




Members of the Westchester County Board of Legislators 2006-2007 Term


	<p>District 5 <i>William J. Ryan</i> (D) Board Chair</p>	<p>Bill Ryan is the current Chairman of the Westchester County Board of Legislators. A Peekskill native, Bill has lived in White Plains for more than 15 years. He was first elected to the County Board's 5th District's legislative seat in 1998.</p> <p>After working as a banker for ten years, Bill Ryan launched what would turn out to be a twenty-year career in state government. Initially he served as an elected member of the New York State Assembly representing parts of Westchester, Putnam, Orange and Rockland Counties. Later, Bill joined the managerial/confidential staff of the Assembly Speaker and handled policy matters involving intergovernmental relations, education finance and state aid to localities.</p> <p>Best known for action that protects our families, Bill Ryan, as Chair of the County Board's Public Safety Committee, was the force behind the creation of the Department of Emergency Services, the nerve center for the County's rapid response to fire, medical emergencies, hazardous materials spills, natural disasters, acts of terrorism and WMD's. Bill spearheaded the passage of legislation that prohibits the sale of dangerous laser pointers to minors; requires the "safe storage" of guns in homes to protect kids; and, mandates a "graduated drivers license program" to make our teenagers safer drivers.</p> <p>Legislator Ryan is an active member of many community organizations including the White Plains Rotary Club, the White Plains Historical Society, the Friendly Sons of St. Patrick, the North Broadway Citizens Association, Antonio Meucci Lodge and the Jewish War Veterans. He serves on the boards of the Westchester Arts Council and the New York State Association of Counties.</p> <p>Bill Ryan earned his BA in Economics from the State University of New York at Plattsburgh. He and his wife JoAnn live on Seneca Avenue and have five grown children, three sons and two daughters.</p>
<p>White Plains, Scarsdale</p> <p>Contact Info Tel: (914) 955-2827 Fax: (914) 995-3884 Email: Ryan@westchesterlegislators.com</p>		


	<p>District 1 <i>George Oros</i> (R) Minority Leader</p>	<p>George Oros was born in Trenton, NJ and came to Westchester to attend college. He has been a resident of Cortlandt ever since. He was elected to the County Board in 1995 to represent the 1st District and was Chairman from 1996 to 1997. He is currently the Minority Leader of the Republican Caucus.</p> <p>George is known for his policies on fiscal reform and diligence when reviewing contracts and budgets. He is a determined tax-cutter and was instrumental in removing an unfair County sewer tax that thousands of Cortlandt and Yorktown residents were paying even though they had no sewers. George has also introduced a number of reform measures to increase budgetary accountability.</p> <p>Prior to serving on the Board, George was an active member of the Cortlandt community. He was a Town Councilman and Chair of both the Cortlandt's Zoning Board of Appeals and the Bi-Centennial Committee. He was Assistant to the Town Attorney, served on the Hudson Valley Gateway Chamber of Commerce's Executive Board and co-founded the Heritage Foundation, a historical organization in Cortlandt.</p> <p>For eight years, George was the Assistant to the Director of Pace's Michaelian Institute of Sub/Urban Governance and was involved with projects ranging from the creation of new villages to welfare reform. He still sits on the Board of Directors of the Hudson Valley Hospital Center.</p> <p>George earned his BBA degree from Pace University in Pleasantville and his JD degree from Pace University Law School. He and his wife, the former Marianne Baggini, have two lovely children, John and Christina.</p>
<p>Buchanan, Cortlandt, Peekskill, Yorktown</p> <p>Contact Info Tel: (914) 955-2828 Fax: (914) 995-3884 Email: Oros@westchesterlegislators.com</p>		

	<p>District 2 <i>Ursula G. LaMotte</i> (R) Minority Whip</p>	<p>Ursula LaMotte is a 42-year resident of Westchester County and a 30-year resident of Bedford. She was first elected the 2nd District's County Legislator in a 1995 Special Election. LaMotte is the Minority Whip of the Republican Caucus, the first Woman to hold that post. As a two-term Bedford Town Councilwoman and Deputy Town Supervisor, LaMotte led the effort to pass landmark groundwater protection legislation, the first of its kind for any town in the state.</p> <p>She helped found the Pound Ridge Recycling Program and served on the Pound Ridge Conservation Board. A strong supporter of pro-family issues, LaMotte has a long association with organizations benefiting children. She chaired the Bedford/Pound Ridge/Lewisboro Drug Abuse Prevention Council, was a member of the Executive Board of Westchester Children's Association; and served on the Board of the Visiting Nurse Association of Hudson Valley. She currently serves on the Board of the Children's Aid Society of New York, the Board of Boys and Girls Club of Northern Westchester, and the President's Council of the Northern Westchester Hospital. She led the United Way of Northern Westchester as 1st Vice-President and President. LaMotte is an expert on environmental issues.</p> <p>As a Westchester County Planning Board member for seven years, she worked extensively formulating Patterns, the County's current blueprint for planning. She served on the Board of the Westchester Municipal Planning Federation.</p> <p>Legislator LaMotte attended Smith College and earned her B.A. in history at Pace University. She and her husband, Tom, have three children and three grandchildren.</p>
<p>Bedford, Lewisboro, Mt.Kisco, North Salem, Pound Ridge, Somers</p> <p>Contact Info Tel: (914) 955-2810 Fax: (914) 995-3884 Email: Lamotte@westchesterlegislators.com</p>		


