



# 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*



### **Governor Cuomo Resigns, Lt. Governor Hochul to Take the Reigns August 24th**



On Tuesday afternoon, Governor Andrew Cuomo announced he would resign from office. His announcement follows Attorney General Letitia James’ August 2nd report into sexual misconduct allegations and the ensuing controversy. The resignation would take effect 14 days from the announcement, on August 24th. Members of Cuomo’s senior staff, including Secretary to the Governor Melissa DeRosa, have quit in light of the scandal.

A native of Buffalo, Lieutenant Governor Hochul began her career in government as a member of the Hamburg Town Board. In 2003, the Erie County Clerk appointed her Deputy County Clerk. In 2007, Governor Spitzer appointed her Erie County Clerk. In 2011, Hochul won a special election to fill the vacancy in New York’s 26th congressional district following Chris Lee’s resignation due to a sex scandal. She served one term. Hochul was elected Lieutenant Governor in the 2014 general election, and is Cuomo’s second Lieutenant Governor. She is married to William Hochul, General Counsel for Delaware North and former United States Attorney for the Western District of New York. They have two children.



### **National Infrastructure Bill Closer To Reality: US Senate Passes Bipartisan Bill**

On August 10, 2021, the United States Senate passed a bi-partisan national infrastructure bill. The infrastructure bill, H.R. 3684 includes over \$1.2 trillion in core infrastructure spending for the nation’s

aging and crumbling roads, bridges, water pipes and electric grids. The infrastructure bill passed by a margin of 69 - 30. The legislation will now go to the House of Representatives where it must clear some tricky political hurdles to become law.

If H.R. 3684 becomes law, it will be a signature achievement for President Joe Biden. Presidents Barack Obama, Donald Trump and other Presidents campaigned on passing such legislation, but it alluded them even as the nation's infrastructure has become outdated, and its poor conditions creates dangerous conditions for Americans. The American Society of Civil Engineers ("ASCE"), a nonpartisan group, rates America's infrastructure at C-. The ASCE calculates that there is a water main break every two minutes of America and that an estimated 6 billion gallons of treated water is wasted each day. The ASCE also calculates that 43% of America's public roadways are in poor or mediocre condition.

H.R. 3684 contains more than \$1.2 trillion in core infrastructure spending. The bill reauthorizes the \$304 billion for the federal highway program and invests almost \$50 billion for transit. The bill will also send more than \$100 billion from the treasury to the Highway Trust Fund which faced a massive budget gap.

H.R. 3684 also contains more than \$550 billion in new federal funding for infrastructure over five years:

- \$110 billion of new funds for roads, bridges, and major projects
- \$73 billion to upgrade the electric grid
- \$65 billion for broadband internet access
- \$55 billion in spending for drinking water with dedicated funding to replace lead pipes
- \$25 billion for airports
- \$21 billion for cleanup of abandoned mines, superfund sites, and other brownfields

President Biden campaigned on passing a bi-partisan infrastructure bill that he promised will help generate good union jobs to stimulate the economy. The Senate's vote gets President Biden closer to fulfilling this campaign promise and fulfilling a lifelong dream for recently deceased AFL-CIO President Richard Trumka whom worked closely with President Biden and Senate Majority Leader Charles Schumer on H.R. 3684.

The fate of H.R. 3684 now is up to the House of Representatives. Speaker Nancy Pelosi said that the House Majority will not consider H.R. 3684 until the Senate Democratic Majority pass a budget reconciliation bill that includes an expansion of the nation's social safety net. In response, the Senate Democrats unveiled a \$3.5 trillion budget blueprint that includes boost in spending on health care, child and elder care, education and climate change. Senate Republicans are not expected to support any budget reconciliation bill, however, to pass such legislation, the Senate Democrats only need a simple majority. The House of Representative are out of session and are not expected to return until the Fall. The Biden administration vowed to work with the House to pass H.R. 3684 when the House returns from its recess.

