

WESTCHESTER COUNTY LEGISLATOR • DISTRICT 16

A Plan for District 16

Five bills I'll introduce in my first term to lower costs, fix flooding and make county government answer to you.

Dan D'Amico

FIRST-TERM POLICY AGENDA



ELECTDANDAMICO.COM

I've knocked on 8,400 doors. Here's what I heard.

Taxes are too high. Rents keep climbing. Our streets flood every time a big storm rolls through. Too many of our neighbors are living outside. And too many people told me they don't feel their county government is listening.

This plan is my answer: five bills, each with a clear goal and a clear way to pay for it, without raising your taxes.

1 The Fair Tax Bill

Bring Yonkers into the county sales tax share-back, and use the money to fix flooding or cut property taxes.

2 First Home Down Payment Program

\$25,000 toward a down payment for first-time buyers in Yonkers.

3 The Neighbor Rescue Bill

Audit homeless services in 30 days, cut waste and fund what gets people off the street.

4 Legislator Transparency Act

Big-donor money disclosed up front, and recusal when a donor's project comes up for a vote.

5 Legislator Attendance Act

Show up at least 80% of the time, cameras on, or pay a fine.

— Dan D'Amico

Every community shares in county sales tax. Except Yonkers.

Each year, Westchester County shares part of the sales tax it collects with its cities, towns, villages and school districts. Four cities are left out of that formula, and Yonkers is one of them.

\$219M

Sales tax the county shared back with local governments and schools in 2024¹

\$0

Yonkers' share of that money through the share-back formula¹

Yonkers was left out because the city collects its own sales tax. But Yonkers families also pay county property taxes and spend their money in stores across Westchester. Yonkers is now New York's third-largest city, with 211,500 residents.² Those residents deserve their fair share of what the county collects.

The Fair Tax Bill would renegotiate the county's sales tax sharing agreement to bring Yonkers into the formula, so the city gets its fair share of the county's sales tax.

The new money comes home. Yonkers decides how to use it.

The Fair Tax Bill gives Yonkers two choices for its new share. Either way, the savings go to Yonkers residents.

OPTION A

Fix the flooding

Upgrade an aging sewer system that can't keep up with a growing city.

- Most of Yonkers runs on combined sewers. Stormwater and sewage share the same pipes, so heavy rain backs sewage into homes.³
- As little as 1/20 of an inch of rain can trigger an overflow. In 2022 alone, 13 overflows sent sewage into the Hudson River.⁴
- In September 2023, about 4 inches of rain flooded basements near the Sprain Brook Parkway with 6 to 8 feet of water and led to a state of emergency.⁵
- The county has warned that Yonkers' sewer system is near capacity, yet more than 5,600 new apartments are planned for the west side.³

OPTION B

Cut property taxes

Apply the new revenue directly to property tax relief for Yonkers homeowners.

- Westchester has some of the highest property taxes in the country.
- Every dollar Yonkers receives can be put toward lowering the tax bill for homeowners.
- Lower property taxes help renters too, because they reduce the costs landlords pass on.

Lower taxes or drier streets. Either way, Yonkers finally gets its fair share.

From renting to owning, without new taxes.

Many Yonkers families can afford a monthly mortgage and qualify for a loan. What stops them is the down payment.

Going through the county budget, I found \$35 million in county funds set aside in 2026 to add 650 electric vehicle chargers at 77 sites.⁶ I believe helping families buy their first home is a far better use of that money.

- 1 Redirect the money.** Move the county's EV charging dollars into a dedicated, interest-bearing fund for first-time homebuyers.
- 2 Help families buy.** Qualified first-time buyers in Yonkers receive \$25,000 toward their down payment.
- 3 Keep it going.** If a buyer sells within 12 years, the \$25,000 is repaid in full. That money goes back into the fund for the next family, at no cost to taxpayers.