Members of the Westchester County Board of Legislators
2006-2007 Term


 <p>District 3 <i>Suzanne R. Swanson</i> (R)</p>	<p>Suzanne Swanson, a Westchester County native, has lived in Mt. Pleasant for 39 years. A 1962 graduate of Fox Lane High School, Swanson earned her RN through the New York State Nursing School and then a BS degree in behavioral sciences at Mercy College.</p>
<p>Briarcliff Manor, Mt. Pleasant, Pleasantville, Greenburgh, Harrison, North Castle</p> <p>Contact Info Tel: (914) 955-2847 Fax: (914) 995-3884 Email: Swanson@westchesterlegislators.com</p>	<p>Swanson represented District 3 from 1992 until 2003, when she retired to spend time with her family. During her twelve years as legislator, Swanson served on every Board committee. In addition, she represented the Board of Legislators on a number of outside boards, including the Westchester Board of Health. Her primary areas of interests include supporting health care services, senior citizens' needs, public safety and the kids of Westchester.</p> <p>A political conservative, Swanson has always worked to keep taxes down while preserving vital services for all Westchester residents. She is now returning, re-energized, to continue her work serving district 3.</p> <p>Sue will continue her open communication style, a hallmark of her past tenure.</p> <p>Swanson has served as the Vice President of the family business, Donald C. Swanson, since 1974. Sue and her husband, Don, have two children and two grandchildren.</p>


 <p>District 4 <i>Michael B. Kaplowitz</i> (D)</p>	<p>Michael B. Kaplowitz has lived in Somers since 1989 and has represented the 4th District since 1998.</p> <p>His education and expertise as an attorney and certified financial planner led to his appointment as Chair of the Budget & Appropriations Committee in 2003. During difficult 2002 budget discussions, Kaplowitz found a way to cut over \$50 million in the proposed budget; in 2005, as Budget Chair, he was able to deliver a 0% tax levy increase. Kaplowitz is committed to preserving the County's last opportunities for open space and to conservation issues.</p>
<p>Somers, Yorktown, New Castle</p> <p>Contact Info Tel: (914) 955-2848 Fax: (914) 995-3884 Email: Kaplowitz@westchesterlegislators.com</p>	<p>He is an aggressive supporter of tax fairness and has fought for and won relief for thousands of Northern Westchester homeowners who were paying sewer taxes despite never being hooked up to sewers. He has led the legislative effort to keep the sewage diversion/upgrade issue on the front burner. His concern for equity isn't limited to lowering taxes and cutting costs. Kaplowitz is leading the fight to convert Indian Point to a non-nuclear facility.</p> <p>Kaplowitz has a long history of involvement in a wide variety of community and civic organizations, including the Volunteer Center, the March of Dimes Walk America, the American Red Cross and the Partnership Fund for Aging Services.</p> <p>Legislator Kaplowitz earned his B.A. in history from the University of Pennsylvania and his J.D. from the Boston University School of Law. Mike and his wife Jayne have two daughters who attend the Somers Public Schools.</p>

 <p>District 6 <i>Martin Rogowsky</i> (D) Majority Leader</p>	<p>Martin L. Rogowsky has lived in Harrison since 1985. He first served as the Sixth District's County Legislator from 1990-1993, returning in March 2002 after winning a special election.</p> <p>Mr. Rogowsky started his career in public service in the NYC Department of Consumer Affairs. He then headed to Washington, D.C. to become Chief of Staff for former Congressman Richard Ottinger. He eventually moved to the US Department of Energy where he held several jobs including Deputy Assistant General Counsel for the Environment and Acting Director of the Environment, Health and Safety in the Office of Fossil Energy. Rogowsky also spent three months on temporary assignment to the White House Domestic Policy Staff.</p>
<p>Harrison, Rye Brook, Portchester</p> <p>Contact Info Tel: (914) 955-2834 Fax: (914) 995-3884 Email: Rogowsky@westchesterlegislators.com</p>	<p>In 1998 County Executive Andy Spano appointed Legislator Rogowsky Chairman of the Westchester County Public Utility Service Agency where he served until his election the County Legislature.</p> <p>Rogowsky has served on the Boards of a number of local organizations, including: the Federated Conservationists of Westchester County, the American Cancer Society, the Port Chester Carver Center, the Port Chester/Rye Brook Chamber of Commerce, the American Jewish Committee and the Jewish Community Center of Harrison. He coached soccer, basketball and softball for the Harrison Recreation Department.</p> <p>Rogowsky earned his BA Degree from the University of Rochester, his JD from Brooklyn Law School and his Masters Degree in Environmental Law from the George Washington University National Law Center. He is president of his own real estate management company located in Port Chester. He and his wife, Tobi, have two children.</p>


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2006-2007 Term


 <p>District 7 <i>Judith A. Myers</i> (D)</p>	<p>Legislator Judy Myers has lived in the Town of Mamaroneck for 22 years. She was elected to her first term as the 7th District's County Legislator in a special election in February 2005.</p> <p>In her six years on the Mamaroneck Town Council, Myers took on critical land use issues that threatened the Town's quality of life, including preventing the mega-store, Ikea, from destroying residential areas. She worked to develop commercial property design guidelines, placed limits on noisy blasting and rock removal, controlled the over-development of "McMansions"s and passed legislation to protect wetlands and watercourses.</p>
<p>Rye, Rye City, Town & Village of Mamaroneck, Larchmont</p> <p>Contact Info Tel: (914) 955-2802 Fax: (914) 995-3884 Email: Myers@westchesterlegislators.com</p>	<p>Legislator Myers was the liaison to the Town's Traffic Committee, the Board of Architectural Review, the Assessment Review Board and a member of the intermunicipal Cable Television Board of Control. She continues to serve on a number of community boards, including the United Way of Larchmont and Mamaroneck and the Mamaroneck CAP center. She founded and continues as director of the Larchmont/Mamaroneck Youth Council.</p> <p>A graduate of the Pace Law School Community Leadership Alliance program in 2002, Myers is a proponent of greater regional planning, intermunicipal cooperation and open government. She has fought to keep taxes under control, even in the face of rising hospitalization and retirement costs, both at the Town and the County level.</p> <p>Legislator Myers is a graduate of Lewis and Clark College. She is married to Ira Schwartz and has two children in college.</p> <p>Professionally, Judy is a market research consultant dealing with qualitative focus group research.</p>


