



This Week in New York

Covering New York State and City Government
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January 7, 2022 Edition



“Every record has been destroyed or falsified, every book rewritten, every picture has been repainted, every statue and street building has been renamed, every date has been altered. And the process is continuing day by day and minute by minute. History has stopped. Nothing exists except an endless present in which the Party is always right.”
-George Orwell, 1984-

In the News – New York State

Governor Hochul’s First Message to the Legislature

On January 5, 2022, Governor Kathy Hochul became the first woman to deliver the annual State of the State address. The State of the State is the traditional speech that kicks off the legislative process and provides the sitting governor an opportunity to define his or her legislative and policy agenda for the session.



Governor Hochul Addresses the Legislature while Comptroller DiNapoli, AG James, and members of the Legislature look on.

Governor Hochul spoke to a limited crowd of about 50 people because of surge of COVID-19 cases. Governor Hochul outlined an extensive plan to address many of the problems which plague this state including: an unemployment of 9.4% which is more than double the national average, a significant increase in violent crime, a steep 300,000 person decline in the state’s population while still honoring the loss of more than 60,000 New Yorkers since the pandemic started.

The Governor proposals included progressive measures such as jails-to-jobs programs while also providing proposals for more moderate and conservative New Yorkers in the form of tax relief for middle-class New Yorkers and anti-crime initiatives to reduce gun violence. The Governor also pledged to increase healthcare funding by \$10 billion to provide assistance to New York’s health care workforce which has been ravaged by COVID-19 since March 2020 while also building a new transit line connecting transportation deserts in Queens and Brooklyn.

Among the most noted proposals were overhauling the state ethics commission to reduce public corruption while also instituting a constitutional amendment to impose term limits on all statewide elected offices.

Governor Hochul promised to have a more collaborative approach to working with the legislature and newly elected New York City Mayor Eric Adams.

The following are highlights from the State of the State:

- \$10 Billion Plan to Rebuild and Grow the Healthcare Workforce by 20 Percent.
- Three-Part Agenda to Prevent and Reduce Gun Violence and Violent Crime Throughout New York State.
- Tax Relief for Small Businesses and Middle-Class New Yorkers.
- 'Jails to Jobs' to Improve Re-Entry into the Workforce and Reduce Recidivism.
- Expansion of Transit Service in Brooklyn and Queens.
- Statewide Initiative to End the Homelessness Crisis and Address Inequities in Housing.
- Revitalizing SUNY and Secure Its Place as a Globally Recognized Higher Education Institution.
- Replacing JCOPE with a New Independent Ethics Agency.

State of the State book is available [here](#).



State Will Take Aggressive Path to Achieve 2 Million Climate-Friendly Homes by 2030

***Governor Launches Commitment to Accelerating Green, Electrified or
Electrification-Ready Buildings***

Legislation Will Ensure That All New Building Construction Is Zero-Emissions By 2027

Governor Kathy Hochul this week announced a plan to achieve 2 million climate-friendly, electrified or electrification-ready homes by 2030 as part of the 2022 State of the State. In addition, she proposed legislation to ensure that all new building construction reaches zero-emissions by 2027.

The plan will:

- Require zero on-site greenhouse gas emissions for new construction no later than 2027.
- Upgrade New York's appliance efficiency standards, reducing energy use while saving New Yorkers billions of dollars in utility costs.
- Mandate energy benchmarking for large buildings, making it easier to track energy-efficiency improvements over time.

- Convene the finance, mortgage and banking industries to help align private capital with this housing sustainability goal.
- Provide the training programs necessary to ensure that New York has a skilled workforce to deliver these services.
- Introduce legislation to level the playing field for clean energy alternatives and end the obligation to serve customers with natural gas that currently exists in state law, tailored to maintain affordability for New York's most vulnerable customers.
- Direct New York State Energy and Development Authority (NYSERDA), Homes and Community Renewal (HCR), Department of Public Service (DPS), and Department of State (DOS) to deliver an executable plan to achieve this goal this year, with a funding proposal and strategies to leverage private capital.
- Establish a dedicated green electrification fund and electrify low-income homes through HCR's new \$25 billion, five-year housing capital plan, which will advance the state's goals of creating green affordable housing

As part of this plan, Governor Hochul will also direct the Department of Public Service to ensure that gas utilities “minimize investments in costly new gas infrastructure” and promote alternatives to minimize gas demand.

