



Senator Andrea Stewart-Cousins

President Pro Tempore, NYS Senate Majority Leader

FALL NEWSLETTER

Para leer o consultar este boletín en español, escanee el código QR o llame a mi oficina para solicitar que le envíen una copia por correo.



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Senator Andrea Stewart-Cousins
28 Wells Ave., Bldg. #3, 5th Fl.
Yonkers, NY 10701



DEAR FRIENDS,

With the Legislative Session now behind us, our focus turns to the important legislation awaiting the Governor’s signature. These are measures we passed that will make New York more affordable, protect our environment, and further strengthen safety across our State. One of these bills would place a **moratorium on new data center development while New York establishes stronger standards** to protect our environment, energy grid, and communities.¹ Other bills protect New Yorkers from pricing practices that exploit their personal data,² support local pharmacies facing unfair reimbursement practices,³ expand access to addiction treatment,⁴ and strengthen protections against digital stalking and harassment.⁵ I’m hopeful the Governor will act on these bills soon so we can keep delivering the affordability and safety New Yorkers deserve.

Working with local governments is a partnership that improves our communities. Each year, I am proud to sponsor and pass special legislation that is requested by local governing bodies. Thanks to our mutual efforts, the villages of Ardsley and Pleasantville will have new court security officers,⁶ Pleasantville will finally get the red-light camera on the Saw Mill⁷ so schoolchildren can cross safely, Yonkers will get its school speed cameras,⁸ and Greenburgh will be able to build solar panels above the parking lots at Veteran Park.⁹



Veterans Hall of Fame

I had the privilege of nominating and inducting Sergeant Massiel Pimentel of Yonkers into the New York State Senate Veterans Hall of Fame. She emigrated from the Dominican Republic at age 12 and later served our Nation with extraordinary courage. Sergeant Pimentel was in the United States Army National Guard from 2002 to 2010, assigned to anti-terrorism operations at JFK International Airport following the September 11 attacks, after which she was deployed to Baghdad, Iraq.

In recognition of her exemplary military service, Sergeant Pimentel received the Army Commendation Medal, Army Good Conduct Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, Armed Forces Service Medal, Iraq Campaign Medal with Campaign Star, and an honorable discharge. Today, she continues to serve with the Yonkers Police Department, and she has been a powerful advocate for veterans, particularly female veterans.



The Westchester State Delegation has secured a **\$5 million State capital grant for ArtsWestchester** — the largest single State investment in the organization’s history. The funding will be used to make its building in White Plains ADA accessible, modernize elevators, add new space and equipment, and to upgrade audio, visual, and lighting technology. These renovations will enhance programming and expand the organization’s capacity to serve the County for years to come. The arts are an investment in our local economy; they drive tourism, support small businesses, and strengthen the workforce here in Westchester.

Source: NYS Budget SFY 2026-27

I also had the privilege of nominating the famous **Sam’s Ristorante Italiano in Dobbs Ferry** for the **NYS Historic Business Preservation Registry**. Sam’s has occupied a place in the hearts of the community since 1932. It had been in Sam Ciancio’s family until 1985, when it was sold to Maurice Giliberti, who worked there as a teenager. It’s a true institution that has contributed to the life and culture of Dobbs Ferry over the years, supporting Little Leagues, food pantries, and various recovery efforts during Hurricane Sandy. My heartiest congratulations to Sam’s and the entire Ciancio and Giliberti families.



¹S.10642, ²S.8623A, ³S.5939C, ⁴NYS Budget SFY 2026-27, ⁵S.3394A, ⁶S.8324, S.8274, ⁷S.7422A, ⁸S.10564, ⁹S.10611

In the District

I hosted a Town Hall Meeting with Senator Shelley B. Mayer and Assemblyman Nader Sayegh at the Grinton I. Will Library on the 2026 State Budget & Legislative Session. We had the chance to walk residents through the budget process, share our legislative priorities for the year ahead, and answer thoughtful questions raised by our neighbors. My thanks to the library for opening its doors to us and to the Yonkers community for turning out in such strong numbers to stay informed and engaged.

Our next District Town Hall Meeting will be September 28 at the Village of Tarrytown’s Senior Center. All are welcome. I will be joined by Assemblywoman MaryJane Shimsky, who, like me, represents the towns of Mount Pleasant and Greenburgh.

