



2023 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

STATE ASSEMBLY

NEW MEMBERS IN LOWER

HUDSON VALLEY REGION

TABLE OF CONTENTS

3	MARYJANE SHIMSKY	(AD-92)
6	MATT SLATER	(AD-94)
7	DANA LEVENBERG	(AD-95)
9	JOHN MCGOWAN	(AD-97)
10	CHRIS EACHUS	(AD-99)
11	SARAHANA SHRESTHA	(AD-103)
13	ANIL BEEPHAN	(AD-105)

CONTENT COMPILED FROM CAMPAIGN WEBSITES



MaryJane Shimsky (D)

92nd Assembly District (Greenburgh, Mount Pleasant, Dobbs Ferry, Hastings-on-Hudson, Irvington, Tarrytown, Pleasantville, Sleepy Hollow): *Seat previously held by Thomas Abinanti (D)*

Occupation: Board member, Westchester County Board of Legislators

Past Professional Experience: Community Relations Director, Assemblymember Richard Brodsky, Assistant District Attorney, Manhattan, Professor of History and Geography, Marymount College

Education: B.A Yale University, J.D. New York University School of Law, Ph.D. City University of New York

Biography

MaryJane Shimsky is serving in her sixth full term on the Westchester County Board of Legislators, representing a district that encompasses most of the Town of Greenburgh — including Ardsley, Dobbs Ferry, Hastings-on-Hudson, Irvington, Edgemont, and much of Hartsdale. MaryJane was the elected Majority Leader of the Board’s Democratic Caucus during the 2020-21 session, and Majority Whip during the 2018-19 and 2012-13 sessions. From 2007 to 2010, she was Community Relations Director for Assemblymember Richard Brodsky. Prior to that, as a volunteer advocate for the Town of Greenburgh, she was instrumental in securing a \$5 million settlement used for traffic improvements in response to the Ridge Hill development.

MaryJane has worked on infrastructure, the environment, and public health while on the County legislature. She recently sponsored the “Clinic Access Bill” (June 2022), which expands protections for those visiting and working at women’s health clinics; an update the County Charter inserting respectful language for people with disabilities and mental health issues (April 2022); and legislation prohibiting the sale or distribution of flavored tobacco products (in committee). Currently Chair of the Committee on Public Works & Transportation, she also serves on the Budget & Appropriations, Health, Law & Major Contracts, Legislation, and Parks & Recreation committees. She has served as Chair of the Saw Mill Watershed Advisory Board (SWAB) since 2011.

Now in her third term as Infrastructure Chair, MaryJane has been responsible for advancing hundreds of construction projects that include repairing roads and bridges, upgrading sewer and wastewater facilities, restoring County parks and historic sites, and a wide range of other construction projects. She is best known for her persistence in advocating for the reconstruction of the Ashford Avenue Bridge — the second-largest bridge construction project in Westchester County history. Other projects include the Yonkers Wastewater Treatment Plant, Warburton Avenue Bridge, Sprain Ridge Pool, South County Trailway, Bronx River Reservation Trailway, and more than \$30 million in local municipal storm water management projects.

MaryJane served on the New York State task force to study mass transit options for the Mario Cuomo Bridge, and is an active member of the Coalition for the National Infrastructure Bank (NIB).

A lifelong environmentalist, MaryJane has consistently fought for a legislative agenda designed to reduce both pollution and the cost of government. She worked in support of successful green initiatives that include the installation of solar and other energy-saving measures on County

property, conversion of the County's bus and car fleets to hybrid and electric power, expansion of electric vehicle charging stations, and creation of a new food scrap recycling center. In addition to serving as Chair of the Saw Mill Watershed Advisory Board (SWAB), she is co-chair of the Bronx River Advisory Board (BRAB) and an ex-officio member of the Westchester County Stormwater Advisory Board (C-SWAB).

Since its inception in 2018, MaryJane has served on the Executive Committee of United Westchester, a working group of elected officials convened to assess storm preparedness and response by Con Edison, NYSEG, Altice (Optimum), and Verizon. She assisted in preparing two comprehensive Storm Response Reports for the New York State Public Service Commission calling on the utilities to invest in their distribution system and restore the ranks of their line crews. In turn, she has led the Board of Legislators in advocating for corresponding reforms by Westchester's delegation to the State Legislature.