Finally, Governor Hochul will also put forward a legislative proposal for new construction building codes that will:

- Require new construction statewide to have zero on-site greenhouse gas emissions no later than 2027.
- Incorporate achievement of New York State's greenhouse gas reduction objectives in developing the new construction code.
- Update building code cost-effectiveness criteria to account for the full lifetime of installed equipment.
- Expand the New York State Fire Prevention and Building Code Council to include the President and CEO of NYSERDA and the Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) Commissioner.



Small Business Gets Boost in Governor's State of the State

Governor Kathy Hochul this week announced a Billion Dollar Rescue Plan for small businesses as part of the 2022 State of the State. The plan focuses on future business growth, helps new businesses struggling to establish themselves, and provides tax relief for small businesses which account for 98 percent of all businesses statewide.

The Billion Dollar Rescue Plan includes:

Funding for Small Businesses of the Future: The plan includes venture capital and venture debt awards to venture-backed startups that either locate to, or remain and grow in, New York State. This funding will assist emerging small businesses in the innovation sector, including minority- and women-owned companies often overlooked by private-sector venture investments.

The Small Business COVID Capital Investment Tax Credit: This initiative will provide a tax credit to small businesses which took on COVID-related capital expenses, including retrofits, renovations, machinery and equipment related to COVID safety enhancements.

Seed Funding for Small Businesses: This initiative will provide flexible grants to early-stage small businesses to help those that recently opened get off the ground, despite the COVID pandemic. Priority will be given to socially and economically disadvantaged small business owners.

Small Business Lending Initiative: This initiative will provide reduced interest rates and accessible loans to expanding small businesses.

The Excelsior Contracting Opportunities Initiative: This initiative will provide state-backed funding and technical assistance to position small businesses to secure federally funded contracts related to the \$1.2 trillion federal Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act.

Permanently Legalize the Sale of To-Go Drinks for Bars and Restaurants: Governor Hochul will permanently allow for the sale of to-go drinks for off-premises consumption to continue supporting the recovery of bars and restaurants.

Tax Initiatives: Governor Hochul will also provide \$100 million in tax relief for 195,000 small businesses by widening eligibility and increasing a tax return adjustment that reduces a small business's gross business income.

In the News – City

New York City Speaker Adrienne Adams Makes History

On January 6, 2022, the New York City Council voted Adrienne Adams the Speaker, the second-most-powerful position in city government. Speaker Adams became the first African American to hold the position.



Speaker Adams Sworn In

Speaker Adams has represented the 28th Councilmanic district since 2017 representing the Queens neighborhoods of Jamaica, Rochdale Village, Richmond Hill and South Ozone Park. Speaker Adams will preside over the most diverse City Council in the history of New York City. For the first time in its history, the Council will have its first-ever female majority.

The Speaker is a life-long New Yorker. She attended Bayside High School alongside Mayor Eric Adams in Queens, New York. Speaker Adams went on to Spelman College. The Speaker worked as a corporate trainer for communications companies. Speaker Adams served as chairwoman of Community Board 12 in Queens before running for office in 2017. We wish her the best.



Mayor Adams' Senior Team Appointments

Philip Banks, Deputy Mayor for Public Safety

Philip Banks III will join the Adams Administration as Deputy Mayor for Public Safety. He most recently served as the New York City Police Department (NYPD) chief of department. Banks joined the New York City Police Department (NYPD) in 1986, beginning his career on patrol in the 81st Precinct. In 2010 he was appointed Chief of Community Affairs, a role he served in before being appointed chief of department in 2013. Banks earned a B.S. in business administration from Lincoln University.

Sylvia Hinds-Radix, Corporation Counsel

Mayor Eric Adams today nominated Sylvia Hinds-Radix as the City's Corporation Counsel. She has most recently served as an Associate Justice of the New York State Appellate Division, Second Department — a position she was appointed to in 2012 — and in 2020 was designated a member of the New York State Constitutional Bench. Prior to her appointment to the Appellate Division, Hinds-Radix served as Administrative Judge for Civil Matters in the Second Judicial District for three and a half years. Hinds-Radix was elected to the Supreme Court, Kings County in November of 2004 and served as a New York City Civil Court Judge, from 2002 through 2004, spending her first year in the Criminal Court of Kings County. Hinds-Radix earned a B.S. from the University of Massachusetts, a Masters from Long Island University, and a J.D. from Howard University School of Law.

