



THIS WEEK IN NEW YORK COVERING NEW YORK & CITY GOVERNMENT

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"Obstacles don't define us. Rather, it is the unparalleled courage and character of us that defines us as a people. So my confidence in the future is steeped in our glorious past - in the face of adversity, we always persist. We persevere, we prevail." Governor Kathy Hochul

In the News-New York State



Governor Hochul Announces Approval of Update to NY's Energy Storage Roadmap

Roadmap Expands State's Energy Storage Programs to Promote the Rapid Growth of Renewables and Bolster Grid Reliability

Storage Deployments Expected to Reduce Projected Future Statewide Electric System Costs by Nearly \$2 Billion

New York State Public Service Commission (PSC) yesterday approved a new framework for the State to achieve a nation-leading six gigawatts of energy storage by 2030, which represents at least 20 percent of the peak electricity load of New York State.

The roadmap is a comprehensive set of recommendations to support a buildout of storage deployments across the State. Storage deployments are estimated to reduce projected future statewide electric system costs by nearly \$2 billion.

"Expanding energy storage technology is a key component to building New York's clean energy future and reaching our climate goals," Governor Hochul said. "This new framework provides New York with the resources it needs to speed up our transition to a green economy, while ensuring the reliability and resilience of our grid."

Roadmap details include:

- 3,000 megawatts of new bulk storage to be procured through a new competitive Index Storage Credit mechanism, which is anticipated to provide long-term certainty to projects.
- 1,500 megawatts of new retail storage and 200 megawatts of new residential storage to be supported through an expansion of NYSERDA's existing region-specific block incentive programs.

- Utilization of at least 35 percent of program funding to support projects that deliver benefits to Disadvantaged Communities (DACs) and that target fossil fuel peaker plant emissions reductions, with program carve-outs for projects sited in the downstate region, given its high concentration of DACs and peaker plants.
- Requiring electric utilities to study the potential of high-value energy storage projects toward providing cost-effective transmission and distribution services not currently available through existing markets.
- Continued prioritization by existing programs on investing in research and development related to reliable long-duration energy storage technologies.
- Payment of prevailing wage as a programmatic requirement for energy storage projects with a capacity of one megawatt and above.

“A critical part of building New York’s green infrastructure is laying out a framework for establishing an efficient energy storage system that will not only bolster our grid resilience, but also create thousands of family-sustaining union careers for hard working people,” New York State Building and Construction Trades Council President Gary LaBarbera explained. “This new plan from the New York State Public Service Commission will play a major role in expanding our storage program, enabling us to achieve the goals set out by the CLCPA and deliver reliable renewable energy to more New Yorkers, all while giving more tradesmen and tradeswomen the opportunity to pursue the middle class.”

In the News-New York City



Mayor Adams Launches City's First Community Hiring Effort Valued at \$1.2 Billion

New York City Mayor Eric Adams this week announced the city’s first-ever community hiring effort, which will leverage more than \$1.2 billion in city contracts to create job opportunities for underserved New Yorkers.

Community hiring allows the city to use its purchasing power, set hiring goals across city procurement contracts, and build on the success of existing project labor agreements and agency-specific hiring programs.

“Uplifting communities out of poverty does not require rocket science, but it does demand common-sense, targeted and long-term investment in our neighborhoods,” New York State Senator Cordell Cleare said. “...With today’s announcement, I am confident that City dollars will now flow in a way that brings forth a multiplier effect not just economically, but socially.”

The New York City Department of Citywide Administrative Services (DCAS) released the city's first-ever request for proposal (RFP) subject to community hiring, which will result in an estimated \$1.2 billion in contracts for security guard services and fire safety personnel throughout the five boroughs. The contracts awarded under this RFP contain a community hiring goal for 40 percent of the labor hours to be performed by individuals who live in New York City Housing Authority (NYCHA) housing or in a ZIP code where at least 15 percent of the population lives below the federal poverty threshold.

