



Westchester County Legislator TYRAE WOODSON-SAMUELS

Proudly Serving the 13th District

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Fought Con Edison's Rate Hikes



When double-digit Con Edison rate increases threatened to drive up bills for working families, seniors, and small businesses, our office took action. We pushed back forcefully to demand fairness, transparency, and accountability, ensuring that residents were not unfairly burdened by soaring utility costs. By elevating community voices and challenging excessive hikes, we helped protect household budgets and advocated for an energy system that works for everyone—not just the utility companies. ■

There are thousands of dollars in **UNCLAIMED FUNDS** currently being held by the NYS Comptroller's office.

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Westchester County Board of Legislators NEWS

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2025 Year in Review



Tyrae Woodson-Samuels

Legislator, District 13 ~ Mount Vernon

Dear Friends and Neighbors,

It is an honor to share an update on the work being done at the county level on your behalf and for the entire community of Mount Vernon and Westchester County. While challenges remain, my focus continues to center on the real kitchen-table issues that affect your everyday lives—housing stability, public safety, affordability, and economic opportunity.

As your County Legislator for District 13, which encompasses the majority of the City of Mount Vernon, one of my most important responsibilities is ensuring that our community is fully represented during budget and policy discussions. I am proud of the progress we have delivered. We launched the Office of Housing Counsel, providing tenants facing eviction with free 24/7 access to legal representation and housing support. We secured a \$3 million investment to combat gun violence, strengthening real-time

response and prevention through technology and coordinated intervention. The Board also delivered property tax relief for seniors by excluding Social Security income from exemption calculations, and we protected our county's financial future by preserving our AAA credit rating.

Looking ahead, my priorities remain clear: easing financial pressures on families, protecting vulnerable residents, strengthening public safety, and making smart investments in infrastructure and quality of life. Your ideas, concerns, and partnership continue to guide this work. I look forward to continuing to serve you and to moving Mount Vernon forward—together.

Respectfully,



Mount Vernon Boys & Girls Club



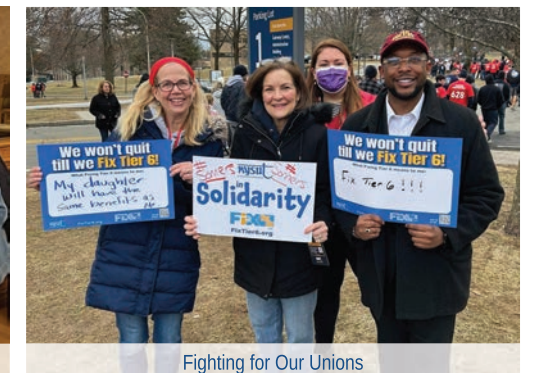
At a Local Food Pantry



Supporting Mount Vernon Youth



Combating Food Insecurity



Fighting for Our Unions

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Funded Flood Protection

A \$2 million investment in flood mitigation planning was secured to better protect vulnerable neighborhoods and strengthen long-term resiliency across the county. This critical funding supports a proactive strategy to reduce flood risk, safeguard homes and infrastructure, and prepare communities for the increasing impacts of severe weather. By focusing on prevention and smart planning, we are working to minimize future damage, protect property values, and reduce the financial strain that flooding places on families and local governments. This investment reflects a forward-looking commitment to public safety, environmental responsibility, and building a stronger, more resilient county for generations to come. ■

Launched Food Scrap Recycling Program

A countywide food scrap recycling program launched this year with a \$1.3 million investment to reduce waste and promote long-term sustainability. The initiative diverts organic waste from landfills, lowers greenhouse gas emissions, and transforms food scraps into valuable compost that can be reused locally to support soil health, parks, and green spaces. By turning waste into a resource, the county is reducing disposal costs, extending landfill life, and encouraging responsible environmental stewardship. Beyond its environmental impact, the program supports long-term savings and positions our county as a leader in innovative, sustainable practices—helping to build a cleaner, healthier, and more resilient future for residents and generations to come. ■

Free Legal Counsel for Tenants Facing Eviction

Our office delivered a major win for renters with the launch of the Office of Housing Counsel, ensuring that tenants facing eviction now have free 24/7 access to legal representation and housing support. For too long, families were forced to navigate complex housing court proceedings alone, often leading to preventable displacement. This program levels the playing field by guaranteeing that residents have an advocate at their side when it matters most.

Through direct legal assistance, emergency referrals, and coordinated housing resources, the Office of Housing Counsel helps stabilize households before a crisis becomes a catastrophe. Tenants now receive guidance on their rights, support with negotiations, and access to services that can prevent evictions before

they occur. This is especially critical for seniors, working families, and residents living on fixed or modest incomes.

Beyond protecting individual households, this initiative strengthens entire neighborhoods by reducing homelessness, preserving community stability, and preventing unnecessary disruption to schools and local economies. Keeping families in their homes also eases strain on shelters, social services, and municipal resources.

