



**2023 LEGISLATIVE SESSION**  
**STATE SENATE**  
**NEW MEMBERS IN LOWER**  
**HUDSON VALLEY REGION**

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## **Nathalia Fernandez (D)**

**34<sup>th</sup> Senate District (Hunts Point, Locust Point, Morris Park, Riverdale, and Pelham, Bronx County and Westchester County):** *Seat currently held by Alessandra Biaggi (D)*

**Occupation:** New York State Assemblymember, 80<sup>th</sup> District

**Past Professional Experience:** Chief of Staff to Assemblyman Mark Gjonaj, Bronx Regional Representative for the New York State Executive Chamber

**Education:** B.A. Hofstra University

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### **Biography**

A daughter of immigrant parents, Nathalia was raised to understand the benefit of a strong work ethic. Her father, William, migrated with his family from Cuba to the Bronx at a young age and started his own business painting apartments in his late teens to help his father support the family. William started his business and began his career in Morris Park. Nathalia's mother, Sonia, came to the United States from Colombia and found her home in the neighborhood of Bedford Park.

The Bronx has always been a home away from home for Nathalia. Upon graduating from Hofstra University, Nathalia found herself volunteering for change within the Bronx. Nathalia was driven by her compassion for her peers and neighbors, and it was no surprise when she served the 80th Assembly District as chief of staff to former Assemblyman Mark Gjonaj.

During her time in the 80th Assembly District, Nathalia has led numerous projects and initiatives. Under her direction, the Assembly office provided internships and numerous volunteer opportunities to high school and college students, organized events and health care services for seniors and planned numerous community events. Public service became Nathalia's passion and provided the fulfillment she was seeking in her career.

In early 2017, Nathalia accepted the position of a lifetime, joining the Executive Chamber at the highest level of state government as the Bronx regional representative for Gov. Andrew Cuomo. Nathalia has worked with all sectors of government and community stakeholders to advance projects and services that benefit constituents. In addition to her numerous responsibilities, Nathalia educated the borough on the availability of the Excelsior Scholarship and the paid family leave program. She was active in awarding \$10 million to the Bronx Civic Center under the governor's Downstate Revitalization Initiative. In partnership with the Bronx borough president's office, this project allowed Nathalia to work closely with community stakeholders and small businesses to create a uniform plan of execution on how best to utilize the grant.

With her advanced knowledge of state operations and services, Nathalia looks forward to representing the district she calls home and her community as the Senator for the 34<sup>th</sup> District.

### **Issues**

- Transportation: Increase ferry accessibility, modernize public streets, and increase transit access in the East Bronx.

- Climate: Increase funding for climate infrastructure, provide climate resiliency grants for homeowners.
- Education: Support early and higher education programs, provide multilingual resources for schools, and increase access to technological resources.

### **Endorsements**

- Bronx Borough President Vanessa Gibson
- State Senator Alessandra Biaggi
- State Senator Jamaal Bailey
- Assembly Speaker Carl Heastie
- New York City Councilmember Rafael Salamanca Jr.
- New York City Councilmember Oswald Feliz
- Bronx Democratic Party
- Communication Workers of America
- New York State AFL-CIO
- District Council of Carpenters
- Transportation Workers Union Local 100
- Retail, Wholesale, and Department Store Union
- 1199 SEIU
- Pelham New York Democrats
- Alliance of South Asian American Labor
- New York Working Families Party
- Eleanor's Legacy
- New York State Nurses Association
- Mason Tenders District Council
- LiUNA! NY



## **Bill Weber (R)**

**38<sup>th</sup> Senate District (Ramapo, Haverstraw, Nyack, Clarkstown, and Orangetown, Rockland County):** *Seat currently held by Elijah Reichlin-Melnick (D)*

**Occupation:** Certified Public Accountant

**Past Professional Experiences:** Chief Financial Officer of a small business, Board Member for the Mental Health Association and Rockland County Youth Board

**Education:** B.A. Pace University

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### **Biography**

Bill Weber is a lifelong resident of Rockland County. He's a NYS Certified Public Accountant, a small business CFO, a Cub Scout leader, and a board member for the Mental Health Association and Rockland County Youth Board.

As the son and brother to New York City police officers, Bill understands the challenges facing our law enforcement. Bill will Back the Blue and fight to keep our communities safe.

Bill and his wife Lee are proud parents of four children raised in Rockland County and will fight for future generations to find good paying jobs here in the community.