NYS Budget & Legislative Session

TOWN HALL

Learn about the 2026 State Budget & Legislative Session



Senate Majority Leader & President Pro Tem
Andrea Stewart-Cousins



Assemblymember
MaryJane Shimsky
District 92

Monday, September 28 • 6 – 7 p.m.
Tarrytown Senior Center
240 West Main Street, Tarrytown

RSVP and submit questions in advance:
tinyurl.com/TarrytownTownHall
Light refreshments will be served



Unclaimed Funds Assistance Event

The State Comptroller’s Office returns approximately \$2 million in unclaimed funds to rightful owners every day, and checking to see if you have money waiting is free and easy.

That’s why I’m joining State Comptroller Thomas P. DiNapoli, Assemblymembers MaryJane Shimsky and Amy Paulin, and Westchester County Legislator David Imamura for an Unclaimed Funds Assistance Event on Saturday, October 17, from 12:00 to 3:00 p.m. at the Ardsley Public Library.

If you receive a letter from one of our offices letting you know that you may have unclaimed funds, I encourage you to stop by. We’ll have tables set up where you can get one-on-one assistance searching for your funds and filling out the forms needed to claim them. If New York State is holding money that belongs to you, we can help you get it back.



New York State Comptroller
THOMAS P. DINAPOLI

Office of
Unclaimed Funds

Lost money?
We found it.

Don't let it remain unclaimed. Search today, it's easy and free.

Does New York State have money in your name? Every day, the State Comptroller returns \$2 million to entitled owners. It's fast, free and easy.
It's Your Money, Get it Back!

LEARN ABOUT:
What kind of funds are held • How to claim your money • Estate items



David Imamura
Westchester County Legislator



Andrea Stewart-Cousins
NYS Senate Majority Leader & President Pro Tempore



Amy Paulin
NYS Assemblymember



MaryJane Shimsky
NYS Assemblymember



Saturday, October 17th, from 12:00 – 3:00pm



Ardsley Public Library
9 American Legion Dr, Ardsley, NY 10502



For information, contact
Kenny Herzog, Personal Legislative Aide,
County Legislator David Imamura
914.995.2095, kehr@westchestercountyny.gov
Parking is available in the adjacent Library Parking Lot.

It's your money, get it back.

osc.ny.gov/ouf | 1.800.221.9311 | Weekdays 8am until 5pm

As I do every year, I met with residents at **National Night Out** events across Greenburgh and Yonkers and was joined by my staff, my Youth Advisory Council members, and interns who gave out helpful information to the community. Very special thanks to the officers, firefighters, EMS personnel, and organizers who make these nights possible. National Night Out is about more than a single evening; it’s about the everyday work of building relationships between neighbors and the people who look out for them.

It was wonderful to honor the **Yonkers Montessori Academy Lady Eagles** for their historic New York State Class B Championship, earning Yonkers its first public school State basketball title since 1932. Joining the celebration was Knicks legend Walt Frazier, Olympian and women’s basketball pioneer Gail Marquis, Stew Leonard Jr., and local officials. The team has made the entire community proud.

Safe, accessible infrastructure is the foundation of strong and connected communities. The State Legislature is committed to improvements like the **sidewalk replacement in front of Philipsburg Manor in Sleepy Hollow**. This will make it easier and safer for residents and visitors to experience the Village’s historic landmarks and downtown. I was pleased to support Senator Harkham in securing this important investment, and I thank Mayor Hsu and the Village for their partnership in bringing this project to completion.

Pat Quinn, the Yonkers native who co-founded the annual **ALS Ice Bucket Challenge** over a decade ago, left a lasting legacy in the fight against ALS. It was an honor once again to join the ALS community and members of Pat’s family at this year’s Challenge at Yonkers Raceway at Empire City Casino. Over the past seven years, I’ve helped secure more than \$1.4 million in State Senate funding for ALS research and support, including \$250,000 for the ALS Association, Greater New York Chapter this year alone.

Source: NYS Budget SFY 2026-2027

Before back-to-school was in full swing, I had the pleasure of joining Family Service Society of Yonkers for its **Summer Reading Buddies program** at the Yonkers Riverfront Library. I read with third grader Ruba, who loves the “Yasmin” series. Programs like this help our young students build literacy skills and confidence during the summer months. I’m proud to support FSSY and the many organizations working to make sure every child has the opportunity to discover the joy and lifelong benefits of reading. Across New York, we are investing in literacy initiatives that help put books in children’s hands and foster a lifelong love of reading, including \$500,000 in State funding to support local partners of **Dolly Parton’s Imagination Library in Westchester** and communities across our State.

Source: NYS Budget SFY 2026-2027

- 2 -

- 3 -