

WESTCHESTER COUNTY

2025 Joint State Legislative Package



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Kenneth W. Jenkins, Westchester County Executive
Vedat Gashi, Chairman, Westchester County Board of Legislators
Colin D. Smith, Chair, Committee on Legislation



Vedat Gashi, Chairman
Westchester County Board of
Legislators



Kenneth W. Jenkins
Westchester County Executive

February 19, 2025

Hon. Kathy Hochul, NYS Governor
Hon. Andrea Stewart-Cousins, NYS Senate Majority Leader
Hon. Carl Heastie, NYS Assembly Speaker
Honorable Senators and Assembly Members, Westchester County Delegation

Dear Colleagues,

Westchester County and its residents have been supported by your tireless efforts through many difficult budget cycles and unprecedented challenges.

You fought to ensure our schools were funded when cuts were on the table and fought to secure the tangible reforms necessary for the clean energy transition, to ensure our children inherit a world safe from the worst damages of climate change. You delivered improved legal support for some of our most vulnerable residents, made more families eligible for childcare, and helped improve the County's financial position – to the point where we are now the only AAA bond rated County in New York State.

Governor Hochul has proposed an Executive Budget that meets many of Westchester County's needs in a difficult budgetary environment. Westchester stands ready to support many of the Governor's initiatives, particularly including housing affordability, childcare support, and increased benefits for working families.

Westchester County stands, as always, ready to work collaboratively with you to keep our residents safe. Our partnership in the past has been extremely successful: We will move forwards together with the same level of dedication and focus which has brought us success through past years.

Sincerely,

Vedat Gashi, Chairman
Westchester County Board of Legislators

Kenneth W. Jenkins
Westchester County Executive

Colin Smith, Chair
Committee on Legislation

2025 WESTCHESTER COUNTY JOINT STATE LEGISLATIVE PACKAGE

Vedat Gashi, Chairman
Westchester County Board of Legislators

Kenneth W. Jenkins
Westchester County Executive

Committee on Legislation

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FINANCE

Section I

Reauthorize the Westchester County Property Taxpayer Protection Act

REQUEST

Reauthorize Westchester County's Property Taxpayer Protection Act.

JUSTIFICATION

In 2019, Westchester County sought authorization to raise its sales tax to a level of parity with surrounding localities. At that time, Westchester's sales tax was the lowest among populous New York State counties. In June of 2019, the NYS Governor signed Chapters 43 and 44 of the Laws of 2019 adopting the Westchester County Property Taxpayer Protection Act. The County's act was reauthorized in 2023 and now expires in 2025.

Westchester County has committed to and fulfilled the requirement to share extra sales tax revenue with local municipalities and school districts, providing relief to local taxpayers through the COVID-19 pandemic. In 2020 alone, Westchester shared \$113 million with local municipalities and \$44 million with local school districts. Westchester County has, as a result, cut county property tax levy in four (4) consecutive budgets – 2020, 2021, 2022 and 2023 – as agreed to reduce county property taxes.

Westchester's sales tax has served as a crucial source of revenue, allowing the County to keep property taxes flat or lower them since its passage in 2019. As such, Westchester requests that its sales tax be reauthorized.

HISTORY

2019: Westchester County's Property Taxpayer Protection Act is adopted.

2020: Westchester's sales tax authorization is extended to 2023.

2023: Westchester's sales tax authorization is extended to 2025.

Authorize Design Build for Westchester County

REQUEST

Provide Westchester County with authorization to utilize Design-Build project delivery.

JUSTIFICATION

In 2019, seven New York City agencies received authorization to utilize Design-Build project delivery (as opposed to Design-Bid-Build) through the Public Works Investment Act (PWIA). Design-Build consolidates projects into one point of responsibility on the basis, of which, design and construction team can deliver the best project at the best value. Westchester County believes this novel strategy would allow it to save money and deliver an enhanced level of quality on forthcoming projects.

