



Dear friends,

Last week, the Assembly finished passing the 2025-2026 state budget. **This budget contains significant gains towards affordability, a stronger mental health system, ensuring public safety and protecting our environment.**

A final budget is a reflection of our values and priorities, representing the wide diversity of people and places in New York State. This budget is the result of over three months of legislative hearings, public input and tough negotiations. The expected devastating cuts from the Federal Government will complicate matters in the near future. Below are some of the highlights of this year's budget I want to share with you.

And if you're interested in diving into the details yourself, you can [view the budget documents themselves here](#).

Putting Money Back in the Pockets of Hardworking New Yorkers

- Enhance the Empire Child Tax Credit by increasing the maximum credit to \$1,000 for children under four years old for 2025 to 2027, and \$500 for children age four to 16 for 2026 and 2027. This will result in \$800 billion in tax relief for New York families.
- A new 0.2 percent tax cut on individuals making under \$323,000 beginning in 2026, which will provide another \$1 billion in tax relief for low- and middle-income New Yorkers once fully implemented.
- Self-employed individuals earning less than \$150,000 will have their payroll tax eliminated.
- Inflation refund checks of up to \$400 per family to help put money back into the pockets of New Yorkers.



Assemblymember Tony Simone Secured In The Budget:

Putting Money Back in the Pockets
of Hardworking New Yorkers



\$1 BILLION

tax relief for working
class New Yorkers



UP TO

\$400 / FAMILY

Inflation refund checks



UP TO

\$1,000 / CHILD UNDER 4 y/o

\$500 / CHILD 4-16 y/o

Empire Child Tax Credit



~~**PAYROLL TAX**~~

For Self-employed
individuals earning
<\$150K

Housing

- Includes \$50 million to establish the Housing Access Voucher Program, a rental assistance program that would help individuals and families who are homeless or at risk of homelessness to secure permanent housing and transition out of shelters or unsustainable housing situations.
- Includes \$1 billion for New York City's City of Yes for Housing Opportunity Program, including:
 - \$500 million for new construction and preservation of affordable housing
 - \$200 million for the New York City Housing Authority (NYCHA)
 - \$80 million for Mitchell-Lama Preservation
 - \$30 million for supportive housing for adults, youths or young adults exiting the justice system



Assemblymember Tony Simone Secured In The Budget:

Housing



\$1 BILLION

City of Yes for Housing
Opportunity Program



\$50 MILLION

Housing Access
Voucher Program



\$500 MILLION

Affordable housing
construction and
preservation



\$30 MILLION

For supportive housing

Tackling the mental Health Crisis

- Provide \$8 million in additional funds for Daniel's Law Pilot Programs, which aim to equip localities with the tools they need to establish a behavioral health-led response to mental health crises in the community
- Expands involuntary commitment laws while protecting constitutionally guaranteed civil rights. If an individual poses a substantial risk of physical harm, or cannot provide for their own basic needs, action must be taken to keep the public and the individuals suffering from mental illness safe. **I called for these reforms at the start of the year in my [SUM NY report](#).**



Assemblymember Tony Simone Secured In The Budget:

Tackling the Mental Health Crisis



\$8 MILLION

In additional funding for Daniel's Law Pilot Programs, which aim to equip localities with the tools they need to establish a behavioral health-led response to mental health crises in the community



INVOLUNTARY COMMITMENT

Expansion while protecting constitutionally guaranteed civil rights. If an individual poses a substantial risk of physical harm, or cannot provide for their own basic needs, action must be taken to keep the public and the individual safe. I called for these reforms at the start of the year in my SUM NY report.

Pier 76

Last year, I passed legislation to move Pier 76 closer to becoming a brand new park. The pier requires a full rebuild as the piles that support it are deteriorating. In this year's budget we secured \$85 million to fund that rebuild, bringing significant new green space to the west side even closer to fruition!



Assemblymember Tony Simone Secured In The Budget:

Pier 76



\$85 MILLION

Last year, I passed legislation to move Pier 76 closer to becoming a brand new park. The pier requires a full rebuild as the piles that support it are deteriorating. In this year's budget we secured \$85 million to fund that rebuild, bringing significant new green space to the west side even closer to fruition!



