



Dear friends,

I wanted to take a moment to share some key wins from the 2026-2027 state budget. This budget, the latest in 16 years, is a testament to what is at stake here in New York. We made great strides in protecting immigrant New Yorkers, building and preserving affordable housing, affordability, and so much more.

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

\$1 Billion in Direct Utility Relief

New Yorkers face some of the highest utility costs in the country. This year's budget includes one-time relief checks to help cover costs and put money back in New Yorkers' pockets.

The checks will be sent out from September to December of this year, providing \$1 billion in relief to 8.2 million New Yorkers. The checks will be available to full-time residents of New York and are based on 2024 tax returns as follows:

- Joint filers with incomes below \$150,000 will receive a check of \$200;
- Joint filers with incomes between \$150,000 and \$300,000 will receive a check of \$150; and
- Single filers with incomes below \$150k will receive a check of \$100.

Changes to State Climate Law

We are living through the climate crisis. From extreme flooding to rising insurance costs and growing strain on our infrastructure, the costs of inaction are no longer theoretical. New Yorkers are paying them now.

More than 65 scientists from institutions including MIT, Columbia, Stanford, and Cornell warned that changing methane accounting standards could understate one of the most dangerous greenhouse gases during the decades scientists consider most critical for climate action.

While I supported the overall budget, I share the disappointment with many that we built our Climate law through the legislative process, and the Governor weakened parts of our climate law by changing methane standards in ways that downplay its short-term climate impact, extending emissions timelines, and bypassing public debate and scientific analysis.



Immigration

ICE has been terrorizing our communities, and the Assembly has been fighting tirelessly to put an end to this rampant abuse of power. I am honored to announce the passage of my MELT Act, which was included in a larger immigration package aimed at protecting New Yorkers. The passage of these bills sends a clear message that New York will not carry out this administration's fear-based agenda.

- My Mandating End of Lawless Tactics (MELT) Act bans federal immigration agents from wearing masks and requires clear identification during civil enforcement duties and public interaction.
- No one is above the law, including federal agencies. This year's budget equips New Yorkers with the legal tools to hold ICE and any other government actors accountable for civil rights abuses.
- This package establishes sensitive locations in which ICE cannot enter without a court order or judicial warrant. Sensitive locations are described as: healthcare facilities, houses of worship, housing accommodations, schools and higher education institutions, childcare

facilities, nursery schools, summer camps, senior centers, parks, playgrounds, athletic fields, recreation centers, and polling places.

- The establishment of sensitive locations will protect children's access to public education. These bills establish that employees of state and local governments, schools, and higher education institutions do not collaborate with federal officials for immigration enforcement purposes.
- These passed provisions ensure that local government officials and resources are no longer used to carry out civil immigration violations and detain New Yorkers in unregulated detention facilities. Specifically, state and local law enforcement are prohibited from entering into agreements to implement immigration enforcement functions, known as 287(g) agreements. Similarly, NY State will be unable to enter into contracts that house or detain individuals for federal civil immigration violations and prohibit local governments from paying for services related to these detainments.
- The budget establishes the Office of Immigrant Trust within the Office of the New York State Attorney General to receive complaints and conduct investigations regarding these described provisions.
- Learn more here: [Assembly Announces Enacted Budget Includes Protections for Immigrant New Yorkers](#)



Affordability

New York City's theater district has a long history of actors working part-time service jobs to make ends meet. I am happy to announce that this year's budget will also eliminate income taxes on certain tipped wages up to \$25,000. This will provide more than \$60 million in tax relief for New Yorkers.

Public Safety

This year's budget expands on [public safety provisions specific to gun safety](#). These enacted safeguards would protect New Yorkers from the spread of 3D printed guns, also referred to as ghost guns. There are also new provisions to shield New Yorkers from dangerous drivers.

- Over the past few years, the seizure of ghost guns has risen considerably. The passage of this bill will ensure that anyone who has access to a 3D printer will be unable to create unserialized firearms as well as additional firearm parts.
- This bill also prohibits the sale and distribution of digital files that instruct the creation of such weapons.

Street Safety

Reckless speeding is a public safety crisis. A small group of repeat offenders puts our communities at risk every day. The Stop Super Speeders Act uses smart tech to prevent speeding before it happens, not just punish it after. Drivers who accumulate 16 or more speed camera violations in a 12 month period will be required to install intelligent speed assistance (ISA) devices in their vehicle.



Fiscal

The city and state worked hard to eliminate New York City's \$12 billion budget deficit. This is how we achieved this:

The State and City collaborated to provide state aid in order to ensure social services would not be the target of fiscal rollbacks.

