



Dear Friends,

It has been a very busy few weeks in the Assembly! I was excited to learn shortly after the publication of my [last newsletter](#) that I would once again be serving on the Committees on Correction, Environmental Conservation, Housing, People with Disabilities, Veterans' Affairs and was reappointed as Chair of the Subcommittee on Employment Opportunities for People Disabilities. **I also was pleased to be appointed to a sixth committee – the Committee on Banks – and honored to have been named to leadership as Secretary of the Majority Conference.**

Meanwhile, the 2023-24 budget process officially kicked off last week with the Governor's budget presentation, discussed below.

Back home, I have continued to host events with my colleagues in government, giving our constituents an opportunity to hear what we are working on and to raise questions and concerns. **Please join me this Sunday at 10 am in Harrison for an event co-hosted by State Senator Shelley Mayer.** We will also be joined by County Legislators Catherine Parker and Nancy Barr. Please [click here](#) to RSVP and submit questions in advance.

**HARRISON**  
**COFFEE & CONVERSATION**

with

STATE SENATOR  
SHELLEY MAYER

STATE  
ASSEMBLYMEMBER  
CHRIS BURDICK

COUNTY LEGISLATOR  
CATHERINE PARKER

COUNTY LEGISLATOR  
NANCY BARR

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 10-11:30AM  
LAUGHING HORSE COFFEE & TEA CO.  
6 PURDY ST, HARRISON, NY 10528  
LIGHT REFRESHMENTS WILL BE SERVED

RSVP Requested & Submit  
Questions: [bit.ly/CoffeeHarrison](https://bit.ly/CoffeeHarrison)

The flyer features a light gray background with a dark brown footer. At the top, the event title "HARRISON COFFEE & CONVERSATION" is centered in a serif font, flanked by coffee bean icons. Below the title, the word "with" is centered in a smaller font. Four circular portraits of the speakers are arranged in a 2x2 grid. To the left of each portrait is the speaker's name and title in all caps. The footer contains the event details in a sans-serif font, including the date, time, location, and RSVP information.

This Sunday's upcoming Coffee & Conversation follows two similar events: the first was in North Salem, where I was joined by Town Supervisor Warren Lucas, State Senator Pete Harckham, Legislator Erika Pierce, and nearly 60 attendees! The other was this past weekend in Pound Ridge, where I co-hosted an event with Senator Mayer, along with Town Supervisor Kevin Hansan and County Legislator Erika Pierce. **I am so grateful to the towns for graciously hosting us and to all the residents who took time out of their busy schedules to attend.**



*Photos from the recent events in North Salem (top) and Pound Ridge (bottom)*

On a related note, I want to hear from you... what's on *your* mind? **I have added a short survey to my website about what issues concern you most.**

## 2023 NYS Assembly Issues Survey — 93rd AD

I would be very grateful if you could take just a couple of minutes to complete the survey by [clicking here](#) or on the image above.

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## [Equality Amendment Passes the Legislature, Headed to the Voters](#)

**I was very pleased to once again vote in favor of the Equality Amendment, which passed the Legislature for a second consecutive year. It will now go before voters as a ballot referendum in November 2024.** This amendment will memorialize in our state constitution protections against discrimination based on an individual's ethnicity, national origin, age, disability, or sex (including sexual orientation, gender identity, and gender expression as well as pregnancy, pregnancy outcomes and reproductive health care decisions). Current constitutional protections include protections against discrimination on the basis of race, color, religion or creed; this expansion advances and reaffirms the state's commitment to protecting all New Yorkers from unjust and prejudicial treatment on the basis of their identity.

**Following the U.S. Supreme Court's devastating decision to overturn *Roe v. Wade*, enshrining reproductive rights in our state constitution is paramount.** This measure builds on New York's record of protecting people's fundamental right to choose.



*Speaking on the Assembly floor re: the Equality Amendment*

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## [The Governor's Budget Proposal & Upcoming Westchester Budget Forums](#)

A state budget should address the needs and values of the people of that state. **My role as Assemblymember is to do my best to ensure that the NYS budget reflects the needs and values of the 93rd Assembly District.** Our state is wonderfully diverse and complex, which at first blush may seem to make the task of fashioning a budget seem impossible. However, while it can be daunting, the process can be successful when all the participants – the Governor, the Legislature, advocates, and constituents – are mindful that this is a process of collaboration and compromise, with limited resources that far outpace our needs.

The process started last week with Governor Hochul's presentation of her budget proposal (and for those of you with particular items of concern, please bear in mind that it is just that - a proposal). **The Legislature now begins its role, delving into the myriad details and holding hearings with the Executive, advocates,**

**and the public** (for a schedule of hearings, which will be available to view live on the [Assembly](#) and [Senate](#) websites, please [click here](#).)