Under the current Design-Bid-Build model, the ‘Design’ and ‘Build’ components of a project are barred from collaboration, slowing project schedules, increasing cost, and resulting in lower quality in final completed projects. New York City is required to provide annual reports on design-build projects, including short lists and proposers, cost savings, time savings and MWBE utilization within the project. Westchester county would be willing to provide this information as well.

Westchester County has worked closely with organized labor to secure their support for our proposal regarding Design Build.

In order to save costs for taxpayers and implement a more logistically robust project delivery system, Westchester requests authorization from New York State to utilize Design-Build.

HISTORY

2023-24: [A.9503A](#) (Pretlow)

Support a Budget that Continues the 18-b Assigned Counsel Reimbursement

REQUEST

Support the Governor's proposal to continue the 18-b Assigned Counsel Rate Reimbursement

JUSTIFICATION

In the enacted FY24 New York State Budget, the hourly rate of 18-b assigned counsel attorneys was increased from \$60 per hour for misdemeanors or lesser offenses and \$75 per hour for felonies and other matters to a universal \$158 per hour rate. This rate increase became effective as of April 1, 2023.

To offset this new cost, the FY24 State Budget also created a \$92 million fund to reimburse counties for 50% of eligible expenditures related to this rate increase. Entities requesting the reimbursement do so by submitting a certification form to the New York State Office of Indigent Legal Services on a quarterly basis, and within 12 months of when the expenditures were incurred.

Westchester saw over \$11 million in new costs as a result of the rate increase. The Assigned Counsel Reimbursement is providing Westchester with reimbursement equal to 50% of the new cost. Westchester has budgeted a total program cost of \$25.2 million for 2024, of which New York State will reimburse \$7.6 million – or half of the \$15.2 million attributable to the rate increase.

This reimbursement allowed us to continue our work reducing costs for our tax burdened residents. Without this fund, Westchester County will be forced to look for new revenues to make up \$7.6 million – and growing – in annual expenses.

Governor Hochul's FY26 Executive Budget proposes continuing the 18-b Assigned Counsel Rate Reimbursement Program. As this program has offset County costs, Westchester requests that the Governor's proposal to continue this reimbursement be supported.

HISTORY

2023: New York State raises 18-b Assigned Counsel Attorney fees and creates the 18-b Assigned Counsel Rate Reimbursement program.

2024: New York State continues the 18-b Assigned Counsel Rate Reimbursement program.

2025: Governor Hochul's Executive Budget proposes continuing the 18-b Assigned Counsel Rate Reimbursement program.

Support a Budget that Avoids Breaching the Medicaid Cap

REQUEST

Adopt a Budget which avoids breaching the Medicaid Cap; Governor Hochul's proposed FY26 Executive Budget does not breach the Medicaid Cap.

JUSTIFICATION

Westchester County has seen between 240,000-250,000 Medicaid cases per year. Westchester also saw a 9% increase in costs to cover these Medicaid cases in 2024. Westchester's costs are already increasing from existing state mandates, including the ending of the FMAP reimbursement and the increase in costs associated with 18B Assigned Counsel; meanwhile, crucial County revenues, particularly sales tax, have sharply decreased.

Shifting a further share of Medicaid costs by cutting the State's commitment and breaching the Medicaid cap would increase the financial burden on Westchester County's taxpayers.

Governor Hochul's FY26 Executive Budget does not breach the Medicaid cap; as such, Westchester asks that its delegation avoid breaching the Medicaid cap in any further allocations or funding proposals and support a final budget that avoids breaching the Medicaid cap.

HISTORY

This item is a new request.

Extend the Electric Generation Facility Cessation Mitigation Program

REQUEST

Lift the July 1, 2025 sunset on the Electric Generation Facility Cessation Mitigation Program and remove the 7-year eligibility period.

JUSTIFICATION

The Indian Point Nuclear Power Plant's final reactor ceased operation in 2021. This closure resulted in the loss of over 1,000 jobs and millions in tax revenue in nearby communities. Westchester County's tax revenues were impacted by this closure.