 <p>District 8 <i>Lois T. Bronz</i> (D)</p>	<p>Legislator Lois Taplin Bronz moved to Greenburgh in 1966 and was first elected the 8th District's County Legislator in 1993. Bronz' election to serve as Chair of the Board for the 2002-2004 term was historically significant because she was the first woman and the first person of African descent to lead the Board of Legislators.</p> <p>Bronz' political career began in 1973 when she ran for the Greenburgh Town Board and served for sixteen years.</p>
<p>Sleepy Hollow, Tarrytown, Greenburgh, Elmsford, White Plains</p> <p>Contact Info Tel: (914) 955-2833 Fax: (914) 995-3884 Email: Bronz@westchesterlegislators.com</p>	<p>Ms. Bronz' childhood in the volatile times of Huey Long's Louisiana stirred in her a healthy curiosity in politics. She became an avid advocate for citizen participation. She became active in voter registration and founded the League of Good Government in New Orleans. She maintains her hallmark style of open, accessible representation and welcomes hearing from all Westchester constituents.</p> <p>Legislator Bronz is most proud of her leadership in helping to get the landmark legislation passed that created the Westchester County Human Rights Commission. She is also gratified by her work in several important areas: her service for families addressing such issues as child abuse, domestic violence and childhood trauma in violent homes; her strong support for County acquisition of open spaces and parks; and her consistent advocacy for affordable housing and adult day care.</p> <p>Legislator Bronz, a former math teacher in Greenburgh's public schools, received her bachelor's degree from Xavier University and a master's degree in education from Wayne State University. Ms. Bronz is married to Chuck Bronz and has three grown children and four grandchildren.</p>

 <p>District 9 <i>William Burton</i> (D)</p>	<p>Bill Burton moved to Ossining in 1985 and quickly became involved in the community, coaching youth sports and attending village and town board meetings. He was elected Ossining Town Supervisor in 1991. During his tenure, he cut taxes in five of six budgets and managed to eliminate overlapping government departments by consolidating services with the Village of Ossining. His leadership led to the purchase of Cedar Lane Park, the first acquisition of recreational land by the town in nearly 20 years. His ideas on how to resolve septic problems along the town's North State Road commercial corridor spurred economic development.</p>
<p>Cortlandt, Croton on Hudson, Town & Village of Ossining, Briarcliff Manor</p> <p>Contact Info Tel: (914) 955-2812 Fax: (914) 995-3884 Email: Burton@westchesterlegislators.com</p>	<p>Bill retired from the Supervisor's position at the end of 1997. In 1998, he joined Westchester County's Taxi and Limousine Commission as an assistant to the Chair. He helped develop the rules and regulations for the industry-requested regulatory body and went on to serve as the Commission's first violations prosecutor.</p> <p>Late in 1999, Bill left Westchester government to found Burton and Company LLC, a community and government relations consulting firm. He considers his election as the 9th district's County Legislator an opportunity to pursue his passion of making government work for the people.</p>


Members of the Westchester County Board of Legislators
2006-2007 Term


 <p>District 10 <i>Vito J. Pinto</i> (D) Majority Whip</p>	<p>Vito Pinto is a Tuckahoe native and was the first Democrat to be elected to represent the 10th District in 1997. Prior to his election as a County Legislator, Mr. Pinto served on the Tuckahoe Village Board from 1983-1985 and the Eastchester Town Council from 1985-1997.</p> <p>Legislator Pinto, a Vietnam naval flight officer who flew over 200 combat missions, is an outspoken advocate for veterans. He is a firm believer in the value of citizen participation in government and successfully urged for more evening Board meetings to facilitate greater citizen involvement. As Chair of the Committee on County Officers and Departments, Pinto is responsible for overseeing the interview process for the hundreds of citizens serving on the County's advisory boards and commissions.</p> <p>Pinto, a former high school guidance counselor, sponsored legislation to keep guns out of the hands of kids and has successfully urged the County to upgrade its emergency response services. He's a staunch supporter of issues related to senior citizens, the disabled and the County's parks. He serves as Board liaison to the Westchester County Parks, Recreation and Conservation Board.</p> <p>Legislator Pinto, a 1958 graduate of Tuckahoe High School, earned his BS Degree in Industrial Arts Education from SUNY Oswego and a Masters in Guidance and Counseling from New York University. He enjoyed a 32-year career in education, retiring from the Tuckahoe School District in June 2002.</p> <p>Vito lives with his wife, Sally, in Tuckahoe and has four children and three grandchildren.</p>
<p>Eastchester, New Rochelle, Tuckahoe</p> <p>Contact Info Tel: (914) 955-2817 Fax: (914) 995-3884 Email: Pinto@westchesterlegislators.com</p>	


