

THE SENATE REPUBLICANS' 2026 AGENDA:



For far too long, one-party Democrat control in Albany has made life less affordable, less safe, and less free for hardworking New Yorkers. In the 2026 Legislative Session, our Conference will advance a bold agenda focused on restoring affordability, protecting public safety, and defending freedom for every New Yorker.

Affordable New York

New York continues to rank among the least affordable states in the nation, with a crushing cost of living driven by high taxes, excessive government spending, skyrocketing energy costs caused by the Democrats' so-called Green New Deal, and unaffordable housing prices. Senate Republicans believe New York's brightest days are still ahead. That's why we've developed a comprehensive, common-sense plan to make our state more affordable for families and businesses alike.

■ Personal Income Tax cut for all New Yorkers

- Personal income tax cut for all New Yorkers.
- Three-year freeze on property taxes (*Weber S.8489*).
- No state income tax on tips (*Martins S.587*) and OT (*Martins S.3914*).
- One year Utility Bill Tax and Surcharge Holiday (*Rolison S.8463*).
- Return unused funds from the New York State Climate Investment Account to ratepayers (*O'Mara S.8461*).
- Prohibit the imposition of a system benefits charge on ratepayers' utility bills (*Walczyk S.7075*).
- Enact the 'Affordable New York Act,' which is designed to lower the tax burden on individuals in New York State. Specifically, this legislation doubles the current School Tax Relief (STAR) exemption and lowers the income tax rate on middle-income taxpayers by 2% (*Palumbo S.1559*).
- Reduce the financial burden on retirees by increasing the amount of private pension and/or retirement income that is tax-free above the current \$20,000 limit (*Lanza S.5996*).
- Provide significant property and income tax relief. Increasing the STAR benefit will help homeowners with crippling property tax burdens, specifically our seniors which will ensure they can continue to stay in their homes. Additionally, lowering income tax rates for middle- and lower-income individuals is critical to help individuals and families deal with necessities like the costs of food, gas, and heating their homes (*Palumbo S.1559*).
- Provide \$2.2 billion in direct relief to taxpayers by making the Property Tax Rebate program permanent and returning billions of dollars to hardworking individuals and families (*Weik S.3305*).

■ Oppose new taxes and mandates under the Democrat's Green New Deal and ensure an "All of the Above" approach to energy production

- Require a cost analysis of the CLCPA and delay implementation of the carbon emission mandates.
- Authorize local governments to opt out of mandates and benchmarks arising under the Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act and associated universal electrification requirements (*Gallivan S.8481*).
- Repeal the electric vehicle mandate (*Ortt S.3652*).
- Repeal the Cap and Invest Program.
- Repeal the Zero-Emission School Bus Mandate (*Borrello S.4748*).
- Allow permitting of repowering existing and new natural gas plants, improve efficiency and lower emissions.

- Create the “Ratepayer Relief Act” to determine the true cost of CLCPA mandates and provide relief in that amount to ratepayers, as well as cut existing taxes that will save ratepayers more than \$100 million (*Rolison S.1031*).
- Prevent the State from closing any power generation facility before new facilities come online and provide tax credits to homeowners for the purchase of backup power systems in the event of outages (*Griffo S.5436*).
- Study the feasibility of bringing Indian Point back online and expand investment into alternative energy options (*O’Mara S.1927*).
- Provide relief via a tax credit to hydroelectric plants to offset relicensing costs, which can potentially put them out of business, and allow them to continue to be a source of clean, reliable power to New Yorkers (*Ashby S.4438*).
- Create the “Rural Energy Infrastructure Act of 2025” to provide a tax credit for individuals in underserved or unserved areas of the gas system to assist the buildout of natural gas infrastructure to help bring service to those areas (*Mattera S.1178*).
- Establish the New York state hydrogen vehicle task force to examine another source of clean and affordable fuel (*Mattera S.1110*).
- Protect our forests and neighborhoods from dangerous battery storage facility fires by working with firefighters and industry experts to develop new safety standards and best practices (*Mattera S.2242*).

