



"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



In Honor of 9/11, Governor Hochul Signs Legislation to Support Families of Terrorist Attack Victims

On the anniversary of September 11, 2001, Governor Kathy Hochul announced that she has signed legislation to expand access to resources and provide more opportunities for the families and loved ones of those who have been impacted by the 9/11 terrorist attacks.

"The 9/11 terrorist attacks are events that we will never forget. We must continue to honor the fallen heroes who put their lives on the line to protect New Yorkers, as well as their families who have been impacted by these horrific events," Governor Hochul said. "This legislation will give back to the families of 9/11 victims, ensuring they are supported by the state and their loved ones are forever remembered."

Governor Hochul signed the following bills into law:

- **Chapter 370** - Provides children and siblings of NYC sanitation workers who have died from 9/11-related illnesses and injuries additional civil service exam points for a position located in the municipality where their deceased parent or sibling served. Sponsored by AM Sam Berger and Senator Robert Jackson.
- **Chapter 384** - Revitalizes the September 11th Worker Protection Task Force by requiring new appointments to the taskforce, setting a biannual meeting requirement, expanding areas of study, resetting the June deadline for the annual report and extending the provisions of the act until June 10, 2030. Sponsored by AM Stacy Pheffer Amato and Senator Jackson.
- **Chapter 390** - Expedites the World Trade Center disability and death benefit application process by allowing the NYC Police Pension Fund to rely on a timely and properly filed Notice of Participation as requisite criteria for establish participation in rescue, recovery and cleanup operations at the World Trade Center, unless an employer proves otherwise. Sponsored by Senator Jessica Scarcella Spanton and AM Pheffer Amato.
- **Chapter 398** - Designates Route 231 Bridge over the Southern State Parkway in North Babylon as the "Port Authority Detective Thomas Inman." Sponsored by Senator Monica Martinez and AM Michael Durso.

The NYC Department of Sanitation (DSNY) was crucial in reopening the stock market after 9/11 by leading the debris removal and cleanup efforts in Lower Manhattan, clearing the area around the New York Stock Exchange (NYSE) and enabling the markets to reopen on the following Monday, September 17, 2001. DSNY workers, along with other city departments, deployed thousands of staff and heavy machinery to remove tons of rubble and waste, which also facilitated the forensic processing of the site and the search for victims' remains at the Fresh Kills Landfill.

"Our members responded to the 9/11 terror attacks within hours," Dennis Schock, President of the Uniformed Sanitationmen's Association, Local 831, IBT, which represents almost 7,000 uniformed sanitation workers said. "Through their efforts, the streets of lower Manhattan were cleared of toxic dust and debris in short order. Their work enabled businesses, including the NY Stock Exchange, to open for business by Monday, September 17. We thank Assemblymember Berger and Senator Jackson for sponsoring this legislation. Thank you, Governor Hochul for signing this bill into law and recognizing the contributions of New York's Strongest on and after 9/11."

Michael Giacalone, a sanitation worker and the son of Ignazio Giacalone for whom the bill is named after, was "beyond grateful for the signing of the 'Ignazio Giacalone Act.'" He thanked Governor Hochul, Local 831 and 444, AM Berger and the State Senate and Assembly.



Comptroller DiNapoli: New York May Be Paying Medicaid Premiums for People Living Out-of-State

Better Federal Coordination Needed to Stop Duplicate Premium Payments and Ensure State Can Recoup Funds

An [audit](#) released week by State Comptroller Thomas DiNapoli found multiple issues with how the state identified out-of-state Medicaid members, and found close to \$1.2 billion in managed care premiums that were paid for members who may have resided outside of New York. According to the Comptroller, auditors found that the state Department of Health (DOH) did not properly check to confirm that Medicaid members were New York residents and waited too long to recoup improper payments.

