



August 5, 2025

Dear Nassau Retirees Legal Fund Members and Nassau County Retirees,

Thank you for your years of service to Nassau County. Your work helped build and maintain the services our communities depend on. I support your efforts to protect the health benefits you earned, contributed to, and were promised. Public service workers often take these jobs knowing the pay may be lower, but they rely on the promise of strong retirement benefits. Those promises must be kept. I understand and agree with the following:

- Retirees are not part of any union once they leave service. As a result, you were not included in the 2023 agreement between the County and the union representing active employees.
- The collective bargaining agreement that was in effect when you retired determines your retirement benefits. That agreement included County-paid health insurance for life, which cannot be reduced.
- Federal law defines health care “benefits” as the actual items and services covered under a health plan, not just access to a plan. The County is obligated to maintain those benefits.
- Negotiations between the County and the union representing current workers have no impact on retirees. You are entitled to fully paid lifetime coverage, equal to or better than the NYSHIP Empire Plan.

I urge the County Executive and the Legislature to protect the benefits that retirees were promised. You kept your commitment to public service, and Nassau County must keep its commitment to you.

Sincerely,

Karen Bhatia  
Candidate for Nassau County Legislator, District 18