Cut Housing Costs

- Repeal the All-Electric Building Act (*Mattera S.1167*).
- Allow developers to comply with the less costly and less burdensome 2020 Energy Codes in lieu of the 2025 Energy Code - \$7,500 savings per single family home (*Mattera S.8621*).
- Streamline the environmental review process to make it easier to build more homes (*Borrello S.3545*).
- Lower the cost of housing by giving first-time homebuyers a tax credit for local property taxes (*Helming S.850*).
- Give homebuyers who rehabilitate dilapidated properties an exemption from property tax reassessment (*Helming S.852*).
- Increase the supply of housing by working with local communities to develop best practices for new development (*Martins S.529*).
- Expand the 421-A program to create more affordable housing in New York City (*Palumbo S.7560*).
- Create tax incentives for manufactured housing developers to build affordable homes in rural areas (*Helming S.576*).
- Encourage developers to build out water, sewer, and grid infrastructure in new housing communities (*Helming S.851*).
- Means test rent-controlled apartments to ensure that people who need affordable housing are occupying them (*Martins S.538*).

Make Childcare, Elder Care and Healthcare More Affordable

- Provide New Yorkers with a \$5,000 state-level flexible savings account for dependent care.
- Supplement the state’s existing child tax credit, which gives low- and middle-income families up to \$330 a year per child under 17. This bill introduces a \$1,000 newborn payment for all parents (*Ashby S.4487*).
- Create a tax credit to incentivize employer-provided or sponsored childcare options (*Helming S.3471*).
- Provide families with an additional tax credit equal to half the current credit for household and dependent care expenses necessary for gainful employment (*Weik S.5323*).
- Offer tax credits to childcare programs for capital costs aimed at enhancing or expanding childcare accessibility, increasing services for families struggling to find care (*Rolison S.968*).
- Raise the total allocation for the Child Care Creation and Expansion Tax Credit from \$25 million to \$50 million for Fiscal Years 2025 and 2026 (*Rolison S.967*).
- Establish an additional tax credit for working families who are eligible for the Household and Dependent Care Tax credit to help alleviate the burden of childcare and dependent care expenses (*Rolison S.975*).

- Increase the Child and Dependent Care Tax Credit to account for the rising costs of child and dependent care (*Ashby S.5261*).
- Support funding parity for hospitals across the state. Critical Access and Sole Community Hospitals in upstate New York are vital lifelines, but face funding disparities compared to downstate safety-net hospitals. Ensuring funding is proportional to each hospital or program's size, need, or patient base is essential to ensure these rural hospitals can sustain operations, update facilities, and provide equitable care.
- Invest in the stability of New York's long term care residential facilities by requiring the state to recalculate Medicaid rates to reflect growth in the cost of procedures (*Ashby S.4709*).
- Ensure accessible and affordable health care by phasing out the Health Care Reform Act's onerous insurance taxes, (*Gallivan S.219*), establish the New York State Health Care Quality and Cost Containment Commission (*Gallivan S.828*) and fight to reduce costs on life saving care.
- Ease the Medicaid burden on localities by preventing the State from redirecting county Medicaid funding by requiring the State to share enhanced Federal Medical Assistance Percentage (eFMAP) funds with county governments and preventing the state from absorbing these vital funds (*Weber S.1940*).
- Provide transparency on the cost of insurance mandates, by requiring fiscal notes to be included in legislation imposing mandated benefits under insurance plans and under the Medicaid fee-for-service program (*Helming S.8619*)
- Oppose the New York Health Act (statewide single-payer health plan) which would at minimum double taxes in New York State, result in historical job loss and leave the health and wellbeing of all New Yorkers at risk.

Reform the MTA

- Repeal Congestion Pricing (*Lanza S.8149 or Martins S.533*).
- Independent audit of the MTA (*Martins S.533*).
- Enforce fare evasion.
- Establish the Long Island Transportation Account to provide fare discounts to residents of Nassau and Suffolk Counties for the Long Island Railroad (*Rhoads S.715*).
- Exempt Rockland and Orange counties from the MTA payroll tax (*Weber S.7055*).