"Medicaid is a vital program and the single biggest expense in the state budget. We cannot afford any wasteful spending," Comptroller DiNapoli explained. "If a person is enrolled in more than one state at the same time, both states may end up paying premiums to his or her managed care plans. Responsibility for preventing enrollment in more than one state lies at both the federal and state levels, and stronger coordination is needed to reduce improper payments, protect the program's integrity, and ensure New York is only paying Medicaid costs for its residents."

The audit examined the period from July 2017 through October 2024. Medicaid eligibility determination systems are required to routinely provide data to be sent through the federal Public Assistance Reporting Information System (PARIS). Auditors identified \$1.2 billion in managed care premiums paid for members that potentially resided outside New York:

- \$509 million in premiums paid for 155,181 members who may have resided outside of New York according to data sources other than PARIS, such as the U.S. Postal Service's National Change of Address (NCOA) information.

- \$375 million in premiums paid for NY State of Health-enrolled members who were identified on a PARIS match but were not reviewed by DOH to confirm residency because of flaws in NY State of Health's processing that caused the omissions.
- \$299 million in premiums paid for members whose eligibility was ended due to PARIS matched but the improper premiums were not recovered (\$234 million), or the member's eligibility was flagged to be closed but was not officially ended and premiums continued to be paid (\$65 million).

Based upon the audit findings, Comptroller DiNapoli recommended that DOH:

- Verify the residency of members identified by a PARIS match who were not reviewed, as well as members identified as potentially residing outside of the state by other data sources, and recover improper premium payments where appropriate.
- Review the \$299 million in premium payments for members whose eligibility was closed or not properly closed and recover the payments where appropriate.
- Enhance processes to identify members living outside of the state and recover improper premium payments.

In their response, DOH officials generally concurred with the audit recommendations and indicated that it was already taking steps to address them. DOH agreed to explore the use of other data sources, including NCOA, to identify out-of-state members and engage with the federal government about incorporating data that helps establish residency into the PARIS matching process at the federal level.



Chapters of the Laws of 2025

Chapter 361 – Sponsored by AM Pheffer Amato/Senator Johnson – Strengthen protections for public unions during times of suspensions and workforce layoffs.

Chapter 362 – Sponsored by AM Barrett/Senator Scarcella Spanton – Requires contractors and subcontractors performing construction work for covered renewable energy systems to have apprenticeship agreements. This legislation also requires thermal energy networks to require contractors and subcontractors to have pre-apprenticeship direct entry providers registered with the New York State Department of Labor.

Chapter 364 – Sponsored by Senator C. Ryan/AM Bronson – Protects public unions from a wage reduction due to their involvement in the investigation of a violation of a workplace violence protection program.

Chapter 365 – Sponsored by Senator Ramos/AM Bronson – Authorizes the New York State Public Employment Relations Board to assert jurisdiction over disputes between employers and recognized employee organizations if the National Labor Relations Board is unable to successfully assert jurisdiction.

In The News-New York City



New York City Board of Elections Votes to Include Housing Propositions on the November Ballot

New York City Election Commissioners Tuesday voted to keep proposals on the November ballot that will fast-track approval of new housing construction. The City Council opposed the ballot proposals, asserting that the language was misleading.

Ballot Question 2: Fast-track Affordable Housing to Build More Affordable Housing Across the City.

Ballot Question 3: Simplify Review of Modest Housing and Infrastructure.

Ballot Question 4: Establish an Affordable Housing Appeals Board with Council Borough and Citywide Representation.

Specifics of the ballot proposals may be accessed [here](#).

“There’s only one way to solve New York’s housing crisis: we have to build more housing. The Charter Revision Commission’s proposals will make it easier to build the affordable housing New Yorkers so urgently need,” Governor Kathy Hochul said. “I’m glad the Board of Elections listened to the voices of New Yorkers — myself included — who want to see these critical initiatives brought to voters in November. “Today’s decision is a victory for working families and a step toward a future all New Yorkers can afford.”



