



This Week in New York

Covering New York State and 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



The Era is Over: *We're not defunding police.*

...We are really ramping up funding for police. So, all that era is over.

-Kathy Hochul, Capital Region Crime Lab Tour, 1/25/23

Governor Kathy Hochul this week toured the recently upgraded Capital Region Crime Analysis Center in Albany, taking the opportunity to highlight the public safety initiatives included in the 2023 State of the State and show her gratitude to those “on the front lines who keep us safe every day.”

“And to all of you on the front lines who keep us safe every day, my heart's full of gratitude, especially those who are literally in harm's way, when you go out in those streets,” Governor Hochul said. “So, to mayors and leaders, please go back to your police departments, to areas where they feel unappreciated and wonder why they get up and do what they do. There are people walking this earth still alive because of their courage and their willingness to do this for their fellow citizens, and I'll never take that for granted.”

After touring the center, Governor Hochul highlighted the increases proposed in the State of the State address which include:

- Expanding the state's Crime Analysis Center Network to New York City.
- Doubling funding for the Gun Involved Violence Elimination (GIVE) initiative to \$36 million. The GIVE initiative supports 20 police departments in 17 counties that account for more than 80 percent of the violent crime that occurs in New York State outside of New York City: Albany, Broome, Chautauqua, Dutchess, Erie, Monroe, Nassau, Niagara, Oneida, Onondaga, Orange, Rensselaer, Rockland, Schenectady, Suffolk, Ulster and Westchester. District attorneys' offices, probation departments, sheriffs' offices, and other partners in those counties also receive funding through the initiative. In 2022, shootings in several GIVE jurisdictions decreased from the year before, including Buffalo (32 percent decrease), Long Island (29 percent decrease), Westchester (17 percent), and Rochester (13 percent).
- Bolstering State Police support by increasing Community Stabilization Units from 16 to 25 communities.

- More than tripling funding to \$52 million, up from \$12 million, for the state's 62 district attorney's offices and sustaining discovery and pretrial services funding for costs associated with implementation of recent criminal justice reforms to discovery and pretrial procedures, which took effect January 1, 2020.

Governor Hochul will release the 2023-2024 Executive Budget next week which will provide more detail on her public safety initiatives.



NYSIF Releases Report on Long-Term Impacts of COVID-19

The New York State Insurance Fund (NYSIF), the state's largest workers' compensation carrier, this week [released a report](#) analyzing its Covid-19 workers' compensation claims related to Long Covid, "a multifaceted syndrome" causing new, returning, or ongoing symptoms in people after their initial infection.

"As a large insurer with a public purpose, NYSIF is uniquely positioned to leverage its data to inform the broader conversation on Long Covid, including its ongoing, cascading, and yet-unclear implications for employers and the workforce," said NYSIF Executive Director and CEO Gaurav Vasisht. "We hope the study contributes meaningfully to the nascent yet growing body of research, helping to enhance our collective understanding of the challenges posed by this complex condition."

The study, which analyzed more than 3,000 Covid-19 workers' compensation claims initiated between January 2020 and March 2022, found that:

- Almost one-third of all workers infected with Covid-19 suffered or are suffering from Long Covid, with the percentage peaking during the initial phase of the pandemic and falling over time.
- Approximately 18 percent of workers with Long Covid—or about five percent of Covid-19 claimants—could not return to work for more than one year.
- The percentage of female workers with Long Covid (37 percent) was 11 points higher than that of male workers (26 percent).
- Forty percent of workers with Long Covid returned to work within 60 days of infection while still receiving medical treatment.
- Adults over 60 with Long Covid experienced significant difficulty returning to regular work life, with their challenges intensifying with age.
- Nearly all workers with comorbidities or those hospitalized for their initial infection experienced Long Covid.
- The incidence of Long Covid in essential workers may be higher than the data suggests, creating a potential blind spot for policymakers.

"The NYSIF report provides invaluable data on the potential impact of Long Covid on New York's workforce," said New York State Commissioner of Labor Roberta Reardon. "This information will inform our approach as we look to help businesses and workers navigate uncertain challenges ahead as the state continues its post-pandemic resurgence."

The [New York State Department of Health's Long Covid webpage](#) provides information about symptoms and treatment, drawing from the work of an expert consortium convened in early 2022. The New York State Workers' Compensation Board offers a [series of educational webinars and other resources](#), encouraging New Yorkers who contract Covid-19 at work to file a workers' compensation claim, even if they recover from their initial symptoms. Additional information about New York Paid Sick Leave, which is available for medical appointments and treatments related to Long Covid, can be found on the [Paid Sick Leave webpage](#).