## *In the News – City*



### **Mayor de Blasio Announces 50,000 New Yorkers Have Received a \$100 Vaccine Incentive**

NEW YORK—Mayor Bill de Blasio announced that 50,000 New Yorkers have received the \$100 vaccine incentive available at City-run vaccine sites. A majority of the \$100 cards have gone to New Yorkers of color.

"Getting vaccinated against COVID-19 is easy, safe, and even comes with a bonus \$100 at City-run sites," said Mayor Bill de Blasio. "I'm thrilled 50,000 New Yorkers have taken advantage of this incentive so far. This is clearly a smart, effective way to drive up vaccination rates. It's proof that more cities and states across the country should follow President Biden's urging to adopt New York City's \$100 incentive."

According to data at City-run vaccination sites, of the 50,000 people who have received the \$100 incentive, 43% self-identified as Hispanic, 21% as Black, 13% as Asian, 9% as White, 5% as other and 7% preferred not to say. In addition, 23% of those who selected to receive \$100 are under 18, 36% are 18-34, 38% are 35-64, 3% are 65-74 and 1% are over 75.

"We're excited to see the positive outcomes our City's \$100 incentive for first shots is having on our vaccination rates," said Deputy Mayor for Health and Human Services Melanie Hartzog. "Regardless of the motive, the ultimate reward is protecting themselves and their loved ones from the threats of COVID-19 and its Delta variant."

"One hundred bucks is great, but the real reward is protection against COVID-19 and more safely returning to the things we love," said First Deputy Commissioner and Chief Equity Officer Dr. Torian Easterling. "I encourage all New Yorkers to continue to take advantage of this incentive and get vaccinated as soon as possible. Vaccination is our path out of this pandemic, and it saves lives."

"As a physician, I'm pleased to see more and more New Yorkers get their COVID-19 vaccine, which is still proven to be the safest defense against serious illness against this terrible virus," said NYC Health + Hospitals President and CEO Mitchell Katz. "Whether it's after a thoughtful conversation with your doctor, or to cash in on the great incentive our City is providing, the advice to get you and your family vaccinated will remain the same."



## City Council Releases Pay Equity Report

The Council this week released a report on pay disparities within the New York City municipal workforce, analyzing data which shows the median salary for men is \$21,600 higher than for women.

In addition, the Council found racial gaps, with the median salary for a white employee at \$27,800 higher than a Black employee's salary and \$22,200 higher than the pay for a Hispanic/Latino employee.

According to the Council, the findings show these inequities persist primarily in the form of occupational segregation, which is the over- or under-representation of certain demographic groups in certain occupations and contributes to pay gaps across the City's workforce. The full report from the Council's Data Operations Unit can be found [here](#).

Specifically, white men tend to hold higher ranking and therefore higher paying positions, while women and people of color are often siloed in lower paying positions, according to the Council's analysis.

According to a model that accounts for job titles and other employee qualifications, Black women make 1.9% less than white men, the report found.

The report is the result of the City's Pay Equity Law, or Local Law 18, which requires the city to provide the Council access to pay data based on race, ethnicity, gender, and other protected classes among employees of the City of New York in all agencies headed by a mayoral appointee. The Council's Data Operations Unit analyzed employee information from 2018 provided by the de Blasio Administration to understand any existing pay disparities related to these protected categories.

In response to the findings, the Council presents the following recommendations to improve pay equity and help end occupational segregation in City agencies:

- Update Local Law 18 to require additional data that will improve the Council's ability to analyze the data in future reports.
- Require agencies to collect and report on the gender and race of civil service exam. applicants and acceptance and graduation statistics from agency training programs.
- Require analysis of job postings and recruitment material for biases.
- Expand the existing law that requires the DOE and DCAS to make high school students. aware of civil service opportunities.
- Require agencies to perform outreach to local communities regarding civil service opportunities.
- Require agencies to perform internal pay equity analyses and adjust salaries as necessary to achieve pay equity.
- Conduct comparable worth analyses of jobs primarily held by women/non-white workers.
- Conduct interagency analyses for majority women/non-white agencies.

