



This Week in New York

Covering New York State and City Government

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“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



NY's Voters Have Spoken: Kathy Hochul Becomes First Woman Elected Governor of the Empire State

Governor Kathy Hochul this week became the first woman ever [elected](#) Governor of the State of New York, garnering 52% of the statewide vote, based on preliminary results.

“Tonight I want to speak directly to New Yorkers... you made your voices heard loud and clear... And you made me the first woman elected to be the governor of the state of New York...I’m not here to make history, I’m here to make a difference.”



In a nine-minute speech, Governor Hochul pledged to govern with "strength and compassion" and make New York a place "where families can raise their children."

Governor Hochul fought a tough challenge from Congressman Lee Zeldin, a conservative congressman from Long Island. In other statewide races, incumbents--Comptroller Thomas DiNapoli, Attorney General Leticia James, and US Senator Charles Schumer--won handedly.

NY’s Statewide Leaders

Governor Kathy Hochul
Lieutenant Governor Antonio Delgado
Comptroller Thomas DiNapoli
Attorney General Letitia James
US Senator Charles Schumer
US Senator Kirstin Gillibrand

On the federal level, whether Senators Schumer and Gillibrand return to the nation’s capital in 2023 as a member of the majority or the minority still remains to be determined. Currently, Republicans hold 49 seats and Democrats hold 48 seats with races in four states (Alaska, Arizona, Georgia and Nevada) yet to be called, per the *NY Times* (11/10 at 1 p.m.). Republicans need to win 51 seats to gain control of the Senate, while Democrats need to win 50 seats to maintain control.

Meanwhile, the GOP has a 208 to 190 lead in the House of Representatives, per the *NY Times* (11/10 at 1 p.m.) and if the trend continues New York Congressman Elise Stefanik will be joining the majority leadership in January. It is projected that New York’s Congressional delegation will have 15 Democrats and 11 Republicans in its ranks in 2023.

The Democratic majorities in the State Senate and Assembly were never in play due to the margins, however, Republicans made inroads in both houses, possibly ending the Senate’s Super Majority, pending final election results.

Clean Water Clean Air & Green Jobs

Environmental Bond Act of 2022

New York Voters Approve \$4.2 Billion Environmental Bond Act

Voters across New York have approved \$4.2 billion in State borrowing proposed by Governor Kathy Hochul and the State Legislature, as part of this year's enacted budget, to fund major projects to respond to climate change and pollution.

The Clean Water, Clean Air, and Green Jobs Environmental Bond Act authorizes the State to take on the debt in the coming years to pay for flood risk mitigation, clean water infrastructure, land conservation, emissions reduction, and other climate initiatives.

The only statewide referendum on the ballot this year, [the act](#) allows the State Comptroller Thomas DiNapoli to sell bonds to fund the following: \$1.5 billion for climate change mitigation projects like energy efficiency upgrades, greenhouse gas sequestration, and pollution reduction; \$1.1 billion for flood risk mitigation; \$650 million for water quality infrastructure; and another

\$650 million for land rehabilitation and habitat conservation. The state has flexibility to spend another \$300 million that is not specifically earmarked. Under the budget legislation, at least 35% of the total funding must go to underserved communities.

The largest environmental bond act in State history, the Clean Water, Clean Air, Green Jobs Bond Act authorizes \$4.2 billion to fund critical environmental restoration projects throughout the state.



In the News – New York City



2022 Elections: New York City Calls for Equity & Racial Justice

Voters in New York City this week widely adopted a trio of local ballot proposals aimed at promoting equity and racial justice.

The measures, developed by the New York City Racial Justice Commission, create a new Office of Racial Equity within the city government, change how poverty is gauged to better reflect life in New York City, and add a preamble to the City Charter. The Commission was empaneled by former Mayor Bill de Blasio in 2020.

The new Office of Racial Equity is expected to be integrated with the existing Mayor's Office for Equity and will monitor various programs — such as trash pickup or street repaving — for disparities by race, according to published reports. The ballot measure will establish a permanent Racial Equity Commission and also require the City and its agencies to publish racial equity plans every two years.