 <p>District 11 <i>James Maisano</i> (R)</p>	<p>Jim Maisano has lived in New Rochelle since 1964. He was first elected the 11th District's County Legislator in 1997. Maisano served one term as the Board's Minority Leader and head of the Republican Caucus. Prior to his election to the County Legislator, Mr. Maisano ran as the Republican candidate for Mayor of New Rochelle in 1995.</p> <p>As Chair of the Board's Committee on Intergovernmental Relations, Maisano oversees initiatives to improve working relations between Westchester County and the federal, state and local governments. His legislative priorities include reducing taxes while maintaining high quality services; protecting the quality of life of neighborhoods in New Rochelle and Pelham; ensuring clean air and clean water; protecting open space for all Westchester residents; and promoting open and responsible government while expanding citizen participation.</p> <p>Mr. Maisano is a member of many civic and professional organizations, including the New Rochelle Lions Club, Bronx-New Rochelle Elks Lodge #756, New Rochelle Chamber of Commerce, Casa Calabria Mutual Aid Society, Marine Corps League, Adirondack Mountain Club, Westchester Bar Association and the New Rochelle Bar Association. His law practice, Buchanan Ingersoll, is located in New York City.</p> <p>Legislator Maisano earned his B.A. in History and Political Science from the City University of New York at Hunter College and his J.D. from the State University of New York at Buffalo School of Law. Jim and his wife, the former Jean Barno, have a son, Michael.</p>
<p>Pelham, Pelham Manor, New Rochelle</p> <p>Contact Info Tel: (914) 955-2826 Fax: (914) 995-3884 Email: Maisano@westchesterlegislators.com</p>	

 <p>District 12 <i>Thomas J. Abinanti</i> (D)</p>	<p>Thomas J. Abinanti was first elected County Legislator for the 12th District in 1991.</p> <p>Since his election to the County Board, Tom has held a number of important leadership positions. He served as Majority Leader for two terms----the first Democratic Majority Leader in the history of the Westchester legislature. He served as chair of various committees including the Committees on Rules, Legislation, Health and Community Affairs. He presently chairs the Committee on the Environment and the Committee on Solid Waste and Recycling.</p> <p>Tom brings to the Westchester Legislature extensive experience in the legislative process and the enforcement of local laws, as well as a deep concern for the quality of life in our community.</p> <p>Previously, Tom served two terms as a Greenburgh Town Councilman. He was legislative counsel to a member of Congress and staff counsel to the New York State Assembly Speaker. He served as a prosecuting attorney for the Villages of Ardsley and Dobbs Ferry. He represented the Greenburgh Housing Authority and served as pro bono attorney for the Westchester Coalition for Legal Abortion. He was president of the Orchard Hill Civic Association and a member of the governing board of the Greenburgh Council of Civic Associations.</p> <p>In over 30 years of public service and community activity, Tom has gained a full understanding of how government works and a broad knowledge of Greenburgh and Westchester.</p> <p>Tom earned his B.A. in Political Science from Fordham College and his J.D. from New York University Law School. He lives with his wife and their children in the Orchard Hill section of Greenburgh, where he also has his own private law practice.</p>
<p>Irvington, Dobbs Ferry, Hastings on Hudson, Ardsley, Greenburgh</p> <p>Contact Info Tel: (914) 955-2821 Fax: (914) 995-3884 Email: Abinanti@westchesterlegislators.com</p>	


Members of the Westchester County Board of Legislators
2006-2007 Term


 <p>District 13 <i>Clinton I. Young, Jr.</i> (D)</p>	<p>Clinton I. Young, Jr. was first elected as the 13th District's County Legislator in 1995. In 1998, Young was chosen as the Majority Whip and in 2002 he became the first African American to hold the position of Majority Leader, one of the Board's highest leadership positions. In addition to his diligence on budgetary matters and policy issues, Young has remained vigilant on such issues as fair labor practices, environmental justice and increased participation of women and minority owned business enterprises and has supported extensive legislation to promote economically challenged areas in Westchester.</p>
<p>Mount Vernon</p> <p>Contact Info Tel: (914) 955-2837 Fax: (914) 995-3884 Email: Young@westchesterlegislators.com</p>	<p>Young served on Mount Vernon's Board of Education for ten years. During his tenure on the Board, he held various leadership positions including President and Vice-President (a first for an African-American in both positions) and Chairman of the Budget Committee.</p> <p>Young remains an established community leader. He has been recognized by numerous organizations for outstanding community service and civic involvement, including The Boys and Girls Club of Mount Vernon, who has inducted Mr. Young into their Hall of Fame. He was also a recipient of the NYNEX Black Achiever in Industry Award and was listed in Outstanding Young Men in America.</p> <p>Young earned his Bachelor of Arts degree from Morehouse College in Atlanta, Georgia, where he was a member of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Incorporated. He is an active member of the Greater Centennial A.M.E. Zion Church in Mount Vernon. Professionally, Young serves as President and CEO of C.I. Young Real Properties and Amadev Contracting.</p>

 <p>District 14 <i>Bernice Spreckman</i> (R)</p>	<p>Bernice Spreckman is a longtime resident of Yonkers. She was first elected in 1995 to the 14th District's County Legislative seat. Prior to becoming a County Legislator, Bernice served in several posts in Yonkers city government, including three terms as 2nd Ward Councilmember, Councilmember-at-Large, Vice Mayor and Chair of the City Council's Committees on Rules and Real Estate. Bernice was also elected the first female president of the New York State Councilman's Association.</p>
<p>Mount Vernon, Yonkers</p> <p>Contact Info Tel: (914) 955-2815 Fax: (914) 995-3884 Email: Spreckman@westchesterlegislators.com</p>	<p>A tireless advocate for senior citizens, Bernice is the Chair of the Board's Committee on Seniors. In that role, she has initiated several successful and innovative programs, including the Shopper's Shuttle and the Adopt-a-Senior Citizen Center Program. HMO reform and lowering prescription drug prices remain Bernice's top priorities. She leads an annual lobby day in Albany for Westchester citizens to express their concerns to state lawmakers. She also organized an information drive to make seniors aware of the "Balanced Billing" law, which protects them from being overcharged by their doctors. Bernice works closely with the New York State Attorney General's office on other ways to combat elder fraud and abuse.</p> <p>Bernice was inducted into the Westchester County Senior Citizens Hall of Fame in 2002 and designated "Woman of the Year" by the Westchester County Federation of Women's Clubs in 2003. She was selected as the 2004 recipient of the Rose Kryzak Advocacy Award by the NYS Senior Action Council.</p> <p>Legislator Spreckman and her husband Harry have been married for 40 years. They have three adult children and six grandchildren.</p>