# Briefs

## 471 Bills Passed Both Houses not Delivered to the Governor (yet)

As of this writing, according to the Legislative Bill Drafting Commission database, 471 bills have yet to be submitted to the Governor for executive action. A small sample includes the following bills.

<a href="#">A1523</a>	<b>Pretlow</b> -- Prohibits approved providers of child health insurance coverage from discriminating against health care providers not participating in the insurer's network
<a href="#">A2037</a>	<b>Dinowitz</b> -- Relates to the publication of nursing home ratings
<a href="#">A2140B</a>	<b>Griffin</b> -- Directs the department of environmental conservation, with the assistance of other departments and agencies, to conduct a study on the health impacts of John F. Kennedy international airport and LaGuardia airport
<a href="#">A2439</a>	<b>Aubry</b> -- Directs the president of the state civil service commission to publish reports annually relating to diversity within state government
<a href="#">A2573A</a>	<b>Fall</b> -- Removes the prohibition on individuals convicted of a felony that prevents them from being appointed fiduciary of an estate
<a href="#">A3359</a>	<b>Paulin</b> -- Prohibits utility companies from harassing, oppressing or abusing any residential customer in connection with the handling of a complaint or unpaid balance
<a href="#">A4186B</a>	<b>Dinowitz</b> -- Provides an online absentee ballot tracking system
<a href="#">A4302</a>	<b>Englebright</b> -- Provides that one hundred percent of in-state sales of new passenger cars and trucks shall be zero-emissions by two thousand thirty-five
<a href="#">A6481</a>	<b>McMahon</b> -- Authorizes political subdivisions to permit any public body to hold meetings remotely and without in-person access
<a href="#">A8012</a>	<b>Meeks</b> -- Relates to making appropriation to the children of the late David F Gantt, member of the assembly, the balance due of his unpaid annual compensation for a portion of the year 2020
<a href="#">S17A</a>	<b>MAYER</b> -- Authorizes employees to petition an employer to apply to participate in a shared work program for purposes of avoiding a reduction in workforce or for purposes of re-hiring
<a href="#">S18A</a>	<b>MAYER</b> -- Requires the department of labor to provide information to employers about shared work program eligibility and benefits
<a href="#">S30</a>	<b>KAPLAN</b> -- Authorizes the empire state development corporation to develop a public awareness campaign promoting personal protective clothing and equipment manufacturing businesses located in New York state
<a href="#">S255B</a>	<b>MAYER</b> -- Requires payment of prevailing wage on public works projects for work involving the hauling and delivery of aggregate supply construction materials
<a href="#">S399A</a>	<b>BIAGGI</b> -- Provides additional rights to pregnant inmates
<a href="#">S737A</a>	<b>BIAGGI</b> -- Requires debt collectors to inform debtors that written communications are available in large print format
<a href="#">S1035A</a>	<b>ADDABBO</b> -- Prohibits general hospitals from disallowing individuals with disabilities from having an essential support person accompany them for the duration of their hospitalization

<a href="#">S2740B</a>	<b>KAVANAGH</b> -- Establishes a demonstration program on interstate route 278 in Kings county to enforce vehicle weight restriction on such interstate by means of mobile or stationary weigh in motion systems; repealer
<a href="#">S2819A</a>	<b>ADDABBO</b> -- Prohibits the sale of whipped cream chargers to persons under the age of twenty-one
<a href="#">S4306B</a>	<b>GIANARIS</b> -- Relates to enacting the "Make Voting Easy Act" to require the board of elections to designate at least one early voting polling place for every thirty thousand registered voters in each county

## 626 Bills Passed Single House Despite being sponsored in both houses

Although the legislature had a fairly productive year, there is an enormous number of bills which were only considered by one chamber. This unfinished business applies to hundreds of issues ranging from hyper local issues to issues which would have major financial impact on every resident of New York State. Gideon John Tucker (February 10, 1826 – July 1899) in 1866, as Surrogate of New York County, wrote in a decision of a will case: "No man's life, liberty or property are safe while the Legislature is in session." Despite Judge Tucker's warning, it is hoped that the Legislature will return to session and address the issues of our turbulent times.