In the News-New York City



Mayor Adams Outlines "Working People's Agenda" for NYC in Second State of the City Address

New York City Mayor Eric Adams this week outlined a "Working People's Agenda" in his second State of the City address, focusing on four "pillars" of the Administration's work in 2023: jobs, safety, housing, and care.

Delivered at the Queens Theatre in Flushing Meadows-Corona Park, the Mayor's State of the City address was highlighted by proposals to keep recidivists off the streets, connect 30,000 New Yorkers to apprenticeships, launch the country's largest curbside composting program, electrify all for-hire vehicles, and provide free, comprehensive health care to all New Yorkers in City homeless shelters.

"Jobs, safety, housing, and care — without these pillars of support, cities crumble, institutions fall, society weakens. We will not allow that to happen in New York," Mayor Adams said. "It is the working class that has lifted up this city, built it brick by brick on the bedrock of a free and democratic nation. And, going forward, we will sustain the workers who make this city possible. Working together, we can build a better city for all, keep those pillars of civic power strong, open more golden doors, and inspire others to do the same."



NYC Mayor Adams

JOBS

The Mayor's jobs pillar is headlined by the new Apprenticeship Accelerator which aims to connect 30,000 New Yorkers to apprenticeships by 2030. The Accelerator will track apprenticeship from youth to adults in the workforce, providing technical assistance to support the expansion of apprenticeship programs by employers, training providers, educational institutions, and labor unions. The administration will also launch a citywide campaign to engage potential apprenticeship program participants, focusing on industries such as information technology, marketing, health care, and finance.

Other Adams administration initiatives include:

- Creating a new Nursing Education Initiative, in partnership with the City University of New York (CUNY), to support 30,000 current and aspiring nurses over the next five years to enter the nursing workforce, stay in the profession, and advance their careers.
- Doubling the city's current rate of contracting with minority- and women-owned business enterprises (M/WBEs) and award \$25 billion in contracts to M/WBEs over the next four years and \$60 billion over the next eight years.
- Launching the new Center for Workplace Accessibility and Inclusion to connect 2,500 people with disabilities to jobs and help employers make their workplaces more accessible.
- Expanding the CUNY2x Tech program to more campuses — including community colleges.
- Promoting legislation to allow New York City to require companies with city contracts to hire local community members.
- Launching a new loan fund to help New Yorkers impacted by the 'War on Drugs' start new businesses in the cannabis industry and increase enforcement against unlicensed establishments undermining the legal industry.
- Ensuring every school has at least one staff member trained in literacy-based interventions and launch first district school dedicated solely to supporting students with dyslexia, and make dyslexia screenings available in every public school in New York City.
- Rolling out a student mental health program with telehealth care for every public high school student and community-based counseling for those who need additional support.

SAFETY AND QUALITY OF LIFE

The Adams administration's safety and quality of life pillar focuses on getting 'New York's Most Wanted'—approximately 1,700 known offenders responsible for a disproportionate amount of the city's violent crime — off the streets; launching the country's largest curbside composting program, with access for every New Yorker by the end of 2024; replacing unsightly sidewalk construction sheds with newly designed structures and strengthening enforcement against those who leave sheds up for years.

The Mayor also advocated for state legislative changes to ensure that defendants receive the speedy trial that the Constitution guarantees, district attorneys and public defenders have the resources to hire more attorneys and paralegals to remove the bottleneck in the courts; and the "overly complex and burdensome" discovery process is addressed.

In addition, he put forth his Removing Offenders and Aggressive Drivers from Our Streets (ROADS) proposal to increase penalties for serious crashes, running red lights, and impaired driving. The ROADS legislative package would also ensure consequences for those who drive with suspended or revoked licenses, including by revoking the privilege of driving on city streets and suspending the registration of vehicles that collect five or more red light camera violations within a 12-month period

Other proposals include:

- Increasing the New York City Police Department's (NYPD) crime prevention units' focus on retail theft and working with business owners and business improvement districts on proactive solutions to prevent shoplifting.
- Expanding neighborhood safety teams to additional neighborhoods, investing in more violence-prevention programs in neighborhoods with the highest concentration of violent crime.
- Increasing the number of NYPD tow trucks to address the growing number of abandoned or illegally parked cars blocking traffic and visibility, help keep delivery zones and bus and bike lanes clear and crack down on illegal placards and placard abuse.
- Building on efforts to electrify the city vehicle fleet by requiring the 100,000-plus high-volume for-hire vehicles to do the same--requiring them, with the support of Uber and Lyft, to be zero-emissions by 2030, with no new costs for individual drivers.
- Launching a new climate budgeting process to adopt the approach of aligning financial resources with our sustainability and resiliency goals.

