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THIS WEEK IN NEW YORK

COVERING NEW YORK & CITY GOVERNMENT

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"No Man can be a good citizen unless he has a wage more than sufficient to cover the bare cost of living, and hour of labor short enough so that after his day's work is done he will have time and energy to bear his share in the management of the community, to help in carrying the general load" Governor Theodore Roosevelt.

In The News-New York State

Governor Hochul Declares NY Will Lead the Nation in AI Science and Safety

Governor Kathy Hochul this week launched a statewide effort to advance artificial intelligence science and safety – the New York Center for AI Responsibility and Research (NYCAIRR) based at State University of New York's (SUNY) Binghamton University.

The Center will bring together academic expertise to advance AI safety research, accelerate scientific discovery, and independently test advanced AI systems for safety and security.

"…New York is leading the way on AI safety and holding big tech accountable," Governor Hochul said. "The stakes are too high to simply take AI companies at their word."

According to the Governor, NYCAIRR addresses the challenge of assessing the safety, security, and operation of increasingly powerful AI systems. The Center will conduct independent testing of frontier AI systems and train AI safety experts.

The Center will aim to evaluate both the safety of today's AI systems, and develop the scientific tools, measurements and standards needed to evaluate increasingly powerful systems as the technology evolves. Its work will help advance the responsible use of AI in fields while providing public officials with objective evidence to inform policy decisions about AI safety and accountability.

One of the Center's first objectives is a national recruiting effort for experts who focus on foundational limits and mathematical theory, formal methods and verification, agentic and complex systems, hardware security and privacy, interpretability and alignment, and scientific AI and biosecurity.

Governor Hochul first announced the New York Center for AI Responsibility and Research in January with a $30 million philanthropic gift from a group of donors led by Binghamton alumnus and Bloomberg LP co-founder Tom Secunda, paired with an initial $25 million research investment from SUNY and operating capital from New York State.

Additionally, the new Office of Digital Innovation, Governance, Integrity, and Trust (DIGIT) launched its online portal for large frontier AI developers to register with New York State by January 1, 2027. Under the RAISE Act, all frontier AI developers operating in New York are subject to safety and transparency requirements, with additional obligations for large frontier developers.

Beginning in January, large frontier developers will also be required to publish safety frameworks on their websites, and all frontier developers will be required to report critical safety incidents and publish model transparency reports. Additionally, DIGIT published a new website outlining requirements for frontier AI developers operating in the state.



Chapters of the Laws of 2026

Chapter 370 Sponsored by AM Santabarbara/Senator Skoufis: Relates to defining "period of war" for the alternative veterans' exemption and clarifies that veterans who have served during the Persian Gulf War including those in Iraq and Afghanistan are covered.

***Chapter 371 Sponsored by AM Hunter/Senator Hinchey*:** Extends eligibility for real property tax exemptions to veterans who have served on submarines or on classified missions during a period of war.

Chapter 372 Sponsored by AM Schiavoni/Senator Scarcella-Spanton: Permits disabled veterans to obtain a membership for the use of fitness and aquatic facilities at SUNY and CUNY campuses without payment of any fees or other charges, or at a discounted rate.

Chapter 373 Sponsored by AM Magnarelli/Senator Ryan: Adds an eligibility clause for a Universal Symbol of Access license plate to veterans who are 100% disabled as determined by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs.

Chapter 374 Sponsored by AM Stern/Senator Martinez: Reduces building permit fees for veterans who need to modify their residence to accommodate disabilities.

***Chapter 375 Sponsored by AM Magnarelli/Senator Ryan*:** Authorizes early renewal of vehicle registration for members of the armed forces who will be engaged in the performance of their official military duties upon its expiration.

In The News-New York City

NYC Office of the Mayor

Mayor Mamdani Releases City's November Financial Plan

Mayor Zohran Mamdani this week released the November 2026 Financial Plan Update, providing an updated picture of the City's revenues and expenditures.

The Fiscal Year 2027 (FY27) budget totals $129.2 billion. Of the $3.3 billion increase from the adopted budget, approximately $1.15 billion is City funds, $1.48 billion is Federal funds and $635 million is State funds. The plan also reflects $965 million in additional tax revenue in FY27, driven by increased collections since the June budget adoption and strong performance on Wall Street.

The city still faces a $6.2 billion budget shortfall next year and approximately $9 billion in the two following.

FY27 reserves total $7.8 billion and the administration is also developing a formal methodology for calculating annual deposits into the City's Rainy Day Fund. City agencies are charged with finding 2.5% in savings across the board, in accordance with the Mayor's Executive Order.

While strengthening the City's fiscal outlook, the administration is making targeted investments to protect the health and safety of New Yorkers. Highlights of the November Financial Plan Update include:

Responding to Extreme Weather:

- **Strengthen the City's Code Blue response:** Deploying additional outreach teams, nurses and vehicles, while expanding warming site capacity to connect homeless New Yorkers with shelter and support as temperatures fall ($25.2 million in FY27, growing to $25.9 million in FY30).

