



This Week in New York

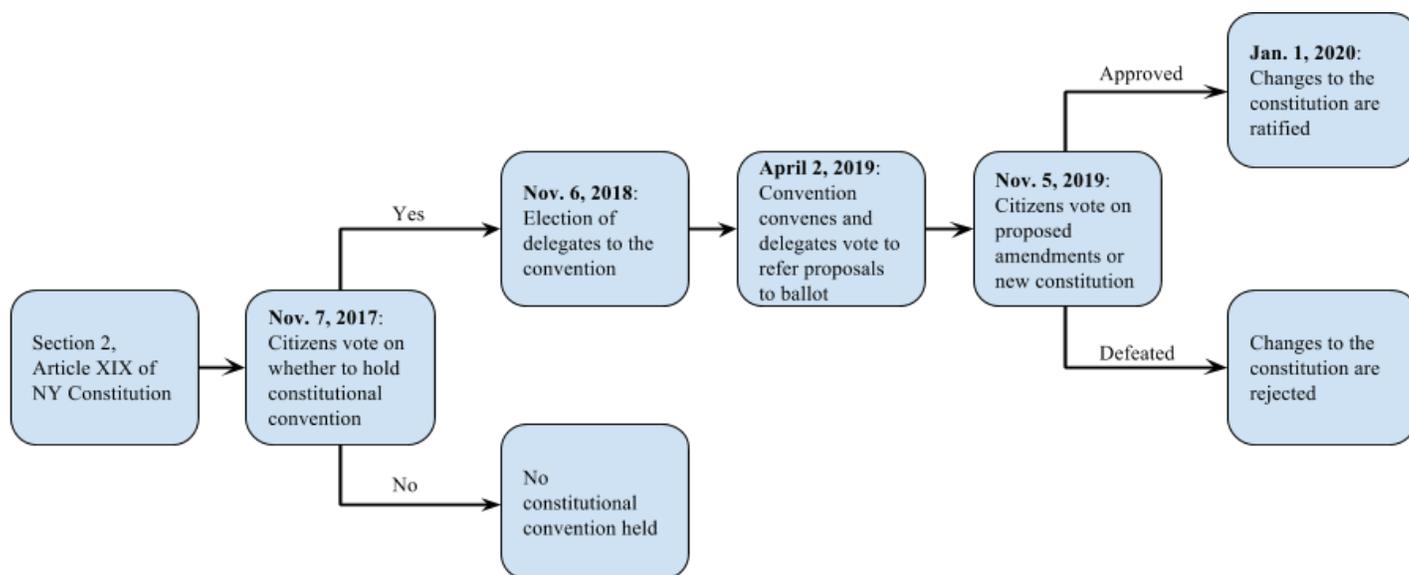
Covering New York State and City Government

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October 27, 2017 Edition



New York Article XIX Constitutional Convention Process, 2017 - 2020



Source: Dr. Peter Galie, Professor Emeritus of Political Science at Canisius College

In the News – New York State

New York Launches Cancer Research Initiative

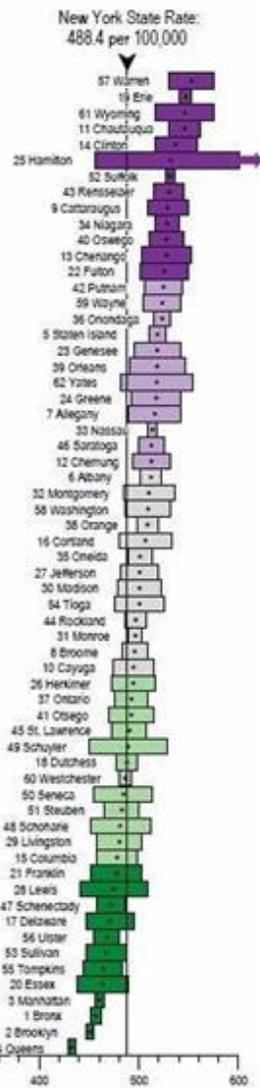
DOH to Conduct Four Regional Analyses in Areas of New York with Higher Incidence of Cancer

New York State is launching a research initiative to examine cancer patterns and the potential causes of cancer in four regions across the state that have a higher incidence of certain cancers.

