



Assemblymember
MARYJANE SHIMSKY



DISTRICT 92 - SUMMER 2025

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Dear Neighbors,

When I signed on to be your Assemblymember, I envisioned the job as being one of maintaining government services, fixing our crumbling infrastructure, and advancing reforms that would prepare our State for the future, in a fiscally responsible fashion. We in the New York State Legislature have been working to do just that, and we have many successes to point to for our efforts.

However, the growing economic and political instability in the country we love is, to say the least, complicating the picture.

Take the 2025-26 New York State budget as an example. Successful advocacy by many stakeholders resulted in an \$800 million increase in badly needed funding for State roads and bridges. However, rising inflation will likely relegate those funding increases to covering rising costs on existing work, and not to adding new projects. State efforts to continue fully funding foundation aid for our local schools—most of which are the envy of the nation—will be compromised both by inflation and by cuts in federal aid to education.

The future risks being even more problematic. What will happen to our neighbors who rely on Medicaid when those federal cuts take full effect at the end of 2026? What will happen to all of us, if contagious diseases are no longer effectively controlled? And—keeping in mind that Medicaid funds most nursing home care for middle class New Yorkers when their savings run out—how will nursing homes, their patients, and their patients’ families survive?

This newsletter lays out many of the good things we were able to accomplish in the 2025 legislative session. Our challenge going forward will be to hold the line on retrenchment, to speak out against harmful policy decisions in Washington, and to continue to make progress where we can. Despite these pressures, I remain committed to making New York a vibrant place for people to live, work, and raise a family. My colleagues and I will do everything we can to ensure that State government works as well as it can, under whatever conditions we face, now and in the future.



2025 LEGISLATIVE HIGHLIGHTS

These are some of the more impactful bills passed by the Legislature this year:

Medical Aid in Dying

The Medical Aid in Dying Act (A.0136), which I co-sponsored, was passed in June and now awaits the Governor’s signature. It would enable mentally competent, terminally ill adults with a prognosis of six months or less to end their lives peacefully and with dignity.

This is legislation the Assembly has considered and crafted over several years, with some members also drawing on personal experiences of caring for dying family and friends—in addition to the many constituents who contacted our offices to express their support.

To ensure it will be applied appropriately and without abuse, the bill includes these key prerequisites:

- The patient must submit written and oral requests signed by at least two adult witnesses who have no financial interest in the patient’s death. These requests may be rescinded at any time.
- Two physicians must independently certify that the patient has less than six months to live.
- Two physicians must also verify the patient’s mental capacity and, if it is in doubt, have it additionally verified by a mental health professional.
- The patient must be able to self-administer the medication.

As Medical Aid in Dying represents agency for the patient, it is important to note that it also allows physicians the ability to decide whether to participate. No doctor will be compelled to provide life-ending care or be held responsible for refusing it.

100-Foot Rule Repealed

Existing State law allows for the expense of installing the first 100 feet of gas line for new customers to be subsidized by all utility customers. This adds more than \$200 million annually to customers’ gas bills, and prolongs our reliance on fossil fuels.

I was a co-sponsor of legislation to repeal the “100-foot rule” for gas utility companies (A.8888). If signed by the Governor, it will cut costs for residential customers, while reducing our dependency on gas—which currently accounts for roughly a third of New York’s greenhouse gas emissions. New hookups would still be permitted, but the customers seeking those hookups would be the ones to pay for the new line.

It is often the case that our big challenges can only be solved through an accumulation of smaller efforts. This bill is just one example of legislation that can inch us closer toward meeting our affordability and environmental goals in New York State.

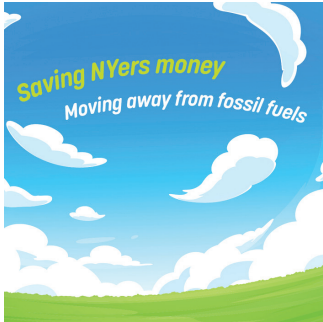
RAISE Act

Artificial intelligence (AI) is advancing at a rapid pace, driving groundbreaking innovation in medicine, data analysis, and automation of mundane tasks. But AI can also be used to conduct devastating cyberattacks and aid in the production of dangerous weapons. Current laws and safeguards simply don’t keep up with AI’s security risks.

In response to the growth of AI, we passed (and I co-sponsored) the Responsible Artificial Intelligence Safety and Education (RAISE) Act, which will put critical safety standards in place for AI frontier models (A.6453B). It would require that AI developers create a safety plan and disclose major security incidents to the state Attorney General and the Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Services.