**I am fully involved in that work now and wish to share with you some of my initial views - where I agree and find disagreement with the Governor's proposed budget.**

**Education** – I strongly favor the Governor's plan to complete the three-year phased commitment to fully fund Foundation Aid, the major category of aid for NYS public schools. This budget reflects the largest investment in public education in NYS history, which is critical to maintaining the excellence of the public schools while holding down school property taxes. I am concerned, however, about her charter school expansion proposal and the financial impact it will have on the state's public schools.

**Mental Health** – As with the investment in education, I strongly support the Governor's proposal for \$1 billion to overhaul the state's outdated mental health care system.

**Housing** – While I commend the Governor for addressing the issue of housing in her budget, I am disappointed with the proposal's top-down mandates, upending local control of zoning and building codes to increase housing stock. It would require every Westchester municipality with an MTA train or bus station to drastically increase density within one-half mile of the station. It also would require every Westchester municipality to increase overall housing by 3% within three years (beginning in 2024), and if that requirement is not met, the municipality is subject to draconian state action enforceable by the Attorney General. As with last year, I am joining many of my colleagues in pushing back, working to replace the penalties with incentives – especially since so many of the local governments in my district have already taken strong and effective measures to promote affordable housing.

**The Environment** – While I am generally pleased with the budget plan's commitment to the fight against climate change, I also feel it is insufficient. We need a more robust investment – particularly as we access the huge flow of funds that will become available under the federal government's Bipartisan Infrastructure Bill and the \$4.2 billion NYS environmental bond referendum approved in November. Every locality in my district needs substantial funding for local water quality projects and I will be pressing for just that.

**Fixing Our Roads and Bridges** – Our state and local roads and bridges urgently need work. We have fallen behind. I will press for increased funding levels, particularly for our DOT region, which is underfunded. Continuation at the present levels as proposed by the Governor will not be sufficient. With significant funding under the Bipartisan Infrastructure Bill yet to be received, I advocated last year for a more robust five-year DOT capital plan. I am joining my colleagues this year to press for increased funding for state roads as well as for the Consolidated Highway Improvement Program (CHIPs) for local roads. Similarly, we need higher funding levels for other local infrastructure programs, including Extreme Winter Recovery, Fix our Potholes, and Bridge NY.

**Health Care** – Health Care is a human right and while I am pleased to see the increased investment, we need to ensure equal access to health care for all, which will require a greater commitment.

**Childcare and Pre-K** – All children should have access to high-quality pre-K and their families need affordable childcare. I will press for increased funding in both areas. We need to increase childcare access along the lines of last year's Assembly proposal to maintain current subsidies, to expand eligibility from 200 percent of the federal poverty level to 400 percent over a three-year period, and to provide additional funding to expand access and availability. These steps are critical to a solid educational foundation for every child and the ability of their parents/caregivers to earn a living.

**People with Disabilities** – While the budget provides increased funding in this area, I will press for fair pay for home care workers and for the full 8.5% statutory cost-of-living adjustment for staff and other personnel who support individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

**Now the Westchester Assembly and Senate delegations want to hear from you!**

- **This Friday, from 10:30 am-2:30 pm, the Westchester Assembly delegation will be holding its annual budget hearing for local organizations, elected officials, residents, and communities to share their views on the Governor's proposed budget.** The hearing will be held via zoom. Please register in advance to receive a time slot by [clicking here](#). The zoom link will be sent the day prior to the forum (oral testimony is limited to three minutes). **Please send written testimony to Lisa Urban at [urbanl@nyassembly.gov](mailto:urbanl@nyassembly.gov) by 5:00 pm TOMORROW, Wednesday, February 8, 2023.** The live stream of the hearing will be available on my [Facebook page](#).
- **The NYS Senate is offering one in-person session and one via zoom.** You MUST pre-register to testify by [clicking here](#).
  - **In Person:** Thursday, February 16, from 2:30 pm to 4:30 pm at the Greenburgh Town Hall
  - **Zoom/Stream:** Tuesday, February 21, from 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm

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**[Virtual Town Hall on Home Energy Upgrades](#)**

Did you know that replacing your home's heating and cooling equipment with a heat pump can save energy and money? **On Thursday, February 16, Senator Pete Harckham and I are hosting a virtual Town Hall presented by [Sustainable Westchester](#) to learn more about heat pumps and the different tax incentives, credits, and rebates available to make the project affordable.** [Click here to register.](#)

We hope to see you there!