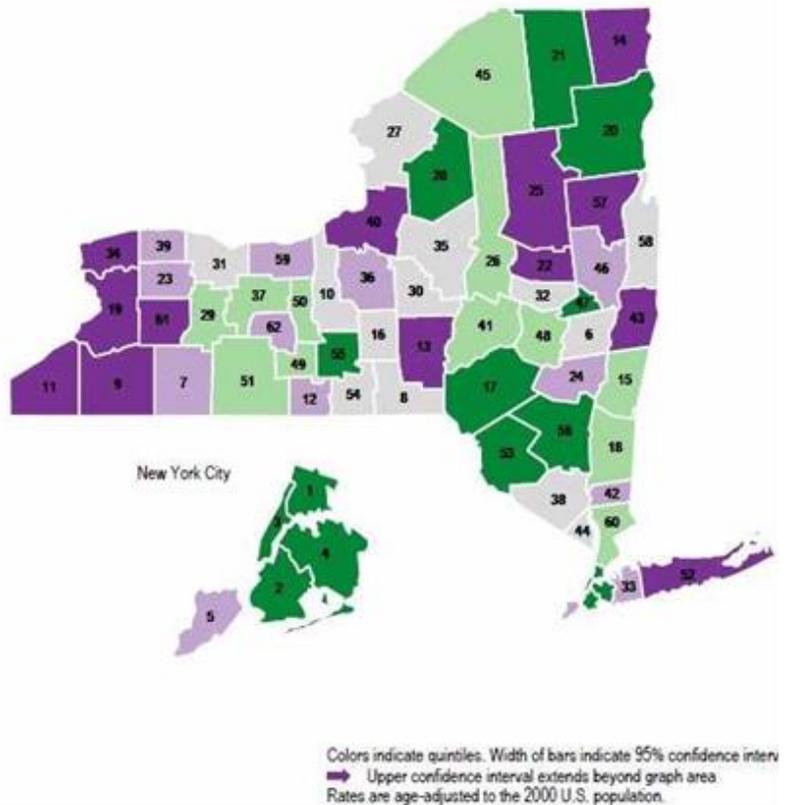
The regional studies will focus on the eastern part of the state surrounding Warren County, western part of the state surrounding Erie County, and in two regions downstate, including Staten Island and Long Island. Warren County has the highest rate of cancer in the state, while Staten Island's rate is an anomaly compared to the rest of the boroughs in New York City.

The state is budgeting up to \$500,000 to conduct the four regional studies, and findings are expected within one year. As part of the review, the State Department of Health (DOH) will look within and around counties that have higher rates of cancer and work to detect patterns related to demographic, socioeconomic, behavioral, or occupational factors. In addition, the Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) will inventory potential environmental threats in those communities.

These regional clusters were identified using the New York State Cancer Registry which collects reports on cancer diagnoses from health care providers. Data includes the anatomical sites of tumors, the stages at diagnosis, the cell types of the cancer, as well as the treatment information and demographic information of those diagnosed with cancer.



Age-Adjusted Incidence Rates
All Invasive Malignant Tumors
Both Males and Females
New York State, by County, 2010-2014



DOH will use the results of this initiative to enhance community screening and prevention efforts and support access to appropriate high-quality health care services in communities across the state identified as having high rates of cancer.

According to registry data, while the number of cancer diagnoses per year in New York have been rising, deaths due to the most common types of cancer, including lung, prostate, female breast and colorectal cancers, have been steadily decreasing.

Bills Signed by the Governor

Chapter 333 – Sponsored by Senator Murphy/ M of A Paulin -- Enacts the "elephant protection act" to prohibit the use of elephants in entertainment acts

Chapter 335 – Sponsored by Senator Hannon/ M of A Rosenthal -- Includes vaping in provisions restricting smoking in certain public areas

Chapter 340 – Sponsored by M of A Pretlow/Senator Golden -- Relates to the use of safety belts in taxicabs and liveries.

Chapter 346 – Sponsored by M of A Quart/Senator Ritchie -- Relates to authorizing a study of the economic impact of public libraries.

Chapter 347 – Sponsored by M of A Nolan/Senator Marcellino -- Relates to a sepsis awareness, prevention and education program.

Chapter 361 – Sponsored by M of A Weprin/Senator Gallivan -- Authorizes the study of parole officer staffing.

Chapter 368 – Sponsored by M of A Abbate/Senator Golden -- Relates to standardizing the overtime reporting period for certain members of the retirement system.

Chapter 376 – Sponsored by Senator Carlucci/M of A Cusick -- Relates to real property tax exemptions for veterans.

