



A PUBLICATION OF
PITTA BISHOP & DEL GIORNO LLC
Government Relations / Consulting

THIS WEEK IN NEW YORK

COVERING NEW YORK & CITY GOVERNMENT

JUNE 27, 2025 EDITION



"Obstacles don't define us. Rather, it is the unparalleled courage and character of us that defines us as a people. So my confidence in the future is steeped in our glorious past - in the face of adversity, we always persist. We persevere, we prevail." Governor Kathy Hochul

In The News-New York State



Governor Hochul Signs Legislation to Strengthen Cybersecurity Across New York's Municipalities

Governor Kathy Hochul today signed into law Chapter 177 of the Laws of 2025, a measure aimed at enhancing the cybersecurity and resilience of state and local government networks across New York. The legislation was sponsored by Senator Monica Martinez and AM Billy Jones.

First announced in Governor Hochul's 2025 State of the State, this legislation is aimed at improving the State's ability to respond to threats, safeguard critical infrastructure, and reduce statewide cybersecurity risks.



"My top priority as Governor is the security and safety of all New Yorkers, and with this legislation we're strengthening our ability to respond to and ultimately prevent cyber threats all across our state," Governor Hochul said today following a meeting with City, County, Town and Village officials from across the State to discuss current security efforts in response to the ongoing conflict in the Middle East. "As global conflicts escalate and cyber threats evolve, so must our response, and we are taking a whole of government approach in doing so. Requiring timely incident reporting and providing annual cybersecurity training for government employees will build a stronger digital shield for every community across the State and ensure they get the support they need when it matters most."

The legislation mandates that all municipal corporations and public authorities promptly report cybersecurity incidents and ransom payments to the New York State Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Services (DHSES). Under the new law, municipalities and public authorities are required to report cybersecurity incidents within 72 hours to DHSES and provide notice of payment of a ransom within 24 hours. The legislation also mandates annual cybersecurity awareness training for government employees across New York and sets data protection standards for State-maintained information systems.



New York Looks to Nuclear Power

Governor Hochul Directs New York Power Authority to Develop a Zero-Emission Advanced Nuclear Energy Technology Power Plant

Governor Kathy Hochul this week directed the New York Power Authority (NYPA) to develop and construct a zero-emission advanced nuclear power plant in Upstate New York to support “a reliable and affordable electric grid, while providing the necessary zero-emission electricity to achieve a clean energy economy.”

“As New York State electrifies its economy, deactivates aging fossil fuel power generation and continues to attract large manufacturers that create good-paying jobs, we must embrace an energy policy of abundance that centers on energy independence and supply chain security to ensure New York controls its energy future,” Governor Hochul said. “This is the second time during my administration that I am calling on the New York Power Authority to lead a critical energy initiative, and just as it is doing with the expedited buildout of renewable energy and transmission, it will now safely and rapidly deploy clean, reliable nuclear power for the benefit of all New Yorkers.”

According to the Governor, NYPA will immediately begin evaluation of technologies, business models, and locations for this first nuclear power plant and will secure the key partnerships needed for the project. This process will include site and technology feasibility assessments as well as consideration of financing options, in coordination with the forthcoming studies included in the master plan for [Responsible Advanced Nuclear Development in New York](#), led by the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA) and Department of Public Service (DPS). Candidate locations will be assessed for suitability based on public safety, strength of community support, compatibility with existing infrastructure, as well as skilled labor and land availability.

Prior to adjourning the scheduled 2025 legislative session, the Senate and Assembly approved legislation to remove utility subsidies for the connection of new customers to the gas distribution system (S8417/A8888). Sponsored by Senator Liz Krueger and AM Jo Anne Simon, the bill removes the “100-foot rule.” Under the legislation, the cost of the gas hookup would be incurred by the customer.

The end to the 100-foot rule was originally included in the NY HEAT Act, legislation aimed at addressing energy affordability and climate change goals. It seeks to align utility regulation with the state's climate goals, transition away from natural gas, and provide financial relief to low- and moderate-income households. In early June, the sponsors replaced the Heat Act with two measures – the end to the 100-foot rule and the Customer Savings and Reliability Act (S8421/A8889). The Senate passed the Customer Savings and Reliability Act prior to adjournment, as it did the HEAT Act earlier in the session. The Assembly did not pass either of the larger transition initiatives.

The end of the “100-foot rule,” opposed by members of organized labor, awaits Governor Hochul’s consideration.