Business Friendly New York

New York continues to rank as one of the most difficult states to conduct business. High corporate and business taxes drive out businesses to more desirable locations like Texas and Florida. To keep and attract new businesses, New York must lower taxes and slash crushing regulations.

Cut Taxes and Regulations on Businesses

- Provide a \$464 million tax cut to support small businesses by raising the corporate tax threshold from \$390,000 to \$500,000 and lowering the rate to 2.5%; expanding the small business exemption to all PIT businesses, regardless of whether they have employees and increasing the threshold to \$500,000, raising the exemption to 15%, and setting the exemption at 20% for farmers (*O'Mara S.1487*).
- Reduce bureaucratic red tape by requiring that when a rule is adopted that imposes a new administrative burden on a business, one or more existing rules must be amended or repealed to offset the cost of the new administrative burden (*Ortt S.2371*).
- Mandate that state economic development agencies prioritize small businesses and entrepreneurs when awarding state economic development assistance (*Rolison S.991*).
- Create a task force to review the State Administrative Procedure Act, making the regulatory process more business-friendly by ensuring state rules are consistent, efficient, and not overly burdensome (*Gallivan S.930*).

■ **Protect New York's Farms**

- Roll back the harmful decision by the Farm Laborers Wage Board to lower farm workers' overtime threshold to 40 hours (*Ortt S.3129*).
- Make the Farm Workforce Retention Credit permanent, creating a refundable investment tax credit for agriculture (*Walczyk S.1878 and Ortt S.2584*).
- Invest in new meat, vegetable, fruit, and seafood processing facilities by establishing the "Farmland for a New Generation" program (*Helming S.583*).
- Support New York Dairy Farmers by encouraging school districts to elect to purchase "New York Milk" for their students (*Borrello S.1295*).
- Support "Made in New York" products by creating a tax credit for small businesses that sell a certain percentage of products produced in New York (*Stec S.2654*).
- Prevent solar on prime farm land.

Safe New York

An essential role of government is to ensure its citizens are safe. However, New York continues to face a public safety crisis. Recent "reforms" championed by Senate Democrats, like cashless bail and Less is More have made our communities less safe. Our criminal justice policies have emboldened criminals while handcuffing the law enforcement officials who risk their lives to protect us. New York has quite literally been closing the doors of our prisons. Our legislative proposals include plans to restore order and public safety across the state.

■ **Repeal Disastrous Democratic Criminal Justice "Reforms"**

- Repeal Cashless Bail and Discovery Reform (*Tedisco S.4661*).
- Repeal Clean Slate Act (*Weik S.3300*).
- Repeal the Greenlight Law (*Stec S.3489*).

■ **Keep Violent Criminals and Repeat Offenders off the Streets**

- The "pretrial risk overview for threat evaluation, custody, and treatment (PROTECT) Act (*Helming S.2882A*).
- Authorizes imposition of life imprisonment without parole sentence for persistent violent felony offenders upon conviction of a violent felony offense when such person has previously been subjected to two or more predicate violent felony convictions (*Tedisco S.541*).
- Make changes to Raise the Age by requiring juvenile offenders to be tried in adult court after they have previously been arrested for a felony that was removed to family court and to require juvenile offenders to be tried in adult court after committing two separate misdemeanors unless there are mitigating circumstances (*Rolison S.8531*).
- Updates the definition of disorderly conduct (*Chan S.5555*).

■ **Prioritize Victims Over Criminals**

- Protect victims' identities and personal information (*Griffo S.5095 and Weik S.4617*).
- Enhance penalties for criminals who threaten or intimidate their victims (*Canzoneri-Fitzpatrick S.1751*).

■ **Ensure State and Locals work with their Federal Counterparts**

- Requires law enforcement and courts to notify the United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement agency when an arrested person or defendant is not a United States citizen; repealer (*Lanza S.2538*).

- Prohibits the governor from preventing or inhibiting state agency cooperation with the federal government for the purposes of immigration enforcement (*S.2241 Rhoads*).
- Prohibits local government action which prevents the enforcement of federal laws (*S.3649 Murray*).