New York State created the Electric Generation Facility Cessation Mitigation Program in 2015 to provide funding assistance to counties, towns, cities, villages, school districts and special districts that experience a reduction in property taxes due to the closure of an electric generating facility. Of the \$140 million originally allocated to this fund, a majority of the funding, over \$99.5 million, remains.

Westchester County has relied on this program to offset revenue loss and to keep costs low for its taxpayers: The County has received roughly \$2.9 million from this program so far, and would continue to receive funding for another 5 years, despite the sunset of the program.

But the job losses and loss of revenue from Indian Point's closure continue to impact Westchester and many communities in proximity to the plant. The large waterfront space is essentially impossible to redevelop, and it will take longer than 7 years to make up for the lost jobs and economic opportunity in the area.

This fund has also supported local governments and nonprofit organizations, including:

- Town of Cortlandt and Village of Buchanan: \$7 million
- Hendrick Hudson School District: \$500,000
- Teamsters Local 456: \$250,000
- Historic Hudson Valley: \$750,000
- Hudson River Foundation: \$6.5 million

As such, Westchester requests that the July 1, 2025 sunset of the Electric Generation Facility Cessation Mitigation Program be lifted, and the 7-year eligibility period be waived so that the County and additional local entities impacted by the closure of Indian Point can continue to rely on this funding until the fund is depleted.

HISTORY

No legislative history.

Amend the STOA Formula

REQUEST

Amend the State Transportation Operating Assistance (STOA) Formula to provide Westchester County financial parity with Nassau County's transit assistance.

JUSTIFICATION

Westchester County's Bee Line Bus Service has a larger ridership than Nassau County, but receives less in State Transportation Operating Assistance (STOA); the STOA formula currently prioritizes the distance of a transportation system rather than its ridership. This favors counties like Nassau and provides Westchester with a more limited allocation despite its higher ridership and significant transportation issues.

This aid serves a crucial purpose in Westchester County. Following the decline in ridership through the coronavirus pandemic, we have seen an increase from 20.6 million passengers in 2022 to 22.5 million passengers by fall 2023. Over 2/3 of Westchester's riders are transit-dependent, meaning they rely on the Bee Line and do not have a car for their use. Our riders are also lower income, and many of them report being members of a minority group: Over 70% of passengers reported household incomes below \$50,000 and 44% reported incomes under \$25,000. Nearly 50% of our passengers identified themselves as African American/Black, and 36% identified themselves as Hispanic.

As of the enacted FY25 budget, Westchester receives \$97.9 million in STOA aid, while Nassau County receives roughly \$118.4 million in STOA aid – a difference of over \$20 million despite Westchester's higher ridership.

Westchester's public transit policies have included a widespread conversion of its bus fleet from diesel to hybrid-electric and fully electric, ensuring reduced environmental impacts. We believe these policies place our system at the vanguard of transportation implementation and reform; amending the STOA formula will allow us to expand this work to better serve residents of Westchester County. Westchester understands that New York State is facing a difficult fiscal situation, and is open to this shift being phased in over a number of years.

As New York State continues to recover from the coronavirus pandemic and strives to meet its net zero carbon emissions goals, supporting Westchester's public transportation system will have significant environmental and economic benefits. Westchester County therefore requests that the STOA formula be amended to give Westchester County financial parity with Nassau County.

HISTORY

2020: Westchester County receives \$12.9M less than Nassau County.
2021: Westchester County receives \$12.6M less than Nassau County.
2022: Westchester County receives \$17.9M less than Nassau County.
2023: Westchester County receives \$19.4M less than Nassau County.
2024: Westchester County receives \$20M less than Nassau County.

Continue to Support the Expansion of Downstate Casino Licenses

REQUEST

Continue to support the provision of a full commercial gaming license to Empire City Casino in Yonkers.

JUSTIFICATION

The provision of a full commercial gaming license to Empire City Casino in Yonkers will bring new jobs, new tourism and tax revenue, new opportunities for MWBEs and local businesses, and additional funding for education to Westchester County.

