



NEW YORK STATE SENATOR

Patricia Canzoneri-Fitzpatrick

## Senator Canzoneri-Fitzpatrick Continues the Fight for Affordable Water Access on Long Island

PATRICIA CANZONERI-FITZPATRICK August 1, 2024



Many Long Island residents are experiencing exorbitant costs on their water utility bills, and I want to provide you with an update on what I am doing to address this critical issue. Earlier this year, I introduced legislation to lower water bills by excluding privately owned water-works corporations—such as Liberty Water—from the Special Franchise Tax (SFT), thereby eliminating this state-mandated tax from your overall water service charge, which can account for more than 30% of customers' water bills.

Privately owned water-works corporations pay a "special franchise" tax that is required by the state and passed directly onto residents through their water bill, resulting in higher water bills for consumers. Water is a necessity, and because certain residents cannot choose public water as their provider, it unfairly increases water utility bills for the New Yorkers who must utilize a private water company.

Please be assured that I have heard the concerns of the many residents who have reached out regarding their costly water bills.

During the 2023-2024 Legislative Session, I introduced **Senate Bill S9846**, which would redefine "special franchise" to exclude privately owned water-works corporations from this tax. This change is designed to provide immediate relief for our residents.

Although this measure was not voted on during this year's session, I remain committed to advocating for its passage. It is essential that we continue to push for this legislation to ensure its benefits are realized for our community.

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#### RELATED LEGISLATION

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### **2023-S9846**

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- Introduced
  - - In Committee Assembly
    - In Committee Senate

- ◦ On Floor Calendar Assembly
  - On Floor Calendar Senate

- ◦ Passed Assembly
  - Passed Senate

- Delivered to Governor

- Signed By Governor

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Relates to the definition of special franchise property

June 04, 2024

In Senate Committee [Rules](#)

Sponsored by [Patricia Canzoneri-Fitzpatrick](#)

Do you support this bill?