



NEW YORK STATE SENATOR

April Baskin

## For Immediate Release

APRIL BASKIN February 5, 2025

| ISSUE: **DEMOCRACY, REPRODUCTIVE FREEDOM, UTILITY COMPANIES**

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THE SENATE  
STATE OF NEW YORK



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**Albany Legislative Recap: January**

With a new year and new session underway, Senator April N.M. Baskin and the Democratic Majority Conference opened the 2025 legislative season with critical packages that protect the rights of voters and uphold our democracy, strengthen New York's reproductive freedoms and safeguard providers, and cut the cost of utilities for New York families.

### **Upholding Our Democracy**

Once again, the Senate Democratic Majority upheld its tradition of starting the session with a slate of voter protection bills that include protecting our elections from foreign interference, making automatic voter registration easier and more secure, improving BOE Commissioner training, and ensuring our voter rolls are as accurate and up to date as possible by allowing New York to join a multi-state voter list maintenance organization.

### **Protecting Reproductive Freedoms**

As renewed efforts threaten to undo decades of hard-won reproductive freedoms, New York continues to lead the way on common sense protections for everyone seeking care. This year's reproductive freedom package included key measures that would secure user health data by establishing data privacy standards, strengthen our shield laws so that providers are not targeted for serving their patients, expand access to contraception, establish a clinical training program for abortion care, and make sure abortion providers have the funding they need. This package also contains the long overdue step of restricting the use of harmful substances in menstrual products.

### **Cutting Costs for Ratepayers, Holding Utility Companies Accountable**

As New York enters the coldest days of the year, the Senate Democratic Majority is fighting once again to cut costs for ratepayers while increasing oversight on utility companies. This included requiring the PSC to consider the economic impact of rate hikes, protecting customers from overdue charges and terminations while a utility is under investigation,

limiting estimated billing, strengthening utility storm response compliance, establishing affordable payment plans for certain customers, and requiring the automatic re-enrollment of eligible ratepayers into the low-income home energy assistance program (LIHEAP).

		
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