MaryJane is a leader in Westchester's fight against opioid addiction, and sponsored the 2017 law authorizing Westchester County's lawsuit against the opioid manufacturers. She further advocated to require chain pharmacies to provide pharmaceutical take-back programs and to post warning signs about the potential dangers of opioid medication. She pressed for anti-smoking measures adopted by Westchester County in 2018, including "Tobacco 21," which raised the tobacco and vaping age to 21, and regulating e-cigarettes the same as tobacco products.

MaryJane grew up in Scranton, PA, and graduated from Yale University in 1982. She earned her law degree from New York University School of Law in 1985, and worked for four years as an Assistant District Attorney in the Appeals Bureau of the Manhattan District Attorney's office. She taught history and geography at Marymount College in Tarrytown, on her way toward earning a PhD in History from the City University of New York in 2007.

MaryJane and her husband, David Agosto, have two grown children who attended the Hastings-on-Hudson public schools. Now living in Dobbs Ferry, they are 26-year residents of the Rivertowns area of Westchester County.

Issues

- **Healthcare:** Supports Public health initiatives and quality childcare. Prioritize reproductive healthcare, addressing the opioid crisis, and anti-smoking initiatives.
- **Workforce Development:** Create stronger protections for the workforce, and fair access to opportunity.
- **Infrastructure:** Rebuild roadways, water systems, public transportation, and broadband; support for advancing infrastructure projects in Westchester County.
- **Environmental:** Climate resilience through stormwater management and utility preparedness, support food scrap recycling, reduce carbon output and cut waste.

Endorsements

- Westchester County Democratic Committee
- New York Working Families Party
- Eleanor's Legacy
- Hispanic Democrats of Westchester
- Laborers' International Union of North America (LiUNA)
- New York League of Conservation Voters (NYCLV)
- New York State United Teachers (NYSUT)

- Planned Parenthood Empire State Votes PAC
- Tenants PAC
- Westchester Coalition for Legal Abortion PAC (WCLA PAC)
- Westchester County Corrections Superior Officers Association (WCCSOA)
- The Examiners News
- Moms Demand Action



Matt Slater (R)

94th Assembly District (Albany, Columbia, Dutchess, Greene, Orange, Rensselaer, Rockland, Ulster, Westchester County, Putnam County): *Seat previously held by Kevin Byrne (R)*

Occupation: Town Supervisor, Yorktown

Past Professional Experience: Chief of Staff, New York State Senator Terrence Murphy, Mid-Hudson Regional Director, New York State Assembly Minority Conference

Education: B.A. Saint Anselm College, MPA Marist College

Biography

Matthew Slater is currently the Yorktown supervisor, and previously worked as Chief of Staff to New York State Senator Terrence Murphy.

Prior to that, he spent time as the Executive Director of the New Hampshire Republican Party, following the 2012 election, and formerly served as Mid-Hudson Regional Director for the New York State Assembly Minority Conference.

Slater has also previously served as a top aide to Westchester County Board of Elections Commissioner Douglas Colety, a campaign manager with the New York Senate Republican Campaign Committee, Chief of Staff for State Assemblymember Steve Katz, and a Regional Coordinator for the New York Republican Assembly Campaign Committee.

Slater received his undergraduate degree in political science from Saint Anselm College, where he was a volunteer for Rudy Giuliani's 2008 presidential bid. He holds a Masters of Public Administration from Marist College.

Issues

- Cost of living: Address rising fuel prices and eliminate the sales tax on gas.
- Environmental: Expand solar power and renewable energy to ease the burden on local property taxpayers and protect the environment, beautify parks and other recreational space to improve quality-of-life. Education: Parental control, funding for education.
- Immigration: Address the illegal immigration crisis in the state.
- Public safety: Repeal bail laws, support the police.

