



Legislative Committee Handbook 2025-2026



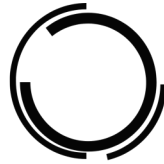
ECASB Website

(updated 09/3/2025)



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GLOBAL INSIGHTS IN A CONNECTED WORLD

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Erie County Association of School Boards

Legislative Team 2025-2026 Guidelines

Purpose:

Develop ECASB's Legislative Priorities and platform for the current school year.
Review state and federal legislation affecting Public Education and the ECASB member districts.
Advocate for public education and the ECASB member districts with local, state, and federal elected officials.

Activities:

Establish a schedule to meet with Legislators both at their Albany/Washington D.C. offices as well as at their local offices.
Host a Legislative Breakfast or Round Table with elected officials and district representatives.
Collaborate with other organizations on issues related to public education.
Review and discuss NYSSBA's and NSBA's Resolutions.

Other activities may include:

Develop letter writing campaigns / petitions for issues related to ECASB member districts.
Develop advocacy alerts for ECASB Members and provide talking points for contacting elected officials.
Develop media awareness through the use of our web page, Facebook, Twitter, and other accounts to engage and inform our membership.
Host an advocacy training to teach Board Members how to advocate with elected officials.
Participate in state and federal lobby days for public education.
Possibly attend political rallies and fundraisers.
Attend workshops to learn about the political landscape of the federal government and state government and the impact of legislation on public education.
Attend round table discussions.
Work with new school board members to discuss importance of advocacy.
Work with ex officio student board members to provide an overview of advocacy.

Membership:

One school board member from each member district and one alternate.

Meetings:

At least six times during the Association's fiscal year.
ECASB Legislative Co-Chairs, ECASB Program Services Manager and ECASB Executive Director lead team meetings.



Additional:

If for any reason the designated representative is unable to attend, please notify your alternate and encourage them to attend. If neither of you can attend, have your board select another member of your board to take your place and then call the ECASB office to let us know who will be representing your district.

The final portion of the meeting is an open forum designed to share what is happening legislatively within your district, or issues that may need to be addressed by the legislative committee. Please be mindful of the time and keep comments brief and on topic.

Executive Director: Dave Lowrey dlowrey@e1b.org cell (716) 867-3531
 Program Services Manager: Jane Sullivan jsullivan@e1b.org cell (716) 235-0369
 Executive Secretary: Sue Summers ssummers@e1b.org Office (716) 821-7297

Summer Subcommittee Meeting Dates:

July 15, 6:30-8:30 p.m. at Erie 1 Boces, B1

Fall 2025-Spring 2026 Meeting Dates:

September 18, 2025; 6:15-8:15 p.m., Erie 1 BOCES, B1

October 2, 2025; 6:15-8:15 p.m., Erie 1 BOCES, B1

January 22, 2026; 6:15-8:15 p.m., Erie 1 BOCES, B1

April 23, 2026; 6:15-8:15 p.m., Erie 1 BOCES, B1

Legislative Events with Guest Legislators:

Legislative Priorities Session I; November 13, 2025; 6:15-8:15, Erie 1 BOCES B2a and B2b*

Legislative Priorities Session II; November 20, 2025; 6:15-8:15, Erie 1 BOCES B2a and B2b*

*State legislators unable to attend their own session may attend the alternate session.

Legislative Wrap-up breakfast, May 2, 2026; 8:45-11:45 a.m., TBA

Conferences:

Local Winter Conference Dates in December 2025/January 2026 TBD

NYSSBA Virtual Capital Conference February 6, 2026: online *Registration with NYSSBA required

NYSSBA Capital Conference February 10 and 11, 2026 in Albany * Registration with NYSSBA required








ECASB's 2025-2026 Legislative Team

***Chairs: Kathleen Chiavetta, Scott Johnson & Erik Polkowski**

District	Representative	Alternate
Akron	Phillip Kenline	Stephanie Coffta
Alden	Michael Bennett	Lora Woodard
Amherst	Gordon Crock	Maryjane Metzen
BOCES 1	Renee Wilson	Edward Cavan
BOCES 2	Kathleen Chiavetta	
Buffalo	Larry Scott	Sharon Belton Cottman
Cheektowaga	Renee Wilson	Holly Nowak
Cheektowaga- Sloan	James Stachewicz	Gary Sieczkarek
Clarence	Dennis Priore	Cindy Magera
Cleveland Hill	Michael Montoro	Paul Kunkel
Depew	Bart McGloin	Kerisha Hawthorne-Greer
East Aurora	Paul Blowers	Jessica Weitzel
Eden	Jennifer Horschel	
Frontier	James Voto	Erin Oliver
Gowanda	Zachary Nobles	
Grand Island	Dr. Ashli Dreher	Roger Broeker
Hamburg	Jessica Reyna	Mary Odden
Holland	Mary Jo Szucs	Paula Leach
Iroquois	Heather Becker	Heather Jacobs
Ken-Ton	Karen Whitelaw	Paul Spors
Lackawanna	Kimberly Bukaty	Mohammed Shawish
Lake Shore	Michael Franey	Dennis Feldmann
Lancaster	Tim Talbot	John Talarico
Maryvale	Jason Baier	Chris Pew
North Collins	Jessica Horton	Jennifer Pisa
Orchard Park	Ty Romanello	Ryan Anderson
Springville Gl	Devin Kowalske	Michele Idzik
Sweet Home	Peter Bellanti	Scott Johnson
Tonawanda	Kristen Schmutzler	Brandon McGuire
West Seneca	Lorene Barulich	Marla Greenberg
Williamsville	Mark Manna	Stuart Bulan

Erie County Area State Senators




Two Year Terms Ending on 12/31/26

District	Name	Local Address, Phone and Email	Albany Address and Phone
57	George Borrello (R) 	2-6 E. Second Street Fenton Building, Suite 302 Jamestown, NY 14701 Phone: 716-664-4603 Fax: 716-664-2430 borrello@nysenate.gov	188 State Street, Legislative Office Building Room 707 Albany, NY 12247 Phone: 518-455-3563 Fax: 518-426-6905
60	Patrick Gallivan (R) 	2721 Transit Road Suite 116 Elma, NY 14059 Phone: 716-656-8544 Fax: 716-656-8961 gallivan@nysenate.gov	188 State Street Legislative Office Building Room 311 Albany, NY 12247 Phone: 518-455-3471 Fax: 518-426-6949
61	Sean Ryan (D) 	1485 Niagara St. Suite 350 Buffalo, NY 14213 Phone: 716-854-8705 ryan@nysenate.gov	188 State Street Legislative Office Building, Room 944 Albany, NY 12247 Phone: 518-455-3240
62	Robert Ortt (R) 	175 Walnut Street, Suite 6 Lockport, NY 14094 Phone: 716-434-0680 Fax: 716-434-3297 Ortt@nysenate.gov	Capitol Building, Room 315 Albany, NY 12247 Phone: (518) 455-2024 Fax: (518) 426-6987
63	April Baskin (D) 	40 LaRiviere, Suite 121 Buffalo, NY 14202 Phone: 716-826-2683 Fax: 716-826-2793 Baskin@nysenate.gov	188 State Street Legislative Office Building, Room 815 Albany, NY 12247 Phone: 518-455-2426 Fax: 518-426-6851



Erie County Area State Assemblymen

Two Year Terms Ending on 12/31/26

139	Stephen Hawley (R) 	121 North Main Street Suite 100 Albion, NY 14411 Phone: 585-589-5780 Fax: 585-589-5813 hawleys@nyassembly.gov	188 State Street Legislative Office Building, Room 521 Albany, NY 12248 Phone: 518-455-5811 Fax: 518-455-5558
140	William Conrad (D) 	34 Pequet Parkway Tonawanda, NY 14150 Phone: 716-873-2540 Fax: 716-744-2644 conradw@nyassembly.gov	188 State Street Legislative Office Building, Room 639 Albany, NY 12248 Phone: 518-455-4767
141	Crystal Peoples-Stokes (D) 	425 Michigan Avenue Buffalo, NY 14203 Phone: 716-897-9714 people@nyassembly.gov	188 State Street Legislative Office Building, Room 926 Albany, NY 12248 Phone: 518-455-5005
142	Patrick Burke (D) 	3686 Seneca Street West Seneca, NY 14224 Phone: 716-608-6099 burkep@nyassembly.gov	188 State Street Legislative Office Building, Room 842 Albany, NY 12248 Phone: 518-455-4691
143	Patrick Chludzinski (R) 	2562 Walden Avenue Suite 102 Cheektowaga, NY 14225 Phone: 716-686-0080 Fax: 716-686-3752 chludzinskip@nyassembly.gov	188 State Street Legislative Office Building, Room 629 Albany, NY 12248 Phone: 518-455-5921 Fax: 518-455-3962
144	Paul Bologna (R) 	8180 Main Street Clarence, NY 14221 Phone: 716-839-4691 Fax: 716-839-4693 Bolognap@nyassembly.gov	188 State Street Legislative Office Building, Room 428 Albany, NY 12248 Phone: 518-455-4601 Fax: 518-455-5257
145	Angelo Morinello (R) 	800 Main Street Suite 2C Niagara Falls, NY 14301 Phone: 716-282-6062 Fax: 716-282-4226 morinelloa@nysassembly.gov	188 State Street Legislative Office Building, Room 404 Albany, NY 12247 Phone: 518-455-5284 Fax: 518-455-5694