Chapter 378 – Sponsored by Senator Lanza/M of A Rosenthal -- Authorizes domestic companion animals be permitted to board any commuter transportation operated by the metropolitan transportation authority in the event of a state of emergency and evacuation.

Chapter 379 – Sponsored by Senator Bailey/M of A Rozic -- Requires that rehabilitation programs for female inmates in state correctional facilities be equivalent to those provided to male inmates elsewhere in the state.

Chapter 381 – Sponsored by Senator Alcantara/Crespo -- Requires a study on the feasibility of implementing an emergency alert notification system.

Chapter 384 – Sponsored by Senator Avella/ M of A Hevesi -- Clarifies the definition of "prospective relative guardian" for purposes of subsidized kinship guardianship assistance.

Chapter 385 – Sponsored by Senator Lanza/ M of A Cusick -- Relates to comprehensive emergency management provisions for home care and hospice in counties and in cities with a population of one million or more.

Chapter 387 – Sponsored by Senator Golden/ M of A Abbate -- Relates to awards to spouses of certain employees killed in the line of duty.

Chapter 389 – Sponsored by Senator Hannon/M of A Gottfried -- Prohibits requiring prior authorization for the provision of coverage of services in a neonatal intensive care unit.

Chapter 390 – Sponsored by Senator Savino/M of A Titone -- Relates to the base pilotage tariffs at Sandy Hook, Sands Point and Execution Rocks.

Bills Vetoed by the Governor

Veto Memo 171 – Sponsored by M of A Quart/Senator Savino -- Relates to the definition of a gravity knife.

Veto Memo 168 – Sponsored by Senator Lanza/ M of A Nolan -- Requires school district compliance with physical education instruction requirements in elementary grades in public schools to be reported to the department of education.

Veto Memo 169 – Sponsored by Senator Croci/M of A Dinowitz -- Relates to disaster preparedness.

In the News – New York City

NYC Announces New Program to Save City's Remaining Affordable Mitchell-Lama Developments

The de Blasio administration this week announced a Mitchell-Lama Reinvestment Program to protect the long-term affordability of the City's remaining Mitchell-Lama developments. With an initial investment of \$250,000 the new program will target more than 15,000 homes over the next eight years to save Mitchell-Lamas where affordability is at risk.

According to Mayor de Blasio, nearly 20,000 of the City-supervised co-ops and rentals in New York City's Mitchell-Lama buildings have left the program since 1989. The lure of raising rents to profit from the City's real estate boom, or of selling once affordable co-op units for market-rate prices is threat to this critical portfolio.

“From Coney Island to the Upper West Side and for decades, hundreds of Mitchell-Lama buildings have offered stable, affordable homes for New York working families. We cannot afford to lose one more of these homes. We're investing to protect them for the seniors and families who helped build our neighborhoods, and for generations to come,” said Mayor de Blasio.



Since the inception of the Mayor's *Housing New York Plan*, the City has preserved, or extended the affordability, of 30 Mitchell-Lama developments with 11,000 residences. Of the approximately 100 remaining developments, with more than 45,000 homes, about two-thirds are cooperatives. The others are rental apartments.

The City will use the funding to help the developments by restructuring existing debt, providing long-term tax benefits, and funding capital repairs.

According to the Mayor, most Mitchell-Lama developments, originally funded by the federal government, date from the 1950s and 1960s, and many now need significant rehabilitation work. In exchange for the benefits, property owners agree to keep the buildings affordable for at least 20 more years.

New Measures to Protect Affordable Housing for Loft Residents

In an effort to increase affordable-housing protections for Loft residents, the Mayor's office this week issued a series of proposals for consideration by the City's Loft Board.

Nearly 10,000 artists and other New Yorkers live in lofts overseen by the Loft Board. Since 2004, the number of buildings with rent-regulated lofts has declined almost 30%.

The suggested policy changes will be subject to a public hearing and be put before the New York City Loft Board for a vote by the end of the year. If adopted, the new rules will:

- Allow all occupants of a loft to apply for legal protection under the Loft Law, whether or not the occupant is the primary leaseholder. This policy change would allow family members living in a loft to remain if a primary leaseholder dies. A Loft Board policy change in 2010 revoked protections that helped “non-lessee” tenants remain in their homes.

