



Westchester County Legislator
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Proudly Serving the 9th District



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Speak Up Against Con Ed Rate Increase Proposal

Earlier this year, Con Edison proposed to increase rates for electricity and gas by 11.4% and 13.3%, respectively, in just one year. The Public Service Commission (PSC) is currently reviewing their proposal and will ultimately make the decision on what, if any, increase Con Edison is allowed.

Your voice has the power to influence the PSC's decision. Con Edison's proposed rate increase will impact every household in our community. While elected officials are fighting on your behalf, the PSC needs to hear directly from you.

The deadline for submitting your comments to the PSC is Friday, November 21, 2025.

Here's how you can make your voice heard!

Submit Written Comments:

Online: Visit www.dps.ny.gov, search for case "25-E-0072" or "25-G-0073" and click

"Post Comments"

By mail: Hon. Michelle L. Phillips, Secretary, Public Service Commission, Three Empire State Plaza, Albany, NY 12223-1350

By phone: Call the Opinion Line at 1-800-335-2120

Special accommodations are available for persons with disabilities or language barriers by calling 1-518-473-9463.

Please reach out to my office if you need help submitting comments: ulaj@westchesterlegislators.com, (914) 995-2819.



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Westchester County Board of Legislators NEWS

Voice of the People of Westchester County for over 300 years

Summer 2025 Newsletter



Emiljana Ulaj

District 9 ~ Cortlandt, Ossining, Croton, Briarcliff, Buchanan
Chair, Committee on Labor & Human Rights



DELIVERING FOR DISTRICT 9

Highlights of Funding Secured During First Term:

- \$15 million to renovate and reopen outdoor pool at Croton Point Park
- \$20 million for Quaker Bridge Replacement
- \$100,000 for invasive species management at Croton Point Park
- \$68,734 for Hit a Home Run Against Drugs Ossining Afterschool Program
- \$55,105 for Gullotta House Programs
- \$51,500 for Teatown Lake Reservation Nature Girls Program
- \$50,000 for Westchester Children's Museum to launch free children's programming in our region
- \$20,000 for Ossining Padres Hispanos Support Programs
- \$10,000 for Croton Caring Committee Food Basket Program
- \$10,000 for Ossining Children's Center continued expansion of Garden Program
- \$5,000 for Buchanan Engine Company No. 1 Fire Prevention Program
- \$5,000 for programming at the Lorraine Hansberry Coalition

Dear Neighbors & Friends:

Over this past year, my colleagues and I have been a unified front in fighting Con Edison's proposed rate increase for electric and gas customers. We formally intervened in the case, securing a significant voice in the proceedings. I provided testimony to the Public Service Commission that makes it clear double-digit rate increases were unconscionable and unacceptable. Additionally, the Board of Legislators hosted public listening sessions across the County to gather constituent feedback.

The New York Public Service Commission (PSC) holds the authority to determine the final rate increase granted to Con Edison. Given that PSC officers are nominated by the Governor and confirmed by the State Senate, I am hopeful that our collective advocacy can substantially mitigate Con Edison's proposal. Your participation is crucial. Further details on submitting comments to the PSC before the Friday, November 21, 2025 deadline are provided later in this newsletter.

In addition to fighting corporate greed at Con Edison, I've been busy working with my colleagues at the BOL to expand benefits for volunteer first responders, build affordable housing, launch the School Bus Safety Program and Blue Envelope Program, and so much more.

As always, please don't hesitate to reach out to my office if there's anything we can help you with: ulaj@westchesterlegislators.com.

Sincerely,

Emiljana Ulaj



County Executive Ken Jenkins was officially sworn in this past March. I am so glad to have his leadership guiding us in Westchester. We have much to do to not just protect Westchester residents from the uncertainty ahead of us but help our communities flourish.



In March, the American Jewish Committee (AJC) joined the Labor & Human Rights Committee to continue our conversation about steps we can take to combat antisemitism. The number of incidents are shocking and demand that we still have so much more work to do to combat hatred against Jewish people.

County-Led School Bus Safety Program



Westchester County teamed up with BusPatrol to implement a school bus stop-arm photo enforcement program. This program is designed to drastically reduce the incidence of illegal passes by motorists, ensuring a safer environment for students boarding and exiting school buses.

We all know the law: drivers must make a full stop while students are getting on or off of a school bus. Yet, we also see the constant reckless driving happening around school buses which puts students' lives in danger.

A 2022 pilot program conducted by the Hendrick Hudson School District powerfully illustrated the scale of this issue. In just one month, over 360 motorists were recorded illegally driving around a stopped school bus. Such a high volume of violations underscores the urgent need for intervention to prevent potential tragedies.