Parole Reform

- Repeal Less is More legislation (*Weik S.4635*).
- Requires at least one member of the parole board to be a crime victim (*Oberacker S.483*).
- Allow crime victims to file an appeal challenging the Parole Board's decision to release the criminal who victimized them (*Weik S.4629*).
- Requires unanimous agreement by the parole board to release incarcerated individuals on parole (*Weik S.4645*).
- Provides for family members of a crime victim and interested parties to make statements to members of the parole board (*Lanza S.5586*).
- Enacts "Cesar's law" to require the retaking of parolees who abscond from the supervision of the state board of parole (*Lanza S.5899*).

Fight to End Domestic and Other Violence Against Women

- Increase penalties for domestic violence offenses (*Helming S.3453*).
- Establishes domestic abuse offenses for assaults upon spouses, former spouses, fellow parents of a child in common and domestic partners; provides for issuance of a special information for domestic abuse in the first degree requiring a predicate criminal conviction; designates such domestic abuse offenses as family offenses for purposes of the criminal procedure law and the family court act (*Lanza S.7098*).
- Bail eligibility for stalking and menacing.
- Establish grant programs for non-profit organizations and local law enforcement agencies to offer self-defense classes and firearm education and safety programs.
- Create a peer-to-peer support program for survivors of domestic violence and sexual abuse.

Stop Subway Crime and Theft

- Ensure all security resources such as cameras, gates, and personnel are readily equipped and working properly.
- Provide a seat on the MTA Board for the MTAPD Chief of Police and representatives from the MTAPD PBA to ensure their focus is on protecting their riders (*Chan S.7027*).

Protect Those on our Roads

- Increase penalties for repeat drunk drivers, vehicular assaults and homicides (*Palumbo S.1041*), hit and runs (*Murray S.3639*), and aggravated reckless driving (*Rolison S.979*).
- Provide law enforcement with resources to stop reckless driving (*Rolison S.1032*).
- Enact Michelle and Jordan's Law relating to the penalties for a second conviction of participating in an unlawful speed contest or race (*Lanza S.5879*).

Protect our Pets

- Clarify, restructure, and enhance the laws regarding crimes against animals (*Lanza S.5895*).
- Establish Bella's Law which requires the New York Office of Children and Family Services to investigate individuals accused of or investigated for animal cruelty (*Canzoneri-Fitzpatrick S.1753*).
- Prevent convicted animal abusers from working in animal shelters and other locations tasked with taking care of pets (*Gallivan S.1278*).
- Create a registry for violators of "Buster's Law" (*Tedisco S.1563*).

■ **Combat the Rise of Antisemitism and Hate Crimes**

- Classifying acts of antisemitism as violations of the state human rights law and ensuring that any act of violence or damage or destruction of property caused or incited by antisemitism will be prosecuted as a hate crime (*Griffo S.6842*).
- New York State Antisemitism Vandalism Act (*Martins S.531*).

■ **Protect and Empower Our Law Enforcement Officers**

- Fully fund our police.
- Increases penalties for those who assault police officers, firefighters and other first responders (*Ashby S.5374*).
- Invest in our criminal justice system and ensure that law enforcement agencies have the resources necessary to successfully solve and prosecute violent crimes (*Rolison S.996*).
- Repeal the HALT Act, which has made our prisons less safe for correction officers (*Stec S.2656*).
- Create grant programs to enable local law enforcement agencies to recruit qualified and skilled police officers (*Griffo S.6786*).

Responsible New York

New York's state government needs a rigorous overhaul to ensure accountability and fiscal responsibility. For far too long, there has been an alarming eagerness to dip into taxpayer pockets, increasing your taxes just to fuel ever-growing government expenditures. Our plan aims to end the era of unchecked spending and opaque decision-making.

■ **Enact Statewide Voter ID**

- Statewide voter ID laws are essential to ensuring the integrity of our elections. These straightforward measures will secure our electoral process, making it safe, secure, and accessible for all legal voters (*Ortt S.2574*).

■ **No More Career Politicians**

- Term limits for offices of governor, the comptroller, the attorney general and members of the legislature (*Griffo S.1586*).