 <p>District 15 <i>Gordon A. Burrows</i> (R)</p>	<p>Gordon Burrows is a lifelong Yonkers resident. He became the 15th District's County Legislator after winning the February 15, 2005 special election, called to fill the seat vacated by Lou Mosiello upon his election to the NYS Assembly. With a little over two months notice, Gordon took on the challenge of organizing his successful campaign for County office.</p>
<p>Yonkers, Bronxville</p> <p>Contact Info Tel: (914) 955-2830 Fax: (914) 995-3884 Email: Burrows@westchesterlegislators.com</p>	<p>Gordon has a long history of working in public service. Prior to his election to the County Board, he spent ten years serving on the Yonkers City Council. For seven years, he was the Council's Majority Leader. He chaired the Committees on Education and Municipal Operations and served on the Budget Committee. Having run for office a total of six times, Gordon has always won with over 70% of the votes.</p> <p>Gordon's success as an elected official and dependability as a public servant is complemented by nearly twenty years of practicing law. When he is not at his County office, he's usually at one of our County's courthouses or working at his law office in White Plains.</p> <p>Legislator Burrows received his undergraduate degree in Business Administration from Ithaca College. In 1984, he graduated from St. John's School of Law. He attended Roosevelt High School, Walt Whitman Junior High and School 28 in Yonkers, as well as the Chapel School in Bronxville.</p> <p>Gordon has five wonderful children. He lives with his wife, the former Christine Tavalilla, in the Colonial Heights section of Yonkers.</p>

Members of the Westchester County Board of Legislators
2006-2007 Term

 <p>District 16 <i>Andrea Stewart-Cousins</i> (D) Board Vice Chair</p>	<p>Andrea Stewart-Cousins has lived in Yonkers for years. She was first elected to represent the 16th District in 1995, becoming the first African-American woman to represent Yonkers on the County Board of Legislators.</p> <p>A former AT&T marketing professional, journalist, teacher, and personnel manager, Stewart-Cousins began her career in government with her appointment in 1992 as Director of Community Affairs for the City of Yonkers, the first African-American to serve in this position. Her unique perspectives spawned a number of creative and novel initiatives including the first union/government internship programs for youth in NYS; Yonkers' first internship program for the disabled; and, the Mayor's annual toy and coat drive. Stewart-Cousins was a co-founder of SOYO (Southwest Yonkers Planning Association), Riverfest, and "Art on Main."</p> <p>In her six years as Chair of the County Board's Legislation Committee, Stewart-Cousins led the effort to pass landmark legislative initiatives, including the County's first Human Rights Laws; Smoke-Free Work Place laws; tougher gun laws; Living Wage legislation; and laws that prosecute "predatory lenders" and racial profiling.</p> <p>Legislator Stewart-Cousins continues to be an active community volunteer and has received many awards for her service including leadership awards from The Westchester Arts Council, the NAACP, American Cancer Society, National Association of Social Workers, among others.</p> <p>A state-certified mediator, Legislator Stewart-Cousins earned her BS in from Pace University where she is currently pursuing a Masters in Public Administration. The mother of three, she resides in Yonkers with her husband Tom.</p>
<p>Yonkers</p> <p>Contact Info Tel: (914) 955-2829 Fax: (914) 995-3884 Email: Stewart-Cousins@westchesterlegislators.com</p>	

 <p>District 17 <i>José I. Alvarado</i> (D)</p>	<p>Legislator José Alvarado moved from his native Honduras to Yonkers in 1982. He was first elected to represent the 17th District of Southwest Yonkers in 2001, becoming the County's first Hispanic legislator.</p> <p>When he came to the United States, Alvarado knew little English and had a background of very little formal education. To support himself and to assist in the support of his mother and his five siblings, he worked at minimum wage jobs. He eventually earned a high school equivalency degree and went on to study business at Mercy College. At Mercy, he became an English tutor in the school's bilingual program. This experience inspired Alvarado to pursue more community volunteer positions and ultimately, a career in public service.</p> <p>Enhancing other peoples' lives is what drives Alvarado's legislative agenda. He attributes fellow Honduran, the poet Roberto Sosa, with raising his consciousness about helping the poor and the disenfranchised. "The poor are so many, it is impossible to forget them."</p> <p>Mr. Alvarado is involved in a variety of community organizations including CLUSTER, his parish, Iglesia San Andres, the Boy Scouts of America and the Yonkers-So.Broadway B.I.D.</p> <p>Mr. Alvarado holds a bachelor's degree in accounting from Mercy College and a master's degree in Public Administration/Health Care. He and his wife Karla have two daughters. He is currently employed as the Special Advisor to the President of White Plains Hospital Center for Outreach to the Hispanic Community and for the promotion of the hospital and as an adjunct Political Science professor at Mercy College.</p>
<p>Yonkers</p> <p>Contact Info Tel: (914) 955-2846 Fax: (914) 995-3884 Email: Alvarado@westchesterlegislators.com</p>	

The Westchester County Board Of Legislators

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About the Westchester County Board of Legislators

The seventeen-member Westchester County Board of Legislators is the legislative, policy-making branch of county government. It is to Westchester County what Congress is to the United States. Each legislator represents a district of approximately 50,000 residents and is elected every two years.