HOUSING

Headlining the Mayor's housing pillar is the \$22 million investment in tenant protection programs to provide more staff dedicated to investigation and enforcement, creating stronger partnerships with community groups and legal services providers to protect tenants, and cracking down on landlords who discriminate against tenants based on their source of income.

In addition, the Adams administration will work with New York City Councilmembers Erik Bottcher, Keith Powers, and Kamillah Hanks to kick off two major community planning processes. In the coming weeks, community engagement will begin with the goals of creating more housing, including rent-restricted housing—in Midtown Manhattan where current zoning only allows for manufacturing and office space, as well as on the North Shore of Staten Island where the administration will pursue expanded waterfront access and flood resiliency, job creation, and mixed-use development.

Other initiatives include:

- Providing free broadband access to households with Section 8 vouchers with a new pilot program in the Bronx and Northern Manhattan.
- Broadening access to other public benefits like unemployment insurance, Medicaid, or SNAP by cutting unnecessary red tape and expanding benefit screenings so New Yorkers get every dollar they deserve.
- Pursuing legislation allowing New Yorkers to keep public benefits for up to six months after they accept a new job, easing the transition to financial independence.

CARE

The care pillar of the Mayor's 2023 agenda includes a pledge to work with City's federal partners to allow New Yorkers who have spent more than seven days in the New York City Department of Homeless Services' (DHS) shelter system to become eligible for free, comprehensive health care services through a specialized network of providers and care management. The Adams administration is also developing a three-part mental health plan focused on child and family mental health. The City will invest more than \$150 million in opioid settlement funds into proven harm reduction and treatment programs. As part of the plan, the administration will open new Clubhouses for New Yorkers with severe mental illness. Clubhouses provide peer support and access to services, employment, and educational opportunities.

Briefs

NY Voters to Consider Equal Rights Amendment

Voters in the November 2024 election will consider an amendment to the New York State Constitution to expand the types of protected classes included under the prohibition against discrimination in civil rights.

The State Senate and Assembly passed a resolution (A1283) to amend the State Constitution to add the following to the existing list of protected classes:

- ethnicity
- national origin
- disability
- age
- and sex, including sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, pregnancy, pregnancy outcomes, and reproductive healthcare and autonomy.

The current State Constitution equal rights amendment was adopted in 1938 and prohibits discrimination based on "race, color, creed, or religion." The resolution was sponsored by Senator Liz Krueger and Assemblymember Rebecca Seawright.

Attorney General James Sues Google for Monopolies in Digital Advertising

New York Attorney General Letitia James this week [sued Google LLC \(Google\)](#), for monopolizing the digital advertising industry.

Together with the United States Department of Justice (DOJ), a bipartisan coalition of eight states allege that Google has engaged in a 15-year, organized campaign to obtain significant influence at all levels of the ad tech industry and has used its power to reduce competition and innovation, harming website publishers, advertisers, and consumers.

Through this lawsuit, Attorney General James, DOJ, and the coalition of states are seeking to stop Google's anticompetitive practices and order it to sell off various ad tech tools to restore a competitive balance in digital advertising.

Joining Attorney General James and DOJ in today's lawsuit are the attorneys general of California, Colorado, Connecticut, New Jersey, Rhode Island, Tennessee, and Virginia.

SUNY Morrisville Professor Added to Cannabis Control Board

Suny Morrisville Professor Dr. Jennifer Gilbert Jenkins formally joined the Cannabis Control Board (CCB) this week, replacing Jen Metzger now the Ulster County Executive.

In addition to her duties on the CCB, Dr. Jinkins has the below affiliations:

- State University of New York Morrisville, Associate Professor of Agriculture.
- New York State Department of Agriculture & Markets, Hemp, Fiber & Grain Workgroup Member.
- Town of Cazenovia, County of Madison, New York, Sustainability Workgroup Member.
- Cornell University College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, Nutrient Management Spear Program External Advisory Committee Member.

State AG Seeks Information from Madison Square Garden on Use of Facial Recognition Technology to Deny Entry to Venues

New York Attorney General Letitia James [sent a letter to Madison Square Garden Entertainment Corporation \(MSG Entertainment\)](#) requesting information from the company and its affiliates regarding its use of facial recognition technology to prohibit legitimate ticketholders from entering their venues.

MSG Entertainment owns and operates several large venues in New York, including Madison Square Garden, Radio City Music Hall, the Hulu Theater, and the Beacon Theater. According to the Attorney General, the company has reportedly used facial recognition technology to identify and deny entry to all lawyers who are affiliated with law firms representing clients in pending litigation related to MSG Entertainment.