Through this new program, school districts can work with BusPatrol to equip their bus fleets with cameras. These cameras will record motorists who violate the law, and citations will be automatically issued to the vehicle owners. Our hope is that this increased accountability will effectively curb dangerous and illegal driving habits. ■

Tax Exemption for Volunteer Firefighters & Volunteer Ambulance Service Members

A significant win for our community's heroes came in March 2025, when the Board of Legislators unanimously passed an expanded County property tax exemption for volunteer firefighters and volunteer ambulance service members. This recognition of their service was a top priority for County Executive Ken Jenkins who championed its passage upon taking office in January 2025.

Before this change, the 10% exemption only applied to volunteers who had served for at least two years in the same municipality where they lived. This meant that many dedicated volunteers who served in neighboring communities within Westchester County were unfairly excluded. The new law corrects this by ensuring that any volunteer firefighter or ambulance service member who serves

anywhere in Westchester County is now eligible for the 10% County property tax exemption, regardless of their specific place of residence within the County.

This positive change was enabled by a recent amendment to New York State law, which previously mandated the restrictive residency requirement. The state legislature's update now allows local governments to offer this exemption to volunteers serving in neighboring municipalities.

Our sincere appreciation goes out to our volunteer first responders for their selfless dedication and to their families for the sacrifices they make in support of our communities.

Does this new exemption apply to you? Make sure you reach out to your Town Receiver of Taxes to apply to receive the benefit. ■

Groundbreaking at 30 Water Street

This spring, we officially broke ground on the 30 Water Street property in the Village of Ossining, a project set to deliver 109 affordable housing units and numerous community benefits.

The complex will feature 154 residential parking spaces, 3,750 sq. ft. of community facility space, 3,170 sq. ft. of retail space, 45 municipal parking spaces, and a new park with a connection to the Sing Sing Kill Greenway. Residents will also enjoy 2,300 sq. ft. of amenity space, including a rooftop deck, community rooms, and a fitness center, along with on-site management and laundry facilities.

Strategically located within walking distance of the Ossining train station and the vibrant business district, these units will be affordable for 50 years, with eligibility spanning 30% to 80% of the Area Median Income (AMI).

The County's commitment of \$4,360,000 for the property purchase was instrumental in making this project financially viable.



We extend our congratulations to the entire team for their exceptional work, especially CEO Joan McDonald, Commissioner of Planning Blanca Lopez, and County Executive Ken Jenkins. Our gratitude also goes to Village of Ossining Mayor Rika Levin and her team for their vision and collaborative spirit in developing this crucial investment. ■



This year, 9A was repaved from Croton Point Avenue all the way to North State Road! Glad to stand with Senator Pete Harckham, Assemblymember Dana Levenberg, and other local officials to announce the start of this project. Thank you to our state representatives for all they did to fight for more funding for our roads!



Bethany Arts Community hosted the County's Juneteenth Kickoff! Thank you to Joyce Sharrock Cole and Althema Goodson for organizing such a meaningful ceremony and for all that they do to lift up the Black community in Ossining.



Congratulations to Westchester's own Thalle Industries on 40 years of "crushing" it! Thalle is a family-owned company known for their rockstar service while also prioritizing their employees' safety, well-being, and prosperity.



This Memorial Day, I felt immense gratitude for the profound sacrifices of our fallen heroes and their Gold Star families. I spent the weekend at community events, honoring their lives and renewing my commitment to support returning service members.



Glad to catch up with Mothers Out Front at Croton's Earth Day Celebration at Senasqua Park! Earlier this year, we gathered at Capriccio's to promote the County's Upon Request Legislation aimed at significantly reducing single-use waste, particularly plastic, from food service establishments.



Grateful to our local communities for hosting Pride Flag Raising Ceremonies all throughout Westchester. The steps of the County office building at 148 Martine Avenue were painted as a rainbow to celebrate the month!



We celebrated National Nurses Week with the New York State Nurses Association members at Westchester Medical Center! Grateful for their dedication, skill, and compassion. In addition to dutifully taking care of patients, nurses are often the ones filling the room with kindness during incredibly vulnerable moments in people's lives.



This year, I was able to secure a \$20,000 grant to support the work of Ossining Padres Hispanos. I was also pleased to join them at their 2nd Annual Gala pictured here with one of their honorees Dr. Ann Dealy-Melaragno.



Ossining had multiple scholarship winners at the African American Men of Westchester 2025 Martin Luther King, Jr. Legacy Youth Awards including Miles Cauthen pictured here with his family!