The County Board meets at least once a month, usually on Monday evenings in the legislative chambers located on the 8th floor of the Michaelian Office Building. All Board meetings are open to the public.

The powers of the County Board of Legislators are enumerated in the County's charter. A key power of the Board concerns finances: appropriating funds, approving the budget and levying taxes. It also approves appointments by the County Executive and passes local laws, acts and resolutions, all requiring nine votes for passage except for bond acts that require twelve. Laws and acts are then sent to the County Executive for his signature or his disapproval. A veto by the County Executive can be overridden by a two-thirds vote of the Board.

The Board of Legislators operates under a committee system. Currently, there are nine committees, each of which is charged with overseeing particular policy areas. For example, if the matter involves a bond act, it will need to be reviewed and signed out by the Committee on Budget & Appropriations before the full Board can vote on it. If a public works project needs approval, the Commissioner of Public Works will present the details to the Committee on Public Works. And so on. The Chair of the Board appoints each committee's membership as well as its chair.

A Brief History of the Westchester County Board of Legislators

The County Board has been functioning as the voice of the people of Westchester County in one form or another since the days when Westchester was still a British colony! The first step toward a formal legislative body came in 1682 when the Governor of the Province called for election of a "general assembly of freeholders with legislative powers." One of the first orders of business for the General Assembly was the creation of ten counties, one of which was Westchester. During the remainder of British rule, the county was not an important unit of government except as a judicial district, and had extremely limited self-governing powers, vested in a Board of Justices, consisting of five or more justices of the peace.

In 1703, the title of supervisor replaced the office formerly known as town treasurer. When it became necessary to do something countywide, like building a county court house and jail or transacting other business for the general benefit of the towns in a particular county, all of the town supervisors customarily assembled for the purpose of apportioning expenses. This assemblage constituted the origin of the County Board of Supervisors.

Beyond apportioning expenses and auditing county accounts, the Board of Supervisors had few powers until after the Revolution when the Board of Justices was abolished. The Board of Supervisors took over the Board of Justices and inherited their limited powers of legislation.

Until the mid 1800's, most local legislative issues were handled at the state level. The necessity for a modernized form of county government, closer to home, that could better manage the needs of a burgeoning population became apparent. In 1846 and 1892, the state constitution was amended to expand the role of county government and the authority of the state's county boards was significantly expanded.

Recognizing that they had to reform government to accommodate the principles of "home rule," the state legislature appointed a commission in 1914 to study the whole question of county government. Westchester's Board of Supervisors, in turn, appointed the "Westchester County Government Commission" to formulate a county charter.

A series of commissions met between 1915 and 1937 and recommended various versions of a county charter. All were either vetoed by the governor or defeated by voters in a countywide referendum. Finally, in the general election of 1937, voters approved the Westchester County Charter which defined and expanded the powers and duties of the Board of Supervisors and established the office of the County Executive.

By the late 1960's, population patterns in the County had changed significantly; rapid population increases in the cities and suburbs of the southern section of the county dramatically outpaced the still sparsely settled northern areas. For example, in 1966, the Town of Greenburgh, with 83,000 people, had the same representation on the Board of Supervisors as North Salem, with 3,000 people. The Town of Greenburgh brought the matter to the courts to resolve. Greenburgh argued that the current makeup of the Board of Supervisors was unconstitutional because it violated the "one man, one vote" principle established by the United States Supreme Court in a previous decision.

The courts agreed with the Town of Greenburgh. As a result, the 45-member Board of Supervisors was abolished by court order and replaced in 1970 with our current legislative body, the County Board of Legislators, composed of 17 members elected every two years. Each legislator represents approximately 50,000 people and after every federal census, each of the legislative districts must be adjusted to maintain the balance of power in accordance with the 'one man, one vote' principle.

Resources:

Westchester County Archives
<http://www.westchesterarchives.com/>

Westchester County Historical Society
<http://www.westchesterhistory.com/>



Chapter 107 WESTCHESTER COUNTY CHARTER

COUNTY BOARD

Sec. 107.01. The County Board of Legislators; general powers.

The legislative body of Westchester County shall be known as the County Board of Legislators and, except as otherwise provided by law, shall be vested with all the powers and duties of the county and with all the powers and duties which now are, or may hereafter be, conferred or imposed by law on boards of supervisors or other governing bodies of counties. Wherever the term "County Board" or "Board of Supervisors" appears in any provisions of this act or of the Westchester County Administrative Code, it shall be deemed to mean and refer to the County Board of Legislators. (Added as § 5 by L.L. No. 1-1970*)*Editor's note-Local Law No. 1-1970 repealed former § 5, as adopted by the Laws of 1937, Ch. 617, and amended by the Laws of 1942, Ch. 624, which provided for a referendum vote on creation of a County Board.

Sec. 107.11. Members: term, vacancies, vote.

(a) The County Board of Legislators shall consist of such number of members elected from each County Board district as shall be set forth in section 107.31 of this act. The term of office of members of the County Board shall be two years and shall begin on the first day of January next following their election. Members of the County Board shall be known as county legislators and shall be county officers.

(b) (1) Whenever a vacancy in the office of County Legislator shall occur more than seven months prior to expiration of his or her term of office, such office shall be filled for the remainder of the unexpired term at a special election in the legislative district of said vacated office, to be called by the County Board as soon as practicable and, in any event, to be held no later than 90 days from the date of such vacancy. Notice of a special election called hereunder shall be in the manner provided for in the Election Law for notice of a general election. To the maximum extent feasible, the provisions of the Election Law governing the conduct of a special election shall apply. It shall be the duty of the Board of Elections to prepare ballots, voting machines and other matters so that such election may be properly held and conducted. Notwithstanding any law to the contrary, the expenses of a special election conducted pursuant to this law shall be borne by the county.