Job opportunities include security guards, security guard supervisors, field inspectors, field managers, and an emergency action plan and fire safety director. New hires will be provided with 40 hours of no-cost training as part of their employment. The RFP will require city agencies with under \$1.5 million in annual spending on security guard services to solicit from a pre-qualified list of M/WBE firms.

“District Council 9 applauds Mayor Eric Adams for his groundbreaking initiative to allocate more than a billion dollars in city contracts with community hiring goals,” said Joseph Azzopardi, business manager and secretary treasurer, District Council 9. “This is a significant step toward bridging economic disparities and providing meaningful job opportunities for underserved New Yorkers. By prioritizing labor hours for individuals from NYCHA housing and communities with high poverty rates, Mayor Adams is not only fostering economic growth but also empowering our city's residents to build a brighter future.”



Comptroller DiNapoli: NYC IDA Needs To Improve Its Administration of Business Tax Breaks and Monitoring of Job Creation

NYCIDA Pushes Back on Comptroller's Findings

The New York City Industrial Development Agency (NYCIDA) approved tax breaks and other incentives for businesses even though it lacked required financial information and financial feasibility analyses, [according to a new audit](#) from State Comptroller Thomas P. DiNapoli.

“The New York City IDA can help foster local economic growth and job creation, but without effective project selection and monitoring, there's little accounting for the benefits the public gets from these tax breaks and other incentives,” Comptroller DiNapoli said. “My audit found the agency needs to do a much better job in ensuring that applicants have been thoroughly vetted and that they fulfil all program requirements, including the creation and retention of jobs.”

According to the Comptroller, the NYCIDA helps eligible local businesses to invest in their growth, expansion, or relocation by waiving city and state sales tax, providing local property tax abatements, and lowering their mortgage recording taxes, with some benefits continuing for up to 30 years. Companies have to show why they would not be able to execute their business plans without this help, provide their financial statements, and project how many full time equivalent (FTE) jobs will be created or retained because of the breaks.

The audit found that in 21 of the 23 successful applications that auditors sampled, NYCIDA did not get all the required financial information from companies that were awarded tax breaks and other assistance. NYCIDA was missing 13 companies' last three years of financial statements and 10 companies' certificates of liability insurance. Two companies did not have to submit applications because their assistance was a continuation of previous benefit awards.

Although NYCIDA is supposed to conduct a feasibility analysis for businesses' proposed projects, the audit found, in 17 of the 23 applications reviewed, auditors found the analysis either was not done or was done incorrectly for the 15 that the IDA performed. The IDA did not complete the analysis for eight of them because it lacked the necessary information on the businesses' cash flow. For the other seven, it transcribed information from the businesses' tax returns and financial statements into its own analysis but made errors during transcription. Auditors also discovered that NYCIDA used incorrect financial formulas in their analyses from 2012 until 2021. For example, its analysis mistakenly overstated the cash flow businesses had available to pay their debts.

In its response to the audit, NYCIDA asserted that the findings do not reflect its current operating practices and improvements made in recent years. Its [full response](#) is included in the audit, beginning on page 20 of the report.

Briefs

New York Enacts Legislation to Restrict Addictive Social Media Feeds and Protect Kids Online Signed into Law

New York Attorney General Letitia James, Governor Kathy Hochul, and bill sponsors Senator Andrew Gounardes and Assemblymember Nily Rozic this week announced that legislation to combat addictive social media feeds and protect kids online has been signed into law.

The first bill, Chapter 120 of the Laws of 2024, Stop Addictive Feeds Exploitation (SAFE) For Kids Act will require social media companies to restrict addictive feeds on their platforms for users under 18. The second bill, Chapter 121 of the laws of 2024, the New York Child Data Protection Act, will prohibit online sites from collecting, using, sharing or selling personal data of anyone under the age of 18, unless they receive informed consent or unless doing so is strictly necessary for the purpose of the website.