Erie County Area State Assemblymen

Two Year Terms Ending on 12/31/26

146	Karen McMahon (D) 	5500 Main Street Suite 224 Williamsville, NY 14221 Phone: 716-634-1895 mcmahonk@nyassembly.gov	188 State Street Legislative Office Building, Room 643 Albany, NY 12248 Phone: 518-455-4618
147	David DiPietro (R) 	411 Main Street East Aurora, NY 14052 Phone: 716-655-0951 Fax: 715-655-0970 dipietrod@nyassembly.gov	188 State Street Legislative Office Building, Room 546 Albany, NY 12248 Phone: 518-455-5314 Fax: 518-455-5691
148	Joseph Sempolinski (R) 	700 West State Street Olean, NY 14760 Phone: 716-373-7103 Fax: 716-373-7105 sempolinskij@nyassembly.gov	188 State Street Legislative Office Building, Room 548 Albany, NY 12248 Phone: 518-455-5241 Fax: 518-455-5869
149	Jonathan Rivera (D) 	65 Grant Steet Buffalo, NY 14213 Phone: 716-885-9630 Fax: 716-885-9636 riverajd@nyassembly.gov	188 State Street Legislative Office Building, Room 540 Albany, NY 12248 Phone: 518-455-4886 Fax: 518-455-4890
150	Andrew Molitor (R) 	Fenton Building 2 E 2nd Street Suite 320 Jamestown, NY 14701 Phone: 716-664-7773 Fax: 716-483-0299 goodella@nyassembly.gov	188 State Street Legislative Office Building, Room 721 Albany, NY 12248 Phone: 518-455-4511 Fax: 518-455-4328



Erie County School Districts and *Their* Primary Legislative Representative

School District	NYS Senate District	NYS Assembly District
Akron	Patrick Gallivan (R)	Stephen Hawley (R) Paul Bologna (R)
Alden	Patrick Gallivan (R)	Stephen Hawley (R) Paul Bologna (R) David DiPietro (R)
Amherst	Sean Ryan (D)	William Conrad (D) Karen McMahon (D) Patrick Chludzinski (R) Crystal Peoples-Stokes (D)
Buffalo Public Schools	April Baskin (D)	Crystal Peoples-Stokes (D) Jonathan Rivera (D) William Conrad (D) Patrick Chludzinski (R) Pat Burke (D) Karen McMahon (D)
Cheektowaga	April Baskin (D)	Patrick Chludzinski (R) Crystal Peoples-Stokes (D) Pat Burke (D)
Cheektowaga-Sloan	April Baskin (D)	Patrick Chludzinski (R) Crystal Peoples-Stokes (D) Pat Burke (D)
Clarence	Patrick Gallivan (R)	Paul Bologna (R) Patrick Chludzinski (R) Karen McMahon (D) Stephen Hawley (R)
Cleveland Hill	April Baskin (D)	Patrick Chludzinski (R) Karen McMahon (D) Crystal Peoples-Stokes (D)
Depew	Patrick Gallivan (R)	Patrick Chludzinski (R) David DiPietro (R) Pat Burke (D)



Erie County School Districts and *Their* Primary Legislative Representative

School District	NYS Senate District	NYS Assembly District
East Aurora	Patrick Gallivan (R)	David DiPietro (R)
Eden	Patrick Gallivan (R)	David DiPietro (R) Jonathan Rivera (D)
Frontier	Patrick Gallivan (R)	Jonathan Rivera (D) David DiPietro (R) Pat Burke (D)
Gowanda	George Borrello (R)	Joseph Sempolinski (R) David DiPietro (R) Andrew Molitor (R)
Grand Island	Sean Ryan (D)	Angelo Morinello (R)
Hamburg	Patrick Gallivan (R)	Jonathan Rivera (D) David DiPietro (R)
Holland	Patrick Gallivan (R)	David DiPietro (R)
Iroquois	Patrick Gallivan (R)	David DiPietro (R) Pat Burke (D) Paul Bologna (R)
Kenmore Tonawanda	Sean Ryan (D)	William Conrad (D) Karen McMahon (D) Crystal Peoples-Stokes (D) Jonathan Rivera (D)
Lackawanna	April Baskin (D)	Pat Burke (D) Jonathan Rivera (D)
Lake Shore	Patrick Gallivan (R)	David DiPietro (R)
Lancaster	Patrick Gallivan (R)	Patrick Chludzinski (R) Karen McMahon (D) David DiPietro (R) Paul Bologna (R)
Maryvale	April Baskin (D)	Patrick Chludzinski (R) Karen McMahon (D)
North Collins	Patrick Gallivan (R) Sean Ryan (D)	David DiPietro (R) Andrew Molitor (R)
Orchard Park	Patrick Gallivan (R) Sean Ryan (D)	Pat Burke (D) Jonathan Rivera (D) David DiPietro (R)



Erie County School Districts and *Their* Primary Legislative Representative

Pembroke		Paul Bologna (R) Stephen Hawley (R)
Springville- Griffith	George Borello (R) Patrick Gallivan (R)	David DiPietro (R) Joseph Sempolinski (R)
Starpoint		William Conrad (D) Karen McMahon (D) Angelo Morinello (R) Paul Bologna (R)
Sweet Home	Sean Ryan (D)	William Conrad (D) Karen McMahon (D) Angelo Morinello (R)
Tonawanda	Sean Ryan (D)	William Conrad (D)
West Seneca	Patrick Gallivan (R) Sean Ryan (D) April Baskin (D)	Pat Burke (D) Patrick Chludzinski (R) Jonathan Rivera (D) David DiPietro (R)
Williamsville	April Baskin (D)	Patrick Chludzinski (R) Paul Bologna (R) Karen McMahon (D)

BOCES DISTRICTS

School District	NYS Senate District	NYS Assembly District
BOCES 1	Patrick Gallivan (R) Sean Ryan (D) Robert Ortt (R) April Baskin (D)	Patrick Chludzinski (R) Pat Burke (D)
BOCES 2	Patrick Gallivan (R) George Borrello (R)	Joseph Sempolinski (R) Andrew Molitor (R)

Finding your representative using your address

Registration | [NY State Senate \(nysenate.gov\)](https://nysenate.gov)

Assembly Member Search | [New York State Assembly \(nyassembly.gov\)](https://nyassembly.gov)



Federal and State Governmental Leaders

Federal

The Honorable Donald J. Trump (R), President of the United States	
The White House, Washington, DC 20500 (202) 456-1414 Fax:(202) 456-2461 president@whitehouse.gov	
The Honorable Charles Schumer (D), Member, U.S. Senate; Democratic Leader Chairman of the Conference	
322 Hart Senate Office Building Washington, D.C. 20510 (202) 224-6542 Fax:(202) 228-3027 https://www.schumer.senate.gov/ contact/email-chuck	130 S Elmwood Ave # 660 Buffalo, NY 14202 (716) 846-4111
The Honorable Kirsten Gillibrand (D), Member, U.S. Senate	
478 Russell Senate Bldg Washington, DC 20510 (202) 224- 4451 https://www.gillibrand.senate.gov/ contact/email-me	726 Exchange St #511 Buffalo, NY 14210 (716) 854- 9725
The Honorable Timothy M. Kennedy (D), Member, U.S. HOR (26th District)	
2269 Rayburn House Office Building Washington, DC 20515 (202) 225-3306 Contact U.S. Congressman Timothy M. Kennedy (house.gov)	Larkin at Exchange 726 Exchange St, Suite 601 Buffalo, NY 14210 (716) 852-3501 Fax: (716) 852-3929
The Honorable Nick Langworthy (R), Member, U.S. HOR (23th District)	
1630 Longworth House Office Building Washington, DC 20515 (202) 225-3161 https://langworthy.house.gov/contact	8201 Main St, Suite 13 Williamsville, NY 14221 (716) 547-6844

