

Dear Members of the Nassau Retirees Legal Fund,

I am writing to extend my full support for your efforts to protect and preserve the healthcare benefits you have rightfully earned. Nassau County retirees dedicated decades of their lives to public service, ensuring that our communities remained strong, safe, and well served. Your work built the foundation on which future generations continue to thrive. The opportunities we have today are possible because of the dedication and sacrifices you made, and that legacy deserves both gratitude and protection.

In return for this commitment, retirees were promised a secure retirement with strong healthcare protections. This promise must be kept. These benefits are not a gift, but something earned through years of hard work and service, and they must never be diminished.

It is also important to recognize that retirees are no longer members of a union once they leave public service. For that reason, they were not included in the 2023 agreement between the County and the unions representing active employees. The collective bargaining agreement in effect at the time of retirement is what determines a retiree's benefits, and that agreement clearly included County paid healthcare for life.

Federal law defines healthcare benefits as the actual coverage provided under a plan, not simply access to a plan. The County is therefore obligated to maintain those benefits. Negotiations between the County and unions representing active employees have no impact on the rights of retirees. For that reason, it is the duty of the County Executive and the Legislature to uphold these promises and ensure that the benefits of retirees are fully protected.

If elected, I will be a strong advocate for Nassau County retirees. I will work tirelessly to defend your rights and safeguard the benefits that you were promised and that you have earned through a lifetime of service. You paved the way for those who came after you, and Nassau County must honor its commitment to you with the same faithfulness that you showed in serving our communities.

One day I will also be a retiree, and I know how important it is that the promises made are the promises kept. As I would expect the same courtesy and fairness in my retirement, I will fight for your fair share as well.

With gratitude and respect,

Juleigh Chin

Candidate for Nassau County Legislator, District 9

