

Dear Constituents,

Every year in New York State the Governor proposes a budget in January. Between January and March the Assembly and Senate evaluate the Governor's proposal and promote proposals of their own. In March the three sides come together to negotiate a final budget. The sections below present highlights of items included in the negotiated, final budget.



It is my hope that this new budget brings assistance and support to many New Yorkers.

Yours truly,

Jeffrion L. Aubry
Member of Assembly
Speaker Pro Tempore

THE 2018-19 STATE BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS

INVESTING IN PUBLIC EDUCATION

The budget builds on the Assembly's commitment to ensure every New York student receives a quality education by providing a total of \$26.6 billion in education funding. That's an increase of \$914 million more than last year and a 36 percent increase since 2012.

It supports English Language Learners by including \$2.8 million in increased support for students who face language barriers, as well as \$2 million for bilingual education grants. The budget allocates a total of \$17.5 million to support students who do not have English as their first language. There is an additional \$770,000 for training programs to increase the number of teachers providing bilingual and multilingual education.



Members of the United Federation of Teachers from New York City came up to Albany in March on their Lobby Day.

THE 2018-19 STATE BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS

AFFORDABLE HIGHER EDUCATION

The budget invests \$7.6 billion in higher education. It also allocates \$118 million to support the approximately 27,000 students in the Excelsior Scholarship program, which makes SUNY and CUNY schools tuition free for New Yorkers who earn less than \$110,000 this year. Enhanced Tuition Awards are also made available in the budget. Eligible students receive up to \$6,000 to cover private college tuition.

The spending plan also restores a \$23.8 million gap from the Governor's proposal that is needed to fully fund college opportunity programs. These include the Higher Education Opportunity Program (HEOP); Education Opportunity Program (EOP); Search for Education, Elevation and Knowledge (SEEK); Liberty Partnerships; Science and Technology Entry Program (STEP); Collegiate Science and Technology Entry Program (C-STEP); and College Discovery.



WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT & HIRE A VETERAN TAX CREDIT

Our local Advanced Technology Training Information Networking (ATTAIN) lab at Elmcour Youth and Adult Activities will continue to provide uninterrupted technology classes and access to education and workforce development training to East Elmhurst residents. The final budget restored \$2 million over what the Governor proposed to fund ATTAIN labs in New York.

The Displaced Homemakers Program, designed to provide services to those who have been displaced from their careers as unpaid homemakers, received \$1.62 million for programming.

The final budget also extends the Hire a Veteran Tax Credit for two years. Eligible employers can receive a credit of up to \$5,000 for each veteran hired, but that amount rises to \$15,000 for each veteran with a disability that is hired.

OPIOID STEWARDSHIP FUND

To combat the opioid epidemic and create a road to recovery, the state budget makes investments in prevention, treatment and recovery services, including establishing the Opioid Stewardship Fund. The fund will be supported by a fee paid by manufacturers and distributors registered to sell and/or distribute opioids in the state. The state budget also allocates nearly \$250 million in funding to address the heroin and opioid crisis.

PROTECTING NYCHA TENANTS

Eighty percent of NYCHA residents were without heat at some point between Oct. 1 and Jan. 22. This is detrimental to each resident's living conditions. Health and safety and interferes with families' work and school obligations

The budget provides \$250 million for the New York City Housing Authority (NYCHA) to improve living conditions. The funds will be used to make capital repairs, including replacing and updating heating equipment, as well as, other critical maintenance projects.

\$15 MILLION PILOT PROGRAM TO BATTLE HOMELESSNESS

A new "Fair Market Rent" pilot program has been created to assist 240 families who are homeless or may be at risk of losing their home. The program will provide financial assistance by paying the full difference between the public shelter allowance and the federally set fair market rent standard. The majority of the funds, \$13.5 million, will be awarded to 200 families in New York City.

PROTECTING PUBLIC LIBRARIES



Local libraries were secured funding of \$96.6 million in 2018-2019. Specifically, the Langston Hughes Community Library and Cultural Center of the Queens Library will receive \$75,000. Additionally, the Queens Library branches in East Elmhurst, Corona and the proposed branch at LeFrak City will also have specific funds set aside.