***Protecting the Health and Safety of New Yorkers*:**

- **Strengthening juvenile justice facilities, enhancing alternatives to detention, and reducing recidivism:** Improving operations and conditions at the Crossroad and Horizon juvenile detention facilities ($48.3 million in FY27, growing to $70.2 million in FY30).

- **Strengthening Legionella prevention and response:** Enhance the City's detection, enforcement and response efforts to Legionella bacteria in cooling towers following the Upper East Side and South Bronx community clusters earlier this summer. The investment will support additional laboratory staff to accelerate testing and build on the NYC Health Department's rapid and aggressive response **(**$500,000 in FY27, baselined).

- **Expanding public health services:** Funding the operations at the new Central Harlem Sexual Health Express Clinic, adding community health workers to conduct outreach and help patients maintain insurance compliance, supporting other public health clinic operations ($7.2 million in FY27, decreasing to $6.1 million annually as of FY28).

Addressing Federal Cuts and Improving Government Operations:

- **Recognizing SNAP Administrative Costs:** Covering increased City costs resulting from H.R. 1, which raises the City's share of SNAP administrative expenses from 50% to 75% ($61.7 million in FY27, growing to $82.6 million annually in FY30).

- **Supporting homeless services providers:** Recognizing increasing food and insurance per diems for Department of Homeless Services (DHS) shelter providers ($40.3 million in FY27, growing to $43.9 million in FY30).

- **Preventing service disruptions for veterans**: Covering disruptions caused by the loss of the New York City Department of Homeless Services (DHS) Veterans Affairs Grant due to terms that would be in violation of state and local laws protecting people from discrimination on the basis of gender ($2.7 million in FY27, baselined).

- **Reforming NYC Public Schools procurement:** Investing in additional staff and resources to improve procurement practices, increase transparency and strengthen oversight of systemwide and school-level contracts and vendor spending. The reforms are expected to generate $100 million in savings across FY27 and FY28 ($9.6 million in FY27, baselined).

Bringing Services In-House and Reducing Reliance on Outside Contractors:
The administration is continuing to identify opportunities to bring work in-house, reduce reliance on outside consultants and contracts and build the City's internal capacity.

- **Office of Technology and Innovation:** Generating savings of $4.6 million in FY 2028 and more in subsequent years by bringing consulting services in-house.

- **New York City Law Department:** Saving $2 million in FY28 and annually thereafter by reducing reliance on outside temporary attorney service contracts as agency staffing increases.

- **Taxi and Limousine Commission:** Saving $180,000 in FY27 and $322,000 in subsequent years by ending subscriptions and reducing reliance on consultants.

NYC Office of the Mayor

Mayor Mamdani Signs COPA Legislation, Giving Community Groups First Chance to Purchase Housing

Mayor Zohran Mamdani signed the Community Opportunity to Purchase Act (COPA), legislation that will give qualified nonprofits and community groups the first opportunity to purchase certain multifamily buildings before they hit the private market.

Sponsored by Council Member Sandy Nurse, COPA gives affordable housing providers 145 days to make an offer on eligible properties, along with an additional year during which they can exercise a right of first refusal to match another buyer's offer.

Under COPA, the Department of Housing Preservation and Development (HPD) will maintain a list of "qualified entities," vetted nonprofits, tenant groups, community land trusts and other mission-driven organizations with demonstrated experience acquiring, preserving and managing affordable housing. These organizations must also demonstrate the financial and organizational capacity to purchase and operate eligible properties.

When a covered building is put up for sale, qualified entities will receive an exclusive 145-day window to complete the purchase. If the qualified entity's offer is rejected and another buyer subsequently makes an offer within the following year, qualified entities will have the right of first refusal to match it.

Covered properties include multifamily buildings with four or more units that are in significant disrepair, as well as buildings with affordability restrictions governed by HPD regulatory agreements. For specifics of the legislation, please see the bill language.

Bills Passed by the City Council

Introduction 178-A ***Sponsored by*** **Council Member Harvey Epstein:** Requires the Department of Housing Preservation and Development (HPD), Department of Buildings (DOB), Department of City Planning (DCP), Board of Standards and Appeals (BSA), and Landmarks Preservation Commission (LPC) to provide centralized technical assistance to developers and owners seeking to convert non-residential space into residential units.

Introduction 202-A ***Sponsored by Council Member Jennifer Gutiérrez:*** Requires the Department of Transportation (DOT) to make reasonable efforts to install traffic safety improvements, including stop signs, speed reducers, traffic signals, and designated school loading zones, within 120 days of determining through a traffic study that such improvements are necessary.

Introduction 488-A ***Sponsored by*** **Council Member Inna Vernikov:** Requires an annual report from the Department of Housing Preservation and Development on the number of veterans or their surviving spouses applying for housing in city-run Mitchell-Lama developments and the number of veterans being selected for occupancy.