Specifics of the ballot measures are:

Ballot Question #1: Add a Statement of Values to Guide Government

The New York City Charter will be amended to add a preamble, which would be an introductory statement of values and vision aspiring toward “a just and equitable city for all” New Yorkers; and Include in the preamble a statement that the City must strive to remedy “past and continuing harms and to reconstruct, revise, and reimagine our foundations, structures, institutions, and laws to promote justice and equity for all New Yorkers.” The preamble is intended to guide City government in fulfilling its duties.

Ballot Question #2: Establish a Racial Equity Office, Plan, and Commission

The City Charter will be amended to:

- Require citywide and agency-specific Racial Equity Plans every two years. The plans would include intended strategies and goals to improve racial equity and to reduce or eliminate racial disparities.
- Establish an Office of Racial Equity and appoint a Chief Equity Officer to advance racial equity and coordinate the City's racial equity planning process. The Office would support City agencies in improving access to City services and programs for those people and communities who have been negatively affected by previous policies or actions.
- Establish a Commission on Racial Equity, appointed by City elected officials. In making appointments to this Commission, elected officials would be required to consider appointees who are representative of or have experience advocating for a diverse range of communities. The Commission would identify and propose priorities to inform the racial equity planning process and review agency and citywide Racial Equity Plans.

Ballot Question #3: Measure the True Cost of Living

The City Charter would be amended to:

- Require the City to create a “true cost of living” measure to track the actual cost in New York City of meeting essential needs, including housing, food, childcare, transportation, and other necessary costs, and without considering public, private, or informal assistance, in order to inform programmatic and policy decisions.
- Require the City government to report annually on the “true cost of living” measure.



Bills Signed by the Mayor

Intro. 242-A — sponsored by New York City Councilmember Jennifer Gutiérrez — Requires the creation of a Marshall Plan for Moms Task Force to study and develop recommendations to support working mothers, parents, and caregivers.

Intro. 477-A — sponsored by New York City Councilmember Crystal Hudson — Establishes a childcare task force to study how to make childcare more affordable, how to make it more accessible for families in the city, and how to provide support and funding to child care.

Intro. 485-A — sponsored by New York City Councilmember Julie Menin — Requires the New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene to coordinate with the New York City Department of Information Technology and Telecommunications to create and maintain an online website with a directory of childcare programs in the city to allow the average parent identify the right child care locations for their children.

Intro. 486-A — sponsored by New York City Councilmember Julie Menin — Establishes a childcare advisory board, which would be responsible for conducting studies on and issuing reports related to childcare in the city.

Intro. 487-A — sponsored by New York City Councilmember Julie Menin — Requires an agency or office designated by the mayor — in collaboration with the New York City Department of Information Technology and Telecommunications, now known as the New York City Office of Technology and Innovation — and any other relevant agency or office to create and maintain a publicly accessible online portable regarding childcare subsidies.

Intro. 488-A — sponsored by New York City Councilmember Julie Menin — Requires an administering agency designated by the mayor to establish a three-year childcare grant pilot program by July 1, 2023.

Intro. 489-A — sponsored by New York City Councilmember Julie Menin — Requires the New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene to develop guidance for owners of real property regarding the facility requirements for a childcare program and make such guidance available on its website.

Briefs

New York State Has Surpassed Half a Billion Dollars in Mobile Sports Wagering Tax Revenue

Governor Kathy Hochul this week announced that since early January, when mobile sports wagering became available in New York, the State has collected \$542 million in taxes through the week ending October 30, far surpassing every other state in the nation.

An additional \$200 million in licensing fees has also been collected, generating a total of more than \$740 million in revenue, the majority of which has been earmarked for education. This outperforms every other state in the nation, including those that have been accepting mobile sports wagers for several years.

"By bringing sports wagering to New York, we have not only opened the door to responsible entertainment for millions of sports fans, but we have also brought in significant revenue to support schools, as well as youth sports, while implementing important safeguards to help those who need it," Governor Hochul said. "I'm proud of the work that has been done to secure our state's top position in mobile sports wagering, and I am excited to continue the trend as we secure hundreds of millions of dollars to support programs that will improve the lives of New Yorkers."

New York State set a record of \$73 million in mobile sports wagering tax revenue in September, the most generated by any state to date, breaking its own record of \$63 million set in January. According to reports, the highest monthly mobile sports wagering tax revenue generated outside of New York is Pennsylvania in November 2021 at \$19 million.