MTA FUNDING

Millions of New Yorkers rely on bus and subway services to get around the city, yet the condition of the public transportation system has deteriorated to a point where services are unreliable, uncomfortable and in some cases, completely unavailable. The 2018-19 state budget intends to address these issues by funding the Metropolitan Transportation Authority's (MTA) Subway Action Plan for a total of \$836 million. These funds will be used to make emergency repairs and enhance subway performance. NYS and NYC will share the responsibility of funding the initiative. The final budget also establishes a long-term funding stream for New York City public transportation by enacting a \$2.75 surcharge on for-hire vehicles, \$2.50 for yellow cabs and \$0.75 for pooled trips below 96th Street in Manhattan.

The expected revenues of \$415 million annually from these surcharges would be used to support:

- costs associated with the Subway Action Plan, \$362 million in 2019, \$301 million in 2020 and \$300 million every year thereafter;
- the next \$50 million each year will go into a dedicated Outer Borough Transportation Account to be used for capital and operating costs of services in the outer boroughs;
- any remaining annual revenue will be dedicated to the MTA for general capital and operating support; and
- the Legislature prohibits the diversion of these funds to any other purpose.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE GUN LEGISLATION

This measure prohibits an individual who has been convicted of a domestic violence crime from purchasing or possessing a firearm. Specifically, the legislation requires that the FBI be notified of domestic violence convictions; prevents individuals with an outstanding warrant for a felony or serious crime from being eligible for a firearms license; and it creates a new requirement that the court order the surrender of all firearms following a conviction of a felony or serious offense, including domestic violence misdemeanors.

NEW NYS SECURE CHOICE SAVINGS PROGRAM

The state budget establishes the New York State Secure Choice Savings Program to help private-sector employees plan for their future. The program allows for a voluntary-enrollment payroll IRA deduction for employees of private employers that do not already offer retirement savings plans.

TAX CUTS FOR MIDDLE-CLASS FAMILIES



The final budget also continues phasing in middle-class tax cuts, which is expected to save families \$4.2 billion annually by 2025. The plan reduces the state income tax rate from 6.45 to 5.5 percent for those earning between \$40,000 and \$150,000 and from 6.5 to 6 percent for those who earn between \$150,000 and \$300,000. Families will see average savings of \$250 this year.

STRONGER ANTI-HARASSMENT LAWS

My colleagues and I believe that harassment and sexual misconduct are too often known of, but not spoken about for fear of retaliation. The budget includes legislation that directs the state Department of Labor and the Division of Human Rights to develop a model sexual harassment prevention policy, and it requires that all employers adopt that policy or establish one that exceeds the standards established. Annual employee training is also mandatory. Contractors, subcontractors, vendors and consultants are also protected against sexual harassment under the proposed legislation.