\$25,000

Toward a down payment for each qualified first-time buyer

1,400

Families helped by the \$35 million, and the fund keeps growing as interest and repayments come back in

Winter is coming. Our neighbors can't wait.

People living on our streets are our neighbors, not a problem to move from one block to the next. Every dollar we spend on homeless services should bring someone closer to a home.

- 1 Audit within 30 days.** Every nonprofit and government agency that receives county money for homeless services must audit its spending and report back to the county within 30 days.
- 2 Cut what doesn't work.** Where the audit shows waste, the county cuts that funding.
- 3 Fund what does.** Where programs are getting people off the street, the county adds funding so they can do more.

Outreach works. Yonkers' Project Connect drop-in center has placed 354 unsheltered people into shelter since 2021 and moved 19 directly into permanent housing.⁷ The Neighbor Rescue Bill makes sure every dollar goes to programs that get results like these.

When temperatures drop to 32°F or below overnight, Code Blue rules require that no one seeking shelter be turned away.⁷ The audit has to happen fast, so we can act before the coldest months.

You deserve to know who's paying your legislator.

Large PACs, developers and special interests give to county campaigns. When they do, voters should be able to see it, and those donors shouldn't get a friendly vote in return.

DISCLOSE

Donors on page one

Any legislator who accepts money from large PACs, developers or special interests must list those donations on the front page of their own website and on their page on the County Board of Legislators website.

RECUSE

No votes for donors

If a project from a campaign contributor comes before a committee, any legislator on that committee who took money from that contributor must recuse themselves.

Legislators should answer to the people who elect them, not the people who fund them. My own campaign is funded by small donations from neighbors, friends and family, and I'll hold myself to the same rule I'm asking of everyone else.

The test is simple: if a donor's project is up for a vote, the people voting on it shouldn't be on that donor's payroll.

Show up for the people who elected you.

Each county legislator represents about 59,000 residents, and the full Board meets every other Monday.⁸ Showing up to those meetings is the most basic part of the job.

80%

Minimum attendance at Board meetings for every legislator, measured over each term

Cameras on

For anyone joining a meeting remotely

- 1 In-person is the standard.** Legislators are expected in the room. Anyone joining by Zoom or another platform must keep their camera on.
- 2 Attendance goes public.** Each legislator's attendance record is posted on their page on the Board of Legislators website.
- 3 Miss too much, pay a fine.** Any legislator who falls below 80% attendance for the term is assessed a monetary penalty.

SOURCES

Check the facts yourself

1. Westchester County, "Westchester County Announces Sales Tax Share Back Distribution to Municipalities in February." In 2024, \$219,164,484 was shared with cities, towns, villages and schools, excluding Mount Vernon, White Plains, Yonkers and New Rochelle.
2. Yonkers Times, "Yonkers Now #3 in NY! 2020 Census Moves Yonkers Ahead of Rochester; 8% Population Increase."
3. The Yonkers Ledger, "Sewer Infrastructure and the Future of the City of Yonkers."
4. Groundwork Hudson Valley, "Under the Surface: How Yonkers' Outdated Sewer Systems Are Overflowing with Problems," September 2024, citing NYS DEC combined sewer overflow reporting.
5. ABC7 New York, "Yonkers flooding: Crews pump out water from homes after historic storm hits Westchester County."
6. Talk of the Sound, "Westchester County Executive Proposes Tight 2026 Capital Budget," October 2025. \$35 million in county funds plus \$15 million in local matches for 650 EV chargers at 77 sites. See also Construction Industry Council summary.
7. Westhab, "Code Blue: How Project Connect is Helping the Homeless in Yonkers this Winter."
8. Westchester County Board of Legislators, "About the Board."

JOIN THE CAMPAIGN

Let's get to work.

These five bills only become law if we win. Here's how you can help.

Volunteer

electdandamico.com/volunteer

Donate

Every small gift counts

Get a yard sign

Show your support

Vote Tuesday, November 3

Dan D'Amico for Westchester County Legislator, District 16. Republican and Conservative lines.

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