## New Vaccination Portal for DOE Employees

*Per POLITICO:* The city's Department of Education is launching a new vaccination portal for DOE employees to upload their vaccinations and Covid-19 test results in an effort to consolidate the verification process. As of Sept. 13, all city employees are required to provide proof of vaccination or a negative Covid-19 test on a weekly basis.

In response to the mandate, the department is launching the DOE Vaccination Portal, which enables school employees to provide their vaccination status and to upload proof of vaccination to a central database. The DOE said the portal would streamline the process for DOE offices and schools to confirm the vaccination status of more than 140,000 staff.

"Vaccines are our passport out of this pandemic and this brand new tool is a one-stop-shop that streamlines submitting, collecting and verifying vaccination status for every single DOE school and employee," department spokesperson Katie O'Hanlon said in a statement provided to POLITICO ahead of the official announcement. "We encourage everyone getting ready for September 13th to upload their vaccination proof and do their part to keep our school communities safe and healthy."

## U.S. Census Bureau Delivers Data for States to Begin Redistricting Efforts

Thursday, the U.S. Census Bureau released additional 2020 Census results showing an increase in

the population of U.S. metro areas compared to a decade ago. In addition, these once-a-decade results showed the nation's diversity in how people identify their race and ethnicity.

These statistics, which come from the 2020 Census Redistricting Data (Public Law 94-171) Summary File, provide the first look at populations for small areas and include information on Hispanic origin, race, age 18 and over, housing occupancy and group quarters. They represent where people were living as of April 1, 2020, and are available for the nation, states and communities down to the block level.

The largest county in the United States in 2020 remains Los Angeles County with over 10 million people.

The largest city (incorporated place) in the United States in 2020 remains New York with 8.8 million people. New York City has grown by more than 629,000 people — or nearly 8 percent — since 2010. With the new census figures, New York City now accounts for nearly 44 percent of the state's total population.

## ***Coming Up***

### ***New York State***

#### ***Thursday, August 19<sup>th</sup>***

***To Examine Implementation of the COVID-19 Emergency Rental Assistance Program***  
Senate Committee on Housing, Construction & Community Development, & Social Services  
Founder's Hall, St. Francis College, 180 Remsen Street, Brooklyn, 10 a.m.

#### ***Wednesday, August 25<sup>th</sup>***

***New York State's system of ethics oversight and enforcement***  
Senate Standing Committee on Ethics and Internal Governance  
Van Buren Hearing Room A, Legislative Office Building, 2nd Floor, Albany, New York 10:00 A.M.

### ***New York City***

#### ***Thursday, August 26<sup>th</sup>***

***City Council Stated Meeting*** 1:30 PM  
Council Chambers - City Hall  
Overflow Room for additional public viewing at 250 Broadway.

**“We believe in the ideas of family, mutuality,  
the sharing of benefits and burdens  
for the good of all, feeling one another’s pain,  
sharing one another’s blessing  
recognizing that at the heart of the matter  
we are bound to each other.”  
-Mario M. Cuomo-**

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**120 Broadway, 28th Floor  
New York, New York 10271**  
Telephone (212) 652-3890  
Facsimile (212) 652-3891

**111 Washington Avenue, St. 401  
Albany, New York 12210**  
Telephone (518) 449-3320  
Facsimile (518) 449-5812

**25 Hyatt Street, St. 202  
Staten Island, New York 10301**  
Telephone (718) 943-1050  
Facsimile (718) 943-1051

**1220 19<sup>th</sup> Street NW  
Washington, D.C. 20036**  
Telephone (202) 964-4753  
Facsimile (202) 964-5754