-chaired an Assembly hearing on electric vehicle charging infrastructure to advance state efforts and coordination in growing the access we need in anticipation of the expected growth in EV vehicle purchases in the next few years. The transition to electric vehicles is a priority if we are going to reduce emissions and meet New York's Climate Change goals.

The state budget includes significant funding to accelerate EV use by state and local governments. The environmental bond act to be considered by the voters in November includes \$500 million to support school district transition to all electric school buses. This funding is vital to making EV school buses affordable for school districts and protect local school budgets.

In this legislative session, I co-sponsored a number of pieces of legislation, which passed both houses, to further the cause of electric vehicle use in New York.

A2412 - directs state agencies to accelerate purchase of zero emissions vehicles in their fleets.

A4386 - requires new parking garages or lots constructed with state funds to include capability for EV charging infrastructure.

A6165 - removes barriers to EV charging infrastructure within homeowners associations.

A8327 - establishes an electric landscaping equipment rebate program.

A10450 - encourages NYS agencies to use US manufactured electric vehicles and charging infrastructure.

These bills will now be considered by Governor Hochul as part of her review of the hundreds of bills passed by the legislature this session. At least seven different state agencies are involved in different aspects of the electric vehicle and EV charging infrastructure transition. Today there are significant federal dollars available to support state and local efforts to make charging infrastructure more available, and help local governments upgrade their fleets, and make charging stations available to the public. I will continue to make these efforts a priority.



New State Laws to Protect Reproductive Rights

On Monday I joined in the Governor's bill-signing ceremony to approve measures to protect the reproductive and privacy rights of individuals and healthcare providers in anticipation of the US Supreme Court's overturning the 1973 Roe v. Wade decision.

The specter of laws around the country interfering with personal health care decisions is shocking and to have the Supreme Court take away a long-established individual right is without precedent. Even the constitutional right to use contraceptives, which was affirmed in a famous 1965 Supreme Court decision on privacy, appears at risk. I strongly support and am a co-sponsor of these measures to protect reproductive rights as I have in prior sessions.

The laws we enacted this session and approved by the governor are the following:

- Establishes a Cause of Action for Unlawful Interference with Protected Rights (A10094A)
- Enhances Legal Protections for Abortion Service Providers (A10372A)
- Prohibits Misconduct Charges Against Healthcare Practitioners for Providing Reproductive Health Services to Patients Who Reside in States Where Such Services Are Legal (A9687B)
- Prohibits Medical Malpractice Insurance Companies from Taking Adverse Action Against a Reproductive Healthcare Provider Who Provides Legal Care (A9718B)
- Includes Abortion Providers and Patients in the Address Confidentiality Program (A9818A)
- Authorizes a Study to Examine Unmet Health and Resource Needs and Impact of Limited Service Pregnancy Centers (A5499).

Gun Safety Measures Signed into Law

On June 6th Governor Hochul signed a package of bills to address gaps in the law relating to gun safety issues raised by recent events in Buffalo and around the country. These changes build upon New York's passage of the SAFE Act in 2013 and other modifications since 2019.

The following bills make up the package of measures we adopted and have now been signed into law by Governor Hochul.

A10502 - strengthens New York's Red Flag Law, which we passed in 2019 (Extreme Risk Protection Orders).

A10503 - tightens rules on purchase and possession of a semiautomatic rifle.

A10497 - prohibits the purchase or sale of body vests to anyone who is not engaged in an eligible profession.

A7926-A - requires the Division of Criminal Justice Services to certify or decline to certify that microstamping-enabled pistols are technologically viable and, if certified as viable, to establish programs and processes for the implementation of such technology.

A10504 - tightens the definition of a "firearm" to include firearms that have been modified and technically fall outside current definitions of firearms and rifles.

A10428-A - eliminates the grandfathering of large capacity ammunition feeding devices that were previously outlawed in New York.

A6716-A - creates the crimes of making a threat of mass harm and aggravated making a threat of mass harm.

A1023-A - requires enhanced reporting and recordkeeping by law enforcement to the state and federal gun databases to track guns used in crimes.

A10501- creates a new Task Force on Social Media and Violent Extremism in the Office of the Attorney General to study and investigate the role of social media companies in promoting and facilitating violent extremism and domestic terrorism online.

A7865-A - requires social media networks to provide easily accessible method for the public to report hateful conduct on those platforms to the operator of the platform. This legislation was assigned to the Assembly Science and Technology Committee which I chair. In advance of the Buffalo murders, which were live

streamed by the killer, I identified the importance of this legislation and pushed for Assembly passage.

I have been a strong supporter of gun safety legislation over many years and co-sponsored each of the measures adopted. As I indicated the letter at the beginning of this e-mail, there are limits to what state actions will be effective without stronger federal legislation.