Introduction 891-A ***Sponsored by Speaker Julie Menin*****:** Prohibits any entity or service provider from engaging in surveillance pricing, defined as pricing set completely or in part by algorithm that uses personal data to offer different prices to different customers for the same goods or services.

Introduction 1051-A ***Sponsored by Council Member Frank Morano*****:** Provides that the primary residence of a permanently and totally disabled veteran shall be fully exempt from taxation and special district charges, assessments and special ad valorem levies, provided all other applicable requirements are met.

Introduction 928-A ***Sponsored by Council Member David Carr***: Establishes an LGBTQ+ liaison within the department of veterans' services.

Briefs

AG James Negotiates Agreement with T-Mobile to Improve Affordable Home Internet

New York Attorney General Letitia James and Governor Kathy Hochul this week announced an agreement with T-Mobile USA, Inc. (T-Mobile) requiring the company to improve and expand the home internet service it offers eligible New Yorkers under the New York Affordable Broadband Act (ABA).

An investigation by the Office of the Attorney General (OAG) found T-Mobile's offerings did not meet the ABA's requirements, which mandate that home internet providers offer high-speed broadband to income-eligible households for $15 per month at speeds of at least 25 Megabits per second (Mbps), or $20 per month for speeds of at least 200 Mbps.

The ABA also requires providers to make reasonable efforts to promote and advertise the availability of these affordable broadband plans. As a result of OAG's investigation, T-Mobile will end data caps that slowed the internet speeds of customers on ABA internet plans, offer ABA plans to more areas throughout the state, and make it easier for eligible New Yorkers to find and sign up for affordable internet plans.

Department of State Launches *Click to Renew* Tool to Streamline Licensing

The Department of State launched *Click to Renew*, a tool to simplify professional licensing across New York State.

Click to Renew allows New Yorkers in a wide range of licensed professions to renew their licenses quickly and securely. Since its soft launch in October, nearly 5,000 licensees have successfully renewed with this new system. The system is currently available for renewals of Barber Operator, Cosmetology, Esthetics, Nail Specialty, Natural Hair Styling, and Waxing.

On average, licensees using *Click to Renew* complete the process in under 4 minutes, a 91 percent reduction from the previous average renewal time of over 45 minutes.

More than 300,000 license-holders will benefit from the initial launch of this new tool, with further plans to bring program to additional license types in the near future.

Coming Up

New York State

Monday, November 16th

NYS Commission on Ethics in Lobbying and Government
Lobbyist Bimonthly Filings Due

Tuesday, November 17th

Assembly Environmental Conservation Committee & Legislative Commission on Solid Waste Management, Municipal Solid Waste Landfill Management, Assembly Hearing Room, 250 Broadway, 19th Floor, New York

Wednesday, November 18th

Assembly Veterans' Affairs Committee, Assembly Local Governments Committee and Assembly Subcommittee on Women Veterans, Effectiveness of Programs to Assist Disabled Veterans, Hearing Room C Legislative Office Building Albany, 10 a.m.

Thursday, November 19th

Assembly Agriculture Committee, Assembly Social Services Committee, Assembly Local Governments Committee, Assembly City Committees and Assembly Task Force on Food, Farm and Nutrition Policy, Urban Agriculture, Assembly Hearing Room, 19th Floor 250 Broadway, New York, 11 a.m.

New York City

Monday, November 16th

NYC Clerk
Lobbyist Bimonthly Filings Due

Tuesday, November 17th

Committee on Finance & Committee on Housing and Buildings, 250 Broadway - 8th Floor - Hearing Room 2, 11 a.m. Oversight - Advancing Homeownership Opportunity and Protection.

Wednesday, November 18th

Committee on Education, Oversight - Examining School Bus Transportation Services in NYC, Council Chambers - City Hall, 1 p.m.

Committee on Housing and Buildings & Committee on Finance, Oversight - Advancing Homeownership Opportunity and Protection, 250 Broadway - 8th Floor - Hearing Room 2, 11 a.m.

Thursday, November 19th

Committee on Immigration, 250 Broadway - 8th Floor - Hearing Room 2, 10:30 a.m.

Committee on Rules, Privileges, Elections, Standards and Ethics, 250 Broadway - 8th Floor - Hearing Room, 10:30 a.m.

Committee on Finance, Committee Room - City Hall, 11a.m.

City Council Stated Meeting Council Chambers - City Hall, 1:30 p.m.

Friday, November 20th

Committee on Immigration, Oversight - Examining the Current State of Immigration Enforcement Activity in New York City, 250 Broadway - 8th Floor - Hearing Room 1, 10 a.m.

Committee on Oversight and Investigations & Committee on Consumer & Worker Protections, 250 Broadway - 8th Floor - Hearing Room 2, 10 a.m.

Committee on Housing and Buildings & Committee on Fire and Emergency Management, Council Chambers - City Hall, 9:30 a.m.

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