Comptroller DiNapoli: State Pension Fund Investments Return 11.55% for State Fiscal Year 2023-24

New York State Comptroller Thomas DiNapoli this week announced that the New York State Common Retirement Fund's investment return was 11.55% for the state fiscal year that ended March 31, 2024. The Fund closed the year with an estimated value of \$267.7 billion. The Fund's value reflects retirement and death benefits of \$16.07 billion paid out during the fiscal year.

As of March 31, 2024, the Fund had 42.85% of its assets invested in publicly traded equities. The remaining Fund assets by allocation are invested in cash, bonds and mortgages (22.26%), private equity (14.60%), real estate and real assets (12.77%) and credit, absolute return strategies and opportunistic alternatives (7.52%).

NYS Rent Stabilization Board Approves Rent Guidelines for Stabilized Apartments

Together with such further adjustments as may be authorized by law, the annual adjustment for leases for apartments shall be:

- For a **one-year** lease commencing on or after **October 1, 2024** and on or before **September 30, 2025: 2.75%**
- For a **two-year** lease commencing on or after **October 1, 2024** and on or before **September 30, 2025: 5.25%**

At Monday's meeting, Nestor Davidson, Chair of the New York City Rent Guidelines Board provided the following statement, "... tenants in rent-stabilized housing are facing genuine precarity, owner costs are continuing to rise, and there is reason to be concerned about the long-term health of the stock of rent-stabilized housing. Our long-standing practice as a Board reflects that in weighing these considerations, we seek to ensure the stability of the rent stabilization system for tenants and owners and preserve this truly foundational aspect of housing in our city, and I believe this year's guidelines strike the appropriate balance."

Adams Administration Releases RFP to Reduce Asylum Seeker Costs

New York City Mayor Eric Adams this week released a competitive [Request for Proposals](#) (RFP) for companies and organizations to provide shelter and shelter-related services in response to the asylum seeker crisis.

The RFP seeks to solicit a range of vendors to support the next phase of the "Asylee Flex" program which has been operating for 10 months and currently serves thousands of migrants across 26 hotel sites, including approximately 2,400 migrants across 13 sites in New York City, and 1,600 migrants in 13 sites located upstate.

The selected vendor, or vendors, will be expected to provide services at existing sites, and possibly additional sites as directed by the city. The scope of work includes managing relationships with hotels, engaging with and maintaining open lines of communication with key stakeholders, as well as providing shelter, food, housekeeping, security, case management, laundry, and the coordination of additional services with no additional fee including legal, reconnection, travel, education, and donations.

OFFICE OF THE NEW YORK STATE COMPTROLLER

Thomas P. DiNapoli, State Comptroller

Rahul Jain, Deputy Comptroller



An Economic Snapshot of Staten Island's North Shore

Highlights

- The population of the North Shore grew by 7.9 percent from 2010 to 2020, more than all of Staten Island (5.8 percent).
- Residents born in Latin America and Asia each made up one-third or more of the area's foreign-born population in the five-year period of 2018-2022.
- North Shore businesses grew 16.8 percent from 2012 to 2022, compared to 17.3 percent boroughwide and 16.5 percent citywide.
- Area jobs rose by 7.7 percent in the same period, with growth in social assistance, leisure and hospitality and construction partly offset by declines in other sectors.
- Total wages paid in the North Shore were 43.5 percent more in 2022 than in 2012; the average wage was 33.3 percent more.
- North Shore median household income rose 47.3 percent from 2008-2012 to 2018-2022, the same growth as citywide.
- A smaller share of North Shore renters faced rent burden (53.1 percent) in 2018-2022 than in 2008-2012 (57.2 percent).
- Median household incomes and rent burdens varied widely across North Shore micro-neighborhoods.
- As shares of 2019 totals, area evictions in 2022 and 2023 were smaller than those boroughwide or citywide.
- Enrollment in North Shore K-8 school grades declined at a slightly lower rate than citywide.
- In late 2023, the City renewed downtown revitalization efforts with the launch of the Staten Island North Shore Action Plan.