State

Executive Branch

The Honorable Kathy Hochul (D), Governor of New York State
The Honorable Antonio Delgado (D), Lt. Governor of New York State
NYS State Capitol Building Albany, NY 12224 1 (518) 474-8390 https://www.governor.ny.gov/content/governor-contact-form



Legislative Branch: Senate

The Honorable Andrea Stewart-Cousins, (D) President Pro Tempore & Majority Leader	
188 State Street Legislative Office Building, Room 907 Albany, NY 12247 (518) 455-2585 Fax: (518) 426-6811 scousins@nysenate.gov	28 Wells Avenue, Building #3 5th Floor Yonkers, NY 10701 (914) 423-4031 Fax: (914) 423-0979
The Honorable Shelley B. Mayer (D), Chair of Committee on Education	
Legislative Office Building, Room 509 Albany, NY 12247 (518) 455-2031 Fax: (518) 426-6860 smayer@nysenate.gov	222 Grace Church Street, Suite 300 Port Chester, NY 10573 (914) 934-5250 Fax: (914) 934-5256
The Honorable Robert G. Ortt (R), Minority Leader	
Capitol Building, Room 315 Albany, NY 12247 (518) 455-2024 Fax: (518) 426-6987 Ortt@nysenate.gov	175 Walnut Street, Suite 6 Lockport, NY 14094 (716) 434-0680 Fax: (716) 434-3297

Legislative Branch: Assembly

The Honorable Carl E. Heastie (D), Speaker	
LOB 932 Albany, NY 12248 (518) 455-3791 Fax: (518) 455-5459 Speaker@nyassembly.gov	1446 East Gun Hill Road Bronx, NY 10469 (718) 654-6539 Fax: (718) 654-5836
The Honorable Crystal Peoples-Stokes (D), Majority Leader	
LOB 926 Albany, NY 12248 (518) 455-5005 PeopleC@nyassembly.gov	425 Michigan Avenue Buffalo, NY 14203 (716) 897-9714
The Honorable William A. Barclay (R), Minority Leader	
LOB Office 933 Albany, NY 12248 (518) 455-3751 BarclaW@nyassembly.gov	19 Canalview Mall Fulton, NY 13069 (315) 598-5185
The Honorable Michael Benedetto (D), Chair of Education Committee	
LOB 836 Albany, NY 12248 (518) 455-5296 benedettom@nyassembly.gov	3602 E. Tremont Ave. Suite 201 Bronx, NY 10465 (718) 892-2235



Erie County Government

General Erie County Information

Phone: (716) 858-6000

Erie County Executive Mark C. Poloncarz (D)

Erie County Executive's Office

95 Franklin Street, 16th Floor

Buffalo, New York 14202

Phone: (716) 858-8500

Email: <https://www2.erie.gov/exec/index.php?q=email-mark>

Website: <https://www2.erie.gov/exec/>



Erie County Comptroller Kevin R. Hardwick (D)

Erie County Comptroller's Office

Edward A. Rath County Office Building

95 Franklin Street, Room 1100

Buffalo, New York 14202

Phone: (716) 858-8400

Email: comptroller@erie.gov

Website: <https://www2.erie.gov/comptroller/>



Erie County Clerk Michael P. Kearns (D)

Erie County Clerk's Office

92 Franklin Street

Buffalo, New York 14202

Phone: (716) 858-8785

Email: ErieCountyClerkOffice@erie.gov

Website: <https://www2.erie.gov/clerk/>



Erie County Acting District Attorney Michael J. Keane (D)

Erie County District Attorney's Office

25 Delaware Avenue

Buffalo, New York 14202

Phone: (716) 858-2400

Fax: (716) 858-7425



Erie County Sherriff John C. Garcia (R)

Erie County Sheriff's Office

10 Delaware Ave.

Buffalo, New York 14202

Phone: (716) 858-7618



Erie County Legislators 2025-2026

<https://www2.erie.gov/legislature/>

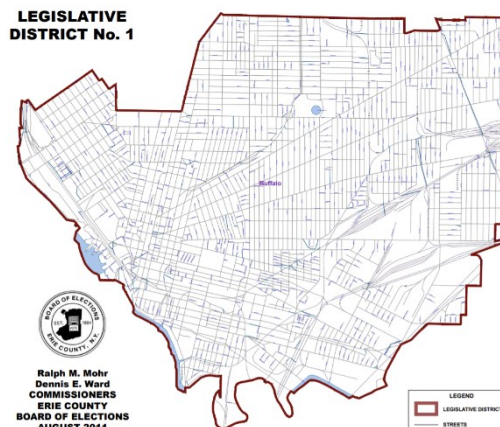
Two Year Terms Ending 12/31/2025

Legislator Lawrence J. Dupre (D)- District 1

1367 Fillmore Ave
Buffalo, NY 14211
Phone (716) 842-0490
Fax (716) 854-5722
Lawrence.dupre@erie.gov

School Districts within District:

Buffalo City Schools

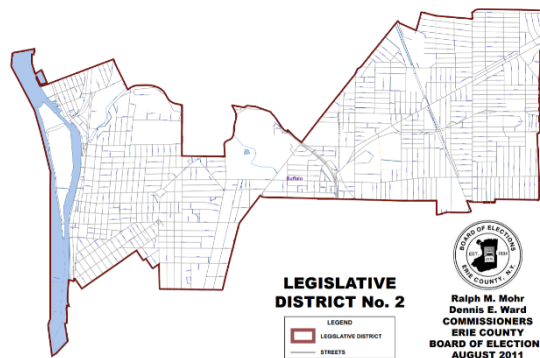


Legislator Taisha St. Jean Tard (D)- District 2

2495 Main St., Suite 450
Buffalo, NY 14214
Phone (716) 895- 1849
Fax (716) 895 - 1910
Taisha.st.jeantard@erie.gov

School Districts within District:

Buffalo City Schools

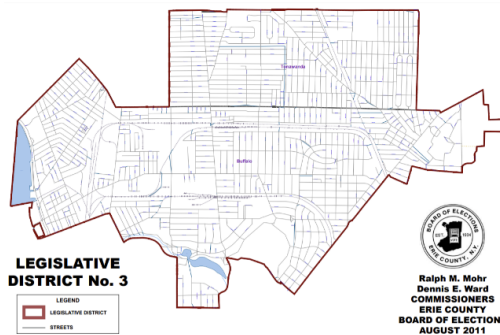


Legislator Michael Kooshoian (D)- District 3

100 Commonwealth Ave.
Buffalo, NY 14216
Phone (716) 832-0493
Fax (716) 832-0494
Michael.kooshoian@erie.gov

School Districts within District:

Buffalo City SD; Kenmore Town of Tonawanda UFSD; Sweet Home CSD (Tonawanda part); Grand Island CSD

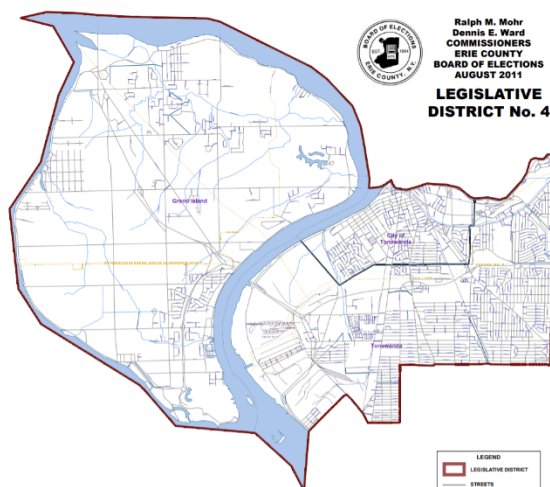


**Legislator John A. Bargnesi Jr. (D)-
District 4**

2165 Sheridan Drive
Tonawanda, NY 14223
Phone (716) 871-5905
Fax (716) 871-4122
John.bargnesijr@erie.gov

School Districts within District:

Tonawanda City SD; Kenmore Town of Tonawanda UFSD; Sweet Home CSD (Tonawanda part); Buffalo City SD