Endorsements

- New York State Troopers
- SEIU Local 704
- Police Benevolent Society
- CSEA
- The Business Council
- New York State Fraternal Order of Police
- Police Conference of New York



Dana Levenberg (D)

95th Assembly District (Ossining, Peekskill, West Point, Lake Carmel, Cortlandt): *Seat currently held by Sandy Galef (D)*

Occupation: Town of Ossining Supervisor

Past Professional Experience: President of Ossining Micro Fund; Chief of Staff for Assemblymember Sandy Galef

Education: B.A. Brown University

Biography

Dana Levenberg currently serves as the Ossining Town Supervisor, and previously worked in advertising and TV production. Dana holds a BA from Brown University in International Relations. When her children were young, she stayed home for a few years as a full-time mom.

Her work in the community – serving on the board of her sons’ nursery school, leading the PTA – led Dana into advocacy, public service, and then elected office. Dana’s experience as Assemblymember Sandy Galef’s Chief of Staff, as well as nine years on the Ossining School Board, gave her the skills needed for managing staff and taxpayer dollars. Since her tenure as Supervisor began in 2016, Dana has focused on building a healthy community—economically, environmentally, physically and mentally—all with a focus on equity. She has kept taxes in check while working to reduce our carbon footprint and improve our roads, parks and open spaces.

Dana is a founding member of the Ossining MicroFund and the newly formed Ossining for Refugees, organized in the wake of the withdrawal from Afghanistan. Dana also serves on a number of boards throughout the region, including that of Sustainable Westchester, the Sing Sing Prison Museum, the Westchester Municipal Planning Federation, the Westchester Municipal Officials Association, and Historic Hudson River Towns.

Issues

- **Sustainability:** Support EV chargers, gas powered leaf blower restrictions, introduce the NY Stretch Code which would help build more environmentally friendly buildings.
- **Education:** Restore foundation aid.
- **Health care:** Pass the New York Health Act.
- **Workforce Development:** Enhanced job protections, job training programs, and reutilization of the existing IPEC site.
- **Housing:** Increase affordable housing stock, fund affordable housing and libraries.
- **Equity:** Levenberg partnered with the NAACP when the community had issues with the police to create a better method of handling issues.
- **Taxes:** Reduce tax burden and remain within the tax cap.
- **Reproductive Rights:** Support Planned Parenthood and a woman’s right to choose.
- **Public Safety:** Support gun safety laws, promote gun buy backs, educate the police to help to reduce crime and reduce criminal biases.

Endorsements

- Assemblymember Sandy Galef
- New York State Comptroller, Tom DiNapoli
- New York State Nurses Association
- Sierra Club
- CSEA
- Working Families Party



John McGowan (R)

97th Assembly District (Orangeburg, Airmont, Chestnut Ridge, Hilburn, Nyack): *Seat currently held by Mike Lawler (R)*

Occupation: Rockland County Senior Assistant District Attorney, District 15 Legislator

Past Professional Experience: Attorney, Prosecutor, Adjunct Professor, Faculty Instructor, Orangetown Police Youth Court

Education: BA St. Thomas Aquinas College; J.D. New York Law School

Biography

John McGowan is an attorney at Bleakley Platt & Schmidt, McGowan, and is a member of the Litigation Practice Group, where he specializes in general liability defense, construction law, and criminal defense. He is a former Senior Assistant District Attorney of the Bronx County District Attorney's Office, where he was assigned to the Special Victims' Unit. In 2020, McGowan was appointed to the Multi-Services & Economic Development Committees as well as the Rockland County Solid Waste Management Authority.

In 2018, McGowan was a board member of the Rockland County Solid Waste Management Authority. He was also president of the Rockland Ancient Order of Hibernians, as well a member of the Rockland Friendly Sons of St. Patrick, Pearl River Elks Lodge 2041, St. Dominic Knights of Columbus, and a volunteer with the Lourdes Kids of Rockland and Pearl River American Legion, Post 329. He also served as an adjunct professor at St. Thomas Aquinas College and a faculty instructor with the Orangetown Police Youth Court.

Issues

- Public safety: Fight against bail reform legislation, support the police.
- Education: Boost curriculum, increase school aid budget.
- Transportation: Repeal congestion pricing, increase state aid for transit and infrastructure
- Zoning and codes: Protect local control of zoning and preserve single family neighborhoods.