State Building Code Needs to Upgrade Flood Mitigation Measures

It is clear from Hurricane Ida and other recent storms that flood mitigation standards should be reviewed as part of our state building code. Resiliency is a key goal in minimizing our vulnerability to flood and storm damage. Senator Shelley Mayer and I have passed state legislation in both houses to require flood mitigation considerations be reviewed for elevated consideration in the state building code. The NYS Building Code Council would examine how to better incorporate these issues in the state standards. Our bill, A9216-B/S7582-B, seeks recommendations and modifications to the building code to increase resiliency against sea level rise, flooding, and other hazards of coastal and flood plain environments. The bill will be reviewed by Governor Hochul.

JUNETEENTH

Songs for Our Fathers



Urban Legacy Foundation Ltd, The Lincoln Park Conservancy, Inc., Westchester COP - New Rochelle CAP & The City of New Rochelle Present:

JUNETEENTH MBE JUBILEE!

Celebrating Black Freedom with Music, Food and #SupportingBlackBusiness!

SATURDAY JUNE 18TH!

Black Business Jubilee Music Starts at 12 Noon!

At Lincoln Ave & Prince St. New Rochelle, NY, 10801



6pm Power Walk!

A Tour of History, Power, & Places to Get Involved in Our Community!
By Historian Lisa Burton



LEVELING LINCOLN

To level the playing field they leveled the school



8pm Movie Night!

Sponsored by WestCOP - New Rochelle CAP

"Leveling Lincoln"
By Teresa Arden-Lewis
On Projector & Screen!
(Please BYO lawn chairs!)

www.urbanlegacy.org/juneteenth-jubilee info@urbanlegacy.org



Mid-Hudson Regional Economic Development Council

Consolidated Funding Application (CFA) Resources and Events

Round XII opened on May 2, 2022 and includes core capital grant and tax-credit funding to be combined with a wide range of programs from various state agencies that will provide funding for prospective projects.

The deadline for most programs is Friday, July 29, 2022 at 4:00 pm.

Note: The deadline does not apply for open enrollment programs, which will continue to accept applications on an ongoing basis. Information and application guidance is available online on the Mid-Hudson Regional Economic Development Council (REDC) website at <https://regionalcouncils.ny.gov/mid-hudson>.

Resource Links

[2022 Available Resources Guide](#)

Over 30 programs available through various state agencies

[2022 REDC Guidebook](#)

Learn more about the 12th round of the REDC initiative

[2022 CFA Program Webinars](#)

Find recorded webinars for all funding programs available

[2022 CFA Application Manual](#)

[Standalone CFA Programs](#)

For a full listing of upcoming CFA Info-sessions click [here](#)

Homeowner tax rebate credit (HTRC)

The homeowner tax rebate credit is a one-year program providing direct property tax relief to nearly three million eligible homeowners in 2022. If you qualify, you will automatically receive a check for the amount of your credit.

To be eligible, you must have:

- qualified for a 2022 STAR credit or exemption,
- had [income](#) that was less than or equal to \$250,000 for the 2020 income tax year, and
- a school tax liability for the 2022-2023 school year that is more than your 2022 STAR benefit.

For more information click [HERE](#)

Governor Hochul Announces Start of Statewide Gas and Diesel Tax Holiday

Governor Hochul has announced the suspension of certain taxes on motor fuel and diesel motor fuel takes effect today, Wednesday, June 1, 2022. The motor fuel excise tax, State sales tax, and Metropolitan Commuter Transportation District sales tax on motor fuel and diesel motor fuel will remain suspended through the end of the year. This fuel taxes suspension will provide a reduction of at least \$0.16 per gallon statewide, with some counties providing additional savings per gallon.

Westchester county will collect tax only on the first \$3 charged per gallon of gas and diesel, regardless of the actual price at the pump.

These actions will save New Yorkers additional cents per gallon with each customer's specific savings depending on the local sales tax rate and the

difference between the price per gallon and the local cap. You can view the local sales tax rates on certain motor fuels in your area [here](#).



**Governor Hochul Announces Application Open for 2022 Carey Gabay
Scholarship Program**

Five Exemplary Incoming Students to be Selected for the Scholarship Program

Interested Applicants Should Apply [Here](#)

The Carey Gabay Memorial Scholarship will once again award full scholarships to five students to attend four-year SUNY colleges beginning in the 2022-23 school year. These scholarships will cover all costs of attendance, including tuition, room and board, college fees, books and supplies, and transportation and personal expenses. Scholarship recipients will also participate in a mentoring program. Applications are available [here](#) and are due by June 30, 2022.

**Excelsior Scholarship Application Open For New Applicants For Academic
Year 2022-23**

SUNY and CUNY Students Whose Families Make Up to \$125,000 Annually Can Apply for Tuition-Free College;

Applications Accepted Through August 31, 2022

The application for the Excelsior Scholarship for new applicants for the 2022-23 academic year is now open [here](#). The Excelsior Scholarship, in combination with other aid programs, allows eligible full-time students to attend a SUNY or CUNY two-year or four-year college tuition-free.