Helping Small Businesses

- During the COVID-19 pandemic, more than a million people lost their jobs at no fault of their own. Paying unemployment insurance (UI) to these New Yorkers caused the Unemployment Trust Fund to go into more than \$10 billion of debt to the federal government. The \$8 billion secured in this budget will be used to pay back the remaining debt owed to the federal government, thus lowering the rates and eliminating the interest payments that New York businesses currently pay into the UI system. By eliminating the debt, New Yorkers that lose their job will be able to receive enhanced UI benefits that keep up with the cost of living.
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Education

- Critical investments in education in New York State, including \$37.6 billion in funding to the General Support for Public Schools (GSPS), a \$1.7 billion increase from the 2024-25 school year (SY). The enacted budget includes \$26.4 billion in funding for Foundation Aid, a \$1.4 billion increase over SY 2024-25.
- Provides \$340 million for expanded universal school meals, a \$120 million expansion to ensure all children can thrive within the classroom without worrying where their next meal will come from.
- Includes a “bell to bell” restriction of smartphones or other internet-enabled personal devices in K-12 schools across the state. This total restriction ensures schools are distraction-free zones where students can focus on learning and socializing with their classmates during class, lunch and study periods. The budget also includes \$13.5 million to support the purchase of storage devices to help implement the policies.



Assemblymember Tony Simone Secured In The Budget: Education



\$37.6 BILLION

General Support for
Public Schools



\$340 MILLION

For expanded universal
school meals



FULL DAY

restriction of
smartphones or other
personal smart-devices in
K-12 schools across the
state



\$26.4 BILLION

for Foundation Aid

Child Care

- Invests \$2.2 billion in childcare, including \$400 million to ensure that localities have the resources to keep childcare subsidy enrollment open.
-

Health

The budget makes critical investments in the health of New Yorkers and the state's healthcare infrastructure, including:

- \$500 million for financially distressed hospitals;
- \$30 million in additional funding for nursing home rates; and
- \$25 million for Federally Qualified Health Centers

The budget also includes provisions that will help protect and support women's reproductive healthcare. One provision would require hospitals to provide screenings and stabilizing treatment, including abortion in certain emergency medical conditions involving pregnancy. It would also ensure that iatrogenic infertility treatment is covered by Medicaid and establish a grant program that would fund uncompensated infertility services. Additionally, the spending plan includes:

- \$7 million for maternal health grants;
 - \$5 million for medication abortion providers; and
 - \$4 million for abortion clinical training.
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Protecting our environment and investing in green energy

- Up to \$100 million for zero emissions school buses and supporting infrastructure
 - At least \$50 million for electric vehicle fast charging stations and supporting infrastructure, including for municipal, commercial, heavy duty, and fleet vehicles
 - \$425 million for the Environmental Protection Fund (EPF) which is an increase of \$25 million
 - \$500 million for water infrastructure programs
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Consumer Protections

The enacted budget delivers a major victory for consumers with the inclusion of the following protections:

- Requiring artificial intelligence (AI) companions to alert users that they are not communicating with a human, and to follow a protocol if users express suicidal ideation or self-harm;
- Mandating clear return and refund policies from online retailers and retail stores;
- Requiring subscription services to provide simple, clear cancellation methods – known as the “Click to Cancel” provision;

With budget negotiations behind us, the work continues right away. **I am back in Albany fighting for a legislative agenda that further strengthens our mental health system, fights against right wing extremism, and expands transparency in both how our government functions and in our elections.**

I will be sharing more information on my legislation in the coming weeks and I invite you to join my upcoming Town Hall meeting on Saturday, May 31. You may [RSVP here](#).

I hope to see you around the district soon!

- Tony

TOWN HALL MEETING

Saturday, May 31st

11 AM – 1 PM (doors open at 10:30am)
Hudson Guild Fulton Center (119 9th Ave)

Hear From Speakers On:

Defending Against Federal
Cuts, Protecting Civil Rights
& More

**Have questions
answered on:**

Housing, Immigration,
Education, Transit &
More



Special Guest:

Congressman Jerry Nadler



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ASSEMBLY MEMBER

TONY SIMONE