Council Overrides Mayor’s Vetoes to Provide Minimum Pay and Protections for Grocery Delivery Workers and Repeal Criminal Penalties for Street Vendors

The New York City Council this week voted to override Mayor Adams’ vetoes of Introduction 47-B, Introduction 1133-A, and Introduction 1135-A that together will repeal the misdemeanor criminal penalties for street vending and extend wage and workplace protections to grocery delivery workers.

Introduction 47-B, sponsored by Council Member Shekar Krishnan, removes all misdemeanor criminal penalties for general vendors and mobile food vendors. Vendors who operate without a license could be subject to a violation and a fine or a civil penalty. Vendors who violate any other street vending laws would be subject to a civil penalty.

This bill was a recommendation of the Street Vendor Advisory Board which includes community organizations, property owners, retail stores, small businesses, and street vendors, as well as the NYPD and other city agencies. In 2023, the NYPD issued more than 1,000 criminal vending tickets.

“Today was a decisive victory for immigrants in NYC,” said Council Member Shekar Krishnan.

Introduction 1133-A, sponsored by Council Member Jennifer Gutiérrez, extends food delivery worker protection to all contracted delivery workers retained to deliver goods for a delivery service. These worker protections would include requirements for transparently providing information, access to bathrooms, distribution of fire safety materials, and insulated delivery bags. This bill would also require the Department of Consumer and Worker Protection (DCWP) to study working conditions and determine a minimum pay rate for contracted delivery workers.

Introduction 1135-A, sponsored by Council Member Sandy Nurse, would require third-party grocery delivery services to pay their delivery workers a minimum pay rate that would meet or exceed that set by DCWP. DCWP may adjust the minimum pay rate to the circumstances of grocery delivery workers.

“When you order groceries on an app, they don’t magically appear at your door,” said Council Member Sandy Nurse. “Behind every delivery is a worker trying to earn a living and put food on the table.”



Bills Passed by the City Council

Introduction 1238-A – Sponsored by Council Member Jennifer Gutiérrez – Requires the Department of Correction (DOC) to ensure all persons in custody with a pending criminal proceeding have the technology necessary to securely receive and review case evidence via a department-issued tablet or through access provided in the law library.

Introduction 1240-A – Sponsored by Council Member Rita Joseph – Requires the Mayor’s Office of Criminal Justice (MOCJ), upon request of a person in custody or their attorney, to conduct a holistic needs assessment when one is required for acceptance into a court-based alternative to incarceration program.

Introduction 1242-A – Sponsored by Council Member Sandy Nurse – Requires the establishment of an Office of Coordinator for Rikers Island Closure with a full-time coordinator.

Introduction 20-A – Sponsored by Council Member Gale A. Brewer – Requires the delivery worker bicycle safety course developed by the Department of Transportation (DOT) to cover the safe and lawful operation of powered bicycles, as well as lithium-ion battery and charging safety.

Introduction 1175-A – Sponsored by Council Member Julie Menin – Requires the Office to End Domestic and Gender-Based Violence (ENDGBV) to establish a program, subject to appropriation, to provide income-eligible domestic violence survivors with both brief legal assistance and full legal representation throughout a divorce proceeding. ENDGBV would be required to undertake outreach about the program through written materials posted online and at family justice centers.

Introduction 791-A – Sponsored by Council Member Lincoln Restler – Requires the Department of Social Services (DSS) to post on its website the total number and percentage of all supportive housing units in the city that are vacant, as well as the number of vacant units at different stages in the placement process.

Introduction 751-B – Sponsored by Council Member Gutiérrez – Requires an agency or office designated by the mayor, in consultation with the New York City Fire Department (FDNY), the Department of Housing Preservation and Development (HPD), and the Department of Buildings (DOB) to develop and maintain a residential fire emergency response guide for individuals affected or displaced by a residential fire.

