



Westchester County Legislator
JUDAH HOLSTEIN
Proudly Serving the 10th District



800 Michaelian Office Building
148 Martine Avenue, 8th Floor
White Plains, New York 10601
(T) 914-995-2817; (F) 914-995-3884
Holstein@westchesterlegislators.com

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Helping people with their unclaimed funds



Honoring Eastchester Town Historian and history teacher, the late Dick Forliano



Meeting with local leaders in our real estate community

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Westchester County Board of Legislators NEWS

Voice of the People of Westchester County for over 300 years

2025 Year in Review

Judah Holstein

Majority Leader, 10th District Legislator
Eastchester, Tuckahoe, New Rochelle
Co-Chair, Rules Committee



Dear Friends and Neighbors,

My second year in office has been marked by progress, challenges, and meaningful opportunities to strengthen our community. I am proud of what we've accomplished together through collaboration with colleagues, local organizations, and, most importantly, the residents of District 10.

One achievement I am especially proud of was leading the Misuse of Digitally Deceptive Materials law, protecting residents from deepfakes, digital impersonation, and AI-enabled harassment. All 17 legislators co-sponsored the bill, and in March the County Executive signed it into law. Westchester is now among the first counties in the nation to address these emerging threats, sending a clear message that technology must never be weaponized against our residents.

Public safety remains my highest priority. I continue working closely with the District Attorney's office, the Department of Public Safety, and our Real Time Crime Center to stay ahead of evolving challenges. As technology advances, we must ensure new tools, including AI, are used responsibly and without bias. Technology presents both opportunities and risks, and we must be prepared for both.

Affordable housing and community development also remain a priority. I supported the New Rochelle Affordable Condo program at Stella II, now moving toward occupancy, and voted



Songcatchers is a wonderful music program for our kids.

for a similar initiative in White Plains. We expect more opportunities like these soon. They give working families a path to homeownership in high-cost communities and help our children and seniors remain here, which has important positive cascading effects on families in our communities, and actually promotes stability for our neighborhoods.

Through the county budget, I supported organizations that uplift residents. Opportunity Youth Part, pioneered by Judge Jared Rice, helps young people avoid prosecution through workforce development training and mentorship. Kemesha's Kommunity provides essential goods and mentorship to families in need. Project SEARCH equips young adults with disabilities with hands-on job training. The JCC of Mid-Westchester offers important services and creates opportunities for connection across ages and faiths. I am proud to stand with each of these organizations.

Preserving our history has also

been a priority. In addition to supporting the Thomas Paine Cottage Museum and honoring the 200th anniversary of Lafayette's visit, Westchester purchased the Revolutionary War-era Ward House in District 10, thanks in part to funding I secured. Preserving it as parkland ensures it remains part of our story as we prepare to celebrate Westchester's pivotal role in our nation's founding during Revolutionary Westchester 250.

Leadership also means showing up, defending democratic rights, opposing unfair Con Edison rate hikes, and standing against hate in all its forms. I remain committed to unity, fairness, and ensuring every resident feels they belong.

It is an honor to represent District 10. Together, we have accomplished much, and together, we will accomplish even more.

Sincerely,

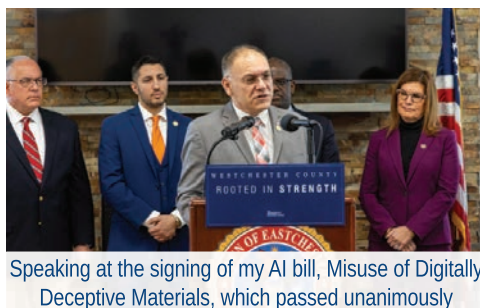
2025 LEGISLATIVE INITIATIVES

GOOD GOVERNANCE: SOUND FISCAL MANAGEMENT

In January 2025, Westchester County once again earned the highest possible AAA credit ratings from S&P Global and Fitch Ratings, while Moody's upgraded the County's outlook to positive. Westchester remains the only county in New York State with top ratings from all three agencies. These ratings reflect strong fiscal oversight by the Board of Legislators and County Executive, even while holding the line on the tax levy. Maintaining this financial strength allows us to invest in critical priorities at lower borrowing costs while promoting long-term stability and economic growth.