Tourism Revenue: New York City has an average of 62 million tourists visit on an annual basis. Despite this fact, millions of dollars in gaming revenue go to neighboring states due to New York City and Westchester County's limited gaming opportunities. New Jersey, Connecticut and Pennsylvania all have some of the highest gaming revenue statistics in the country, and greatly benefit from New York's casino licensing moratorium.

Job Creation: Unemployment in Westchester County continues to decrease, in part due to private employers such as Empire City, who currently employs over 1,200 people in the City of Yonkers. These are highly sought-after jobs, many of which have union representation.

Education Funding: Counties throughout New York State remain concerned about the lack of funding for education. The expansion of commercial casino licenses would generate increased education dollars not only for Westchester County, but for school districts throughout New York State.

MWBE/ Diversity Opportunities: The economic and employment benefits of casino expansion are far reaching, and would have a significant impact on Minority, Women and Veteran Owned Businesses. New casino development would provide opportunities for service providers, vendors and consultants who work in the gaming industry, and are part of these traditionally underrepresented groups.

As such, Westchester County requests that members of its delegation continue supporting the provision of a full commercial gaming license to this facility.

HISTORY

No legislative history.

Provide Funding for County Patrols of New York State Parkways in Westchester

REQUEST

Allocate \$5 million in funding to cover costs associated with police patrols to New York State Parkways which are provided by Westchester County.

JUSTIFICATION

The Westchester County Department of Public Safety, under a grant agreement with New York State, patrols the State Parkways in the County (Hutchinson River Parkway, Saw Mill River Parkway and Cross County Parkway). In 2021, the State appropriated \$2,235,000 to support this program. This year, the Executive Budget Proposal contains no appropriation of funding for this purpose.

Westchester's budgeted cost for providing this service was roughly \$3 million. This does not include fringe benefits, equipment costs, and other additional costs exceeding \$4 million. Including fringe, our total cost is over \$7 million. This does not include the cost of vehicles, fuel, maintenance, computers, firearms, and other associated equipment. Westchester County's Department of Public Safety has patrolled the parkway system since 1920, and relies on this State funding to provide public safety services to travelers using these parkways.

These patrols generate some \$2.1 million in revenue to the State and \$2.3 million in revenue to local municipalities as a result of local summons activity. Westchester County receives no money from the fines for the tickets we issue, while combatting issues unique to these parkways including flooding, bridge strikes, and wrong way driver accidents. The funding and additional appropriation is necessary to cover the cost of the County's patrols, and can help minimize the property tax burden of Westchester taxpayers.

HISTORY

2019: New York State appropriated \$1.9 million; Westchester incurred costs of \$7.4 million and received re-appropriated funding of \$1.2 million.

2020: New York State appropriated \$2.2 million and re-appropriated \$1.2 million; Westchester incurred costs of \$7.4 million.

2021: New York State appropriated \$2.2 million; Westchester incurred costs of \$7.6 million.

2022: New York State appropriated \$2.4 million; Westchester incurred costs of \$7.6 million.

2023: New York State appropriated \$2.6 million; Westchester incurred costs of \$7.9 million.

2024: New York State appropriated \$2.8 million; Westchester incurred costs of \$8.3 million.

Fund Domestic Violence Non-Residential Services & Housing

REQUEST

Allocate \$150,000 to cover hotel/respice sites to ensure Westchester County has the resources to provide safe housing for domestic violence survivors.

JUSTIFICATION

Westchester County has seen a 27% increase in domestic violence (DV) cases over the last 4 fiscal years. The increased cost and reduced supply of housing complicate efforts to resolve these cases; victims need housing units outside of shelters or congregate settings in order to ensure positive outcomes.

Worse, many cases are more severe; Westchester has seen 3 cases where survivors and family members were murdered by their spouses/partners through this time period alone. While the NYS Office for the Prevention of Domestic Violence (OPDV) provides funding for DV cases, this funding is not guaranteed: Westchester secured this funding from a competitive procurement process providing 3 year grants in 2023.

