

Dear Constituents,

Here's what I know about Putnam County's Legislative District 1: our ties are strong, and we have each other's backs. These qualities have seen us through multiple natural disasters and public safety threats, and they will see us through the challenges of COVID-19. I want you to know what I'm doing as your County Legislator, and I want to ask some things of you.

First, I am maintaining direct, open lines of communication with the State Department of Health, the Governor's Office, our State and Federal representatives, as well as the Sheriff's Department, the Cold Spring Police Department, Town and Village officials, and our district's fire companies and ambulance corps. I have heard from all of our neighboring County Executives; they have communicated in detail, with transparency, and have shown exceptional leadership.

However, I have been systematically excluded from communications from the Putnam County Executive, MaryEllen Odell, and the Putnam County Commissioner of Health, Dr. Michael Nesheiwat. Despite multiple requests, I have not been added to daily email updates and telephone briefings. This is frustrating and worrisome. Their lack of information sharing is reckless. It undermines public trust and creates social and political turmoil. We must govern together, or we all fail.

I have been pressing for County-level preparedness for COVID-19 since January and I will continue to do so. In addition to fighting for better communications among all elected and appointed representatives, I am working locally to secure the resources we need in District 1. Of primary importance to me is the proper provisioning of our volunteer and professional first responders. I am also helping the Towns and Villages identify neighbors who might need special assistance. Your safety and well-being are my top priority.

Here is what I ask of you.

Please, help us limit the spread of the Coronavirus, right now. Think about those around you who may be vulnerable—the elderly, folks who live alone, families who might be struggling. Check in on them by phone. If they need non-emergency assistance, contact me directly, or give them my information. Ask for help if you need it.

This is what community means. This is what community does. It is who we are,
and we will see each other through.

Nancy Montgomery
Putnam County Legislator, District 1