

Westchester County Board of Legislators NEWS

Voice of the People of Westchester County for over 300 years

2026 Midyear Update



Terry Clements

Vice Chair & District 11 Legislator
New Rochelle, Pelham, Pelham Manor



Dear Friends and Neighbors,

It is my honor to serve you and continue our shared work on behalf of the residents of New Rochelle, Pelham, and Pelham Manor. I am proud to share that I have been selected to serve as the Vice Chair of the Westchester County Board of Legislators. This leadership role allows me to further advocate for our communities, elevate local priorities, and help guide county policy at this critical time.

Over the past year, I have remained focused on delivering results that matter to our families, from advancing public health initiatives and protecting reproductive rights to supporting organized labor and strengthening worker protections.

Our legislative efforts have centered on fairness, opportunity, and dignity for all. We have also made meaningful progress on housing policy, investing in programs that expand access to affordable housing while preserving the character of our neighborhoods.

Additionally, I have worked with my colleagues to secure funding for critical infrastructure improvements, enhance public safety resources, and support families, our seniors, and small businesses. These investments reflect our shared commitment to building a stronger, more equitable county.

Equally important has been staying connected with you. Whether through community meetings, local events, or



Legislator Clements at the 2026 organizational meeting about to be sworn in as vice chair of the Board

direct constituent services, your voices continue to shape my work and priorities. I remain committed to being accessible, responsive, and accountable.

Inside this newsletter, you will find updates on key legislation, community initiatives, and information available to you and your family. I encourage you to stay engaged and to reach out with your thoughts, questions, and concerns. It is my privilege to represent you, and I look forward to continuing our work together.

Thank you again for your support.

Sincerely,



Legislator Clements and Pelham residents hand out blankets at the Boys & Girls Club of New Rochelle

FIGHTING FOR AN AFFORDABLE WESTCHESTER

INVESTING IN CHILD CARE, HEALTH, AND ESSENTIAL SERVICES

The County's \$2.6 billion budget for 2026 provides critical support for Westchester residents through a broad range of social services, including childcare assistance, enhanced health programs, support for domestic violence survivors, and resources to address food insecurity. Affordable child care remains a central priority. As of May, the Child Care Scholarship Program has assisted 232 families and 301 children this year, helping parents work and pursue their education with greater stability and peace of mind.

EXPANDING HOMEOWNERSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

This year, the Board has advanced multiple affordable housing and homeownership projects across the County. Efforts include restoring 25 long-vacant units in Ossining, converting a White Plains office building into six affordable rental units, approving 100 new units for first-time homebuyers in Croton-on-Hudson, as well as nine new single-family homes in Greenburgh. These investments broaden access to affordable housing for working families and strengthen housing security through protections that will last 50 years or more.

STABILIZING HOUSING FOR RESIDENTS AND PREVENTING EVICTIONS

The Westchester County Office of Housing Counsel has become a critical lifeline for residents facing housing instability since it opened in July 2025. Since then, the program has helped prevent 282 evictions and kept 369 households out of the shelter system. The office connects income-qualifying residents facing eviction to legal representation, trusted housing providers, and services, strengthening pathways to stable housing across the County. It was made possible by the Board's 2023 passage of the landmark *Access to Counsel Law*.

COMBATING RISING COSTS WITH PRACTICAL SOLUTIONS

In May, the Board launched the Affordability and Economic Development Task Force to address financial pressures facing Westchester residents and businesses through concrete policy recommendations. The task force brings together community, business, and nonprofit experts to identify cost-of-living drivers and strategies to strengthen small businesses and expand job creation in Westchester. Growing economic uncertainty at the federal level underscored the need for local action.

STANDING AGAINST UNAFFORDABLE UTILITY RATE HIKES

Westchester County continued to press the New York State Public Service Commission to reject proposed rate increases from Con Edison and New York State Electric and Gas. In partnership with the County Executive and state and local officials, the Board advocated for residents, citing widespread alarm about soaring utility bills. The proposed increases exceed inflation and would add further financial pressure to households. This follows sustained advocacy in 2025, which included public input sessions across the County and legal participation in major New York State rate cases.

PUTTING WORKERS FIRST

OPENING CAREER OPPORTUNITIES AND STRENGTHENING OUR WORKFORCE

Legislators unanimously passed a law in April creating a direct pathway for Westchester residents to enter skilled trade careers that offer higher wages, healthcare, and pensions. The *Mandating Apprenticeships in County Projects Law* requires contractors bidding on large County construction projects to offer New York State-registered apprenticeship programs in the building trades. Labor leaders

praised the measure as a meaningful investment in workforce development. They called apprenticeships a proven route to the middle class that does not require a college degree.

ENSURING FAIR WAGES FOR ALL COUNTY CONSTRUCTION WORKERS

In May, the Board unanimously passed a measure guaranteeing that all workers on County construction projects receive stan-



Announcing passage of the Westchester County Lessor Prevailing Wage Act

dard union wages. The new law covers job sites on property Westchester County leases but does not own. Previously, a gap in state law left workers on those sites without fair wage protections, even when the work directly supported County operations. The *Westchester County Lessor Prevailing Wage Act* applies to long-term lease agreements and larger construction projects, requiring contractors and subcontractors to pay prevailing wages. The Board and labor leaders called it a win for working families, making clear that County dollars should always uphold values of dignity and fair pay.