Westchester's program has been successful – but due to increased costs, the funding we have does not cover the same level of service at it once did, which is particularly problematic in this time of increased need.

As such, Westchester requests that \$150,000 be secured through NYS OPDV to cover hotel/respice sites to give domestic violence survivors a safe place to go, allowing us to enhance our already successful program to meet the needs of the present.

HISTORY

This item is a new request.

Authorize a Pilot Program Providing for Shelter Client Cost Waivers
--

REQUEST

Authorize Westchester County to waive the shelter contribution cost to employed persons within its shelter system and hold the County harmless for any additional local impact.

JUSTIFICATION

Individuals and families with income who enter the Westchester shelter system currently pay a portion of their income to offset county and state reimbursed (federal TANF or State Safety Net share) expenses incurred from the operation of the shelter services.

Westchester County asks that New York State authorize a pilot program which would allow persons with income (who are entering a County shelter) to have shelter client costs waived.

Families in shelters with income still need financial and program services to support their children and assist in transitioning out of the shelter. As such, by waiving a person's contribution to the costs of staying at a shelter, they can more quickly work toward transiting out of the shelter and utilize their resources toward permanent housing.

Westchester requests that a pilot program providing shelter cost waivers be authorized, and the County be held harmless for any additional local impact.

HISTORY

No legislative history.

Continue Funding Eviction Prevention Legal Services
--

REQUEST

Continue funding programs to address the backlog of eviction cases by providing funding for legal representation for those at risk of eviction.

JUSTIFICATION

New York State has provided funding for eviction prevention legal services to represent clients in eviction cases. Courts still face a backlog of eviction cases, due to the pandemic eviction moratorium, despite recent movement. There has been enormous demand for legal support in Westchester, forcing additional costs onto the County.

According to the Westchester County Right to Counsel Coalition, in normal years, when more than 10,000 eviction proceedings are filed in Westchester County courts, 93% of landlords are represented by counsel, while only 7% of tenants have attorneys. Programs that provide legal counsel at no cost to low income tenants have proven to be very successful at preventing evictions and protecting tenants' rights.

Westchester County requests that this funding be renewed and continued, as such funds will support the vital services offered by the Westchester County Office of housing Counsel. This program helps Westchester residents who are facing hardships remain in their homes, easing the burden on our social services and lowering the number of our neighbors facing a crisis in their living situations.

As such, Westchester asks that this funding be continued.

LEGISLATIVE INITIATIVES

Section II

Support Working Families Through Tax Cuts and Child Care Initiatives

REQUEST

Support Governor Hochul's child tax credit, child care construction fund, and working family tax relief programs.

JUSTIFICATION

In her FY 2025-26 Executive Budget, Governor Hochul put forward several proposals that would provide financial relief to the residents of Westchester County. These initiatives include a series of tax cuts and investment in childcare that will provide immediate financial relief to working families and enable more parents to re-enter the workforce.

The Executive Budget proposes cutting taxes for joint filers earning up to \$323,000 per year. When fully phased in, the middle class tax cut will deliver tax relief to nearly 77 percent of filers. This will result in hundreds of dollars in average savings for three out of four taxpayers.

The Executive Budget appropriates \$100 million to create a Child Care Construction Fund to make child care more accessible and affordable by incentivizing companies to build or repair child care centers, while funding child care centers and programming for school age children.

The Executive Budget also proposes increasing the state child tax credit to \$1,000 per child under four and \$500 per child age four to sixteen. The expanded credit will benefit families across the income spectrum, with the average credit rising from \$472 to \$943 annually. It will provide much-needed relief to middle-class families who were previously ineligible, such as a family of four earning \$170,000, who will now receive over \$500 annually. For families with a toddler and a school-aged child earning up to \$110,000, the credit will total \$1,500 — nearly \$1,000 more than the current program provides.