- Keep lofts rent regulated after buyout. Under an existing Board rule, if a loft tenant accepts a buyout from their landlord, the unit's rent immediately goes to market rate. The City will act to keep these units affordable by making future rent increases subject to rent regulation.
- Close the pied-a-terre loophole for non-lessee tenants. All tenants who apply for Loft Law protection will need to prove that the space is their primary residence. This action will prevent non-lessees from keeping spaces as pieds-a-terre and then renting them to others on a short-term basis.

The Loft Law was passed by the New York State legislature in 1982 in response to a rapid increase in the use of manufacturing and commercial spaces as residential units, particularly in New York City. The Loft Law allows tenants to petition for their units to be legalized, brought up to code, and become rent regulated. Under the law, the City Buildings Commissioner serves as Chair of the Loft Board.

Briefs

NYC Releases Fifth-Year Build It Back Report

New York City's Build it Back program has completed repairs to 87 percent of the 8,300 one-to-four family homes damaged by Hurricane Sandy in 2013. Specifically, 7,200 homes, which house 10,300 families in New York City's waterfront communities, have finished the program.

Build It Back is rebuilding and elevating almost 1,400 homes to current regulations for flood compliance. Another 6,500 homeowners have been assisted with repair and reimbursement, helping neighborhoods that were not in the flood plain when Sandy hit and homeowners who did not have flood insurance. Build It Back has served 99 percent of all homeowners by starting construction, reimbursement of repairs, or acquisition of their homes.

Build It Back statistics as of today:

- Build It Back Applicants/homeowners: 8,300.
- 99% (8,207) have been served.
- 87% (7,218) have completed the program (received their full benefits, including construction completed or acquisition of their home).
- 92% (3,300) of City-managed construction projects are complete.
- Total homes in the 1-4 family program: 12,713. Of them 10,334 are complete.

New Yorkers Could Lose \$72B in Reported State and Local Tax Deductions Under Federal Tax Plan

New York residents could lose more than \$72 billion in reported deductions for income and property taxes if proposals to change the federal tax code are implemented, according to a report issued this week by State Comptroller Thomas DiNapoli.

The "Unified Framework for Fixing Our Broken Tax Code" proposes to consolidate the number of tax brackets, calls for eliminating "most" itemized deductions, and retains deductions for home mortgage interest and charitable deductions. Among the deductions the administration has targeted are those for state and local taxes.

New Yorkers reported more than \$72 billion in such federal deductions in 2015, including \$51.7 billion for income taxes and \$20.9 billion for property taxes, 13.5 percent of all state and local tax deductions reported nationwide in 2015.

New Resources to Help Small Businesses Comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act

New York City is offering small businesses assistance with the Americans With Disabilities Act (ADA) and City regulations. The Department of Small Business Services is offering free, on-site compliance consultations to help small business owners understand and comply with health, safety, and consumer regulations.

Information and materials provided to business owners will focus on entrance accessibility, signage, design standards, and communications elements for the visually impaired. More information on ADA compliance standards may be found online by visiting www.adachecklist.org.

There are over 200,000 small businesses across the five boroughs, and the City is focusing on proactive measures to ensure greater accessibility for all customers.

Coming Up

New York State

Monday October 30th

Proposed Comprehensive Lobbying and Source of Funding Disclosure Regulations

The New York State Joint Commission on Public Ethics (JCOPE), Van Buren Hearing Room A, Legislative Office Building, Albany, 1 p.m. - 4 p.m.

Healthcare in New York Correctional Facilities

Joint Assembly Standing Committee on Agriculture and Committee on Correction, Roosevelt Hearing Room C, Legislative Office Building, 2nd Floor, Albany, 11 a.m.

New York City

Monday October 30th

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

Committee on General Welfare, Committee Room, 16th Floor – 250 Broadway, 10 a.m.

Committee on Women’s Issues, Committee Room, 16th Floor – 250 Broadway, 10 a.m.

Committee on Public Safety, Committee Room, 14th Floor – 250 Broadway, 10 a.m.

Committee on Consumer Affairs, Committee Room, 14th Floor – 250 Broadway, 12:30 p.m.

Committee on Parks and Recreation, Committee Room, 14th Floor – 250 Broadway, 1 p.m.

Committee on Immigration, Committee Room, 14th Floor – 250 Broadway, 1:30 p.m.

Committee on Environmental Protection, Committee Room, 16th Floor – 250 Broadway, 2 p.m.

Committee on Housing and Buildings, Committee Room, 14th Floor – 250 Broadway, 2:30 p.m.

Tuesday October 31th

Committee on Finance, Committee Room – City Hall, 10 a.m.

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

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