Frank Carone, Chief of Staff

Frank Carone will join the Adams administration as chief of staff. Most recently, he was a partner at Abrams, Fensterman, Fensterman, Eisman, Formato, Ferrara, Wolf & Carone, LLP. He also served as law secretary for the Kings County Democratic Committee. Carone earned a B.S. from St. John's University and a JD from Brooklyn Law School.

Dawn Miller, First Deputy Chief of Staff

Dawn Miller will join the Adams administration as first deputy chief of staff. She previously served as chief of staff at the New York City Taxi and Limousine Commission (TLC) and worked as a researcher at the Urban Institute in Washington, DC. She has a M.P.A. from Princeton University and a B.A. from the University of Virginia.

Madeline Labadie, Deputy Chief of Staff

Madeline Labadie will join the Adams administration as a deputy chief of staff. Most recently, she served as the director of strategic initiatives at TLC. She has also worked in policy and research roles for the Hotel Trades Council and Council Member Brad Lander. She holds a M.P.A. and a B.A. from New York University.

Ryan Lynch, Deputy Chief of Staff

Ryan Lynch will join the Adams administration as a deputy chief of staff. Before joining the Adams administration, he served as chief of staff for then-Borough President Adams, and prior to that as policy director. Lynch began as a Peace Corps volunteer in Burkina Faso. Lynch earned a B.S. in psychology from Mary Washington College, and his M.S. in urban and regional planning from the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

Menashe Shapiro, Deputy Chief of Staff

Menashe Shapiro will join the Adams administration as a deputy chief of staff. Shapiro was a key advisor to Mayor Adams' campaign and a member of the appointments committee on his mayoral transition. Prior to that, he worked on Michael Bloomberg's presidential and mayoral campaigns, and in private law practice. Shapiro earned his B.A. cum laude in economics from Yeshiva University and his J.D. from Cardozo Law School of Yeshiva University.

Tiffany Raspberry, Senior Advisor for External Affairs

Tiffany Raspberry is joining the Adams administration as senior advisor for external affairs. She started her career working at the House of Representatives as a legislative assistant and scheduler, and later as a policy analyst and chief of staff at the New York City Council. Most recently, Raspberry was a senior team member of Mayor Adams' campaign. She earned her B.A. in political science and African-American studies from Fordham University and a M.P.A. in global public policy and management jointly from New York University and the University College of London.

Stefan Ringel, Senior Advisor to the Mayor

Stefan Ringel is joining the Adams administration as senior advisor to the mayor. He served in the same capacity to Borough President Adams and was a key advisor on media and communication to Eric Adams campaign for Mayor. Previously, he served in the Brooklyn Borough President's Office in various capacities, first as communications director for former Borough President Marty Markowitz, and subsequently as then-Borough President Adams' communications director. Prior to that, Ringel was media relations director to then-Council Member Jumaane Williams. Ringel earned his BA from the University of North Carolina, and his MA in from Fordham University.

Andrea Shapiro Davis, Senior Advisor and Director of Public Service Engagement

Andrea Shapiro Davis will join the Adams administration as senior advisor and director of public service engagement. She had been serving as CUNY's interim vice chancellor for university advancement since August 2019. Since 2013, she has served as CUNY's associate vice chancellor for Corporate, Foundation and Major Gift Development. Davis also served in the administration of former Mayor Michael Bloomberg and as executive director of the NYC Commission on Women's Issues. She also was as an assistant district attorney in Queens County. Davis is a graduate of Queens College and Hofstra University School of Law.

Eric Ulrich, Senior Advisor to the Mayor

Eric Ulrich joins the Adams administration as senior advisor to the mayor. He served as a member of the New York City Council for 12 years. Ulrich earned his B.A. from St. Francis College and his M.P.A. at Baruch College School of Public Affairs.

Edward Mermelstein, Commissioner, Mayor's Office of International Affairs

Edward Mermelstein joins the Adams administration as the commissioner of the Mayor's Office of International Affairs. He joins the administration after a career as an attorney and an investment advisor with a broad range of international clients. He holds a B.A. from NYU and a J.D. from Western Michigan Law School.

