

Department Name	Legislature
Account(s)	1010

Department Function
Pursuant to the Albany County Charter, the County Legislature is the legislative, appropriating, and policy-determining body of the County. It is charged with enacting, amending, and rescinding local laws and resolutions and determining county policy, including the adoption of rules and regulations for its conduct and procedure. The County Legislature makes appropriations for and reviews and adopts the annual proposed Executive Budget and levies taxes and authorizes bond funding to allow for capital improvements. The County Legislature is made up of 39 legislators who are elected by their respective districts throughout the County. The Legislature appoints a Chairperson and there are a Majority Leader and a Minority Leader. The County Legislature appoints a Legislative Clerk, a Deputy Legislative Clerk, and Majority and Minority Counsels.

Current Year Highlights
The Albany County Legislature has made significant strides to address the needs and challenges of the community throughout 2024. With a focus on impactful distribution of funds and the enactment of crucial laws, the Legislature has worked diligently to enhance the quality of life for all residents. The Legislature has continued distributing American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding to vital programs across Albany County. This year, funding has been allocated to key areas, including: • Community Development: Enhancing local infrastructure and community services to foster sustainable growth and improve living conditions. • Nonprofit Recovery: Supporting local nonprofits in recovering from the financial impacts of the Covid-19 pandemic, ensuring they can continue to serve the community. • Affordable Housing: Addressing the critical need for affordable housing by funding initiatives that provide safe and affordable homes for residents. The Legislature has also implemented various programs and provided funding to several local groups to enhance community resources: • Legislative Grants Program: This program provided small grants to local groups, enabling them to undertake projects and activities that benefit the community. • Parks Grants Program: Initially, eight grants were awarded to municipal parks throughout the County. Due to the success and demand for this program, additional funding was allocated, ensuring that all municipal parks seeking financial support received the necessary funds. • Veterans Service Organizations: COVID-19's impact on VFWs and American Legions was significant and limited their ability to provide much needed programming for veterans. Funding was provided to help them continue programs aimed at improving the physical and mental well-being of veterans and increase wraparound support services. The Legislature enacted new local laws to address important issues within the community: • STUNT Law: Addressing the reckless driving that plagues our neighborhoods, the STUNT Law increases penalties for dangerous driving behaviors. • Rental Fraud Law: Targeting scam listings of rental properties, this law aims to protect tenants from fraudulent schemes and ensure fair rental practices. • Parental Living Quarters Law (ADU Law): This law provides a tax exemption for living quarters built for parents or grandparents, promoting family cohesion and support. Together with the County Executive, the Legislature worked on unique initiatives to best support the community: • Shaker Place Daycare Center: The opening of the Shaker Place Daycare Center is a significant milestone, providing quality childcare services to the Albany County employees who work at the facility. • Central Warehouse: The demolition of the Central Warehouse will transform Albany's skyline and open up new possibilities for development. The County worked to secure State funds for this project while also allocating ARPA funding. This initiative will create space for future investments that will benefit the community while combating blight and revitalizing a key area in Albany. • Pine Hills Land Authority: Following the closure of the College of Saint Rose, the County worked with State and local leaders to establish the Albany County Pine Hills Land Authority to prevent the campus and the surrounding Pine Hills neighborhood from deterioration and blight.

Next Year Projects
The Albany County Legislature is dedicated to creating a more equitable and supportive community for all residents. As we look toward 2025, the Legislature has already taken steps to address affordable housing through the creation of a Housing Working Group and will be working on supporting working families, enhancing services for seniors, and revitalizing the local economy. Promoting sustainability, upgrading infrastructure, increasing access to mental health services, and advancing workforce development will help us achieve our goal of creating a stronger, more resilient Albany County community. We will continue to rebound from the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Link to Website	https://www.albanycountyny.gov/government/departments/county-legislature
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