The Assembly has long worked to ensure the wealthy pay their fair share. The now passed pied-à-terre tax, first proposed by our former State Senator Brad Hoylman-Sigal, will raise hundreds of millions in revenue, generated from an increase in property tax on secondary apartments and

houses that are valued over \$5 million (the tax only applies to Non-resident owners whose primary residence is outside New York City).



Transportation Safety

Subway crime has reached record lows. Lower crime, higher ridership, and general public safety are the result of state investments in policing and mental health engagement strategies. The state will continue this trend by:

- Procuring an additional \$77 million to support NYPD presence in our transit system.
- The state is broadening the Subway Co-Response Outreach Teams initiative (SCOUT) to cover greater locations and bring in new team members, increasing the program's efficiency. The expansion of team members allows SCOUT to respond quicker to those in distress, allowing for more dynamic resource allocation.



Transportation Funding

We approved appropriations of \$4.4 billion to the MTA and paired this with smart policy to reduce capital costs. Modernizing the SEQRA process to remove unnecessary and costly duplicative review processes will help the MTA deliver projects on time and on budget.

Housing

Preserving and expanding access to affordable housing has long been a key issue for the district and a high priority for me. To that end, in the latest budget, we secured:

- \$140 million in capital funding for NYCHA
- \$20 million in operating support for Mitchell-Lama and Public Housing Authorities
- \$85 million for Mitchell-Lama capital
- \$50 million for Housing Access Voucher Program (HAVP)
- \$250 million for affordable housing development and preservation



I am proud to see us streamline environmental review for housing and infrastructure projects in this budget, which will reduce duplicative review processes, and accelerate approvals that can otherwise take years.

By reducing the timelines to build new housing and infrastructure, we can make far greater strides in bringing affordability to New Yorkers.

Spurring the growth of new housing within already developed areas will increase housing supply and density, which is proven to be more environmentally friendly than the endless sprawl we have relied on for decades to house New Yorkers.

Keeping Older Adults and Disabled New Yorkers In Their Homes

I am also excited to announce that those with disabilities and the elderly have expanded access to rent increase exemptions. The Senior Citizen Rent Increase Exemption (SCRIE) and the Disability Rent Increase Exemption (DRIE) programs are raising income eligibility from \$50k to \$75k. This expansion allows more New Yorkers to remain in their homes and not live in fear that their rent will increase.

Education

At a time when the federal government is launching an assault on higher education, the state-funded SUNY and CUNY systems are growing ever more important. Higher education should be accessible to all, and this year's budget moves things in the right direction with a \$22.9 Billion investment that includes:

- An additional \$200 million for SUNY maintenance capital, and an additional \$200 million for CUNY capital, ensuring our Universities stay in good physical condition
- \$100 million for SUNY research facilities
- \$20 million in total funding for Community College Base Aid increases, including \$12 million for SUNY community colleges and \$8 million for CUNY community colleges.
- \$197.7 million in critical investments in opportunity programs for New York students, representing a
- \$30 million increase over last year's budget.

School aid will again hit an all time high with the final budget being around almost \$40 billion in educational funding. I see firsthand the level in which students benefit from our public education system and increased funding will only advance these benefits. Some specific developments I helped support include:

- \$3 billion in childcare subsidies, including an increase of \$475 million in subsidies for New York City to be matched one-to-one with local funds.
- An extension of Mayoral control of the New York City School District until 2028
- The enacted budget extends the zero-emission bus mandates by five years, allowing districts until July 1, 2032, to purchase only zero-emission buses and until July 1, 2040, to operate and maintain only zero-emission buses.
- A guaranteed increase of 2% in Foundation Aid to every school across the state.
- The final budget also contains edits to the Foundation Aid formula. These changes aim to be further inclusive in who receives these benefits. Specifically, the updated formula will include additional aid for homeless children, students in foster care, and English language learners.
- In regards to Universal Pre-K, the budget has a new formula that would accommodate enrollment types. By the 2028-2029 school year, all NY districts must administer full-day Pre-K admittance to eligible 4 year olds.
- Outside the classroom, the budget includes \$116 million for after-school programs

- Learn more here: [Assembly Announces SFY 2026-2027 Budget Includes \\$39 Billion in School Aid](#)

Ensuring Working Families Can Afford Childcare

This year's State Budget makes a historic investment in working families by putting New York on the path toward universal childcare. The budget increases statewide funding for childcare and prekindergarten services to \$4.5 billion, helping nearly 100,000 additional children access affordable care. These investments will expand childcare subsidies, make universal pre-K a reality statewide, support New York City's 2-Care and universal 3K programs, strengthen the early childhood workforce, and help families save more through the expanded Child Tax Credit, increasing benefits up to \$1,000 annually (previously \$330) for children under four.



Stay tuned, I will be sharing more information on my legislation that passed this session in the coming weeks and I hope to see you around the district soon!

- In service,

Tony