■ **Keep Budgets in Check and Stop Egregious Spending Increases**

- Reinstating Two Percent Spending Cap (*Borrello S.1296*).
- Cap the State Budget at 15% of the Total State GDP (*Walczyk S.1876*).
- New York State Commission on Government Efficiency (*Walczyk S.4959*).



Healthy New York

New York's growing mental health crisis is making our communities less safe and our quality of life worse. We can no longer afford to ignore it. Senate Republicans are committed to confronting this crisis head-on by ensuring that individuals in need of help receive timely access to care and that communities have the resources necessary to support prevention, treatment, and recovery.

■ **Confronting the Substance Use and Mental Health Epidemics**

- Increase inpatient and outpatient mental health treatment options by increasing state mental health funding levels and funding more mental health beds, placing a 5-year moratorium on bed reductions at State hospitals and requiring any public hearings and legislative approval before any future reductions as part of the OMH Facility Transformation Plan.
- Make Kendra's Law permanent (*Palumbo S.145*) and expand the Assisted Outpatient Treatment (AOT) Program (*Helming S.3474*).
- Prohibit government sanctioned locations where individuals can legally inject dangerous drugs such as heroin and crystal meth (*Murray S.1973*).
- Expand inpatient services and expand outpatient services through the Supportive Interventions Act (*Borrello*).

■ **Reduce Overdose Deaths and Close Treatment Gaps**

- Call for increases in heroin and opioid prevention and treatment funding.
- Provide additional funding for drug courts.
- Expand peer support programs.
- Increase the availability of naloxone and medication-assisted treatment.

■ **Protect Funding and Care for CDPAP**

- The Consumer Directed Personal Assistance Program (CDPAP) empowers individuals with disabilities and chronic illnesses to manage their own care, ensuring independence and dignity. As the program transitions to a single fiscal intermediary, we will continue to call to maintain current funding levels and quality of care.

■ **Support Nursing Home and Adult Care Facility Residents and Expand Home Care Options**

- Enacts the Unpredictable Nursing Home Inspection Act (*Ortt S.1988*).
- Safe staffing levels at nursing homes (*Stec S.2652*).
- Create a hotline (*Canzoneri-Fitzpatrick S.1754*) and statewide central register of elder abuse (*Ashby S.1828*).
- Create a mental home health care services program for the aging to facilitate access to mental home health care services to respond to identified mental health needs, including those needs that may have resulted from the

Parents Rights New York

Parents have the right to make decisions regarding their children's health and education. In an era where educational decisions increasingly bypass parental input, our legislative proposals aim to safeguard the rights of parents and the well-being of students. Our plan will protect the rights of parents, enhance school safety, and expand opportunities for students to succeed.

■ **Protect New York Students from antisemitism and other hateful violence**

- Implement antisemitism training on college campuses (*Canzoneri-Fitzpatrick S.1752*).

- Bar anyone convicted of a hate crime from attending public colleges (*Tedisco S.25*).
- Implement penalties for college students who engage in antisemitic behavior (*Weber S.1954*).
- Establish an antisemitism awareness day to highlight incidents of antisemitism in each member's district or statewide each year.

Protecting Girls' Sports

- Ensure fair and equal opportunity for women in sports by maintaining a level playing field (*Weik S.4496*).

Expanded Gifted and Talented Schools

Expanding Access to Mental Health Services in Our Schools

- Establish a Mental Health Services Coordinator Program, reimbursing school districts for the hiring of mental health services professionals and allowing schools to provide telehealth mental health services (*Helming S.584*).
- Provide targeted State-aid to address mental health issues related to remote learning and social isolation (*Canzoneri-Fitzpatrick S.1310*).
- Authorize school districts to include suicide prevention in their curriculum (*Walczyk S.41*).

Expand Opportunities for Schools to Hire School Resource Officers

- Establishes a grant program for districts to determine their needs in this area for the protection of students, teachers and staff (*Oberacker S.482*).

BOCES Regionalization Plans

- The State should not be dictating to local districts how they should distribute their taxpayer resources nor mandate the sharing of taxpayer resources between districts (*Martins S.589*).

