

Dana Levenberg

Town of Ossining



Ossining Town Supervisor Dana Levenberg has been committed to serving the public for many years, during which time she has taken a positive approach to all she does; her energy and drive to find solutions to challenges in her community and beyond have served her well as both a volunteer and as an elected official

Dana's commitment started in school in Teaneck, NJ, her hometown, where she served on many committees but especially enjoyed serving as Editor and Chief of the Teaneck High School Student Newspaper. Dana graduated in the top fifth of her class and went on to attend Brown University, where she received her Bachelor of Arts in International Relations. While at Brown, she was looking for clubs that would suit her, but when she couldn't find the perfect fit, she decided to start her own and established the Brown Video Yearbook, the first of its kind at Brown.

Dana's background in video production, camerawork, editing and selling the video yearbook, led her to her first career in advertising/television commercial production, where she received a solid entrée into the NYC workforce working at AC&R Advertising which would become a division of Saatchi & Saatchi. When agencies started to downsize, Dana sought opportunities outside of advertising and landed at Lifetime Television in the On-Air Promotions Department as production manager. From there, she went on to work in the On-Air Marketing Division of Showtime Television. During this time she met and married the love of her life, Stephen Hersh, who shared her sarcastic sense of humor. When their first child, Caleb, was born, Dana decided to leave the working world and devote her time to raising him. Shortly thereafter, the Levenberg/Hershes chose to set down their roots in the diverse and volunteer-spirited community of Ossining.

As a new mom, Dana's biggest challenge was continuing to feel she was a valuable contributor to society, so she became involved and volunteered on the board at Briarcliff Nursery School and never turned back. As her children entered the public schools, she joined the PTA where she rose through the ranks to lead the local Ossining PTA Council, as well as serving on the Regional PTA. As she got her feet wet in advocacy through the PTA, she became more and more engaged in the School District, and decided to run for Ossining Board of Education in 2005. She won a hotly-contested race, and served for 3 terms (9 years) in this volunteer capacity. As her sons Caleb & Eli, grew up, Dana also felt the need to return to the workplace. She secured a staff position as Communications Director for Assemblywoman Sandy Galef, where she served for 8 years, the last 7 of those 8 as Chief of Staff to the Assemblywoman. During that time, she graduated from the Fellows program at the regional think tank Pattern for Progress, served on the Education Advisory Board, and was asked to serve on the Advisory Board of CRREO, now newly renamed The Benjamin Center at SUNY New Paltz. She also became engaged in economic development issues for the region, and particularly working to get the Sing Sing Museum projected reinvigorated and funded. Dana also had the opportunity to, advocate against the installation of the AIM incremental gas pipeline very near to Indian Point, fight for more school funding for underserved school

districts, and work on some of Assemblywoman Galef's signature issues, including transparency and campaign finance reform, clean smoke-free air, and safe boating regulations. She also learned about the low number of Organ Donor Enrollees in New York and worked on initiatives to help increase enrollment.

Meanwhile, Dana was busy starting up a new not-for-profit to help those in Ossining with one-time obstacles to overcome. She, with the collaboration of Catherine Borgia and the Rotary Club of Ossining, started a no-interest loan organization to help those in need, and called it the Ossining Micro Fund. That organization recently celebrated its 11th anniversary and has lent over \$65k with an average loan size of \$1500 to those who are committed to paying back the loan and paying the money forward so it can help others in similar situations.

In 2015 Dana ran for and won the seat of Ossining Town Supervisor. Since she started in office, Dana has been a positive force, bringing a smile to all the challenges she meets head-on. She has been working with the Town Board to beautify parks and public spaces, protect open space, fix up outdated zoning, re-imagine commercial zones, make the community more walkable and bikeable, and more conducive to tourism and economic development, and find ways to keep Ossining residents feeling they get a lot for the tax dollars. Having inherited a town-wide revaluation, Dana quickly worked with her state legislators to find a solution to the sharp increase in value (and therefore taxes) some property owners experienced, and helped get a phase-in of taxes passed in the legislature for those most affected.

Later that year, Dana was invited to serve on the board of Energize NY, which offers Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE) financing for energy improvements. She has brought her knowledge from working for the assembly to bear in helping navigate avenues for Energize NY to continue to serve municipalities while helping to drive restoration efforts and environmental improvements in New York State's building stock. Dana also serves on the board of Historic Hudson River Towns as treasurer, as well as the board of the Westchester Municipal Officials, and the Teatown Lake Reservation Advisory Board.

Dana has been recognized for her leadership and service by a wide variety of agencies and organizations, most recently in 2015 by the Ossining Democratic Committee with the Pearl Smith Leader award, and in 2017 by Pace Land Use Law Center with the Groundbreakers Award.