The North Shore is the vibrant northern area of Staten Island and an important freight and commuting hub. The area is the most populous portion of the borough, housing about 38 percent of all residents. Compared to the borough, the area is younger and more racially and economically diverse. More than two-fifths of residents are renters, and of these, more than one-half are rent burdened. These and other characteristics make the area more similar to the City than to the rest of Staten Island. Despite the COVID-19 pandemic, the North Shore experienced population growth and a reduction in the poverty rate since 2010. Between 2019 and 2021, area firms grew at a rate similar to the borough (2.5 percent) and greater than citywide (1.2 percent), led by a rise in small businesses.

While economic indicators have strengthened following the height of the pandemic, some social indicators fell during the pandemic and have not improved as quickly. In 2023, major crime in the area increased at a greater rate than citywide, a trend that differed from before the pandemic when major crime fell markedly. Additionally, the health impacts from COVID-19 disproportionately burdened the local population. While the level of poverty fell over the last decade, it is still an issue for many households and children in the area.

The success of the area's residential and commercial waterfront revitalization remains critical for future growth in the borough and is expected to create jobs and new housing units. In their efforts to boost the North Shore's prosperity, City officials should continue to monitor key economic, public safety and health trends amid new investment and respond where needed to foster continued growth.

Mayor Adams Announces Johnny Celestin As Executive Director Of Mayor's Office Of Nonprofit Services

New York City Mayor Eric Adams this week appointed Johnny Celestin as the executive director of the New York City Mayor's Office of Nonprofit Services. Celestin will oversee the office's efforts to engage and communicate critical information to nonprofits, develop and deliver capacity-building programs to support nonprofits to contract with the city more easily.

Before this role, Celestin served at the New York City Mayor's Office of Minority- and Women-Owned Business Enterprises (M/WBEs) as deputy director. Before joining city government, Celestin worked extensively across the nonprofit sector, including at the Robin Hood Foundation, Atlantic Philanthropies, Haitian Center for Leadership and Excellence, Haitian Fund for Innovation and Reconstruction, and the Clinton Foundation.

Celestin earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Business Administration at Iona University and a master's degree in International Affairs at the New School University.

Coming Up New York State

Monday, June 24th

MTA Bridges and Tunnels Committee Meeting, 9 a.m.

MTA Joint LIRR/Metro-North Committee Meeting, 9:30 a.m.

MTA NYCT/MTA Bus Committee Meeting, 10:45 a.m.

MTA Diversity Committee Meeting, 12 p.m.

MTA Capital Program Committee Meeting, 1 p.m.

MTA Finance Committee Meeting, 2:30 p.m.

Wednesday, June 26th

MTA Board Meeting, 9 a.m.

New York City

Monday, June 24th

Committee on Public Housing, Council Chambers – City Hall, 1 p.m.

Committee on Civil Services and Labor, Committee Room – City Hall, 1 p.m.

Tuesday, June 25th

Committee on Housing and Labor, Committee Room – City Hall, 10 a.m.

Committee on Women and Gender Equity, Council Chambers – City Hall, 10 a.m.

Committee on Mental Health, Disabilities, and Addiction, Council Chambers – City Hall, 10 a.m.

Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, Council Chambers – City Hall, 1 p.m.

Wednesday, June 26th

Committee on Children and Youth, Committee Room – City Hall, 10 a.m.

Committee on Criminal Justice, Committee Room – City Hall, 10 a.m.

Committee on Mental Health, Disabilities and Addiction, Council Chambers – City Hall, 10 a.m.

Committee on Hospitals, Council Chambers – City Hall, 10 a.m.

Committee on Fire and Emergency Management, Council Chambers – City Hall, 10 a.m.

Committee on Public Safety, Council Chambers – City Hall, 10 a.m.

Subcommittee on Landmarks, Public Sitings and Dispositions,
250 Broadway – Committee Room, 16th Floor, 11 a.m.

Committee on Zoning and Franchises, 250 Broadway – Committee Room, 16th Floor, 11:30 a.m.

Thursday, June 27th

Committee on Civil and Human Rights, Committee Room – City Hall, 10 a.m.

Committee on Land Use, Council Chambers – City Hall, 10 a.m.

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