Endorsements

- Rockland County Patrolmen's Benevolent Association, Inc.
- The Republican National Committee
- Correction Officers Benevolent Association of Rockland County
- Vince Tyer, Rockland County Legislator, District 16



Chris Eachus (R)

99th Assembly District (Woodbury, Cornwall-on-Hudson, Highland Falls, New Windsor): *Seat currently held by Colin Schmitt (R)*

Occupation: Orange County Legislator, High School Teacher

Past Professional Experience: Preschool teacher, Staffing Director

Education: B.S. State University of New York, Cortland, M.S. State University of New York, New Paltz

Biography

Chris Eachus is a longtime resident of the Hudson Valley. He moved to Orange County more than 45 years ago knowing that the Hudson Valley would be a wonderful area to raise a family.

Professionally, Chris has worked as a physics teacher, all within school districts located here in the Hudson Valley. With more than 40 years of experience in both private and public-school systems, at both the high school and graduate level, he has taught and helped so many students grow into young adults. Chris is a proud member of the Newburgh Teacher's Retiree Association and a member of NYSUT (New York State Union of Teachers) for a total of 37 years.

Chris also has a strong commitment to public service, having served for 12 years as an Orange County Legislator representing New Windsor and Cornwall. He is proud of his service and has garnered bi-partisan respect by abolishing an unnecessary municipal tax in the county, keeping the county tax rates steady, and keeping the cost expenditures by the county as low as possible during his tenure.

Issues

- Education: Fully fund education.
- Economic Development: Fund infrastructure projects, and build affordable housing.
- Public Health: Additional resources are needed for mental health, senior, and veteran programs.

Endorsements

- Caring Majority Rising
- Moms Demand Action
- Comptroller Thomas DiNapoli
- NYLCV
- Latino Democratic Committee of Orange County
- New York State Young Democrats



Sarahana Shrestha (D)

103rd Assembly District (New Paltz, Kerhonkson, Stone Ridge, Shokan, Big Indian, Phoenicia, Red Hook, Rhinebeck, Kingston): *Seat currently held by Kevin Cahill (D)*

Occupation: Graphic Designer

Past Professional Experience: Lead campaigner with the statewide Public Power New York Coalition

Education: B.A. New York Institute of Technology

Biography

A first-generation Nepali-American climate organizer and a lifelong advocate for the working class, Sarahana Shrestha is running for New York State Assembly to change the culture of Albany and fight for the future Hudson Valley deserves.

Extreme poverty, systemic injustices, and the strength of collective action left a mark on Sarahana at an early age. She was nine years old when she witnessed a historical uprising in her hometown of Kathmandu, Nepal, demanding to reinstate multi-party democracy. Sarahana remembers being stuck on a school bus as violent clashes occurred outside, and later watching a euphoric parade go past her home when the centuries-old monarchy relinquished its rule. But gross inequalities remained in much of the country, fueling a civil war that would last 10 years and claim thousands of lives.

A professor co-signing her student loan made it possible for Sarahana to move to New York in the fall of 2001 to study Computer Graphics. It was difficult being in a big new country at a turbulent time, but she found her bearings among those who believed in the possibility of another world, one where a system of peace, sustainability, and camaraderie keep everyone safe and nourished. Outside of her day job as a Graphic Designer, Sarahana remained an active advocate of this belief, founding a literary online journal that published political writings, banned by Nepal's new King who seized powers through a coup.

By 2018, now living in Esopus and having lived in New York for almost as long as she had lived in Nepal, Sarahana felt an increasing urgency to dedicate herself more seriously to organizing for healthcare rights and against climate change in Hudson Valley. She became an American citizen along with 50 other immigrants in 2019 at the Ulster County Courthouse in Kingston. A Daily Freeman reporter quoted her as saying, "So many people don't have a voice in what happens to the world—who's affected by war, by ecological disaster. As an American citizen, you can do a lot." As the reporter pointed out, Ulster County Surrogate's Court Judge Sara McGinty had reminded the new citizens much of the same.