PROMOTING COMMUNITY SAFETY AND WELL-BEING

STRENGTHENING FIREARM RISK WARNINGS

The Board passed the *Visual Gun Warning Law*, requiring firearms retailers in Westchester County to display images depicting the risks of gun ownership alongside the written notices already mandated under a 2022 law. The labels must also be provided to anyone applying for a gun

license in the County. Warnings highlight the increased risk of suicide, homicide, accidental death, and fatalities during domestic disputes that come with having a firearm in the home. They also include contact information for the County's Crisis Prevention and Response Team and the National Suicide Hotline. Visual images make the dangers of gun ownership harder to ignore and more likely to prompt safer decisions.

SUPPORTING SENIORS AND PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

The Board funded the replacement of paratransit vehicles to ensure safe, reliable, and accessible transportation for seniors and residents with disabilities. Additional state funding expands senior nutrition programs countywide. Together, these investments strengthen essential services that support health, mobility, and independence for older adults and residents with disabilities.

KEEPING WESTCHESTER'S FINANCES STRONG

Westchester County again earned the highest-possible AAA bond ratings from S&P Global and Fitch Ratings. The continued confidence of these independent agencies, particularly in a challenging economic climate, reflects the Board's sound budgeting, healthy reserves, and effective long-term planning. This distinction keeps borrowing costs low and places Westchester among the highest-rated counties in the nation.

Around the District



At the New Rochelle Public Library community breakfast



Legislator Clements speaking with her New Rochelle constituents



Handing out essential items to the community on Mother's Day



Legislator Clements, County Executive Ken Jenkins, and Legislator Holstein speak at the reopening of the Glen Island Bridge



Celebrating the anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) at Playland with County Executive Ken Jenkins and colleagues



At the ArtsWestchester Arts Awards Luncheon with Senate Majority Leader Andrea Stewart-Cousins and ArtsWestchester CEO Kathleen Reckling



Speaking at the 50th anniversary of the New Rochelle Racquet Club



Ceremonial opening of the historic Ward House in Tuckahoe



Signing of the Visual Gun Warning Law by the county executive



Westchester County Legislator **TERRY CLEMENTS** *Proudly Serving the 11th District*



800 Michaelian Office Building
148 Martine Avenue, 8th Floor
White Plains, New York 10601
(Office) 914-995-2826
Clements@westchesterlegislatorsNY.gov

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BUILDING ON ACCOMPLISHMENTS FROM 2025

COMBATING AI-GENERATED DEEPFAKES: Passed a law prohibiting digitally deceptive AI-generated material used to harm, defraud, or exploit residents.

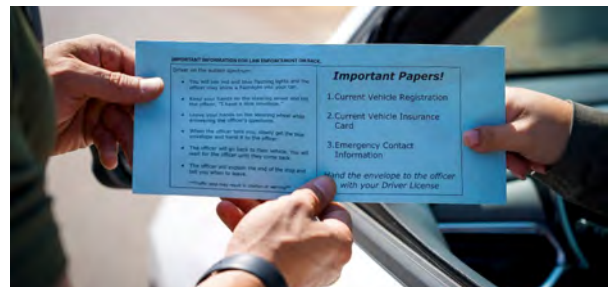
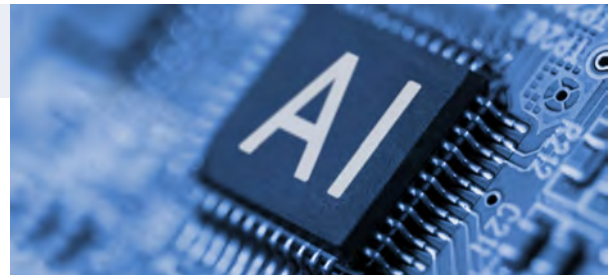
IMPROVING TRAFFIC STOP SAFETY: Launched the Blue Envelope Program countywide to improve interactions between law enforcement and drivers with autism and other disabilities during traffic stops.

PROTECTING CONSUMERS FROM SCAMS AND PREDATORS: Strengthened protections against deed theft, AI fraud, subscription traps, hidden fees, and data breaches through updated enforcement tools.

PREVENTING DOMESTIC VIOLENCE DEATHS: Established a countywide Domestic Violence High Risk Team to identify victims in extreme danger and coordinate life-saving interventions.

ENSURING EQUAL CHANGING ACCESS FOR ALL FAMILIES (DIAPRS Act): Required diaper-changing stations in County parks and buildings to ensure equitable access for caregivers.

SAFEGUARDING FAMILIES THROUGH FASTER ALLERGY RESPONSE (GIOVANNI CIPRIANO ACT): Equipped County police with EpiPens and training to respond to severe allergic reactions and save lives.



THE WORK CONTINUES! SEE HOW YOUR BOARD OF LEGISLATORS IS FIGHTING FOR AFFORDABLE LIVING, WORKING FAMILIES, AND SAFER COMMUNITIES.