To be eligible for an Excelsior Scholarship for the 2022-23 academic year, household federal adjusted gross income can total up to \$125,000. Student must also meet the following eligibility requirements:

- Plan to attend a SUNY or CUNY two or four-year college
- Complete 30 credits per year towards their program of study (including Summer and Winter terms)
- Be on track to graduate on time with an Associate's Degree in two years or a Bachelor's Degree in four years

The 2022-23 Excelsior Scholarship application is open to first-time students entering college in the Fall 2022 term and current college students who have never received the Excelsior Scholarship. Current Excelsior Scholarship recipients should not complete this application. Students eligible for the Excelsior Scholarship under the Senator José Peralta New York State DREAM Act can apply [here](#).

More than 190,000 New York residents now attend CUNY or SUNY tuition-free thanks to the addition of students receiving the Excelsior Scholarship. Applications will be accepted through August 31, 2022.

Westchester County Historical Society Annual Meeting



Last Sunday I attended the Annual Meeting of the Westchester County Historical Society to help celebrate Dave Thomas, Founder and President of the Town of Rye Friends of the African American Cemetery, upon his being presented the society's 2022 Sy Schulman History Award. Dave has not only led the effort to restore the cemetery and gravestones but also has brought to light the histories of the individuals in the cemetery for the benefit of the entire community. I am pictured here with Joan Grangenois Thomas; Suzanne Clary, President of the Jay Heritage Center who presented the award on behalf of the WCHS; honoree Dave Thomas; Kiah Thomas and Kyle Thomas.



NYS State Assembly, Governor, Lt Governor primary will be held on **June 28th**. Congressional and State Senate primary will be held on **August 23rd**.

Absentee Ballot Information for the June 28, 2022 Primary Election

- June 27, 2022 is the last day for an applicant or agent to apply in person at the Board of Elections for the Primary Election absentee ballot. The date to mail an application request has passed.
- June 28, 2022 is the last day to postmark the Primary Election absentee ballot by mail. The ballot must be received by the Board of Elections no later than July 5, 2022.
- June 28, 2022 is the last day to deliver the Primary Election absentee ballot in person to the Board of Elections or at any poll site throughout the county, by the close of the polls on election day.

Early Voting will occur from June 18th to June 26th. Sound shore early voting locations include:

- St. Gregory The Great Church, 215 Halstead Avenue, Harrison
- Mamaroneck Town Center, 740 W. Boston Post Road, Mamaroneck
- Rye Brook Firehouse, 940 King Street, Rye Brook

- New Rochelle United Methodist Church, 1200 North Avenue, New Rochelle

For more information on locations and schedules, please visit the Westchester Board of Elections [HERE](#).

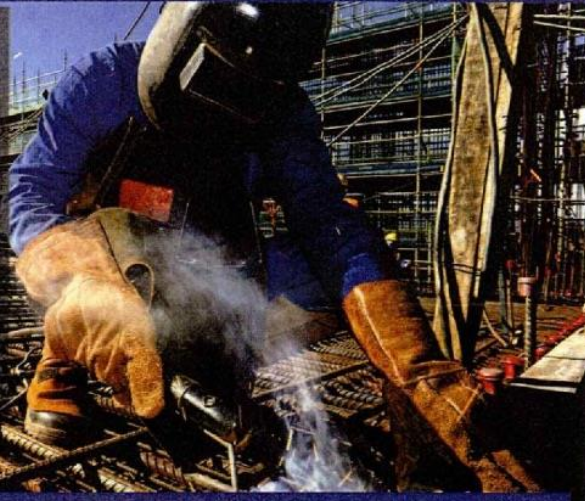
Memorial Day



My comments at the Rye Memorial Day event can be viewed [HERE](#)

CONSTRUCTION CAREERS PRE-APPRENTICESHIP INFORMATION SESSION

Pathways to Apprenticeship & New Rochelle Alliance for Justice are hosting information sessions to recruit New Rochelle Residents for P2A's 5-week Direct Entry Pre-Apprenticeship class, which can lead to a union construction career in the Westchester Building Trades.



FIRST SOURCE REFERRAL CENTER

173 HUGUENOT ST., NEW ROCHELLE, NY 10801

TUESDAY, JUNE 21 & THURSDAY, JUNE 23

6:00 PM

PARTICIPANT BENEFITS:

- Construction Skills Training
- Interviews with Building & Construction Trades Unions
- OSHA Certifications
- Labor History Education

REQUIREMENTS:

- New Rochelle resident
- 18 years or older
- High School Diploma or High School Equivalency Diploma (GED/TASC)
- Physical capacity for construction work
- Drug Free



For more information, please go to P2ATrades.org or email info@P2ATrades.org