FAIR Business Practices Act

While current law only prohibits deceptive acts, the FAIR Business Practices Act closes problematic loopholes by expanding the definition to prohibit any unfair or abusive acts (A.8427A). In response to the rollback of federal Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, this legislation, which I was proud to co-sponsor, also grants the State Attorney General additional enforcement powers to better protect consumers and businesses from harms like predatory lending, phishing scams, aggressive debt collection, data breaches, and hard-to-cancel subscriptions.



continued inside...

LEGISLATIVE HIGHLIGHTS

Freedom to Read Act

Education is central to a robust democracy, and developing the discipline of reading is key to obtaining an excellent education. I was extremely gratified to co-sponsor and vote for the Freedom to Read Act (A.7777). This law would ensure that school libraries can provide the widest possible array of age-appropriate reading materials, so that our students have access to books that appeal to their diverse interests and experiences.



Addressing the Assembly in support of the Freedom to Read Act

Guns and Domestic Violence Protection

No one should live in fear in their own home. I am proud to have co-sponsored legislation requiring police to remove all firearms in plain sight from a household for at least five days when responding to reports of family violence, such as an arrest for the commission of a family offense (A.0544B). Immediately removing guns from dangerous situations can help prevent tragedies and save lives.

Expanding Access to Reproductive and Gender Affirming Care

At a time when reproductive rights are under attack across the country, the Assembly passed legislation to create a reproductive health education and outreach program to be administered by the NYS Department of Health (A.2581B). I was also pleased to co-sponsor legislation to protect people who provide or receive legally protected health activity from criminal or civil liability or professional sanctions imposed by jurisdictions outside the State (A.5480).

Strengthening EMS

According to a recent survey by the NYS Department of Health, the number of active Emergency Medical Services (EMS) responders in New York State declined by 17.5% from 2019 to 2022, and another 37% of respondents planned to leave the EMS field in the next five years. This follows a troubling national decline in EMS staff.

To strengthen this critical system, I was proud to support legislation to require municipalities to create plans that ensure reliable service (A.8086A); to provide critical relief by removing EMS funding from the real property tax cap (A.2177A); and to cut costs for EMS agencies by exempting them from Thruway tolls (A.0034).

Westchester County Design-Build Authorization

Among the bills passed in this session was my County of Westchester Public Works Investment Act (A.6428), authorizing design-build project delivery for Westchester County's Labs and Research Building, Public Works Maintenance Facility, Emergency Services Building, and Public Safety Building.

By consolidating projects into one point of responsibility, design-build will enable needed work on these structures to be completed quicker and cheaper.

Local Legislation

The bills that I introduced, and the Legislature passed, in support of our municipalities included legislation to extend the hotel/motel occupancy tax in the Towns of Mount Pleasant and Greenburgh (A.6220, A.6433); to allow the installation of a red-light camera on the Saw Mill River Parkway at Grant Street in Pleasantville (A.8029A); and to enable the swap of a portion of land between Untermeyer Park and St. John's Riverside Hospital (A.8677). These types of bills are done in cooperation with local government offices, to facilitate their work for our communities.

BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS

This year, we were able to maintain our focus on affordability. The Fiscal Year (FY) 2025-26 State Budget includes initiatives that range from reducing middle class tax rates, to addressing the rise in utility costs, to providing our children with universal free school meals.

At the same time, we paid down the State's debt to the Unemployment Insurance Trust Fund by \$7 billion—bringing the fund back to solvency after exceptional outflows during the COVID-19 pandemic. This makes it possible for us to increase benefit levels for the first time since 2019, while reducing employer contributions by an average of \$100 per employee.

Highlights from the enacted FY 2025-26 State Budget include:

- Inflation Rebate Checks of \$300-400 to married filers earning up to \$300,000; and \$150-200 to single filers earning up to \$150,000
- Enhanced Empire Child Tax Credit increase to \$1,000 for children under four years old (2025-27) and \$500 for children ages four to 16 (2026-27)
- \$400 million increase in Child Care Block Grants, plus \$100 million for new and expanded child care centers
- \$37.6 billion to the General Support for Public Schools, including \$26.4 billion for Foundation Aid—a \$1.7 billion increase from the 2024-25 school year
- Foundation Aid formula changes that make the Westchester Regional Cost Index fairer
- \$340 million for universal school meals
- "Bell to bell" ban on smartphones and other internet-enabled personal devices in K-12 schools statewide, with \$13.5 million to support the purchase of device storage supplies
- \$2.3 billion for higher education—a \$160 million increase from the 2024-25 school year
- \$305 million for Hospital Operating Support and \$500 million restored to distressed hospitals
- \$223 million for nursing homes, plus \$7.5 million for assisted living programs
- \$70 million for reproductive health initiatives
- \$50 million to fund energy efficient home upgrades (EmPower Plus) and an additional \$25 million for direct relief on heating and cooling bills (HEAP)
- \$68.4 billion for the MTA 2025-29 Capital Program, which includes projects to protect the Hudson Line from storm flooding and sea-level rise
- Additional \$800 million for NYSDOT's core highway and bridge construction projects
- Additional \$100 million for local roads over two years
- \$1 billion for the Sustainable Future Program, to reduce emissions and invest in sustainable infrastructure statewide
- Additional \$500 million for Clean Water Infrastructure Act programs
- \$425 million for the Environmental Protection Fund

To review the budget in detail, visit budget.ny.gov.



Panel discussion for the MTA 2025-29 Capital Plan

IMPACT OF THE "ONE BIG BEAUTIFUL BILL ACT" ON FUTURE STATE BUDGETS

Though it was dubbed the "One Big Beautiful Bill Act," the recently enacted federal budget presents an ugly picture for New Yorkers. We are now facing cuts of \$13.5 billion to Medicaid, \$4.4 billion to housing aid, and \$2.1 billion to SNAP food assistance annually over the next decade.

As a result of these cuts, we expect unemployment, poverty, homelessness, and sickness to rise, with the heaviest burdens felt by vulnerable residents and small businesses. It is estimated that more than 1.5 million New Yorkers will lose health care coverage, and hospitals that rely heavily on federal aid will be at risk of closing.

Homeowners will see only temporary relief from the increase to \$40,000 in the SALT deduction cap, as it will sunset in 2030 and revert permanently to \$10,000.

The wholesale loss of green energy investments will also be costly—not just making our climate hotter, our storms more severe, and lung disease more prevalent, but making utilities more expensive at a time when New Yorkers can ill afford those rate increases.

For the next few years at least, State budgets will be strained by losses in federal funding which the State cannot fully absorb. We in Albany will work to address these cuts and mitigate their harms as best we can.

To learn more about the impacts of federal funding on State finances, visit the State Comptroller's website at osc.ny.gov/reports/budget/fed-funding-ny.

CON EDISON RATE CASE

Con Edison currently has rate case applications before the New York Public Service Commission (PSC) to raise electricity rates by 11.4% and gas rates by 13.3% in 2026. My colleagues and I have been working to fight these increases, using every means at our disposal—live testimony, written communication, public information and publicity, and direct participation in the rate cases.

I will continue to advocate in my capacity as Assemblymember. However, it is also important for individual customers to communicate what these increases will mean for their households and businesses.

Residents who wish to submit public comment may use any of the options detailed below, referencing Case Number 25-E-0072 (electric service) and/or Case Number 25-G-0073 (gas service):

- **Online:** Visit dps.ny.gov/file-search, enter the case number, and click Post Comments in the upper right to access the comments form.
- **By Mail:** Mailed comments should be addressed to Hon. Michelle L. Phillips, Secretary to the NYS Public Service Commission, Empire State Plaza, Agency Building 3, Albany, NY 12223-1350.
- **By Phone:** Call the DPS Opinion Line at 1-800-335-2120.
- Special accommodations are available for persons with disabilities or language barriers by calling 1-518-473-9463.

I also encourage my constituents to keep contacting my district office with your feedback. Knowing how Con Ed’s rates and quality of service are affecting you will help us to do our jobs better. Please direct your comments to shimskym@nyassembly.gov or call 914-631-1605.

PHOTO GALLERY



Advocating to protect our drinking water at the Croton Reservoir



Getting ready for spring with the Garden Club of Dobbs Ferry



Honoring Ardsley Fire Department 50-year members, Vincent Coulehan and Robert Reid