In the letter, Attorney General James raised the concern that preventing individuals from accessing their venues because of ongoing litigation against the company could violate local, state, and federal human rights laws, including laws prohibiting retaliation. The letter also questions whether the facial recognition software used by MSG Entertainment is reliable and what safeguards are in place to avoid bias and discrimination.

The Attorney General called upon MSG Entertainment to detail the steps the company is taking to comply with New York's civil and human rights laws and ensure that its facial recognition technology will not lead to discrimination.

Also, this week, Senator Brad Hoylman-Sigal introduced legislation (S2424) which would amend the civil rights law to include sporting events within the definition of places of public entertainment and amusement for purposes of wrongful refusal of admission to and ejection. New York's Civil Rights Law bars places of public entertainment and amusement to refuse entry to any public performance for any person over the age of 21 years who presents a ticket of admission.

Mayor Adams And Chancellor Banks Push To Increase Equity In Fair Student Funding Formula

New York City Mayor Eric Adams and New York City Department of Education (DOE) Chancellor David C. Banks this week announced proposed revisions to the Fair Student Funding (FSF) formula for the 2023-2024 school year in an effort to increase equity in the formula. The improvements being announced are in direct response to the recommendations made by the Fair Student Funding Working Group in November 2022. The FSF formula funds approximately two-thirds of community district school budgets and specifically funds schools based on their students' needs.

New York City public schools will propose the following changes:

- An additional weight for students in temporary housing to schools serving these students, including recent asylum-seeking students.
- An additional weight for schools that have higher concentrations of students with needs, including students in poverty, students with disabilities, and English language learners.

The proposed weight changes will go to the Panel for Educational Policy for review.

In response to the changes, Speaker Adrienne Adams and Education Chair Rita Joseph issued the following statement: "The Fair Student Funding (FSF) formula has long been in need of reform to better support our students and school communities. Today's announcement that the Department of Education will adopt key recommendations from the Working Group to provide greater funding for students living in temporary housing, as well as to schools with the greatest number of students with disabilities, specialized academic needs, and living in poverty is a welcome step.

Coming Up

New York State

Monday, January 30th

Criminal Justice Data

Joint – Senate Standing Committee on Codes, Crimes Victims, Crimes and Correction, & Judiciary

Joint – Assembly Standing Committee on Codes, Correction, Judiciary

Hamilton Hearing Room B, Legislative Office Building, 2nd Floor, Albany, 10 a.m.

Assembly Session, New York State Capitol Building, Assembly Chamber, Albany, 2 p.m.
Senate Session, New York State Capitol Building, Senate Chamber, Albany, 3 p.m.

Tuesday, January 31st

Mobile Sports Betting in NY: A First Year Review & Its Budget Impact

Joint – Senate Standing Committee on Racing, Gaming, and Wagering & Assembly Standing Committee on Racing and Wagering
Van Buren Hearing Room A, Legislative Office Building, 2nd Floor, Albany, 9:30 a.m.

Assembly Session, New York State Capitol Building, Assembly Chamber, Albany, TBD
Senate Session, New York State Capitol Building, Senate Chamber, Albany, TBD

Wednesday, February 1st

Assembly Session, New York State Capitol Building, Assembly Chamber, Albany, TBD
Senate Session, New York State Capitol Building, Senate Chamber, Albany, TBD

New York City

Monday, January 30th

Joint - Committee on Aging, Youth Services & Contracts, Council Chambers – City Hall, 1 p.m.
Oversight – Nonprofits Contracting and the Joint Task Force to Get Nonprofits Paid on Time.

Joint – Committee on Government Operations & Small Business, Committee Room – City Hall, 1 p.m.

Tuesday, January 31st

Committee on Public Housing, Committee Room – City Hall, 10 a.m.
Oversight – Examining the Causes of Vacancies in New York City Housing Authority Properties.

Joint - Committee on Higher Education & Veterans, 250 Broadway,, 14th Floor, 11 a.m.
Oversight – Support Services for Student Veterans at The City University of New York.

Committee on Parks and Recreation, Council Chambers – City Hall, 1 p.m.

Wednesday, February 1st

Committee on Health, Committee Room – City Hall, 10 a.m.
Oversight – New York City’s Efforts to Address the Growing Diabetes Epidemic.

Thursday, February 2nd

Committee on Finance, Council Chambers – City Hall, Vote, 10 a.m.
City Council, Council Chambers – City Hall, 1:30 p.m.

Friday, February 3rd

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

Oversight - New York City's Water Quality Obligations under the EPA CSO Consent Order, and The City's Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System.

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