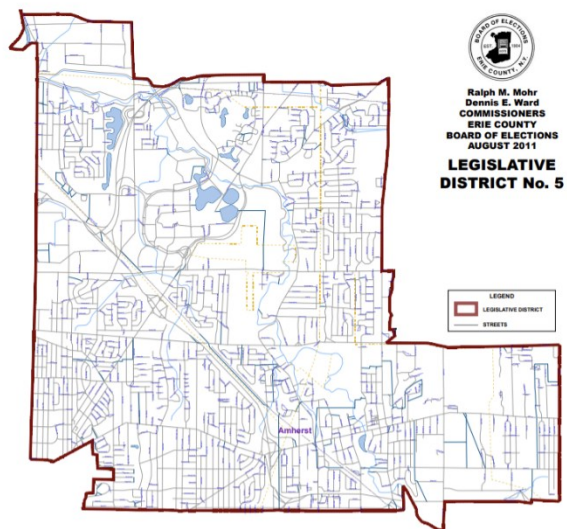


Legislator Jeanne Vinal (D)- District 5

92 Franklin St., 4th Floor
Buffalo, NY 14202
Phone (716) 858-8856
Fax (716) 858-8895
jeanne.vinal@erie.gov

School Districts within District:

Amherst CSD; Williamsville CSD; Sweet Home CSD; Clarence CSD (small portion); Maryvale UFSD; Cheektowaga CSD; Cleveland Hill UFSD; Cheektowaga-Sloan UFSD



**Legislator Christopher Greene (R)-
District 6**

92 Franklin Street, 4th Floor
Buffalo, NY 14202

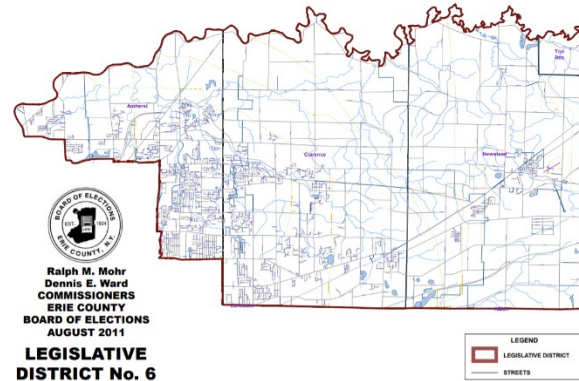
Phone (716) 858-8676

Fax (716) 858-8818

Christopher.Greene@erie.gov

School Districts within District:

Williamsville CSD; Clarence CSD; Amherst CSD; Sweet Home CSD (Amherst slice); Akron CSD (Newstead/Akron); Alden CSD (small portion reaches Newstead)



**Legislator Timothy Meyers (D)-
District 7**

3485 Harlem Rd
Cheektowaga, NY 14225-1505

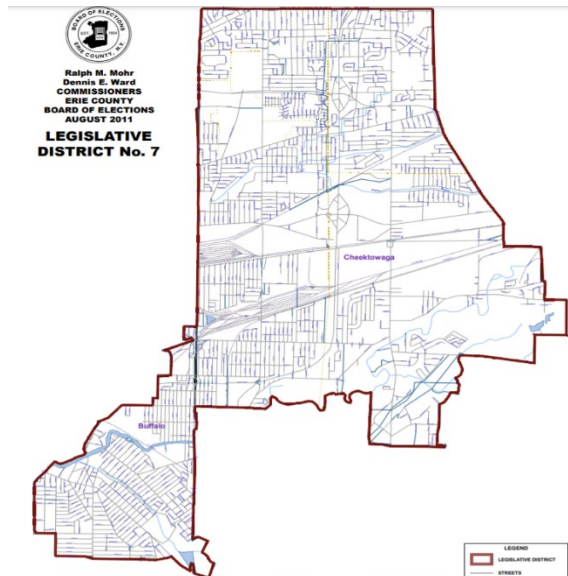
Phone (716) 833-3054

Fax (716) 833-0514

timothy.meyers@erie.gov

School Districts within District:

Cheektowaga CSD; Maryvale UFSD; Cleveland Hill UFSD; Cheektowaga-Sloan UFSD; Depew UFSD (Cheektowaga/Lancaster border areas); West Seneca CSD; Buffalo City SD



**Legislator Frank J. Todaro (R)-
District 8**

92 Franklin Street, 4th Floor
Buffalo, NY 14202

Phone (716) 681-2071

Frank.Todaro@erie.gov

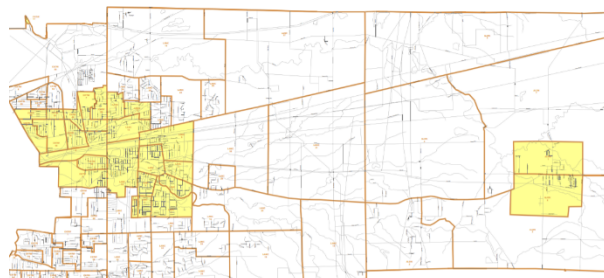
School Districts within District:

Alden CSD; Lancaster CSD; Depew UFSD; Iroquois CSD (Marilla); Cheektowaga CSD; Maryvale UFSD; Cleveland Hill UFSD; Cheektowaga-Sloan UFSD



Ralph M. Mohr
Jeremy J. Zellner
COMMISSIONERS
ERIE COUNTY
BOARD OF ELECTIONS
FEBRUARY 2017

**LEGISLATIVE
DISTRICT No. 8**



Legislator John Gilmour (D)- District 9

5630 Camp Rd

Hamburg, NY 14075

Phone (716) 649-2162

Fax (716) 649-2406

John.gilmour@erie.gov

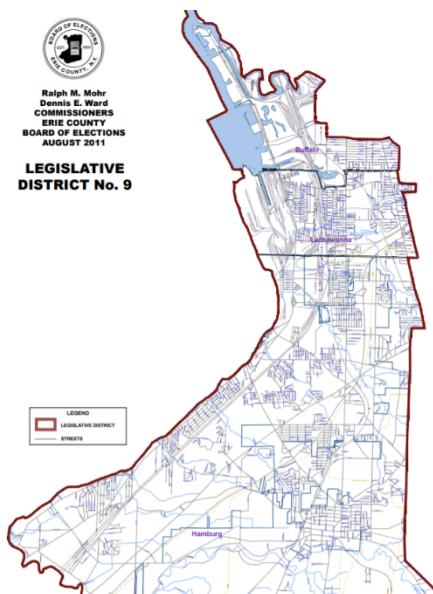
School Districts within District:

Buffalo City SD; Lackawanna City SD; Frontier CSD;
Hamburg CSD; Orchard Park CSD (small edge in Ham-
burg)



Ralph M. Mohr
Dennis E. Ward
COMMISSIONERS
ERIE COUNTY
BOARD OF ELECTIONS
AUGUST 2011

**LEGISLATIVE
DISTRICT No. 9**



**Legislator Lindsay Lorigo (R)-
District 10**

92 Franklin Street, 4th Floor
Buffalo, NY 14202

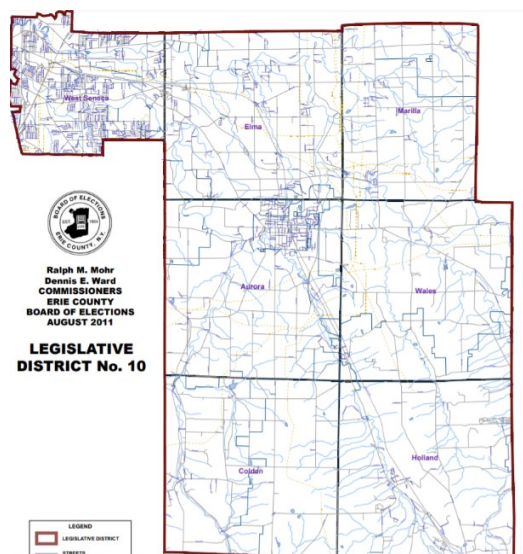
Phone: (716) 858-8922

Fax: (716) 858-8818

Lindsay.lorigo@erie.gov

School Districts within District:

East Aurora UFSD; Iroquois CSD; Holland CSD;
Springville Griffith Institute CSD; Pioneer CSD
(Sardinia); West Seneca CSD; Orchard Park CSD (parts
of West Seneca/Colden/Aurora)



