

2023 New Legislator Information

14 New State Senators (6 Democrats, 8 Republicans); 1 Race To Be Determined



Dean Murray

Senate District 3

Republican

Past Experience – Former state assemblymember.



Monica Martinez

Senate District 4

Democrat

Past Experience – Former state senator, returning for non-consecutive term. Former Suffolk County legislator.

Education Factoid - Former assistant principal of Brentwood East Middle School.



Steve Rhoads

Senate District 5

Republican

Past Experience – Former Nassau County legislator.



Jack Martins

Senate District 7

Republican

Past Experience – Former state senator, returning for non-consecutive term. Former Mayor of Mineola.



Patricia Canzoneri-Fitzpatrick

Senate District 9

Republican

Past Experience – Former Malverne Village Board member, deputy mayor, budget director, and police and fire commissioner.



Iwen Chu

Senate District 17

Democrat

Past Experience – Member of Brooklyn Community Board 11.

Education Factoid – Council member of Community Education Council District 20.



Jessica Scarcella-Spanton

Senate District 23

Democrat

Past Experience – Former state legislative staffer.

Education Factoid – Daughter of two public school teachers, father was a UFT chapter leader.



Nathalia Fernandez

Senate District 34

Democrat

Past Experience – Former state assemblymember.



Bill Weber

Senate District 38

Republican

Past Experience – CPA, CFO of a small business.



Rob Rolison

Senate District 39

Republican

Past Experience – Former Mayor of Poughkeepsie, former Dutchess County legislator and former chairman of the legislature, former police officer.



Jake Ashby

Senate District 43

Republican

Past Experience – Former state assemblymember, Army veteran.

Education Factoid – Has occupational therapy background, taught OT courses at Maria College.



Mark Walczyk

Senate District 49

Republican

Past Experience - Former state assemblymember, former staffer to Sen. Ritchie, Army Reserve.



Lea Webb

Senate District 52

Democrat

Past Experience – Former Binghamton City Council member.

Education Factoid – Educator at Binghamton University where she develops DEI training for staff, faculty, and students.



Kristen Gonzalez

Senate District 59

Democrat

Past Experience – Tech worker and community organizer. Worked in Obama White House and Sen. Schumer's DC office. Served on local community board.

Education Factoid – Mother was a special education paraprofessional in NYC public school system.

24 New State Assemblymembers (11 Democrats, 13 Republicans); 3 Races To Be Determined



Edward Flood

Assembly District 4

Republican

Past Experience - Attorney and small business owner. Used to work for former Assemblyman Dean Murray.



Jake Blumencranz

Assembly District 15

Republican

Past Experience - Insurance executive.



Brian Curran

Assembly District 21

Republican

Past Experience - Former state Assemblymember, returning for non-consecutive term.



Steven Raga

Assembly District 30

Democrat

Experience - Former Chief of Staff to Assemblymember Brian Barnwell. Executive Director of a social service and advocacy non-profit.



Juan Ardila

Assembly District 37

Democrat

Past Experience - Worked as a staffer for Brad Lander in the City Council and at the International Rescue Committee.

Education Factoid - As a consultant at the NYC Department of Education, Juan supported the expansion of universal pre-K and the 3-K for All program. In particular, he focused on the expansion of pre-K Dual Language programs in New York City.



Michael Novakhov

Assembly District 45

Republican

Past Experience - Radio Host and CEO of an advertising firm.



Alec Brook-Krasny

Assembly District 46

Republican

Past Experience - Local business owner who served in the NYS Assembly for 9 years before leaving in 2015 for family reasons.



Lester Chang*

Assembly District 49

Republican

Past Experience - Worked in the banking and shipping industries, and served as a navy reservist. Current member of the NYS Naval Militia.

*Chang's district residency is currently under review.



Monique Chandler-Waterman

Assembly District 58

Democrat

Past Experience - Served as an activist, advocate, educator, health care worker, and chaplain.

Education Factoid - UFT member.