Fred Kreizman, Commissioner, Mayor's Community Affairs Unit

Fred Kreizman will join the Adams administration as commissioner of the Mayor's Community Affairs Unit (CAU). He also served on the board of directors of the Brooklyn Navy Yard Development Corporation from 2005 to 2016. Kreizman earned an M.P.A from Pace University and a B.S. from Yeshiva University.

Roberto Perez, Director for Intergovernmental Affairs

Roberto Perez is joining the Adams administration as director of intergovernmental affairs (IGA). Most recently, he served in the de Blasio administration as Commissioner of CAU. Prior to that role, Perez was senior executive director of intergovernmental affairs at the New York City Department of Education (DOE).

Dan Steinberg, Director, Mayor's Office of Operations

Dan Steinberg will join the Adams administration as director of the Mayor's Office of Operations. Steinberg is an urban planner with degrees from the University of Chicago and Columbia University. He recently served as Chief of Data Analytics for the NYC Vaccine Command Center (winner of the Citizen's Budget Commission Prize for Public Service Excellence). He previously served as the deputy director of project and performance management at the Mayor's Office of Operations. Steinberg originally began his career as State Senator Liz Krueger's first legislative aide, and also worked as a researcher and advocate.

Rachel Atcheson, Special Assistant to the Mayor

Rachel Atcheson will join the Adams administration as senior assistant to the mayor, and will also be the at-large director of the SUNY Downstate Committee on Plant-Based Health and Nutrition. She most recently worked as deputy strategist for Borough President Adams.

Previously, Acheson served in the Office of the Mayor as the animal welfare liaison. She received a B.A. from Boston University.

Briefs

Governor Hochul Announces Direct Payments to Healthcare Workers as Part of a \$10 Billion Healthcare Plan

Governor Kathy Hochul unveiled a \$10 billion multi-year investment in healthcare to rebuild and grow the healthcare workforce, as part of the 2022 State of the State. The plan will invest more than \$4 billion to support wages and bonuses for healthcare workers.

Key components of this multi-year wage investment include:

- \$2 billion to support healthcare wages.
- \$2 billion to support healthcare and mental hygiene worker retention bonuses, with up to \$3,000 bonuses going to full-time workers who remain in their positions for one year, and pro-rated bonuses for those working fewer hours.
- \$500 million for Cost-of-Living Adjustments (COLAs) to help raise wages for human services workers.

Governor Calls for End of 421-A Tax Abatement

Calling for an end to the 421-A tax abatement program, Governor Kathy Hochul will propose a new tax abatement that incentivizes rental housing construction across New York City “while creating permanent and deeper affordability.”

According to the Governor, the proposed new tax abatement will aim to create deeper affordability that services lower income households than 421-a; create longer term affordability to provide more stability for low income households; ensure long-term availability of affordable rental units in neighborhoods across the City; restructure the tax abatement to ensure maximum efficiency of taxpayer dollars; align with City and State climate goals by requiring carbon neutral technologies, electrification and electrification-ready building systems; allow flexibility to enable construction of financially viable smaller buildings; and create an all-affordable homeownership option to promote low- and moderate-income homeownership opportunities across the City.

NYS to Continue Investments to Secure its Position as the Nation's Hub for Offshore Wind

Governor Kathy Hochul announced a two-pronged plan to strengthen New York's renewable energy leadership as part of the 2022 State of the State. Under the plan, New York will invest \$500 million in offshore wind infrastructure including in the ports, manufacturing, and supply chain to create more than 2,000 green jobs and procure enough new offshore wind energy to power at least 1.5 million homes.

State Gaming Commission Approves Four Platform Providers and Operators to Commence Mobile Sports Wagering

The NYS Gaming Commission announced this week that four licensed Mobile Sports Wagering Operators - Caesars Sportsbook, DraftKings, FanDuel, and Rush Street Interactive – have satisfied all statutory and regulatory requirements necessary to accept and process mobile sports wagering activity. The operators have been approved to begin operations and launch no earlier than Saturday, January 8, 2022 at 9 a.m. Eastern Standard Time.