The cost of eggs, gasoline, housing, and most commercial goods has gone up, while wages have not kept pace: Many of Westchester's working families are struggling to get by, and in dire need of financial assistance. As such, Westchester County supports the Governor's efforts to relieve the burden on working families.

To maximize the impact of the Governor's proposed support, Westchester County requests that the final adopted budget eliminate the minimum wage and minimum number of work hour requirements which currently limit eligibility for childcare assistance. This rule penalizes the lowest earners, and complicates eligibility for those whose hours change every week.

As such, Westchester respectfully requests that the tax relief and child care proposals discussed above be adopted.

HISTORY

This item is a new request.

Support the Expansion and Enhancement of Emergency Medical Services

REQUEST

Westchester County urges the adoption of legislation that relates to emergency medical services (EMS) and includes the establishment of an EMS quality and sustainability assurance program, a statewide comprehensive EMS plan, and an EMS training program.

JUSTIFICATION

Emergency Medical Service (EMS) systems throughout our nation have been facing a crisis in recent years. The problems leading to this situation have been building, and have now been pushed to the point of crisis by the coronavirus pandemic. This situation exists here in Westchester County, where staffing shortages have led to dramatic increases in mutual aid calls and increases in wait times for a responding ambulance. In 2021 over 7,000 requests for EMS mutual aid were received, a 58% increase from the previous year. When someone is having a critical health emergency, and calls for an ambulance, time matters, and a delayed response to a critical patient can make the difference between life and death.

Many people are surprised to learn that EMS is not designated as an "essential service" by state or federal law, as police and fire service are, resulting in fewer revenue streams to support paid positions and state of the art equipment. As a result, EMS providers, including those in Westchester, are struggling to find and retain staff. In addition, EMS personnel feel that they are undervalued and under respected, exacerbating an already serious shortage of trained personnel. Yet people expect EMS services to be available at all times and in all locations. Indeed, response times and trained personnel can make the difference between life and death.

Legislation proposed by Westchester Senator Shelley Mayer takes steps to recognize EMS as an essential service that must be provided in every area of the state. Requiring at least a minimum level of uniform EMS service ensures that all residents receive these public health and safety protections, especially during emergencies, and have access to early intervention health care which will help provide better care for patients, assist medical providers at the hospital, and lower overall medical costs. Additionally, to incentivize retention among EMS personnel, this bill expands access to health insurance and retirement benefits available to EMS providers, and sets quality standards for EMS.

HISTORY

2021-22	S.8432A – Mayer A.9509A – Otis
2023-24	S.4020B – Mayer A.3392B – Otis

Support Solar Canopy Construction

REQUEST

Support Westchester County's efforts to construct solar panels over the parking lot at Croton Point Park; this action will require the alienation of the parking lot.

JUSTIFICATION

Westchester County seeks to develop a solar canopy at the Croton Point Park parking lot. Solar panels are known as a source of clean, renewable energy, which save money to taxpayers and generate revenue for the County. A solar canopy will protect vehicles from harsh weather, while providing energy that can be utilized by the County in a variety of different ways.

Westchester County has supported legislation put forward by Assemblymember Levenberg and Senator Harckham which would provide this authorization to all municipalities throughout New York State, but the County is ready to pursue alienation in order to develop this canopy.

As such, we ask that New York State support Westchester's work to develop a solar canopy at Croton Point Park.

HISTORY

This item is an amended request.

2023-24: [S.1179](#) (Harckham)
 [A.7269](#) (Levenberg)

2025-26: [S.270](#) (Harckham)

Authorize the County to Establish a Sewer Consolidation Pilot program

REQUEST

Provide Westchester County with the authorization to secure the conveyance or lease of sewer system properties and responsibilities of other municipalities within the County.

JUSTIFICATION

Westchester County has many separate sewer systems, preventing the utilization of economies of scale to reduce costs, and decentralizing operations unpredictably.

Westchester County Government maintains the largest sewer system within the county currently, and has been working to analyze how consolidation could save money for taxpayers. After a lengthy period of analysis, we have developed four possible plans regarding sewer systems throughout the County.

