



NEW YORK STATE SENATOR

Susan Serino

SERINO THANKS COMMUNITY FOR YEARS OF SERVICE

SUSAN SERINO December 31, 2022



Together, we have accomplished an incredible amount. When I took office, I immediately created various advisory boards that I could fulfill my promise to always govern by listening. One of the very first was a Veterans Advisory Board. With help, we were able to bring the Vet2Vet Program to Dutchess and preserve it in both counties every year that I served. The program truly saves lives as it brings our veteran community together to ensure that those who have served thrive here at home.

In addition, I created an advisory board on Lyme and tick-borne diseases and together, we secured a historic law and passed a number of bills to help promote research, education and prevention initiatives statewide. A bill I required the state to create educational materials for elementary school children to help them learn how to spot a tick guardian so it could be properly removed and monitored.

Since I served as the Chair or Ranking Member of the Senate's Aging Committee, I also created an advisory board. With their input, we worked to create unique events for area seniors including the famous Golden Gathering, which drew over 1,000 local seniors with critical health and human services. We also successfully advocated for new laws to prevent elder abuse and financial fraud, called attention to the lack of affordable transportation and housing options, and stood up for our most vulnerable neighbors living in nursing homes when the state made the dangerous decision to move positive patients into their facilities.

Further, with the help of my education advisory board, I was able to secure historic state funding for our local schools and develop unique initiatives to better serve students, including Skilled Trades Fairs, which exposed students to career opportunities available to them in the trades.

Having lost my brother to suicide, I am especially proud of the spotlight we have been able to put on the mental health issues so many in our community are facing. In partnership with Dutchess County, I was able to secure state funding for a Mental Health Stabilization Center, a safe place for neighbors in crisis to turn to access critical resources. The center has become a resource for the rest of the state, and while we have made significant progress, much more needs to be done at all levels to ensure that everyone who may be struggling with a mental health challenge can secure the support they need.

Throughout my time in office, we have worked to ensure that our community gets its fair share and that our streets are safe for everyone on their way back home. I am particularly proud of the progress we made on the Pudding Street Overpass—an infrastructure project that the community had been advocating for almost two decades. In 2021, the project was completed, and this legislation to name it in honor of the many first responders who work tirelessly to serve and protect our community.

While I have never been one to tout accomplishments, these are not *my* accomplishments, they are *our* accomplishments. By always working to always do what's right, we have shown what progress looks like when you put people over politics and work for our local community.

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