After that effective date, each licensee (Caesars Sportsbook, DraftKings, FanDuel, and Rush Street Interactive) will determine when to accept wagers, based upon its business capabilities and readiness. The remaining five conditionally licensed Mobile Sports Wagering Operators continue to work towards satisfying statutory and regulatory requirements necessary to launch and will be approved on a rolling basis when requirements are met.

New York Adopts CDC Quarantine Guidelines

On January 4th, the New York State Department of Health (DOH) issued guidance aligning the State's COVID-19 isolation and quarantine recommendations for the general population with the guidance provided by the federal Center for Disease Control (CDC) on December 27th.

The new DOH recommendations supersede the essential worker provisions of New York's previously released Shortened Isolation guidance with the exception of the guidance related to healthcare workers.

The [January 4th DOH guidance](#) recommends the following in relation to quarantine for the general population:

Quarantines and Close Contacts (applies to those who are exposed to someone who is confirmed or suspected to have COVID-19):

Individuals Not fully vaccinated/Fully Vaccinated booster-eligible but not boosted: Individuals who are not fully vaccinated or fully vaccinated and eligible for a booster **but not yet** boosted and have been exposed to someone with confirmed or suspected COVID-19 are required to quarantine for 5 days after exposure and wear a well-fitting mask while around others for an additional 5 days.

Individuals Fully vaccinated and Boosted: Asymptomatic individuals who have been fully vaccinated and boosted against COVID-19 do **not** need to quarantine but should wear a well-fitting mask around others for 10 days after exposure to COVID-19.

Asymptomatic individuals who are fully vaccinated and not yet eligible for a booster are also not required to quarantine. They should wear a well-fitting mask around others for 10 days after exposure to COVID-19.

- Fully vaccinated and boosted is defined as being 2 weeks or more after either receipt of the second dose in a 2-dose series, or 2 weeks or more after receipt of one dose of a single-dose vaccine, and having received a booster shot at least 2 weeks before the first date of exposure.

If symptoms appear within 10 days of exposure to a known case, if in quarantine or not, individuals should seek testing and isolate until testing is complete. If negative, return to previous quarantine status. If positive, see guidance on isolation. If testing is not possible, isolate for 5 days after symptom onset and wear a well-fitting mask around others for 10 days after exposure to COVID-19.

Regardless of vaccination status, all individuals with exposure to a confirmed case should, if possible, be tested for COVID-19 on the 5th day after exposure with either a nucleic acid amplification test (NAAT, e.g. PCR) or antigen test.

NYC Small Business Forward Executive Order

Mayor Eric Adams this week signed the “Small Business Forward” Executive Order which directs the Department of Buildings, Department of Environmental Protection, Department of Sanitation, Fire Department, Department of Consumer and Worker Protection, and the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene to reduce fine schedules and allow for cure periods or warnings for first-time violations.

The Executive Order requires that within three months, each Agency will identify the 25 violations that are responsible for the greatest number of summonses and fines issued to small businesses and submit recommendations for which violations should be reformed via a) elimination, b) fine schedules scaled back, c) allowance of a First Time Warning, and/or d) allowance for a Cure Period for first-time violations.

Coming Up

New York State

Monday, January 10th

Assembly Session, Remote, 2 p.m.

Senate Session, Remote, 3 p.m.

Tuesday, January 11th

Assembly Session, Remote, time to be announced.

Senate Session, Remote, 3 p.m.

Wednesday, January 12th

Assembly Session, Remote, time to be announced.

Senate Session, Remote, 11 a.m.

Friday, January 14th

To Review the Effectiveness of Business Subsidies and Tax Incentives in Meeting New York State's Economic Development Goals

Senate Standing Committee on Finance, Commerce, Economic Development and Small Business, & Investigations and Government Operations, 10 a.m.

<https://www.nysenate.gov/events>

New York City

*No meetings scheduled**

(*) at time of publication

"No man can be a good citizen unless he has a wage more than sufficient to cover the bare cost of living, and hours of labor short enough so 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."

-Theodore Roosevelt-

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To Our Clients: If you have any questions regarding any of the matters addressed in this newsletter, or regarding any legislative, government relations or political or consulting or related issues in general, please contact the Pitta Bishop & Del Giorno LLC professional with whom you usually work.

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