When elected, Bill will be the only Certified Public Accountant in the New York State Legislature who will focus on repealing bail reform, lowering taxes for our communities, and supporting small, family-owned businesses.

### **Issues**

- **Public Safety:** Repeal bail reform laws.
- **Taxes:** Lower taxes by reducing government spending and cutting unnecessary regulations.
- **Infrastructure:** Increase investments to repair aging infrastructure and reduce traffic congestion.

### **Endorsements**

- Rockland County Police Benevolent Association
- New York State Fraternal Order of Police
- Rockland County Correction Officers Benevolent Association
- Business Council of New York
- International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local Union 363



## **Robert Rolison (R)**

**39<sup>th</sup> Senate District (Poughkeepsie, Wappinger, Beekman, Beacon, Newburgh, Putnam Valley):** *Seat previously held by James Skoufis (D)*

**Occupation:** Mayor, City of Poughkeepsie

**Past Professional Experience:** Dutchess County Legislator, Police Officer

**Education:** B.A. Marist College

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### **Biography**

Rob Rolison has earned a reputation as a dedicated public servant and proven leader who gets results.

Rob currently serves as Mayor of the City of Poughkeepsie, the 18th largest city in New York. Rob is currently in his second four-year term as Mayor. Upon taking office in 2016, Rob inherited a city in severe economic distress. He very quickly and successfully turned the city around – reducing the general fund deficit by \$10 million and saving the city from the brink of economic disaster.

Working closely with the Poughkeepsie City School District, Rob helped form the "Children's Cabinet" to create a shared vision and cradle-to-career agenda for child and youth development throughout the city. The innovative concept is the only one of its kind outside of New York City.

Rob also led key infrastructure projects to create better roads, bridges, and sidewalks throughout the city. Under Rob's leadership, the city is investing millions of dollars to improve its parks.

Prior to serving as Mayor, Rob was a member of the Dutchess County Legislature for 12 years, representing the City and Town of Poughkeepsie. In 2010, he was elected by his colleagues to serve as Chairman, a position he held for six consecutive years.

Throughout his tenure, he has been a champion for fiscal discipline holding the line on taxes in both the city and county while still delivering much needed critical services. Rob has also been a committed fighter against unfunded mandates.

Since age 18, Rob has been committed to serving and protecting the community. He has been a leading voice for public safety and has been a tireless advocate on behalf of families, children and crime victims in Dutchess County.

Rob attended Marist College majoring in Criminal Justice and in 1982, he joined the Town of Poughkeepsie Police Department where he served 12 years in the Patrol Division. Rob worked his way up the ranks and was promoted to Detective, a post he held for 14 years.

Rob was elected PBA President for two consecutive five-year terms before retiring in February of 2008. Upon retirement, Rob concluded a 26-year career protecting the residents of the Town of Poughkeepsie.

Rob is a Member of the New York Conference of Mayors and former Co-Chairman of the Crime Victims Committee of the Dutchess County Criminal Justice Council. He was Chairman of the Hudson Valley Regional Council, a position he recently concluded. He has served on the Board of Trustees of Dutchess Community College and the Board of Directors of the Purple Heart Hall of Honor.

He was a State Advisory Board member of the Office of Children and Family Services as well as a member of the Cider Mill Friends. In addition, he has also served on the Salvation Army Advisory Board, St. Simeon Board of Directors in the City of Poughkeepsie, Catharine Street Community Center's Board of Directors, and the American Red Cross Dutchess County Chapter Board of Directors.

Rob is the son of the late Senator Jay P. Rolison, Jr. He is a lifelong resident of Poughkeepsie where he has proudly raised his son Christopher and continues to reside with his wife, Lori.

As State Senator, Rob will ensure our Hudson Valley values have a strong advocate and effective voice in Albany.

### **Issues**

- Parks: Multi-million-dollar investments in local parks.
- Public Safety: Fix broken bail reform laws, restore public safety.
- Economy: Fight the deficit and cut government spending.

### **Endorsements**

- NY 10-13 Association
- Superior Officers Association Retired
- City of Poughkeepsie Fire Department Local 596
- AFSCME
- Village of Fishkill PBA
- Town and Village of Montgomery PBA
- NYC PBA
- LiUNA Local 17
- Hudson Valley Building and Construction Trades Council
- Association of Commuter Rail Employees
- Putnam County Sheriff's Department PBA
- New York State Business Council
- New York State Fraternal Order of Police
- CSEA