**NYS SENATOR  
PETE HARCKHAM  
&  
ASSEMBLYMEMBER  
CHRIS BURDICK**

*invite you to a virtual Town Hall on*

**LEVERAGING REBATES & INCENTIVES  
FOR HOME ENERGY UPGRADES**

*presented by*

 **SUSTAINABLE  
WESTCHESTER**

**THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 16  
7:00-8:00 PM**

Replacing your home's heating and cooling equipment with a heat pump can save energy and money!

Learn more about heat pumps and how to get started electrifying your home with federal tax credits, utility rebates and tax incentives.

*Speakers include Sustainable Westchester's EnergySmart Homes Contractor Partners, Rewiring America and utility representatives.*

**Register at: [bit.ly/HomeEnergyFeb16](https://bit.ly/HomeEnergyFeb16)**

*Questions? Call Sustainable Westchester at (914) 242-4725 ext. 122*

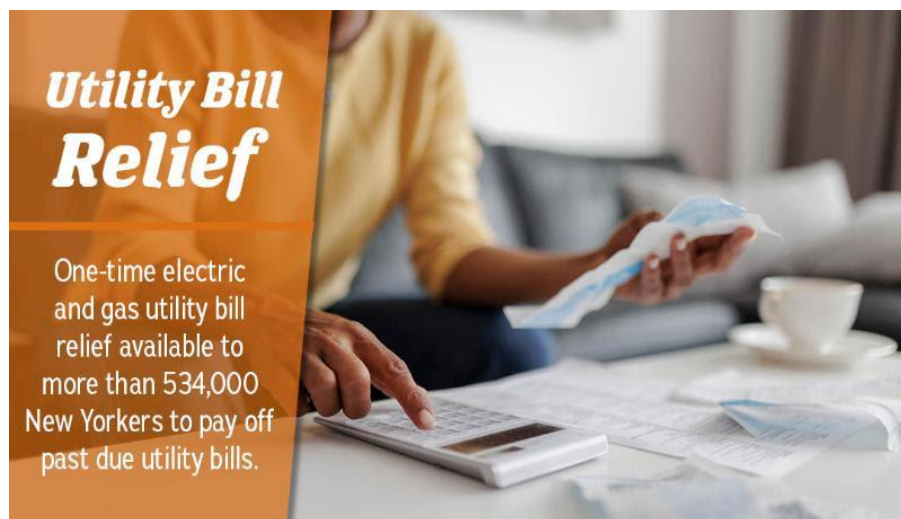
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## [Relief for Pass Due Utility Bills Available](#)

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, unpaid consumer and small-business utility debts piled up for many. **Now, 478,000 residential customers and 56,000 small businesses in New York State will receive a total of \$672 million in assistance to help pay off past due utility bills** – the largest utility customer financial assistance program in state history.

To qualify for a bill credit in 2023, an individual must have a past due balance for service billed through May 1, 2022 and be a residential customer who did not previously receive an electric or gas bill credit. Small business customers with usage below a certain point for electricity and gas in the past 12 months who have a past due balance for service billed through May 1, 2022 are also eligible.

- NYSEG customers can [click here](#) to learn more.
- Customers of ConEdison can reach them at 1-800-752-6633 for further information.



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## [A Special Albany Visit](#)

Thank you to the [Boys & Girls Club of Northern Westchester](#), who I had the honor and pleasure to welcome to the New York State Assembly last week. Joining us to advocate on behalf of youth programs were many of the young people who participate in the Club's programming, as well as its leadership.

All three of my children had the good fortune to grow and learn at the Boys & Girls Club, so I can state from first-hand knowledge that participating in the Club can be a foundational and life-altering experience for many youths.



You can view [my introduction](#) on the Assembly floor here.

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## [Celebrating Black History Month](#)

Finally, **February is National Black History month, a time to celebrate the contributions of Black Americans and to honor the activists who stood up against racial discrimination and helped shape our country.** During Black History Month, we should reflect on our past while also acknowledging how far we still must go to ensure the long-fought ideals of justice and equality are a reality for everyone. Even today, nearly 60 years after the passage of the Voting Rights Act, efforts to combat the suppression of the minority vote in certain areas of our country are ongoing.

**Whether we're honoring the trailblazers who shaped history or recognizing those leading the fight for democracy today, Black History Month is a time to learn from our past and commit to creating a more equitable future.**



As always, **please do not hesitate to reach out to my office with any questions or if there is any assistance we can provide.** You can always reach me at [burdickc@nyassembly.gov](mailto:burdickc@nyassembly.gov) or by calling (914) 244-4450. My staff and I are always ready to help. Please also follow me on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), and [Instagram](#) for continued up-to-date information.

Miss any of our previous newsletters? You can [find them here](#).

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Chris Burdick". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

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