By investing in prevention and access to justice, we are addressing housing insecurity at its root. The Office of Housing Counsel reflects our commitment to fairness, dignity, and the belief that every resident deserves a genuine chance to remain safely housed in his or her community. ■

Delivered Tax Relief for Seniors

Senior homeowners received meaningful and long overdue tax relief through the expansion of property tax exemptions that now exclude Social Security income from calculations. This important change directly reduces the financial pressure on seniors living on fixed incomes, helping protect their ability to remain in the homes and communities they have worked a lifetime to build. For many older residents, even modest increases in property taxes can create serious hardship, forcing difficult choices between housing, healthcare, and everyday necessities.

This policy delivers real savings, restores fairness, and recognizes that retirement income should not be treated



as disposable income. Most importantly, it allows seniors to age in place with greater security, dignity, and peace of mind. This relief also strengthens neighborhood stability by helping longtime residents remain rooted in their communities. Supporting our seniors is not only sound public policy, it is a reflection of our values and commitment to those who built Westchester County. ■

Kept Kids Safe at Bus Stops

Stronger school bus stop-arm protections were enacted to better safeguard children as they travel to and from school each day. These enhanced measures increase accountability for reckless drivers, reduce dangerous passing at bus stops, and reinforce that the safety of our children comes first. By prioritizing both enforcement and public awareness, we are creating safer streets and protecting students during their most vulnerable moments. This action helps prevent avoidable tragedies, supports responsible driving, and gives parents greater peace of mind as their children commute to and from school. Keeping kids safe on our roads remains a shared responsibility and a top public safety priority across the county. ■



Protected Domestic Violence Survivors

Protecting survivors of domestic violence remains a critical priority, and this term we delivered meaningful action by passing legislation that provides free door locks and security cameras to individuals at risk. For survivors seeking safety and a fresh start, feeling secure in their own homes is essential to healing and independence. These protective tools offer immediate, tangible support to those facing ongoing threats, giving survivors greater peace of mind and an added sense of control over their personal safety.

This initiative removes financial barriers that often prevent victims from accessing basic security measures, ensuring that safety is not determined by income. By supplying these resources at

no cost, the county is taking a proactive approach to prevention and survivor protection. The program works in coordination with local law enforcement, advocacy organizations, and social service providers to ensure that individuals receive not only physical security upgrades, but also referrals to counseling, legal assistance, and emergency support.

Beyond enhancing individual safety, this legislation sends a powerful message that our community stands with survivors and will not tolerate violence in any form. By investing in protection, dignity, and access to resources, we are helping survivors reclaim stability, rebuild their lives, and move forward with confidence and security. ■

Protected Our AAA Credit Rating

Protecting the county's long-term financial strength remained a central focus, and that commitment was affirmed with the preservation of our AAA credit rating from all three major bond rating agencies—the highest possible designation in public finance. This elite rating reflects years of disciplined fiscal management, responsible budgeting, and strategic planning designed to safeguard taxpayer dollars while supporting essential public services.

Maintaining a AAA rating allows the county to borrow at the lowest interest rates available, saving taxpayers millions in debt service costs over time. Those savings translate directly into greater capacity to invest in infrastructure, public safety, transportation, housing, and environmental protection

without placing additional financial strain on residents.

A strong credit profile also sends a powerful signal to businesses, investors, and development partners that our county is stable, well-managed, and positioned for continued economic growth. It enhances our competitiveness, attracts private investment, and supports job creation across multiple sectors.

Most importantly, preserving this top-tier rating ensures that today's progress does not come at tomorrow's expense. By protecting our financial foundation, we are ensuring stability, resilience, and responsible growth that will benefit current residents while safeguarding the future for the next generation. ■

Invested \$3M to Combat Gun Violence

A \$3 million investment was secured to strengthen public safety through the deployment of advanced shot-detection technology and the launch of a County Gun Violence Prevention Task Force. This coordinated, data-driven approach enhances real-time emergency response, gives law enforcement critical tools to respond more quickly and accurately, and strengthens prevention efforts alongside enforcement.

The task force brings together public safety agencies, community organizations, and social service providers to identify root causes of violence and implement targeted intervention strategies. By combining technology with community-based prevention, we are addressing both immediate threats and the long-term conditions that contribute to gun violence.

This investment is already improving situational awareness, shortening response times, and strengthening collaboration across agencies. Most importantly, it reflects a clear commitment to protecting residents, restoring a sense of safety, and creating neighborhoods where families, children, and seniors can live without fear. Public safety remains fundamental to the health and vitality of our county. ■

Extended Job Training Through 2030

Critical workforce development programs were successfully preserved through 2030, securing continued access to job training, career counseling, and paid internships for both adults and youth. These programs open doors to stable employment, skill-building, and long-term economic mobility. By protecting this federal funding, we ensured that residents can continue to gain the tools they need to compete in today's economy, support their families, and build brighter futures right here in our county. ■