Legislator John Mills (R)- District 11

92 Franklin Street, 4th Floor
Buffalo, NY 14202

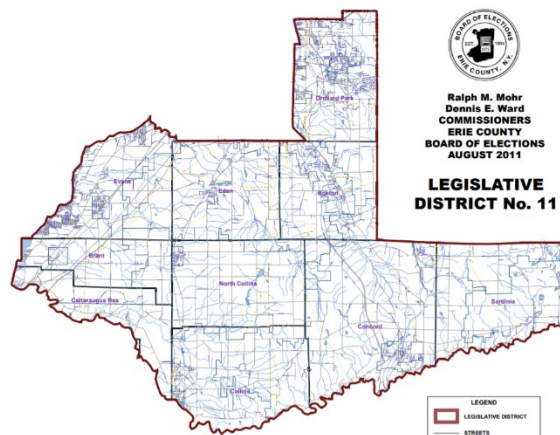
Phone (716) 858-8850

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John.Mills@erie.gov

School Districts within District:

Orchard Park CSD; Hamburg CSD; Frontier CSD; Eden
CSD; North Collins CSD; Gowanda CSD (Collins); Lake
Shore SD; Springville Griffith Institute CSD (Boston/
Collins edges)



New York State Board of Regents

www.regents.nysed.gov

**Commissioner
of Education:**

Dr. Betty A. Rosa
New York State Education Building
89 Washington Avenue
Albany, NY 12234
commissioner@nysed.gov

Chancellor:

Lester W. Young, Jr.
89 Washington Avenue
Albany, NY 12234
(518) 474-5889
Regent.Young@nysed.gov

**Vice-Chancellor:
*11th Judicial District***

Judith Chin
Regents Office, State Ed. Building
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(518) 474-5889
Regent.chin@nysed.gov

**WNY Regent:
8th Judicial District
Elected 2025**

Keith B. Wiley
Regents Office, State Ed. Building
89 Washington Avenue
Albany, NY 12234
(518) 474-5889

District Superintendents Serve as Field Representative to NYSED
Erie One BOCES:

Dr. Michael Capuana
355 Harlem Road
West Seneca, NY 14224-1892
(716) 821-7002
mcapuana@e1b.org

**Erie-2 Chautauqua-
Cattaraugus BOCES:**

Dr. David P. O'Rourke
8685 Erie Road,
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**Cattaraugus-Allegany
Erie-Wyoming BOCES:**

Scott Payne
1825 Windfall Road
Olean, NY 14760
(716) 376-8355
Scott_payne@caboces.org

Niagara-Orleans BOCES:

Dr. Taweepon Farrar
4232 Shelby Basin Road
Medina, NY 14103
(716) 731-6800, ext. 2202
tfarrar@onboces.org

Other Board of Regents Members:

<u>Name</u>	<u>District</u>
Roger Tilles	At Large
Wade S. Norwood	At Large
Lester W. Young	At Large
Brian Krist	At Large
Shino Tanikawa	Judicial District I
Hasoni L. Pratts	Judicial District II
Seema Rivera	Judicial District III
Roger P. Catania	Judicial District IV
Patrick A. Mannion	Judicial District V
Susan W. Mittler	Judicial District VI
Adrian I. Hale	Judicial District VII
Keith B. Wiley	Judicial District VIII
Frances G. Wills	Judicial District IX
Felicia Thomas-Wiliams	Judicial District X
Judith Chin	Judicial District XI
Aramina Vega Ferrer	Judicial District XII
Christine D. Cea	Judicial District XIII



Suggested NYS Advocacy Activities

Education advocacy can be most effective if it meshes with legislative sessions.

Month	Albany Activity	District & Member Activities
January February March	State budget is finalized: Governor's State-of-the-State Message convenes Legislature early January Executive budget is due 1 st Thursday after session opens (Feb. 1 in inaugural years) Legislature Education Committees react to the Governor's budget proposal Legislature and Governor approve budget (by April 1 each year)	Meet with legislators: - in their local offices on Fridays - during NYSSBA's Capital Conference Invite legislators to your school Write/email (using organized campaigns): Letters with local data on current bills Resolutions on key legislation/decision
April May June	Legislature resolved regulatory issues. Regents compare their proposal to enacted legislation and begin developing their plan, often holding hearings for input.	Meet with legislators in local offices Let legislators know repercussions to your district of recent legislation Plan in-school events for legislators and regents
July August September	Legislature is usually in recess. Agencies submit requests to the Division of Budget. Regents and Commissioner hold budget discussions. SED staff develops concrete proposals. By September 30, agency budgets are moving through DOB, and the Executive Office has begun development of a budget proposal.	Meet locally with legislators and regents. Invite legislators and regents to fall events: Provide tours of programs and opportunities to meet students, staff, community, and board Take photos to share with media and officials Involve officials in educational program Hold Q & A community reception with officials Invite officials to breakfast with the board
October November December	Legislature is usually in recess. The Executive staff and Department of Budget (DOB) begin negotiations to develop a budget that tries to meet agency needs and Governor's priorities using projected revenues. Regents approve their State Aid proposal for consideration by the Legislature.	Help develop ECASB legislative positions by identifying issues at board meetings and helping a sub-committee write a position statement. Meet with other districts and shared legislators to discuss issues of mutual interest. Attend the Albany Update to hear about what is happening at the state level.



Year-round		<p>Make legislation a regular board discussion item</p> <p>Disseminate information on bills to community leaders and the media</p> <p>Include a legislative update in the district publications</p> <p>Include legislators on your district's mailing list</p> <p>Follow Bill Track 50 or NYS assembly and NYS Senate websites for pending and current legislative actions</p> <p>Write to legislators using your ECASB post cards (YES/NO/THANK YOU) to share your thoughts</p>
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Legislative Session Calendar

(Typically published in December for the following session year)

<https://nyassembly.gov/leg/calendar/>

NYS Board of Elections Calendars

<https://elections.ny.gov/political-calendars>

Erie County Board of Elections Calendars

<https://elections.erie.gov/?AspxAutoDetectCookieSupport=1>



Advocacy Suggestions

Before meeting with legislators:

Know your topic (s).

- ◆ Focus on four or fewer items each year to concentrate your efforts.
- ◆ Keep updated on specific pending legislation and its effects on your district (Bill Track 50).
- ◆ Assume the legislator knows little or nothing about your topic.
- ◆ Be prepared to state specifically what your district is doing to reduce costs.
- ◆ Know the current status of bills (number, sponsor) you will discuss with the legislator.
- ◆ Know the viewpoints of the opposition; refute them and/or defend your position.
- ◆ Know and use the NYSSBA principles for state aid.
- ◆ Contact MAJORITY members and leaders of both houses.

Know your Legislator.

- ◆ Know the legislator's positions, opinions, and accomplishments.
- ◆ Understand that the legislator must advocate for ALL constituents to be re-elected.
- ◆ Seek ways to make your issues fit the legislator's agenda.

Prepare your remarks.

- ◆ Use bill content to introduce a topic, have the bill number available.
- ◆ Refer to programs or bills by name, do not use acronyms.
- ◆ State why your issue should be a priority; develop specific supportive data.
- ◆ Be concise.
- ◆ Identify an action item to request of the legislator.
- ◆ Mail your position ahead of the meeting; develop handouts for the meeting.
- ◆ Designate one or more speakers (for all topics to be covered during the meeting).

During meetings with legislators:

- ◆ Introduce all members of the group to the legislator and ensure they all get a chance to speak.
- ◆ Thank the legislator for past support (or for spending time with you if nothing else).
- ◆ Relax; the legislator is an elected official like you. Be assertive but not confrontational. Cover all desired topics, returning the discussion to your topic as needed. Do not insult or criticize. State availability for follow up conversations.
- ◆ When meeting with state officials, discuss the effects of state aid on your district, noting the relationship between state aid and local property taxation rates.



After/between meetings with legislators:

- ♦ Send a follow-up letter that recaps important points and thank them again. Feel free to use ECASB's "thank you" post-cards to do so.
- ♦ Be tenacious. Try again and again, courteously- some efforts take years to resolve. Contact legislative staff members for assistance. Contact frequently- visits, letters, phone calls.
- ♦ Help legislators reach larger numbers of potential voters. Provide public exposure for legislators and give them public accolades for their support. As an individual, work for and support the re-election of legislators who have supported your district.
- ♦ If you are able to attend Legislators fundraisers, attend.



Important Points to Remember

The following notes will help you be successful in advocating for your district as you advocate for public education, the students, and the constituents you serve.