Members of organized labor were on hand to promote the Governor's nuclear proposal and its job creation. "...Labor IBW, utility workers, carpenters, plasterers, plumbers, pipefitters and building trades are here," Governor Hochul acknowledged during the announcement at the Niagara Power Plant. "Let's give all of them a round of applause. Now for generations, Upstate New York was the beating heart of American innovation."

And across the state, labor representatives lauded the State's expansion of its nuclear capabilities.

"The development of nuclear plants is a proven method for not only lowering emissions and generating reliable energy, but also creating thousands of family-sustaining, union careers that pump economic stimulus into local communities," New York State Building Trades President Gary LaBarbera said. The expansion of our nuclear capabilities has long been a missing piece of New York's pursuit of our climate goals and the construction of a new power plant will be crucial to the success of our green economy. "We applaud Governor Hochul and the New York Power Authority for recognizing this need and laying the foundation necessary to set this new development in motion. The addition of this location to our fleet of nuclear plants will enhance the livelihoods of countless New Yorkers by limiting harmful pollutants, cutting energy costs, and bolstering the middle class in our local communities."



Attorney General James Proposes Reforms to Address Dangerous Police Vehicle Pursuits

Citing that police vehicle pursuits have been shown to increase danger and result in injury or fatalities to drivers, passengers, bystanders, and police, New York Attorney General Letitia James this week released a [report](#) on police vehicle pursuits and proposed reforms to help keep New Yorkers safe.

In the report titled "Improving Policing and Public Safety: Problems Presented by Police and Vehicle Pursuits," the Office of the Attorney General (OAG) reviews and analyzes available data showing how police vehicle pursuits harm New Yorkers, what other jurisdictions are doing to address police pursuits, and makes recommendations for reform.

"Millions of New Yorkers take to the roads each day, and they deserve policing and traffic enforcement that is safe, fair, and effective," Attorney General James explained. "The evidence is clear: police vehicle pursuits and high-speed car chases can be dangerous and even fatal, and it is time for a change. We are proposing these reforms to improve public safety for everyone on the road – drivers, passengers, and law enforcement."

The report finds that some of the most extreme harm to New Yorkers happens when routine traffic stops escalate into pursuits or high-speed police chases. Although there is no mandatory centralized database for high-speed pursuits by law enforcement agencies in New York or nationwide, data pulled from the Fatality Analysis Reporting System (FARS) maintained by the Department of Transportation (DOT) found that from 1996 to 2015, an average of 355 people – nearly one person per day – were killed annually in pursuit-related crashes. The report also reviewed several examples of police vehicle pursuits in New York that put both drivers and police officers in danger and led to civilian fatalities.

The Attorney General explained that currently in New York, laws and policies vary based on location. For example in New York City, a recent policy change limits officer discretion to initiate vehicle pursuit to only the most serious and violent crimes, not traffic infractions or low-level crimes. In Buffalo, pursuits are banned if they are in response to a traffic violation, a misdemeanor, or another non-violent felony, and in Albany, officers are required to consider several factors before starting a chase, including the threat posed to the public, seriousness of the offense, and possibility of apprehending the individual at a later time.

The OAG recommends New York implement similar statewide reforms to keep New Yorkers safe, including:

- ***Pass legislation to increase transparency.*** New York law enforcement agencies should be required to track and publish data about traffic pursuits and high-speed chases to improve public accountability, evaluate agency performance, and help oversight agencies protect civil liberties and civil rights. This data collection should be facilitated by a centralized agency such as the New York State Division of Criminal Justice Services (DCJS).
- ***Ban high-speed police pursuits with narrow exceptions.*** Though high-speed chases can be deadly, OAG recognizes they may be necessary when a serious or violent felony has been or will be committed or when the driver's conduct poses an imminent threat of death to themselves, bystanders, or police officers. Narrow exceptions for use of high-speed police pursuits would eliminate police chases that risk harming drivers, passengers, bystanders, and officers.

In The News-New York City



NYC Voters Have Spoken

Headlining New York City's election results on Tuesday night was the tally of the Democratic primary for Mayor. **Zohran Mamdani** (43.5%) currently leads in the first round of voting, followed by **Andrew Cuomo** (36.4%), **Brad Lander** (11.3%), and **Adrienne Adams** (4.1%), among others. The results of this race will be determined through Ranked Choice Voting (RCV), but Cuomo and Lander have conceded. The victor will go on to face Curtis Sliwa on the Republican line and Eric Adams on an independent line in the general election (Cuomo may appear as an independent candidate as well).