(2) Whenever a vacancy in the office of County Legislator occurs within seven months prior to expiration of his or her term of office, such vacancy may be filled by an appointment made by the remaining members of the board of an individual otherwise qualified to hold such office. The appointee shall not be a candidate for any public office. In the event that the appointee becomes a candidate for a public office to be filled at an election to be held within the same calendar year as his or her appointment, the appointee will automatically forfeit the position of County Legislator. For the purposes of this section, a person shall be deemed a candidate for public office upon: failing to decline designation as a candidate for nomination or failing to decline a nomination, within the times set forth in the Election Law; or by becoming a candidate by prevailing in an opportunity to ballot. Otherwise the appointee shall serve as County Legislator until an individual is certified by the Board of Elections to be County Legislator-elect for that legislative district as a result of the general election scheduled in November. Upon such certification, the County Legislator-elect shall take office and thereby shall replace the appointee, if any, for the remainder of the unexpired term. The determination of the Board of Legislators as to an appointee's qualification or forfeiture of office shall be conclusive.

(c) Each County Legislator shall be entitled to one vote. Except as otherwise expressly provided in this act or in the Local Finance Law, action of the County Board shall be by a majority vote of all members of the board, provided that a vote to adjourn or to take action regarding the attendance of absent members may be taken by a majority of the members present.

(Added as § 6 by L.L. No. 10-1970; amended by L.L. No. 21-1993; L.L. No. 26-1998)*

*Editor's note-Local Law No. 10-1970 repealed former § 6, as adopted by the Laws of 1937, Ch. 617, which established the general powers of the County Board; Local Law No. 21-1993 was submitted to the people by reason of a mandatory referendum and received the affirmative vote of a majority of the qualified electors voting thereon at the general election held on 11-2-1993 and it took effect on 1-1-1994; Local Law No. 26-1998 was submitted to the people by reason of a mandatory referendum and received the affirmative vote of a majority of the qualified electors voting thereon at the general election held on 11-3-1998.

Sec. **107.21.** Specific powers.

In pursuance of and in addition to all powers specified in the preceding section, the County Board shall have power, subject to the provisions of this act, to:

- (1) Create, organize, alter or abolish departments, commissions, boards, bureaus, offices and employments and/or transfer their functions and duties;
- (2) Exercise all powers of local legislation and administration as provided for counties in Article 9 of the Constitution of the State of New York;
- (3) Provide by act for the compensation of appointive officers and employees;
- (4) Fix the number of deputies, assistants, clerks and other persons to be employed in the several departments, offices and commissions of the county;
- (5) Provide for the creation of offices other than those required by the constitution and laws of the state, and by this act;
- (6) Provide for officers hereafter created by law or for the allocation of their duties to existing officers;
- (7) Provide for the assumption and discharge by county officers of such functions of cities, towns, villages and special districts as may devolve on the county by this act or by contract or by transfer or be conferred otherwise by law;
- (8) Fix the amount of all bonds and approve the sureties of all county elective and appointive officers and county employees;
- (9) Employ such legal, financial or other technical advisers as may be necessary from time to time, in relation to the performance of any of the functions of county government;
- (10) Enact such acts and make such reasonable rules and regulations as may be necessary and proper to carry out the provisions of this act and of general law applicable to the county, and provide for the enforcement of such acts by appropriate penalties;
- (11) Make appropriations, levy taxes and, except as otherwise provided by the Local Finance Law, incur indebtedness for the purpose of carrying out any of the powers and duties conferred or imposed on the county or any officer, department, board, commission or other authority thereof, by this act or otherwise by law;
- (12) Investigate the official conduct and the accounts, receipts, disbursements, bills and affairs of any office or officer of the county, or of any office or officer of any special county district or other unit of county government, and make such studies or investigations as it deems to be in the best interests of the county, and for such purposes may subpoena witnesses, administer oaths and require the production of books, papers and other evidence, and in case any person fails or refuses to obey any such subpoena, he shall be guilty of a misdemeanor, and subject to such penalties as the County Board, by act, may prescribe;
- (13) Determine and make provision for any matter of county government not otherwise provided for, including any matter involved in transition to the form of government provided by this act.

(§ 7 of the Laws of 1937, Ch. 617; amended by the Laws of 1942, Ch. 624; Laws of 1943, Ch. 710; Laws of 1951, Ch. 345)

Cross references-Powers of County Board; Ch. 209, Art. II.

Sec. 107.31. County Board districts: nomination and election of members; number and qualification of members.










(a) For the purpose of electing county legislators, the County of Westchester shall be divided into 17 districts, from each of which one county legislator shall be elected. Nominations for the office of county legislator shall be made at the primary election held in the respective districts from which they are to be elected in the same manner as other county officers are nominated in accordance with the provisions of the election law.