Westchester County is currently working on developing a pilot program to consolidate four partner communities: The City of New Rochelle, the Town of Mamaroneck, the Village of Larchmont and the Village of Pelham Manor. Westchester County has worked closely with these municipalities to keep them apprised of the cost savings offered to them by consolidation, and now seeks state authorization to develop a pilot program in partnership with these communities.

As such, Westchester requests that legislation be enacted, authorizing the conveyance or lease of sewer system properties from Westchester's municipalities to the County.

HISTORY

2023-24: [S.9612](#) – Mayer
 [A.10557](#) – Paulin

2025-26: [A.1004](#) – Paulin

Support the Governor's Proposal on Universal Free School Meals

REQUEST

Support Governor Hochul's FY 25-26 Executive Budget Proposal to provide free school meals to students statewide.

JUSTIFICATION

In her FY 25-26 Executive Budget proposal, Governor Hochul included funding to expand universal free school meals statewide. After the 2023-24 state expansion, about 116 schools in Westchester County now offer free school meals: But 40% of all schools in Westchester still do not offer free school meals. This new funding will allow those remaining schools to offer free school meals, improving educational outcomes for students throughout the County.

Having reliable access to breakfast and lunch will fight children's hunger, improve the mental and physical health of our young people, and provide much-needed financial relief to families struggling with the high cost of living. The program is vital to encourage healthy habits and create more opportunities for students to succeed.

Studies have proven that when children have regular access to healthy foods at school, grades improve, and relationships between the students strengthen, improving academic outcomes.

By eliminating any financial requirements to receive this benefit, New York State will level the playing field and give parents back the money they would be spending. Free school meals are estimated to save families \$165 per child in grocery spending each month and have been shown to support learning, boost test scores, and improve attendance and classroom behavior. By providing relief for families across the economic spectrum, implementing universal free meals spares families the stigma of the application process and relieves the school district of the cost and burden of administering the application process.

As such, Westchester asks Governor Hochul's budget proposal be supported.

HISTORY

This item is a new request.

Support the Packaging Reduction and Recycling Infrastructure Act

REQUEST

Adopt the passage of the ‘Packaging Reduction and Recycling Infrastructure Act’.

JUSTIFICATION

Dozens of community groups and local environmental leaders have advocated for the passage of the ‘Packaging Reduction and Recycling Infrastructure Act’. This legislation would reduce the proliferation of single-use plastic packaging, save County tax dollars, make packaging less toxic, reduce the amount of packaging material the County must dispose of, and protect public health.

This legislation would generate direct revenue for Westchester County by requiring that companies reimburse local governments for costs incurred in recycling and disposing of packaging waste, and would reduce the County’s costs by reducing the amount of waste we are required to dispose of.

Further, this legislation supports the transition to a clean, zero waste economy; Westchester has worked to facilitate this locally by improving operations at our Material Recovery Facility, developing a countywide food scrap recycling program which local municipalities can opt into, and enhancing operations at our sewer consolidation and waste disposal facilities to minimize the amount of waste generated by these facilities.

As such, Westchester County asks that New York State support the passage of this legislation.

HISTORY

2023-24: [S.4246D](#) (Harckham)
 [A.5322D](#) (Glick)

2025-26: [S.1464](#) (Harckham)
 [A.1749](#) (Glick)

Support the Governor's Budget Proposals Regarding Housing Affordability

REQUEST

Adopt Governor Hochul's Executive Budget Proposals addressing housing affordability.

JUSTIFICATION

Property values and rents in Westchester County have skyrocketed over the last 10 years. A one-bedroom apartment goes for an average of \$2,500 in 2025, up from \$1,670 in 2015. The median listing home price was \$650,000 in December 2024, an increase of four percent year-over-year. These sky high rents and property values undercut the ability for seniors to remain in their homes, and drive young people – unable to afford housing as they begin their careers – out of the County. This also produces downstream increases in the everyday cost of living, as service industry workers need more for housing, raising the cost of goods and services.