Introduction 867-A – Sponsored by Majority Leader Amanda Farías – Prohibits the sale, offer for sale, and distribution of menstrual products or intimate care products that contain intentionally added ingredients harmful to human health listed on the packaging label, including chemicals and fragrance.

Introduction 1258-A – Sponsored by Council Member Crystal Hudson – Requires the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene to establish a procedure to request correction of the sex designation on a death record.

Briefs

Comptroller DiNapoli Report Identifies Trends in Causes of Subway Delays

The Metropolitan Transportation Authority (MTA) has an opportunity to further improve performance and reduce delays by targeting the main issues slowing down trains, including planned maintenance work, police and medical issues on trains and platforms, and signal and subway equipment problems according to a new report released by State Comptroller Thomas DiNapoli.

“As the MTA prioritizes work in its capital program and brings back riders, it’s important to understand where and how subway service is being disrupted and delayed,” DiNapoli said. “Targeting problem areas like signals and issues with subway cars that add to delays can improve straphangers experience and boost ridership. Working with the Police Department, Fire Department, and Homeless Services can also help reduce incidents that cause delays...”

Under MTA/NYC Transit rules, a subway is on time if it reaches its last stop within five minutes of its scheduled arrival without skipping any stops. Last year, the MTA ran 2.7 million trains with 486,614 experiencing delays (82.2% were on time). Through June, there have been 214,714 delays, down 13% compared to the same period last year.

The Comptroller asserts that understanding the causes of delays is key to improving subway service:

- Infrastructure and equipment problems caused 24% of delays in 2023, increased to 31% of delays in 2024, and rose again by 11% in the first half of 2025 compared to the first half of last year.
- Delays caused by police or medical response caused 23% of delays in 2024 but were down 7% in the first half of 2025 compared to the same period last year.

- One in four delays (25%) in 2024 were caused by planned maintenance work. Worker absences caused 7% of delays last year, a major improvement over the 24% of delays in 2023. Through June 2025, improvement continued as these delays declined by 48% compared to last year.

Governor Hochul Announces \$80 Million Available to Support Nonprofit Arts and Cultural Organizations Across New York State

Governor Kathy Hochul this week announced up to \$80 million in capital funding is now available to nonprofit arts and cultural organizations through the New York State Council on the Arts Capital Projects Fund.

The Fund has three grant categories:

Small and Midsized Capital Improvement Grants for Arts and Culture: This opportunity funds projects initiated by nonprofit arts and cultural organizations of any size, with construction and capital equipment grants of up to \$2 million that prioritize accessibility, artistry, cultural development, sustainability, health and safety, and structural and historical improvements. No-match grants of \$10,000-\$99,000 are available for organizations with operating budgets under \$2 million. Strong projects combine excellence in design with informed decisions about organizational capacity and community needs that will positively affect the future of arts and cultural organizations across New York.

Large Capital Improvement Grants for Arts and Culture: This opportunity will support arts and cultural nonprofits across the state that are undertaking impactful, large-scale capital improvements. Grants will range from \$2 million to \$10 million for projects that have a total cost of \$4 million or more (grants support a maximum of 50 percent of the project's total cost). This funding will support investments that allow organizations to thrive by expanding cultural programming, reaching new and diverse audiences, and promoting accessibility. These grants will also help advance the State's goals around economic development and will require all applicants to commit to social equity initiatives and access plans that serve all New Yorkers.

Capital Design Grants for Arts and Culture: This opportunity will support the development of mid-stage and advanced design documents for arts and cultural nonprofits with operating budgets of \$10 million or less across the state that are planning eligible capital improvements and are currently in the early stages of design. Grants will range from \$50,000-\$500,000, for a maximum of 50 percent of the design phase's total cost. No-match grants of \$10,000 to \$99,000 will also be available for organizations with budgets under \$2 million.

The application portal and guidelines for these opportunities are now open, and can be accessed on [NYSCA's website](#). The deadline to submit completed applications is January 13, 2026.

