

April 2026



2026 Summer Reading Challenge

I am holding my Annual Summer Reading Challenge to help encourage good reading habits and continued learning this summer!

This year's theme is "Unearth a Story." This program runs in conjunction with the New York State Assembly Summer Reading Challenge and Summer Reading at New York Libraries. All students in grades (K-7) living in the 133rd Assembly District during the 2025-2026 school year are eligible.

Students who pledge and read for at least 15 minutes each day for at least 40 days during the months of July and August will be presented a New York State Assembly Excellence in Reading Certificate.



**To participate,
register here!**

America 250 Poster Contest

As America approaches its 250th Anniversary, high school students in grades 9-12 across the 133rd Assembly District are invited to participate in a special commemorative poster art contest. Show us what freedom, service, sacrifice and opportunity mean to you at 250 years!

Below are the details on how to participate!

Poster Size: 8x14 or 11x17

Medium: All mediums accepted (paint, pencil, digital art, mixed media)

- ✓ Official NYS Assembly Citation
- ✓ Artwork displayed at District Office
- ✓ Recognition as part of AD 133's America 250 Celebration

Deadline: Thursday, May 7, 2026, by 5:00 PM

Submit entries to:

Assemblywoman Andrea Bailey
79 Genesee St.
Avon, NY 14414

Legislative Updates



Late Budget Updates


New Yorkers deserve an on-time, responsible budget. Instead, we are once again facing the need to pass a clean budget extender to ensure state employees are paid and essential services continue uninterrupted.

This situation underscores a recurring problem in Albany—unrelated policy issues being tied to the budget process and used as leverage in negotiations. That approach undermines transparency and prevents the thoughtful consideration that legislation deserves. The budget should pass on its own merits.

Delays in adopting a final budget have real consequences. Schools, counties, nonprofits and service providers depend on timely state approvals to plan and operate effectively. Continued uncertainty disrupts classrooms, public safety efforts, infrastructure projects and the essential services residents rely on every day.

I remain committed to working toward a final budget that delivers stability, predictability and responsible governance for the communities I represent.

ORES Op-Ed:



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Contact: Molly Nelligan, mollynelligan03@gmail.com
Date: April 20, 2026

ALBANY'S SOLAR PUSH IS PUTTING OUR FARMLAND AT RISK
Assemblywoman Andrea K. Bailey warns that state mandates are fast-tracking solar projects while sidelining local communities

We all want to leave the environment in a better place than when we got here—but at what cost? That question is becoming increasingly urgent as New York state expands its approach to large-scale solar development. While the goal may be well-intentioned, the process we've built is straying further from the democratic principles, transparency and local accountability that should guide it.

At the center of this issue is the Office of Renewable Energy Siting (ORES), a state body that now holds sweeping, unilateral authority over the approval of large-scale solar projects. To understand how we arrived here, we need to look back. In 2020, New York overhauled its siting process in response to delays under the former Article 10 framework. That system, though imperfect, provided multiple layers of review and local input. In its place, the state enacted Article 94-c and created ORES, consolidating decision-making power into a single office with the ability to override local zoning laws it deems "unreasonably burdensome."

The intention was to accelerate development. The reality has been the erosion of local voice.

And just as communities began grappling with this shift, the state doubled down. The Renewable Action through Project Interconnection and Deployment (RAPID) Act further expanded ORES authority, adding insult to injury for many municipalities already feeling sidelined. Rather than correcting course or improving transparency, the RAPID Act reinforced a top-down approach that leaves little room for meaningful local involvement.

We cannot ignore what is happening across our rural communities. Investment groups are buying up productive agricultural land, not to sustain it, but to convert it into industrial-scale solar fields. These are not small, community-driven projects; they are large, profit-driven developments. And they are being fueled in part by government subsidies, allowing outside companies to benefit financially while fundamentally reshaping the character and long-term viability of our local economies.