The FY 2025-26 Executive Budget Proposal put forward several proposals to address this crisis of affordable housing: The creation of a Pro-Housing Supply Fund, doubling the Low-Income Housing Tax Credits, and strengthening local authority to acquire vacant and abandoned buildings.

The creation of a \$100 million New York State Pro-Housing Supply Fund for certified Pro-Housing communities will bolster the Pro-Housing Community Program by investing \$100 million to support critical housing infrastructure projects necessary to create new housing, such as sewer and water infrastructure upgrades. This will support localities that are doing their part to address the housing crisis, and encourage others to do the same.

Doubling the amount of Low Income Housing Tax Credits will generate upwards of \$210 million in private investment in affordable housing per year. This is critical to supporting the development of housing for low-and middle-income households.

Strengthening existing local authority to acquire vacant and abandoned buildings will allow localities to rebuild their communities. Vacant and abandoned properties are often in neighborhoods that lack the economic conditions necessary to incentivize redevelopment by the private sector. The investment required to redevelop these properties can exceed their value, and the resulting funding gap prevents the property from being rehabilitated. Governor Hochul's proposal will equip communities to fight blight while creating more housing opportunities.

As such, in order to reduce the cost of housing and support our residents, Westchester asks that Governor Hochul's proposals regarding the Pro-Housing Supply Fund, the Low Income Housing Tax Credits, and increasing local authority to acquire vacant and abandoned property be supported.

HISTORY

This item is a new request.

STATE DELEGATION SUPPORT LIST

Section III

State Delegation Support List

1. (2023-24) [S1155A](#) (Skoufis)/[A4116A](#) (Levenberg) – Requires certain non-licensed professionals to disclose information regarding risks.
2. [S3972](#) (Harckham)/[A216](#) (Burdick) – Directs the department of environmental conservation to establish an installation grant program and a maintenance rebate program for perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances removal treatment.
3. [S1179](#) (Mayer)/ [A1004](#) (Kelles) – Establishes the New York long term care trust program to provide long term care benefits for eligible residents who have paid the required premium contributions and are in need of assistance with at least two activities of daily living as determined by the department of health.
4. [S746](#) (Mayer)/[A814](#) (Benedetto) – Directs the commissioner of health to develop and implement a public awareness campaign on the safe storage of firearms, rifles and shotguns and child access and prevention.
5. [S2083](#) (Kavanagh)/[A27](#) (Burdick) – Requires municipalities to include an Affordable Housing Needs Assessment to establish a data-based foundation for the creation and preservation of affordable housing in the municipality, utilizing the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development median income calculations, in their comprehensive plans.
6. [S3425](#) (Rivera)/[A1466](#) (Paulin) – Establishes the New York Health program, a comprehensive system of access to health insurance for New York state residents; provides for administrative structure of the plan; provides for powers and duties of the board of trustees, the scope of benefits, payment methodologies and care coordination; establishes the New York Health Trust Fund which would hold monies from a variety of sources to be used solely to finance the plan.
7. [A506](#) (Paulin)/[S2075](#) (Mayer) – Defines noncompliant state agency; provides for timelines and procedures for state agency contracts involving not-for-profit corporations.
8. [S3590](#) (Harckham)/(23-24) [A10573](#) (Pheffer Amato) – Enacts the climate resilient New York act; establishes the office of resilience and a resilience task force to assess and identify climate related threats and develop a statewide resilience plan.
9. [S878A](#) (Bailey)/[A2620](#) (Hevesi) – Amends procedures required for the custodial interrogation of children to provide additional protections and for taking juveniles and sixteen and seventeen year olds into custody.
10. [S1896](#) (Mayer)/[A1028](#) (Barrett) – Requires electric corporations, gas corporations, steam corporations and water-works corporations to adopt the common equity ratio and rate of return on equity authorized by the public service commission unless such utility can successfully demonstrate that such authorized rates do not meet their capital and/or operating needs.