- ♦ Call in advance
- ♦ Consider inviting like-minded individuals that represent other constituents
- ♦ Be open to meeting with key staff members and building connections with the legislator and their entire staff.
- ♦ Phone calls can be appropriate when necessary (i.e. support or oppose a bill or before a public hearing)
- ♦ Emails can be effective as well
- ♦ Keep email messages short and to one screen
- ♦ Provide complete contact information
- ♦ Become familiar with online submission forms
- ♦ Letters can be formal or informal, typed or handwritten
- ♦ At the federal level, letters may be screened for security purposes
- ♦ A longer response time will generally occur in response to a letter
- ♦ Always identify yourself and who you are representing
- ♦ Be brief and concise as possible
- ♦ Be informative and share a personal story related to the district
- ♦ Be factual. If you don't know the facts, admit you don't have the data on that at this point in time.
- ♦ Be courteous and polite
- ♦ Be reasonable
- ♦ Be appreciative, follow up with a thank you

Don't:

- ♦ Don't do all the talking. Let them talk and listen carefully.
- ♦ Don't provide inaccurate information. If you do not have information, follow up and get them information.
- ♦ Don't refer to them by their first name.
- ♦ Don't bring your personal politics in the door.
- ♦ Don't be rude or argumentative. Don't raise your voice.
- ♦ Don't be afraid to share a personal story or a story that is relative to you particular district to get your point across.



Writing to Legislators

Guidelines for Written Communications

Be concise.	Recipients won't read lengthy documents. Deal with only one issue per communication.
Be timely.	Write only about important issues, early enough to affect the recipient's thinking.
Be specific, reasonable, logical.	Provide facts. Refer to any legislation by sponsor name and number. State specific effects of pending legislation on your district. Support arguments with data. Ensure that any data are accurate. Check spelling, grammar, and punctuation.
Be polite.	Do not lecture, insult, or attempt to intimidate. Say thank you for past support. Be sure to spell the recipient's name correctly. Use the correct form of address, as shown below. Refer to any personal association, such as previous work on the official's campaign.
Be user friendly.	Identify your topic between the inside address and greeting in a line that states: <i>RE: Bill #xxx, sponsor name, title.</i> First state the issue (including relevant legislation), your position, and request support. E.g.: <i>I'm writing to see your support for A999: Education Act of 1999. Please let me know how you intend to vote on this essential piece of legislation.</i> Include your address on the letter, using business or organization letterhead if appropriate.
Be natural.	Use your own language. Hand write only if your handwriting is legible.
Be aware.	Avoid faxing. Many legislative offices find faxes offensive. Identical letters in large numbers can have a negative effect. Write to officials other than those who represent your district. Building relationships with legislative staff members who know the issues can help your cause.

Correct Forms of Address for Various Officials

Office	Address	Greeting
U.S. President	The President The White House Washington, D.C. 20500	Dear Mr. President:
NYS Governor	The Honorable _____, Governor Executive Chamber, NYS Capitol Albany, NY 12224	Dear Governor _____:
Federal/State Legislator	The Honorable _____, Member Governing Body (Senate, House, Assembly) Address, including room # and building City, State, ZIP	Dear "Title": (e.g. Senator, Assemblywoman, Congressman)
Committee Chair	The Honorable _____, Chair Committee Name Address as for any legislator	Dear Senator (Assembly Member):



Glossary of Legislative Terms

Aging	Time a bill must wait before it's eligible to action (three consecutive legislative days unless shortened by a message of necessity or a special report).
Appropriation	Money allocated by legislation including budget bills for specific use by various governmental departments.
Bill	Specific legislation proposal, introduced but not yet enacted into law.
Bill drafting	The process starts when someone decides current law needs revision. A bill is drafted, which is essentially a list of changes to the existing compiled state statutes and code that may add, strike, or amend the text to confer new purpose, restrictions, etc.
Bill memorandum	Descriptive statement accompanying each bill as it's introduced.
Budget bill	Suggested allocation of funds for particular purposes introduced annually by the Executive Office.
Calendar	Daily list of bills, resolutions, and items for consideration by the body.
Calendar day	Day during which the Legislature is in session, seated, and considering bills- a work day as opposed to a "legislative" day.
Carryover	Legislation held active from one annual session to the next
Caucus	Closed meeting of members of a body belonging to one political party, to decide leadership and policy, and usually binding on those who remain in attendance.
Committees	In most states, committees do the bulk of the legislative debate and modification. They are specialized by area of oversight or expertise and will discuss and research the bill, potentially amending or substituting a new draft. The committee typically recommends to the Committee of the Whole, another way of saying the entire chamber, that the bill either Pass or Do Not Pass.
Conference	Weekly meeting by majority and minority members to discuss proposals.
Concurrent (joint)	Resolution requiring action by both legislative houses
Deficiency budget	Amendment to budget allocation funds for unanticipated expenditures incurred from the start of the fiscal year to the start of the calendar year.
Executive budget	Document of budgets for governmental purposes, local assistance, judiciary, legislature, debt, capital construction for the next fiscal year as introduced by the Executive Office.
Home rule request	Request from a municipality to the legislature, required by the NYS Constitution to pass laws affecting municipal property, affairs, or government
Introduction	The bill is introduced into the first chamber. This often entails the chamber Clerk and registering the official introductory draft of the legislation.
Journal	Official record of proceedings (not a verbatim transcript) of each house.
Law (statute)	Bill passed by the legislature and signed by the executive or re-passed by the legislative body over the executive's veto; OR in NYS a bill the governor doesn't sign or veto within 10 days after receiving it during a legislative session.
Legislative day	Day on which the NYS Legislature meets; whole body might not be present, but is labeled as meeting for procedural purposes dealing with the aging of bills.
Majority	More than half of the voting members; usually refers to all elected members but for some purposes might refer only to those present and voting.



Message of necessity	Message from the Governor stating the need for an immediate vote on a bill, thus allowing the Legislature to shorten the 3-day aging period
Override	Re-passage, by a 2/3 vote of both houses, of a bill vetoed by the executive.
Passage Vote for Engrossment	After a bill has been 'read' a third time, it is put to vote for passage out of the originating house. If the vote passes, the bill is then considered to be Engrossed and it is sent to the other chamber of the legislative body.
Passage Vote for Enrollment	Once the bill gets to third reading there is another vote for passage. Should it pass then the bill normally will be considered Enrolled. This version of the bill text is what will be sent to the Governor and will be codified by the Secretary of State as part of the official Chapter and Acts.
Quorum	Majority of the members elected to the house; number who must be present before the body may begin its daily session.
Readings	Measures that alert members (through the daily calendar) to active bills; the NYS Constitution requires three readings on any bill before voting on it.
Read First/ Read Second	The definition of "read" varies however rare is the instance that the bill is read verbatim on the chamber floor. At this stage a synopsis of the legislation is presented and any initial discussion or decisions on the merit of the bill may be decided and then the bill is typically referred to one or more committees to continue the life process of the bill.
Recall from Governor	Motion enabling either house to recommit a bill to committee that has passed both houses but has not been acted upon by the Governor.
Referendum	Measure passed by the Legislature that must also be approved by the electorate in a popular vote.
Report of committee	Presentation of a bill or resolution from a committee to the daily calendar for consideration by the house as a whole.
Rinse and Repeat	After the passage vote for engrossment, the process then repeats itself from introduction to Third reading in the second legislative chamber.
Roll call	Vote on an issue: FAST roll call- for noncontroversial bills, only the alphabetically first and last members and the leaders are called SLOW roll call- for controversial bills, individual votes are recorded.
Sent to Governor	In states where Governor approval is required, the Enrolled bill is sent to the Governor. This may be ceremonial, or the Governor may have the power to veto the bill, or if left unsigned for a fixed period of time is de facto approved.
Session	Entire working period of the legislative body, including all meetings between convening and final adjournment.
Special session	Legislative session convened by either the Governor or NYS Legislature house to consider only specifically identified issues.
Sponsor	Introducer; member who authors or helps to author a piece of legislation
Standing committee	Permanent committee provided for in rules of the house to consider and recommend bills assigned to it concerning a particular subject.
Starring	Placing a star on a bill; a motion that halts final action on a bill until one day after the star is removed by the sponsor or majority leader.



Stopping the clock	Stopping the hands of the official house clock; used to assure passage of legislation by a statutory or constitutional deadline.
Supplemental budget	Amendment to budget adjusting existing allocations and creating new ones; usually the last consideration of a legislative session.
Uni-bill	Bill co-sponsored by members in both houses.
Veto	Failure by the executive to enact a bill into law by returning it to the legislative body within 10 days unsigned with a veto message or not signing it within 30 days after legislative adjournment (pocket veto).