Jumaane Williams (71.3%) won his Democratic primary for Public Advocate in the first round of voting. **Mark Levine** (48.1%) leads **Justin Brannan** (33.5%) in the Democratic primary for Comptroller, distantly followed by **Ismael Perez** (10.2%). Levine's current lead is larger than the number of distributed mail-in ballots.

Brad Hoylman-Sigal (48.7%) leads **Keith Powers** (38.2%) in the Democratic Primary for Manhattan Borough President. Final results in this race will come following the count of absentee ballots distributed is greater than the lead margin. **Vanessa Gibson** (68.5%) won the Democratic primary for Bronx BP and **Antonio Reynoso** (77.1%) won the Democratic primary for Brooklyn BP. Both maintain a lead greater than the number of distributed mail-in ballots.

The following eighteen New York City Council Members won their primary elections in the first round of voting: in District 3, **Eric Bottcher** (74.0%), in District 5, **Julie Menin** (73.3%), in District 7, **Shaun Abreu** (62.7%), in District 10, **Carmen De La Rosa** (87.2%), in District 11, **Eric Dinowitz** (71.6%), in District 12, **Kevin Riley** (75.5%), in District 14, **Pierina Sanchez** (66.5%), in District 16, **Althea Stevens** (71.1%), in District 25, **Shekar Krishnan** (67.3%), in District 33, **Lincoln Restler** (75.3%), in District 35, **Crystal Hudson** (84.7%), in District 36, **Chi Osse** (78.4%), in District 38, **Alexa Aviles** (71.5%), in District 39, **Shahana Hanif** (69.8%), in District 46, **Mercedes Narcisse** (82.9%), in District 48, **Inna Vernikov** (66.0%), in District 49, **Kamillah Hanks** (58.5%), and in District 51, **Frank Morano** (82.2%).

In the 1st Council District in the Democratic primary, incumbent **Christopher Marte** (49.2%) leads his opponents **Elizabeth Lewinsohn** (24.3%), and **Jess Coleman** (16.1%). In the 41st Council District Democratic primary, incumbent **Darlene Mealy** (43.2%) leads opponents **Lawman Lynch** (15.6%), **Jammel Thompson** (13.5%), and **Bianca Cunningham** (12.6%), among others. Both races will be determined by RCV, but leads are strong for the incumbents.

Where seats were open, leads were less clear and victors will be determined by RCV. In the 2nd Council District, Democrat **Harvey Epstein** (39.0%) leads **Sarah Batchu** (21.3%) and **Andrea Gordillo** (21.1%). In the 4th Council District, Democrat **Virginia Maloney** (26.8%) closely leads opponents **Vanessa Aronson** (25.5%) and **Rachel Storch** (22.8%). In the 8th Council District, Democrat **Elsie Encarnacion** (28.7%) leads opponents **Wilfredo Lopez** (18.3%) and **Clarisa M. Alayeto** (15.3%), among others. In the 17th Council District, Democrat **Justin Sanchez** (40.4%) has a significant lead over **Antirson Ortiz** (25.1%) and **Freddy Perez Jr.** (17.7%). In the 21st Council District, Democrat **Shanel Thomas-Henry** (30.9%) has a close lead over **Erycka Montoya** (25.3%), **Yanna Henriquez** (22.9%), and **David Aiken** (20.6%). In the 28th Council District, the leading candidate is **Ty Hankerson** (34.8%) over opponents **Japneet Singh** (24.8%), **Latoya LeGrand** (16.8%), and **Ruben Wills** (14.1%). In the 30th Council District, **Phil Wong** (36.1%) leads over **Paul Pogozelski** (31.9%) and **Dermot Smyth** (30.7%). An exception to this trend could be found in the Democratic primary for the 47th District, where **Kayla Santosuosso** (79.3%) emerged victorious. In the Republican primary in the 47th Council District, **George Sarantopoulos** (49.9%) leads **Richie Barsamian** (48.4%), with most but not all precincts scanners reporting. The 32-vote margin here is far below the number of mail-in ballots that will be included next week.

In two Council races, Republican incumbents face Democratic opponents that will be finalized following certification of the Democratic primary results. In the 13th Council District Democratic primary, **Shirley Aldebol** (29.9%) holds a tight lead over **Jacqueline Torres** (20.8%) and **David Diaz** (18.7%). In the 19th Council District, Democrat **Benjamin Chou** (67.1%) defeated his primary opponent.