Mayor Adams Signs Executive Order to Establish New Commission on Universal After-School, Creates Roadmap to Deliver "After-School For All"

New York City Mayor Eric Adams signed Executive Order 54, creating the [Commission on Universal After-School](#). The commission will bring together leaders from community based after-school providers, advocacy groups, philanthropy, and the business sector to develop a strategy to deliver a universal after-school system that is sustainable in the long term and ensures non-profit organizations have the tools they need to hire and train staff and deliver quality programming.

Grace Bonilla, president and CEO, United Way of New York City and Dennis Walcott, president and CEO, Queens Public Library co-chair the Commission.

Adams Administration and NYC Health + Hospitals Celebrate Opening of *Bridge to Home* Facility, Providing Transitional Housing With Onsite Clinical Services for Patients With Severe Mental Illness

New York City Mayor Eric Adams and NYC Health + Hospitals CEO Dr. Mitchell Katz this week announced the opening of NYC Health + Hospitals' *Bridge to Home* facility, a new support model designed to help patients living with severe mental illness who are ready to be discharged from the hospital but do not have a place to go.

Bridge to Home is funded as part of the Adams administration's \$650 million plan to address homelessness and support New Yorkers experiencing serious mental illness. The *Bridge to Home* program aims to fill this critical gap between inpatient treatment and permanent housing placement, offering patients a stable, home-like environment with onsite clinical services and behavioral health care to ensure they can continue their recovery while transitioning to permanent housing.

The Midtown West facility will welcome its first guests this week, and provide single rooms to 46 guests, when at full capacity, with dedicated on-site clinical, behavioral health, and administrative support. The program first unveiled as part of Mayor Adams' 2025 State of the City address.

Senate Civil Service & Pension Holding Labor Roundtables Focusing on Local, School, and Municipal Workforces

Senator Robert Jackson and Civil Service and Pensions Committee is announcing and is inviting Organized Labor representing the local and municipal workforce, Civil Service and Human Resources Directors, Local Elected officials to a set of roundtables focusing on the local, school, and municipal workforces. The roundtables will examine how the state civil service laws and processes work when applied on local level, including classifications and reclassifications of positions, hiring retirees, scheduling civil service examinations, opting in and using NY HELPS, residency requirements, general recruitment and retention.

The official registration form and notice will be coming shortly. If you would like to attend one of the three roundtables, please contact Bob Bishop, 917-856-9956.

- 10 a.m. Tuesday, October 14th, 2025 - 19th Floor, 250 Broadway, New York - focus on NYC, Westchester, and Long Island.
- 11 a.m. Wednesday, October 22nd, 2025 - Room 711A, Legislative Office Building, Albany - focus on Capital Region.
- Noon Wednesday, October 29th, 2025 - Buffalo City Hall, Common Council Chambers, 13th Floor, 65 Niagara Square, Buffalo - focus on Western New York.

Coming Up

New York State

There are no meetings schedule on the state level at time of this Publication

New York City

Monday, September 15th

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

Committee on Governmental Operations, State & Federal Legislation, Council Chambers – City Hall, 1 p.m.

Committee on General Welfare, Council Chamber – City Hall, 1 p.m.

Committee on Hospitals, Council Chambers – City Hall, 1 p.m.

Tuesday, September 16th

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

Wednesday, September 17th

Committee on Women and Gender Equity, 250 Broadway – Committee Room, 16th Floor, 10 a.m.

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

Thursday, September 18th

Committee on Sanitation and Solid Waste Management,
250 Broadway – Committee Room, 16th Floor, 10 a.m.

Subcommittee on Landmarks, Public Sitings and Dispositions,
Council Chambers – City Hall, 10 a.m.

Committee on Youth and Children, 250 Broadway – Hearing Room, 16th Floor, 1 p.m.

Friday, September 19th

Committee on Health, Council Chamber – City Hall, 1 p.m.

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