

Department Name	Legislature
Account(s)	1010

<p>Department Function</p> <p>Pursuant to the Albany County Charter, the County Legislature is the legislative, appropriating, and policy-making 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, levies taxes and authorizes bond funding to allow for capital improvements.</p> <p>The County Legislature is made up of 39 legislators who are elected by the voters of their respective districts throughout the County. The Legislature appoints a Chairperson and there are a Majority Leader and a Minority Leader. The Legislature appoints a Legislative Clerk, a Deputy Legislative Clerk, and Majority and Minority Counsels. The Legislative Black Caucus consists of Legislators who represent Majority-Minority Districts, or are members of color who share common interests with the Majority-Minority districts and their constituents.</p>

<p>Current Year Highlights</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Affordable Housing Initiatives: Addressing the pressing need for affordable housing across Albany County, the Legislature introduced a local law that establishes guidelines and funding support for the development of safe, affordable housing units accessible to low- and moderate-income residents • Environmental Protection and Public Health: To safeguard the health of residents, a local law was passed that improves notification standards for threats to drinking water. This ensures timely alerts and community awareness in the event of contamination or other risks. In addition, the Legislature announced a 90-day moratorium on the use of harmful biosolid fertilizers, allowing time to evaluate environmental and health impacts. • Community Funding and Grant Programs: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Legislative Community Support Grants: The Legislature donated \$70,000 in small grants to 24 local organizations, helping them enhance programming and expand community services. • Education & Nonprofit Support: Nearly \$225,000 was allocated to nonprofit organizations and schools to bolster educational resources, youth programs, and community outreach. • Executive's Office Grants: With the support of the Legislature, the Executive's Office distributed \$725,000 in funding to over 30 organizations across the County, supporting initiatives ranging from healthcare nonprofits to local schools. • Veteran Recognition and Support: The Legislature installed banners honoring 11 local veterans in high-visibility community areas. Three veterans were publicly recognized at "Honor a Living Veteran" ceremonies, celebrating their service and ongoing contributions. Support was also directed to Veterans Service Organizations struggling to maintain services post-COVID, helping sustain mental health, wellness, and reintegration programs. • Civic Engagement and Youth Education: Legislators visited schools and youth institutions including Eagle Point Elementary, Shaker High School, and the Crime Victim and Sexual Violence Center to engage students in discussions on civic responsibility, public service, and local government. • Public-Private Partnerships and Economic Development: The Legislature facilitated a key partnership between the County Executive, the Albany County Legislature, and the Albany Convention Center Authority to expand the Albany Capital Center — boosting local tourism, economic activity, and event capacity in the downtown area. • Homelessness and Basic Needs Support: To address the needs of unhoused individuals, the Legislature donated clothing and essential items to the Albany County Sheriff's Homeless Improvement Program, helping vulnerable residents access basic necessities and dignity.

<p>Next Year Projects</p> <p>The Albany County Legislature will continue to advance meaningful and impactful policies to strengthen our communities and improve quality of life for County residents.</p>

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