WESTCHESTER COUNTY BOARD OF LEGISLATORS

Voice of the People of Westchester County for over 300 years



Committees of the Westchester County Board of Legislators 2006-2007 Term

<u>COMMITTEE</u>	<u>OVERSIGHT AREAS</u>	<u>CHAIR</u>	<u>MEMBERS</u>
 Budget & Appropriations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Budget Finance Tax Commission A&C Contract Agencies 	Michael Kaplowitz	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Thomas Abinanti Jose Alvarado William Burton Ursula LaMotte George Oros Vito Pinto Martin Rogowsky Bernice Spreckman Andrea Stewart-Cousins Suzanne Swanson
 Legislation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Law Consumer Affairs 	Clinton Young, Jr.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Thomas Abinanti Lois Bronz Gordon Burrows James Maisano Judith Myers George Oros Martin Rogowsky Andrea Stewart-Cousins
 Family, Health & Human Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Health Community Mental Health Social Services 	Judith Myers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Thomas Abinanti William Burton Ursula LaMotte James Maisano Martin Rogowsky Andrea Stewart-Cousins Suzanne Swanson Clinton Young, Jr.
 Public Safety & Security	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Public Safety Emergency Services Correction Probation District Attorney Labs & Research Courts Taxi & Limousine Commission 	William Burton	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Gordon Burrows Michael Kaplowitz Vito Pinto Bernice Spreckman Andrea Stewart-Cousins Suzanne Swanson
 Housing, Planning & Government Operations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> County Exec. Human Resources Board of Elections County Clerk IT Westchester Community College Planning [Housing/Community Dev.] 	Lois Bronz	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> William Burton Vito Pinto Bernice Spreckman Andrea Stewart-Cousins Suzanne Swanson
 Public Works, Transportation, Labor & Parks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Public Works Transportation [MTA, Buses, Airport] Parks, Recreation and Conservation 	José Alvarado	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Gordon Burrows William Burton Judith Myers Vito Pinto Andrea Stewart-Cousins Suzanne Swanson
 Environment & Energy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Environmental Facilities Waste Haulers Planning [Environmental] Health [Environmental] 	Thomas Abinanti	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> José Alvarado Michael Kaplowitz Ursula LaMotte James Maisano Judith Myers Martin Rogowsky Andrea Stewart-Cousins
 Generational, Cultural & Ethnic Diversity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dept. of Senior Programs & Services Office for Women Office for Youth Office of Hispanic Affairs Office of Asian American Affairs Office of African American Affairs Office of the Disabled Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgendered Resources Education [Non-WCC] 	Bernice Spreckman	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> José Alvarado Lois Bronz George Oros Vito Pinto Andrea Stewart-Cousins Clinton Young, Jr.
 Appointments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Appointments Waivers 	Suzanne Swanson	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lois Bronz George Oros Vito Pinto Andrea Stewart-Cousins

William J. RyanChairman of the Board
Legislator, 5th District**NEWS RELEASE****January 17, 2006****Contact: Betsy DeSoye**Director of Communications
(914) 995-3277**RYAN ANNOUNCES BOARD'S NEW COMMITTEE STRUCTURE
---SLASHES NUMBER OF COMMITTEES FROM 23 TO 9---**

Making good on his promise to dramatically streamline the Board's committee structure, Board Chair Bill Ryan (D-I-WF, White Plains) today announced that he has named nine committees for the new term.

"This past term, we had twenty-three committees all handling important subjects," Ryan said. "I had the opportunity to evaluate the efficiency of the overall structure." Ryan continued, "By clustering and consolidating topics, the new committee structure will handle the same wide range of issues but will be more efficient and productive and less costly to taxpayers."

The Committees and Chairs for the 2006-2007 term are:

- Budget & Appropriations: Michael Kaplowitz
- Legislation: Clinton Young
- Public Works, Transportation, Labor and Parks: José Alvarado
- Family, Health and Human Services: Judy Myers
- Environment and Energy: Tom Abinanti
- Public Safety and Security: William Burton
- Housing, Planning and Government Operations: Lois Bronz
- Generational, Cultural and Ethnic Diversity: Bernice Spreckman
- Appointments: Suzanne Swanson

(Please consult attached fact sheet for subjects, functions and departments covered by each committee.)

"If we stayed at status quo, twenty-three committees could have cost \$144,000 in committee stipends alone ---more when you add the cost of staff resources," Ryan said. "I wanted a system that was less expensive and I knew that I could get the legislators to support me on this."

"The committee system had become unwieldy," Ryan continued. "Twenty-three committees strained the board's resources, created scheduling conflicts for members and impeded the ability of legislators to find ample blocks of time to devote to the work at hand. Reforming the committee structure will improve our ability to respond to the increased demands of a complex county government."

Improving the committee structure will enable the legislature to better perform its oversight responsibilities and become even more proactive in setting county policy.

RYAN ANNOUNCES BOARD'S NEW COMMITTEE STRUCTURE, continued

As Chair last term, Ryan said he elevated important topics, such as Families and Children, Parks, Senior Citizens, Health, Transportation and Technology, to full committee status. "All of these continue to be important topics and will continue to receive full attention," said Ryan. "We're just doing it with a more streamlined structure."

Part of Ryan's evaluation focused on the work product of committees. "After consulting with colleagues and examining each committee's accomplishments, it became clear the existing structure could be improved upon," Ryan said.

Majority Leader Rogowsky (D-I-WF, Harrison) agreed with this assessment. "We started discussing a need to restructure about six months ago," Rogowsky said. "By then, it was apparent that an overhaul in the committee structure was warranted. Clustering topics departs from tradition but is a common sense solution whose time has come."

Ryan added that the modification was also about accountability to the taxpayers. "I can't justify the continued existence of some committees that meet infrequently and don't carry a full load," Ryan said. "I expect every committee to be working at maximum capacity."

Ryan discussed the new structure and his expectations with both Majority Leader Rogowsky and Minority Leader George Oros (R-I-C, Peekskill). Both leaders supported the reform.

Committee restructuring is consistent with upgrading the operation of the Board of Legislators, which Ryan made a priority when he first became Chair. "We made changes to enhance the work flow and productivity of Board staff this past term," said Ryan. "Those changes have taken firm root so we're ready to take the next step in what will be an ongoing process of improvement."

Ryan stressed that the new system is bipartisan. He said he will continue to assess the effectiveness of the new committee structure and remain open to the need for some adjustments along the way. "I will be working closely with each committee chair to implement the new system," Ryan said.

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