In a challenging fiscal environment, the Board passed the 2026 County Budget with an overwhelming majority. Legislators reduced the proposed property tax increase from 5.27% to 3.7%, keeping the County within the tax cap. For the average homeowner, that amounts to roughly \$3 more per month. The \$2.5 billion budget protects critical services despite significant federal funding cuts.

PROTECTING OUR SAFETY AND WELL-BEING



Speaking at the signing of my AI bill, Misuse of Digitally Deceptive Materials, which passed unanimously

In February 2025, the Board passed innovative legislation prohibiting the harmful distribution of AI-generated deceptive materials, including deepfakes used for fraud, harassment, and exploitation. This law strengthens protections

against identity theft, extortion, and scams targeting vulnerable residents.

In June, we passed landmark bipartisan consumer protection legislation shielding residents and small businesses from deed theft, AI-powered fraud, hidden fees, subscription traps, and data breaches. These laws strengthen enforcement authority and accountability.

Public safety cooperation expanded in August with a five-year intermunicipal agreement enabling 29 municipalities to share police resources during emergencies at no cost. Ongoing collaboration through the Real Time Crime Center, including expanded license plate reader technology, has strengthened cross-jurisdictional crime prevention and response.

We also prioritized public health and safety by investing in water infrastructure. Actions in January, May, and June included approving a water tunnel project, funding facility evaluations, and authorizing \$10 million in bonds to connect to New York City's Delaware Aqueduct, ensuring clean, reliable drinking water.

To prevent domestic violence deaths, the Board approved a county-wide High Risk Team to coordinate emergency interventions. We also launched the Blue Envelope Program to support safer interactions between law enforcement and drivers with disabilities.

FIGHTING FOR A MORE AFFORDABLE WESTCHESTER

The Board advanced homeownership and housing stability through multiple initiatives: a \$10 million Land Acquisition Act in White Plains creating 108 affordable condos; a Peekskill project providing 22 affordable units, including supportive housing for young

adults aging out of foster care; improvements to 163 affordable units in Sleepy Hollow with a 50-year affordability commitment; and the launch of the Office of Housing Counsel, offering free legal representation to eligible tenants facing eviction.

In May, we began upgrading Bee-Line buses to support OMNY contactless payment while preserving cash options and free transfers for 6 million riders annually, and all of our buses went live in early 2026, ahead of the MetroCard phase-out.

PROTECTING AND SUPPORTING WESTCHESTER'S HEROES

We invested \$6.6 million to modernize security systems at the County Department of Correction, improving safety for staff and detainees. A new law strengthened oversight of Battery Energy Storage Systems to protect first responders. We also expanded property tax relief so all volunteer firefighters and ambulance corps members receive a 10% County property tax exemption.

HONORING HISTORY



Approving the acquisition of the Ward House

The County purchased the Revolutionary War-era Ward House in District 10, preserving it as parkland ahead of the Revolutionary Westchester 250 commemoration. We also supported the Harriet Tubman Underground Railroad New York Scenic Byway, recognizing New York's historic role in the fight for freedom. ■

BUILDING CONNECTIONS WITH THE COMMUNITY



NAACP BBO at St. Catherine A.M.E. Zion Church



The New Rochelle YMCA is a great resource for our community



Appreciating art at JCC M-W with artist Fred Spinowitz



Celebrating seniors at the Senior Dance Party



Scarsdale vigil to honor Bibas children and their mother



Modeling a suit by Jonathan Boston of Rex Bespoke



JCC M-W does great things for the entire community



Celebrating Albanian American heritage in Eastchester



Dinner with the Eastchester Lions



Speaking at Hands Off rally in Mamaroneck



Albert Leonard Debate Team at Tri-State Classic hosted by New Rochelle HS



The amazing women of the Women United of Westchester Social Club