Sarahana lives in Esopus with her husband, their dog, Seaweed and several free-spirited chickens. She is the Ulster County co-chair for the Mid-Hudson Valley chapter of Democratic Socialists of America, helping to organize efforts for healthcare, housing, and the environment. Knowing what was at stake, she used her design and management skills to help run Phil Erner's successful primary race, centered on housing rights, for County Legislator. Erner's win in both the primary and the general

election proves that a people-powered election is effective not just in big cities, but here in the Hudson Valley, too.

Sarahana is a lead campaigner with the statewide Public Power NY coalition, where she organizes to ensure that the inevitable green transition must be the kind that strengthens democracy and empowers communities instead of enriching private developers. She has spoken out against the Hudson Champlain Power Express electric transmission line that would import hydropower from Canada—not only because this project is inadequate to help New Yorkers fight the climate crisis, but it also threatens to contaminate local drinking water for much of the Hudson Valley, and violates indigenous land rights in Canada. She also spoke against and helped organize to stop the Danskammer fracked gas plant in Newburgh.

Sarahana knows that we can build our own public renewable energy sector here in the Hudson Valley, bringing green jobs to our counties, empowering residents in the collective ownership of our energy system across the state, and making it affordable for everyone. Sarahana wants communities, not private developers, to have the more powerful say and directly benefit from public investments we make.

The COVID-19 pandemic confirmed Sarahana’s belief that the investments of our future must be in social and care infrastructure. Lifelong residents witnessed neighborhoods change overnight due to the volatile housing market, working parents were left to juggle childcare and remote work, and essential workers had no option but to risk their lives. Sarahana recognizes that the reactive temporary measures put in place are not enough to protect us from the emergencies that will occur more frequently under climate change. That means we must invest in a society that guarantees stability to working families, infrastructure for the public good, and a robust response to the climate crisis.

Issues

- Housing: End skyrocketing costs of living, make housing more affordable.
- Health care: Support free health care for all.
- Social Equity: End the targeting of black and brown communities.
- Education: Protect New York State’s competitive school system.
- Environment: Promote green union jobs to fulfill 100% renewable energy goals.
- Taxes: Reorganize the tax code.
- Immigrant rights: Fight for immigrant communities’ rights and access to support services.
- Workforce Development: Support worker protections, revitalize the labor movement.

Endorsements

- For the Many
- Working Families Party
- Congressmember Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez



Anil Beephan (R)

105th Assembly District (Fishkill, Hopewell Junction, Pawling, Wingdale, Millbrook): *Seat previously held by Kieran Michael Lalor (R)*

Occupation: Client Strategist

Past Professional Experience: Council Member, Town of East Fishkill, volunteer firefighter, Community Relations Specialist, Senator Serino

Education: B.A. Arcadia University, Graduate Certificate Harvard School of Business, Master of Liberal Arts Harvard University, Graduate Certificate Wilmington University

Biography

Anil Beephan began his life in public service as a volunteer firefighter for the East Fishkill Fire District, where he served for over eight years. Simultaneously, he took on the role of Community Relations Specialist for Senator Sue Serino. Anil was then elected as an East Fishkill Councilman in 2018.

Anil's goal is to tackle key issues impacting his community such as working with colleagues and members of the Public Service Commission to hold public utility companies accountable for poor service, inaccurate billing practices, and control rate increases. In addition, Anil supports policies to make New York State energy independent and lobby for increased domestic production. Anil also advocates for the repeal of cashless bail reform and place decision-making ability in the hands of judges.

Anil has defended small businesses and religious freedoms amidst the state's COVID-19 lockdowns, as well as advocated for children and parents during times of uncertainty in schools. Anil also partnered directly with federal officials to pressure internet service providers for better service for those working or attending school from home. He also held Central Hudson publicly accountable for poor billing practices. Anil also launched the "Hudson Valley Goes Blue in Support of Law Enforcement" initiative that spurred thousands of Hudson Valley residents to turn their porch lights blue as a sign of support and respect for police officers during times of heightened national resentment.

Issues

- Economic Development: Protect small businesses.
- Public Safety: Promote relationships between police and constituents.

Endorsements

- NRA
- PCNY
- Investigators Association
- Conservative Party of New York
- NYSLCV