State Opioid Advisory Board Releases Funding Recommendations

The State Opioid Settlement Fund Advisory Board, charged with advising the state on how to distribute the first wave of funding from opioid settlements, has released its inaugural report, recommending the largest portion of support go toward "harm reduction," including overdose prevention centers and syringe service programs for individuals with substance abuse problems.

New York will receive at least \$1.5 billion in the settlement funding from lawsuits filed by Attorney General Letitia James. The lawsuits sought to hold manufacturers and distributors in the opioid industry accountable for the opioid health crisis.

The report sent this week to Governor Kathy Hochul and leaders of the State Legislature offers suggestions on distributing \$242 million that will be immediately available this year and puts forth solutions to help mitigate the overdose crisis.

The board proposed investing \$28 million on harm reduction strategies, including safe injection sites, syringe service programs and access to more mental health and trauma-informed treatment. In addition, the Board proposed \$20 million "investments across the service continuum." For example, the Board suggested investing in workforce capacity, rapid responses to drug overdoses and treatment, and telehealth access.

Other areas of investment include social awareness campaigns and transitional housing for users who are battling homelessness.

State Department of Financial Services Updates Cybersecurity Regulation

The State Department of Financial Services (DFS) this week proposed [updated cybersecurity regulations](#) to ensure cybersecurity risk is integrated into business planning, decision-making, and ongoing risk management.

“With cyber-attacks on the rise, it is critical that our regulation keeps pace with new threats and technology purpose-built to steal data or inflict harm,” said Superintendent Adrienne Harris said. “Cyber criminals go after all types of companies, big and small, across industries, which is why all of our regulated entities must comply with these standards – whether a bank, virtual currency company, or a health insurance company.”

The regulation changes include: creating of three tiers of companies to tailor regulation to different business defensive needs based upon size; increasing accountability for cybersecurity at the Board and C-Suite levels; adding controls to prevent initial unauthorized access to technology systems and to prevent or mitigate the spread of an attack; requiring more regular risk and vulnerability assessments; and directing companies to invest in regular training and cybersecurity awareness programs that are relevant to their business model and personnel.

The proposed amended regulation is subject to a 60-day comment period beginning November 9th upon publication in the *State Register*.

NYC Schools Retain Funding Despite Reduction in Enrollment

New York City Mayor Eric Adams and Department of Education (DOE) Chancellor David Banks announced this week that city public schools will not be financially impacted by lower-than-projected enrollment rates.

The decision is expected to increase the school budget by approximately \$200 million, with an additional provision of almost \$12 million to support students of migrant families, over \$50 million in hardship support, and \$100 million in additional budgetary flexibility for this fiscal year. The City will utilize federal stimulus funding to offset the increase.

“The decision to hold school budgets harmless is about prioritizing the needs of the nearly 1 million children served by New York City public schools every day,” said Mayor Adams. “We know that our entire school community was and still remains deeply impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. But under our administration, we are committed to ensuring that every school has the resources needed to provide the highest quality education for students to thrive.”

This will be the third consecutive year that stimulus funds have been used to make up for low mid-year enrollment, according to published reports.

Coming Up

New York State

No Scheduled Hearings

New York City

Monday, November 14th

Committee on Rules, Privileges and Elections, Council Chambers – City Hall, 10 a.m.

Committee on Fire and Emergency Management, Committee Room – City Hall, 10 a.m.
Oversight – E-Bikes and Lithium-ion Battery Fire Safety.

Tuesday, November 15th

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

Oversight – Recommendations of the Advisory Commission on Property Tax Reform.

Wednesday, November 16th

Committee on Sanitation and Solid Waste Management, Committee Room – City Hall, 10 a.m.

Oversight – The Future of the City’s Sanitation Fleet and DSNY’s 2022-2023 Snow Plan.

Committee on Education, Committee Room – City Hall, 1 p.m.

Oversight – NYC Department of Education’s Spending of Federal COVID-19 Relief Funds.

Thursday, November 17th

Subcommittee on Landmarks, Public Sitings and Dispositions, Committee Room – City Hall, 10 a.m.

Committees on State and Federal & Consumer and Worker Protection, 250 Broadway, 10 a.m.

Oversight – Student Debt as a Barriers to Generational Wealth.

Subcommittee on Zoning and Franchises, Committee Room – City Hall, 10:30 a.m.

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

Oversight – Resident Engagement and Outreach.

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