Sam Pirozzolo

Assembly District 63

Republican

Past Experience - Operates a family owned optical practice.

Education Factoid - Former president of Community Education Council 31 and serves as the Vice President of the NYC Parents Union.



Grace Lee

Assembly District 65

Democrat

Past Experience - Community organizer and small business owner.

Education Factoid - Co-founded Children First, a parent-led coalition fighting for the safe clean-up of a toxic mercury site located in the South Street Seaport.



Alex Bores

Assembly District 73

Democrat

Past Experience - Served as a community advocate and Democratic District leader for the East Side.



Tony Simone

Assembly District 75

Democrat

Past Experience - Worked on numerous political campaigns and in government offices, including for former Senator Hillary Clinton, the late State Senator Catherine Abate, and as Director of Community Outreach for the NYC Council and Council Speaker Christine Quinn. Most recently, he served as the Director of External Affairs at Hudson River Park Friends.



George Alvarez

Assembly District 78

Democrat

Past Experience - Local entrepreneur in the Bronx, serves as a member of Community Board 1, and is also the vice president of the Bronx Democratic Party.



John Zaccaro, Jr.

Assembly District 80

Democrat

Past Experience - Worked in the New York City Council as the Director of Housing and Organizing, and later served as chief of staff to councilmember Rafael Salamanca Jr. He is also a former board member of Bronx Community Board 7.

Education Factoid - Previously worked as the Bronx and Manhattan Borough Director for the New York City Department of Education's Office of Intergovernmental Affairs.



Maryjane Shimsky

Assembly District 92

Democrat

Past Experience - Served six terms on the Westchester County Board of Legislators, where she served as both Majority Leader and Majority Whip, and also served as an Assistant District Attorney in Manhattan.

Education Factoid - Taught history and geography at Marymount College.



Matthew Slater

Assembly District 94

Republican

Past Experience - Served as the Town Supervisor of Yorktown before being elected to the Assembly. Worked as the Chief of Staff to both State Senator Terrence Murphy and Assemblyman Steve Katz.



Dana Levenberg

Assembly District 95

Democrat

Past Experience - Has been the Ossining Town Supervisor since 2016. Prior to that, she served as chief of staff to Assemblywoman Sandy Galef.

Education Factoid - Levenberg sat on the board of her sons' nursery school, was the leader of the Ossining PTA, and later served for nine years on the Ossining school board.



John McGowan

Assembly District 97

Republican

Past Experience - Attorney who has served on the Rockland County Legislature since 2020. Previously served as a Senior Assistant District Attorney in Rockland County.



Brian Maher

Assembly District 101

Republican

Past Experience - In 2008, Maher was elected mayor for the Village of Walden, where he served for three terms while also working as communications director for State Senator Bill Larkin. In 2019, Maher was elected as Supervisor for the Town of Montgomery.



Sarahana Shrestha

Assembly District 103

Democrat

Past Experience - Climate justice organizer. Currently the lead campaigner with the statewide Public Power NY coalition.



Anil (A.J.) Bephan

Assembly District 105

Republican

Past Experience - Appointed as councilman for the Town of East Fishkill in 2017, and was elected to a full term in 2018. Prior to that, he worked as a legislative assistant and community relations specialist for former State Senator Sue Serino. He also "currently works full-time in the IT industry, primarily providing support to emergency services."



Scott Bendett

Assembly District 107

Republican

Past Experience - Rensselaer County Legislator, and has also served on the Town of Sand Lake's Zoning Board of Appeals since 2009. Bendett owns several businesses, including a cigar shop and real estate development corporation in Albany.

Education Factoid - Trustee of the Averill Park Education Foundation, a community-based non-profit which raises funds for the Averill Park Central School District to supplement the district budget.



Scott Gray

Assembly District 116

Republican

Past Experience - First elected to the Jefferson County Board of Legislators in 2001, and has been Chairman of the Board since 2016. Has operated a fourth-generation flower shop in Watertown since 1982.