Lastly, in Manhattan, **Alvin Bragg** (73.4%) won the Democratic primary for District Attorney of New York County.

Briefs

New York State Workers' Compensation Board Chair Clarissa Rodriguez Announces the Appointment of Four New Board Members

New York State Workers' Compensation Board Chair Clarissa M. Rodriguez this week announced the appointment of four new Board members who were nominated by Governor Kathy Hochul and confirmed by the New York State Senate. The four new members of the Workers' Compensation Board are Gina Sillitti, Maria Matos, Peter De Jesús, and Robert Bergin.

- **Gina Sillitti** of Nassau County is a former member of the New York State Assembly and was first elected to public office in 2020. Prior to elected office, Ms. Sillitti held various government leadership positions, through which she developed close relationships with countless advocacy groups and leaders from business and labor.
- **Maria Matos** of Albany County was most recently the Ethics Officer for the New York State Department of Taxation and Finance, where she also served as District Tax Attorney, litigating tax matters for the Office of Counsel. In addition, Ms. Matos held positions within the New York State Courts, including Chief Counsel to the New York State Appellate Division, First Department's Committee on Character and Fitness; and Assistant Attorney General for the New York State Attorney General's Office.
- **Peter De Jesús** of Erie County served as a Political Coordinator for 1199SEIU United Healthcare Workers East. Mr. De Jesús later served as President of the Western New York Area Labor Federation, AFL-CIO.
- **Robert Bergin** of Monroe County served as Counsel for Intergovernmental Affairs for Monroe County, as Counsel to the Democratic Minority in the New York Senate and, more recently, as Counsel to the former Assembly Majority leader. He also served as Corporation Counsel for the City of Rochester, and as an Assistant Counsel and Director of Public Affairs for Rochester Gas & Electric Corporation and New York State Electric and Gas Corporation.

The New York State Workers' Compensation Board comprises 12 Board members and the Chair. Board members review appeals, consider regulations, and perform other work as prescribed by the Chair.

State Department of Health Releases Report on Adult Cannabis Use

Approximately 2 Million Adults in New York Reported Consuming Cannabis in 2023

The New York State Department of Health this week released a new [Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System \(BRFSS\)](#) brief providing a snapshot of adult cannabis consumption in New York State.

The brief offers insight into how many adults aged 18 and older report consuming cannabis and how they consume it, as well as demographic data to help inform the State Health Department about the overall impact on the health of New Yorkers. While the report collects information on New Yorkers aged 18 and older, the legal age to purchase cannabis in New York is 21.

According to key findings in the BRFSS survey report, approximately 14.7 percent of adults aged 18 years and older report consuming cannabis within the past 30 days. The most common method is smoking (joints, blunts, or using bongs), followed by cannabis-infused food or drinks (known as edibles) and use of electronic vaporizing devices. Other key insights among the 14.7 percent of adults aged 18 years and older who report consuming cannabis within the past 30 days include the following:

- 54.5 percent of adults report using cannabis for non-medical reasons.
- 30.5 percent use it for both medical and non-medical reasons.
- 15 percent use cannabis solely for medical reasons.
- Adults aged 21-24 years report the highest rates of cannabis use compared to other age groups.
- Both non-daily and daily cannabis use was significantly higher among those who currently smoke cigarettes, use e-cigarettes or engage in binge or heavy drinking.

According to DOH, scientific findings have documented the potential short- and long-term effects of cannabis consumption, including the potential effects on the parts of the brain responsible for memory and reaction time, impact on the lungs if smoked or inhaled, and cannabis has been linked to schizophrenia, particularly in individuals with a family history of serious mental illness.

DOH remains committed to monitoring cannabis usage trends, reporting on the public health risks, and determining what the overall impact of cannabis consumption may be on New Yorkers' health.

Adams Administration Rent Reporting Pilot to Help Tenants Build Credit Through Monthly Rental Payments

New York City Mayor Eric Adams this week announced a new pilot program to help tenants in affordable housing developments report on-time rental payments to major credit bureaus, in an effort to strengthen their credit scores.

The free program — an effort by the New York City Department of Housing Preservation and Development (HPD), the New York City Housing Development Corporation (HDC), and [rent reporting platform Esusu](#) — will allow eligible tenants in select HPD- and HDC-financed affordable housing developments to opt in to having their rent payments reflected in their credit scores. The pilot — which will run for 15 months — is expected to reach about 500 households.