LEGAL COUNSEL FOR IMMIGRANTS AND THE INDIGENT

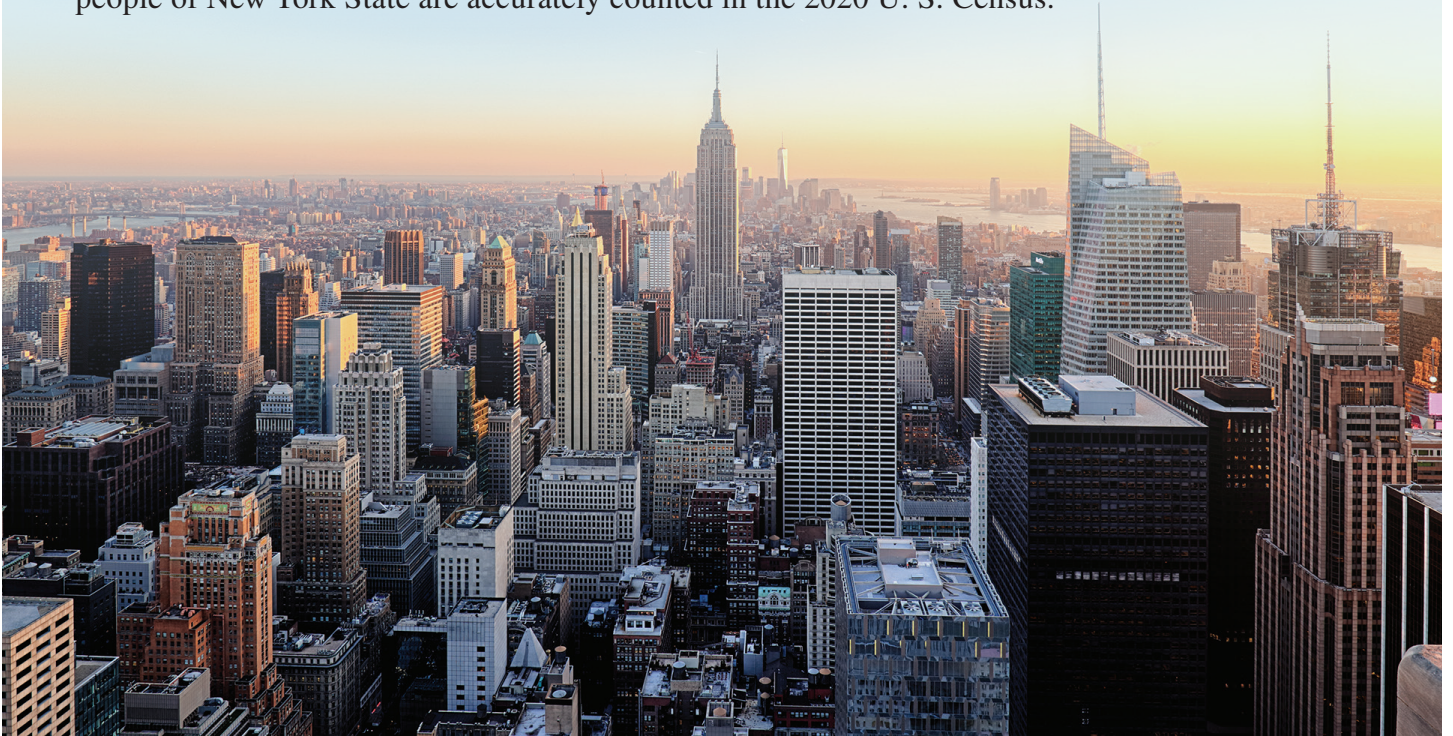
The budget includes an increase of \$50 million for public defense services. When fully implemented in 2023, the state's investment will increase funding to counties and New York City for public defense services by approximately \$250 million annually. The plan also includes:

- \$4.5 million in additional funding for civil and immigrant legal services;
- \$750,000 for prisoners legal services; and
- \$500,000 for additional alternatives to incarceration programs.

THE 2018-19 STATE BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS

ENSURING AN ACCURATE CENSUS COUNT

Inaccurate counts during the 2000 and 2010 Census led to the loss of two NY congressional seats as well as billions of dollars in federal aid. A commission was created in the budget to ensure that the people of New York State are accurately counted in the 2020 U. S. Census.



New York State Assembly, Albany, New York 12248



Assemblyman
JEFFRION L. AUBRY
Reports to the People

**35TH A.D. • QUEENS COUNTY
SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE**

The 2018-19 State Budget Highlights

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THE 2018-19 STATE BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS

- Investing in Public Education
- Affordable Higher Education
- Workforce Development & Hire a Veteran Tax Credit
- Protecting Public Libraries
- \$15 Million Pilot Program to Battle Homelessness
- Opioid Stewardship Fund
- Protecting NYCHA Tenants
- MTA Funding
- Tax Cuts for Middle-Class Families
- New NYS Secure Choice Savings Program
- Domestic Violence Gun Legislation
- Stronger Anti-Harassment Laws
- Legal Counsel for Immigrants and The Indigent
- Ensuring an Accurate Census Count



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