At the same time, there is a glaring inconsistency in environmental oversight. If residents sought to alter their own property in a way that might disturb endangered habitats, they would face intense scrutiny from the Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC). Yet when large-scale solar developments move forward under the banner of "green energy," that same level of visible scrutiny often appears lacking. The limited and unclear role of DEC in these approvals raises serious concerns about whether environmental standards are being applied consistently.

We must be honest with ourselves: Not everything done in the name of "green energy" is environmentally friendly in practice. The clearing of open land, the disruption of habitats and the loss of farmland all have real consequences. Seeing what is being done under the guise of progress, without sufficient transparency or accountability, is a tragedy for many of the communities living through it.

Equally troubling is the lack of transparency surrounding ORES decision-making. Determinations about what constitutes an "unreasonably burdensome" local law are often made without clear standards or adequate explanation. Public comment periods exist, but too often they feel like procedural formalities rather than genuine opportunities for input. Residents and local officials are left with decisions that affect their communities for decades, yet little understanding of how those decisions were reached.

This is not an argument against renewable energy. It is an argument for doing it right. A process that sidelines communities, lacks transparency and raises legitimate environmental concerns is not sustainable—politically, socially or environmentally.

We need a better balance. That means restoring a meaningful role for local governments, ensuring that community concerns are not dismissed but seriously considered. It means demanding greater transparency from ORES, with clear, consistent standards and open communication. And it means ensuring that environmental oversight is rigorous and applied equally—no matter the type of development.

New York has an opportunity to lead—not just in energy production, but in how we manage that transition. If we fail to bring communities into the process, we risk losing more than farmland—we risk losing public trust. And without that trust, even the best intentions will fall short.

Andrea K. Bailey
Assemblywoman Andrea Bailey represents the 133rd Assembly District, which includes Livingston County and parts of Monroe, Ontario, Steuben and Wyoming counties. For more information about Assemblywoman Andrea Bailey, please visit her official Assembly website.
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Women In Agriculture Legislative Breakfast

I hosted my annual Women in Agriculture Legislative Breakfast at the Avon Town Hall on April 24, bringing together farmers, entrepreneurs and community leaders from across the region. The morning featured a legislative forum and guest speakers who led thoughtful discussions on key issues like funding access, farmland protection and workforce development. It was a valuable opportunity to hear directly from women shaping the future of agriculture and to highlight their growing role in New York's rural economy. I appreciated the strong turnout and meaningful conversations focused on supporting local agriculture and strengthening our communities.

March 2026 Out and About



May Day Art Delivery

1. Students from Victor, Caledonia-Mumford, Avon, Wayland-Cohocton and St. Agnes schools crafted 1,150 hand-made art pieces for me to deliver to local Offices for the Aging across the district. I hope these art pieces bring joy to everyone who receives one!



Nunda Fire Dept & Nunda Volunteer Ambulance Service Annual Awards Banquet

2. I had a great time at the Nunda Fire Dept & Nunda Volunteer Ambulance Service Annual Awards Banquet. I say it often, but it's worth repeating, our volunteer firefighters and EMS are some of the most giving people you'll ever meet. They devote countless hours to training so they're ready to protect others in their moment of need.



Steuben County Sheriff's Office

3. It was great to be back in the district celebrating new promotions at the Steuben County Sheriff's Office. Thank you to the sheriff's office for all its hard work and dedication to protecting our community!



Donate Life Press Conference

4. I was honored to join colleagues kicking off Donate Life Month at a joint press conference. Every conversation about organ donation is a reminder of the life-changing impact one decision can make.

With nearly 8,000 New Yorkers waiting for a transplant, I encourage everyone to consider registering as an organ donor and help give hope and a second chance at life.



ANDREA BAILEY
NEW YORK STATE ASSEMBLY

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Assemblywoman Bailey on
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Contact me:

Albany Office:

LOB 718, Albany, NY 12248
518-455-5662

District Office:

79 Genesee St., Avon, NY 14414
585-218-0038

Have a question for Andrea?

Email her at baileya@nyassembly.gov on this or any other state issue.