The pilot launched in select HPD- and HDC-financed affordable housing developments with a high proportion of low-income tenants. Following an initial three-month outreach period, beginning this month, eligible tenants who enroll can have their rent payments reported for 12 consecutive months, from September 2025 to September 2026, through Esusu. Following the completion of this pilot program, the city will evaluate the results for potential future expansion citywide.

Mayor Adams Announces Agreement to Create Over 620 new Affordable Homes in Lower Manhattan, Make Elizabeth Street Garden a Publicly-Available Park

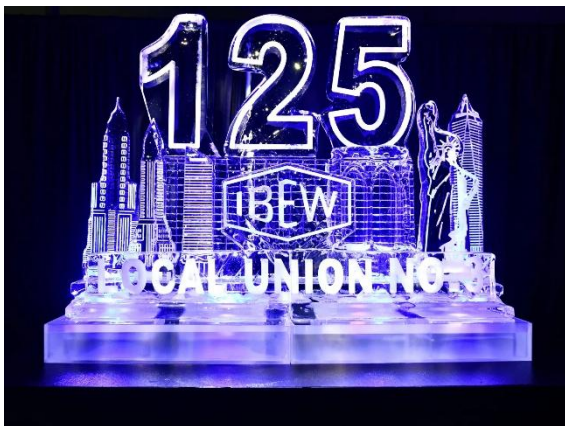
New York City Mayor Eric Adams this week announced a signed agreement with New York City Councilmember Christopher Marte to build over 620 new affordable homes in Council District 1 while preserving the Elizabeth Street Garden and making it a publicly-available garden.

As [part of the agreement](#), the city will permanently pause plans for redevelopment of the garden while Councilmember Marte will support rezoning three sites in his district to create new affordable housing. The original housing proposal for the Elizabeth Street Garden location would have created 123 affordable homes. Additionally, the park will expand its hours and could, if the city chooses to do so, become a part of the New York City Department of Parks and Recreation. Under the agreement, Elizabeth Street Garden will remain a community garden, and the city will require it to remain open for public use from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. daily.

Additionally, Councilmember Marte will advance rezoning efforts across three sites in Council District 1. The first, 156-166 Bowery, is a collection of seven contiguous multiblock lots between Broome and Kenmare Streets, collectively comprising approximately 15,000 square feet and currently zoned for market-rate housing. Under the agreement, the site will be rezoned to admit at least 123 additional units of affordable apartment for seniors on top of the planned housing. Additionally, the city will move to rezone a city-owned lot at 22 Suffolk Street, comprising approximately 15,500 square feet, which will be used to generate approximately 200 units of all-affordable housing. These two new sites will join the recently announced [100 Gold Street](#), where rezoning efforts will unlock more than 1,000 new homes, including at least 300 units of affordable housing.

Finally, in reaching this agreement, the city reserves the right to build housing on the site in the future if the rezonings that create the agreed-upon hundreds of additional housing units across these three locations do not occur.

Congratulations!!!



IBEW Local 3 Celebrates 125th Anniversary

The International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, Local 3 celebrated its 125th anniversary with a gala celebration at the Javits Center on June 14th. This year marks 125 years since Local 3's affiliation with the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW) on February 7, 1900.

Congratulations to Local 3's leaders and members for the extraordinary legacy of excellence and leadership they have built.

Coming Up

New York State

There are no scheduled meetings at the time of this publication

New York City

Monday, June 30th

Committee on Contracts, Committee Room – City Hall, 9:30 p.m.

Committee on Immigration, Council Chambers – City Hall, 9:30 a.m.

Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, Committee Room – City Hall, 10 a.m.

Committee on Women and Gender Equity, Council Chambers – City Hall, 10:30 a.m.

Committee on Sanitation and Solid Waste Management, Committee Room – City Hall, 11 a.m.

Committee on Housing and Buildings, Council Chambers – City Hall, 11 a.m.

Committee on Consumer and Worker Protection, Council Chambers – City Hall, 11:30 a.m.

Committee on Parks and Recreation, Committee Room – City Hall, 11:30 a.m.

Committee on Finance, Council Chambers – City Hall, 12:30 p.m.

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

Tuesday, July 1st

Subcommittee on Zoning and Franchises, Council Chambers – City Hall, 10 a.m.

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