How a Bill Becomes a Law

In a legislative house, a member proposes an idea; the Bill Drafting Commission writes it in legislative language; the Bill is introduced, dated, numbered, and printed.



Bill moves to relevant Standing Committee for study, discussion, and possible hearings or amendments. If approved by one committee, it may move to other committees to repeat the process if deemed appropriate.



If approved by committee, the bill is listed on the Calendar of Bills for three separate meetings of all members to consider, debate, amend, and vote.



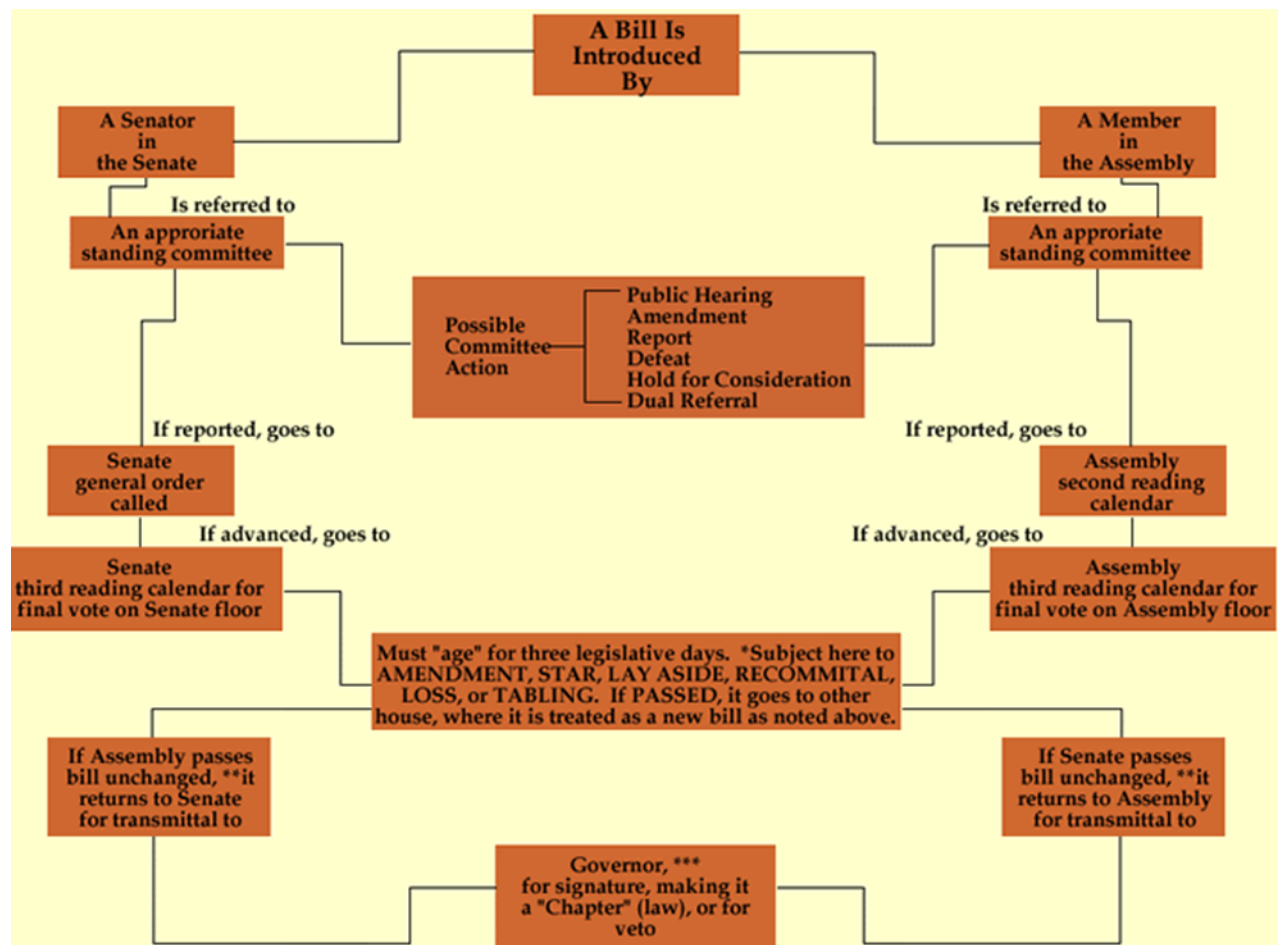
If passed in one house, the bill goes to the other house to repeat the legislative process. If amended, the bill must be re-passed by the original house as amended.



If passed by both houses, the bill is sent to the Executive for signature or veto. The bill may be returned to, or recalled by, the legislative body.



How a Bill Becomes a Law in New York State



New York State Budget Timeline

Understanding When and How to Engage in the Budget Process

The New York State budget process follows a defined annual cycle, but strategic advocacy is needed **before, during, and after** formal deadlines. Use this timeline to help guide outreach to legislators and agencies.

July – September (Early Planning)

- **SED** (State Education Department) begins developing proposals
- Regents and Commissioner hold planning meetings and stakeholder forums
- State agencies submit preliminary requests to the **Division of Budget (DOB)**
- ECASB Tip: Invite legislators and Regents to district tours and highlight needs

October – December (Regents & Executive Priorities)

- **Regents** finalize **State Aid proposal** (typically by mid-December)
- Executive Office (Governor) and DOB begin drafting Executive Budget
- ECASB Tip: Work with your board and Legislative Committee to draft positions

January (Budget is Unveiled)

- First week: **Governor delivers State of the State**
- Third week: **Executive Budget is released** (usually by 3rd Tuesday)
- Bills referred to relevant committees
- ECASB Tip: Respond swiftly with letters citing impacts on your district

February – March (Budget Negotiation Phase)

- **Joint budget hearings** and public testimony
- Legislative budget proposals are developed
- Advocacy groups organize **Capital Conferences** (NYSSBA, PTA, etc.)
- ECASB Tip: Visit legislators locally and/or in Albany with clear ask

April 1 (Budget Deadline)

- NYS Constitution requires **on-time budget adoption**
- Final state aid amounts are announced
- ECASB Tip: Publicize wins, shortfalls, and implications for your district

April – June (Legislative Review & Adjustments)

- Post-budget: bills to implement policy changes
- **Regents analyze how budget aligns with priorities**
- ECASB Tip: Update your community and plan follow-up meetings

Bonus Tip:

Track budget bills and education allocations via:

<https://openbudget.ny.gov>



Additional Advocacy Resources

In addition to all of the information provided within this handbook, some additional resources include:

- ♦ <http://www.ecasb.org/>
- ♦ <http://www.nyssba.org/>
- ♦ <https://legiscan.com/>
- ♦ <https://www.billtrack50.com/>
- ♦ <https://nyassembly.gov/>
- ♦ <https://www.nysenate.gov/>



Notes for New School Board Members

Advocacy 101: What It *Really* Means as a School Board Member

Advocacy is not about politics—it's about making sure your district's needs are heard. As a board member, you're in a powerful position to communicate directly with elected leaders, share your students' stories, and ensure policies reflect on-the-ground realities.

What is advocacy?

- ◆ Speaking up for your schools and students.
- ◆ Providing factual, local context to legislative discussions.
- ◆ Representing your district's interests in a nonpartisan way.

Why it matters:

- ◆ Decisions in Albany and Washington impact curriculum, staffing, transportation, mental health services, safety funding, and more.

It's not:

- ◆ Campaigning.
- ◆ Partisan.
- ◆ Complaining without offering solutions.

Advocacy Dos and Don'ts

Do:

- ◆ Coordinate messages with your board and legislative committee.
- ◆ Use facts, data, and personal stories from your district.
- ◆ Build relationships over time.
- ◆ Follow up after meetings with legislators.

Don't:

- ◆ Criticize political parties or individuals.
- ◆ Use district resources for partisan messaging.
- ◆ Share unverified statistics.
- ◆ Speak on behalf of the board unless authorized

Sample Talking Points by Topic (Nonpartisan)

Topic: Foundation Aid

- ◆ Summary: Foundation Aid ensures equitable funding to school districts.
- ◆ Local Impact: i.e. Our district receives \$X less per student than the state average.
- ◆ Ask: Support full phase-in of Foundation Aid and oppose cuts.

Topic: Mental Health Supports

- ◆ Summary: Students need access to mental health professionals to thrive.
- ◆ Local Impact: i.e. Our counselor-to-student ratio is 1:520.
- ◆ Ask: Increase funding for school-based mental health programs.