"Plastic People" documentary screening at the Yonkers Riverfront Library



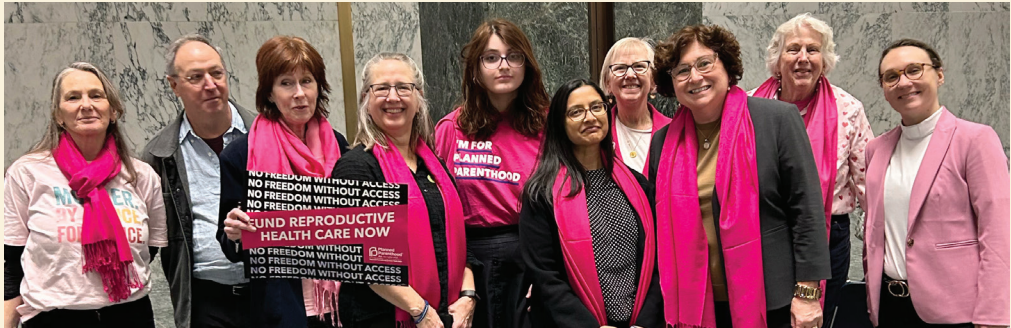
At India Center of Westchester's annual Holi festival in Hawthorne



With Senate Majority Leader Andrea Stewart-Cousins at Valhalla's Memorial Day ceremony



Speaking about the crisis in women's health care and medical research at the Hastings-on-Hudson Public Library



Planned Parenthood's 2025 Day of Action at the State Capitol



Viewing antique quilts with Susan Seal, President of Friends of Odell House Rochambeau Headquarters



Recognizing the 20-year anniversary of Kendal on Hudson in Sleepy Hollow



Hosting League of Women Voters shadow students Chloe McKeon, Westlake High School, and Emmanuel Jobin, Clarkstown High School South



Celebrating Black History Month at the Warner Library in Tarrytown

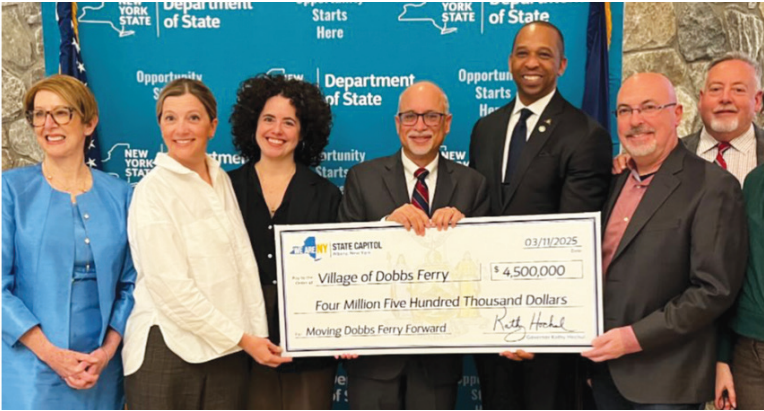


Congratulating Eagle Scouts Logan Dundas of Pleasantville and Kamile Contreras of Sleepy Hollow

NY Forward Grant for Dobbs Ferry

In March, the Village of Dobbs Ferry was awarded \$4.5 million in NY Forward funding for downtown improvement projects that include new streetscaping, open spaces, and cultural offerings from Cedar Street to the Metro-North station.

Only available to the State's certified Pro-Housing Communities, the NY Forward award is a credit to the Village's work to improve the quality of life for all who live in and visit Dobbs Ferry. It will be exciting to see their work come to fruition.



Reforestation Grants for Hastings and Irvington

On Arbor Day, Governor Hochul awarded \$15 million in grant awards through the Community Reforestation program. I am thrilled that two of the three 2025 recipients in Westchester County are in our district. Hastings-on-Hudson was awarded \$356,511 for fencing and planting in Hillside Woods. Irvington was awarded \$382,316 for the restoration of Irvington Woods.

NYS Historic Business Designation for Rosedale Nurseries

Local businesses bring commercial strength, meaningful employment, and unique character to our communities. For nearly 128 years, Rosedale Nurseries has provided all this to the hamlet of Hawthorne and our region—in



addition to a wonderful selection and staff ready to help in any way. It was my great pleasure to have secured Rosedale's inclusion in the *New York State Historic Business Preservation Registry*. Rosedale is a mainstay business and employer in our region, and this recognition is greatly deserved. Congratulations to owners Dan and Catherine Taylor and to all the dedicated people who help Rosedale thrive!

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Albany, New York 12248

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LET'S STAY IN TOUCH

- My office is here to help with your constituent needs:
- Navigating state agencies
 - Accessing government benefits and forms
 - Addressing community problems
 - Learning about state government

Feel free to reach out to my district office at 914-631-1605 or email shimskym@nyassembly.gov.

To receive the District 92 weekly email, with news from Albany and across District 92, scan the QR code here or visit nyassembly.gov/mem/MaryJane-Shimsky/enews/.



You can follow my official Facebook account, “Assemblymember MaryJane Shimsky,” for more frequent updates.

