

## Kenneth C. Riscica

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**From:** Assemblymember Gina Sillitti <sillittig@nyassembly.gov>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 2, 2023 6:37 PM  
**To:** Kenneth C. Riscica  
**Subject:** Assemblywoman Gina Sillitti's Office - New York State Budget Update on Housing



Dear Neighbors,

I wanted to send an update as soon as it was official. The New York State Budget was passed today and it **DOES NOT include the Governor's Housing Compact.**

Over the past few months I have received more emails, phone calls, letters, and messages in opposition to the Governor's Housing Proposal than any other legislative initiative that has come across my desk since taking office.

I want you to know, I heard you loud and clear.

When the Assembly released its one-house budget on March 14th, I was thrilled that I was able to help **remove all language that included state mandates, overrides of local control, and minimum density around train stations; and our proposal restored critical environmental reviews that protected our communities' futures.**

As you may be aware, the State Budget was supposed to be passed on April 1st, however during the past 4 weeks **I have been working vigorously behind the scenes to ensure that any policy that would have overridden local control was not included in the final budget.**

I'm glad to say we achieved that.

I want to thank Speaker Carl Heastie who heard the concerns expressed by me and my colleagues, and as mentioned in Newsday, listened to Long Island members closely.

"Along the way, Assembly Speaker Carl Heastie (D-Bronx) called Long Island Democrats, checking with them on various housing proposals, several lawmakers recalled. They told him none of the variations 'were going to fly on Long Island,' and Heastie conveyed that in negotiations."

***Read The Full Newsday Article on the Budget: [Suburban Democrats won big changes in Gov. Kathy Hochul's budget](#) - to see some of the other initiatives we secured in the budget.***

While the Governor's Housing Compact **was not the right approach** for Long Island, I want to be clear, we are facing a housing crisis. We must continue the dialogue about how to best address the issues of housing availability and affordability on Long Island.

We are seeing the ramifications of the housing crisis here on Long Island every day. Whether it's our seniors who are unable to live in the communities they spent their entire lives in, our children who cannot afford to come back to Long Island after college, middle class families unable to afford their first home, our Volunteer Firefighters struggling to recruit and retain members, or our small businesses who can't find workers who can afford to live in the community; we need to address this issue.

However, **we cannot address the housing crisis on Long Island or across New York State from a top down, behind closed doors approach.** It is my hope that our Town and Village representatives will use this time to develop long term, smart growth plans that can help ensure our communities have a plan for the future. I offer to help them in any way that I can.

Over the next few days and weeks, I will be sharing more information on what else has been included in this year's State Budget and how it will impact our district. In the meantime if you have any questions, please don't hesitate to email me back at [sillittig@nyassembly.gov](mailto:sillittig@nyassembly.gov) or call my office at 516-482-6966.

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