Topic: Transportation Mandates

- ◆ Summary: State mandates often come without sufficient funding.
- ◆ Local Impact: i.e. Busing nonpublic students costs our district \$X annually.
- ◆ Ask: Fund all transportation mandates fully.

How to Tell Your District's Story: A Worksheet

Prompt Questions:

- ◆ What makes our district unique?
- ◆ Share one success story.
- ◆ What's one challenge we face that funding or policy could improve?
- ◆ How many students do we serve?
- ◆ What would your community lose if a key program were cut?

Use this to build a 1–2 minute narrative for meetings, emails, or testimony.

Contact Log / Meeting Tracker

Use a log to track progress with your local representatives and maintain consistent communication.

Legislator	Date Met	Topic	Notes	Follow-Up
i.e. Sen. Gallivan	7/16/25	Electric Bus Mandate update	Discussed governor's latest roll-back statements.	Keep an eye out for additional statements from governor's office.

Glossary of Key Legislative Terms When Meeting with Legislators

Term	Meaning
Bill Number	The identifying code for legislation (e.g., A1234, S5678)
Sponsor	The legislator who introduces the bill
Co Sponsor	Legislators who sign on their support of the bill
Program Bill	A bill introduced by the Governor or a state agency
Justification	The section that explains why the bill is needed
One-House Bill	A bill passed only by the Senate or Assembly, used to show priorities
Same As	A bill that is the same as one in the other house of the legislature *remember a bill needs to pass both houses to move forward. If there is not a same as, the bill is likely to die in committee.
Enacting Clause	The formal beginning of a bill indicating it is lawfully introduced
MOU (Memorandum of Understanding)	An agreement on how a bill will be implemented



How to Read a Bill: Quick Reference Guide

Start here:

Bill Number – Unique identifier.

Sponsor – Look for familiar names.

Summary – Short explanation of the bill.

Justification – Why the sponsor thinks this matters.

Effective Date – When it would become law.

Tip: Start with the summary and justification. Read the full bill text only if necessary, and ask your legislative chair or ECASB contact for clarification when needed.

Real Advocacy Success Stories

“Did you win a lottery?”

In 2021, ECASB districts rallied around a shared concern: the impact of having a lottery winner in the district has on a school budget. It began with one district bringing the issue to the Legislative Team. Dozens of board members sent letters, met with legislators, and submitted testimony. As a result, language in NYS Law was changed to give districts relief from budget fluctuations when a large money lottery winners in district drastically changes the formula.

The lesson? Nonpartisan, coordinated advocacy can yield real results when board members show up, stay informed, and speak from experience.

“Advocacy in Albany”

ECASB’s Legislative Team led a delegation to Albany, coordinating with NYSSBA, where board members from rural, suburban, and small city districts met with 10 legislators in a single day. Lawmakers later referenced these conversations during budget debates, citing our local examples as rationale for maintaining critical programs, pushing back the timeline for electric bus mandates and maintaining full funding of the foundation formula for that coming school year while also maintaining the “Hold Harmless” designation the governor wanted to remove from the education budget.

After decades of short-funding, fiscal year 2023-24 finally saw full funding of Foundation Aid (about \$24 billion), per formula amounts—first time since its inception.

Fiscal year 2024-25 brought total Foundation Aid to \$24.9 billion statewide, with \$9.9 billion going to NYC.

Fiscal year 2025-26’s enacted budget included a \$1.4 billion increase and updated poverty weights and regional cost indices—arguably the first meaningful updates to the formula since 2007.

“Linking With Local Leaders”

Through ECASB’s Legislative breakfast and dinner programing, school board members from multiple districts joined forces to advocate for needs of public schools in Erie County—resulting in a legislators learning more about the impact of the Childhood Victims Act (CVA) on some of the local schools’ budgets. Over the past few years, school districts across New York State have had to adjust to the fiscal and legal realities stemming from the passage of the **Child Victims Act (CVA)**, signed into law in



2019. While the law's moral and societal purpose is to allow survivors of childhood sexual abuse to seek justice—regardless of how long ago the abuse occurred—it has also created profound budgetary and planning challenges for public school systems.

Some districts did and still are currently facing litigation related to an allegation dating back as many as 40 years ago. The claim, filed under the CVA, had previously been barred by the statute of limitations but is now allowed to proceed under the extended “lookback window” the law created.

The financial impact this type of case has on school budget and planning priorities is extensive, delving into areas including legal defense costs, insurance coverage gaps, impacts on reserve funds, and multi-year planning. This is not an easy conversation, but it is a necessary one. Legislators, understanding the need to balance justice for victims and financial stewardship for all students now and in the future, have continued to help districts out of this quagmire. One active solution, while not ideal, has been to provide exclusions of funds used in payouts from the tax cap.



Advocacy Worksheet

Date: _____

District: _____

Fill out the information on this sheet prior to meeting with elected officials to guide you in your advocacy efforts.

1. Elected Official: _____ Phone: _____

2. Elected Official Position: _____

3. Date of Meeting: _____ Time of Meeting: _____ am / pm

4. Meeting: ____ in-person ____ via phone ____ via Zoom/Virtual Conferencing

5. Address for Meeting: _____

6. District Attendees: _____

7. Staff Members from Elected Official's Office also attending meeting:

8. Towns that make up the School District: _____

9. School Enrollment: _____

10. Last year's School District Budget: _____

- % of money from Federal Government: _____

- % of money from State Government: _____

- % of money from Local Taxing Entity: _____

- Amount of money spent per student: _____

- Amount of money spent per student in special education: _____

- Current Graduation Rate: _____

ECASB Concerns and Issues: _____



Advocacy Worksheet Cont.

Date: _____

District: _____

School District Specific Needs and Issues: _____

Post Meeting Notes/Summary:

Meeting Notes: _____

Follow up meeting scheduled? _____ No _____ Yes - Date: _____

Information shared with:

Yes

No

- Rest of Board of Education
- Community Stakeholders
- Neighboring School Districts that are represented by Legislator
- Erie County Association of School Boards

Do you have pictures to send to ECASB for posting on website/social media?



Advocacy Worksheet

Date: _____

District: _____

Fill out the information on this sheet prior to meeting with elected officials to guide you in your advocacy efforts.

1. Elected Official: _____ Phone: _____

2. Elected Official Position: _____

3. Date of Meeting: _____ Time of Meeting: _____ am / pm

4. Meeting: ____ in-person ____ via phone ____ via Zoom/Virtual Conferencing

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ECASB Concerns and Issues: _____



Advocacy Worksheet Cont.

Date: _____

District: _____

School District Specific Needs and Issues: _____

Post Meeting Notes/Summary:

Meeting Notes: _____

Follow up meeting scheduled? _____ No _____ Yes - Date: _____

Information shared with:

Yes

No

- | | | |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------|-------|-------|
| • Rest of Board of Education | _____ | _____ |
| • Community Stakeholders | _____ | _____ |
| • Neighboring School Districts that are
represented by Legislator | _____ | _____ |
| • Erie County Association of School Boards | _____ | _____ |

Do you have pictures to send to ECASB for posting on website/social media?



Advocacy Worksheet

Date: _____

District: _____

Fill out the information on this sheet prior to meeting with elected officials to guide you in your advocacy efforts.

1. Elected Official: _____ Phone: _____
2. Elected Official Position: _____
3. Date of Meeting: _____ Time of Meeting: _____ am / pm
4. Meeting: ____ in-person ____ via phone ____ via Zoom/Virtual Conferencing
5. Address for Meeting: _____
6. District Attendees: _____

7. Staff Members from Elected Official's Office also attending meeting:

8. Towns that make up the School District: _____

9. School Enrollment: _____

10. Last year's School District Budget: _____

- % of money from Federal Government: _____
- % of money from State Government: _____
- % of money from Local Taxing Entity: _____
 - Amount of money spent per student: _____
 - Amount of money spent per student in special education: _____
- Current Graduation Rate: _____

ECASB Concerns and Issues: _____



Advocacy Worksheet Cont.

Date: _____

District: _____

School District Specific Needs and Issues: _____

Post Meeting Notes/Summary:

Meeting Notes: _____

Follow up meeting scheduled? _____ No _____ Yes - Date: _____

Information shared with:

Yes

No

- | | | |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------|-------|-------|
| • Rest of Board of Education | _____ | _____ |
| • Community Stakeholders | _____ | _____ |
| • Neighboring School Districts that are
represented by Legislator | _____ | _____ |
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