

RMS End of Week Update 9/19/2025



Bipartisan Group of State and Local Elected Officials Joined Security Briefing, Emphasizing Need for Bipartisan Political Cooperation

This week Governor Hochul convened a meeting with a bipartisan group of elected leaders to highlight a shared commitment to standing against political violence and bringing down the temperature on inflammatory rhetoric. The bipartisan group received a briefing from the Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Services about the correlation of volatile language to an increase in threats of political violence. Political violence is preventable, and today's meeting shows that bipartisan political cooperation can send a message that political violence is unacceptable.

"Incidents of political violence in America are not isolated, and here in New York, we are advancing the critical conversation addressing the disturbing rise of these political attacks," Governor Hochul said. "Today I convened a bipartisan group of leaders to discuss what is truly necessary in this moment: reducing the temperature of inflammatory rhetoric that leads to violence and ensuring our communities are safe and tolerant places for all. We can debate our differences without demeaning each other."

The briefing detailed information about the current threat environment. The following details and statistics were noted in the briefing:

- Lone offenders and small groups of individuals are motivated by a range of ideologies, socio-political beliefs and personal grievances.
- Lone offenders and small groups of individuals are radicalized online after exposure to large amounts of propaganda, mis-/dis/mal- information (MDM) and narratives that are amplified in both extremist and mainstream places.
- The data shows they are frequently inspired to mobilize to violence by previous attackers and current events and make plans to attack a wide range of targets using easily accessible weapons.
- In the last decade partisan-motivated terrorist attacks against government targets have increased from representing 0 percent of overall anti-government attacks to more than 50 percent in 2024.
- Recent surveys have found that 26.2 percent of Americans — over 68 million people — believe violence is usually or always justified to advance a political objective.
- In the two days following the assassination of Charlie Kirk, mentions of “Civil War” on X, formerly known as Twitter, jumped from less than 50,000 to more than 200,000.
- In June, Latin American communities and the mainstream political left entered the top ten targeted categories for the first time since August 2022. Their emergence corresponds with a spike in political demonstrations and recent acts of political violence, suggesting support for violence against these groups —and for political violence more broadly — in response to recent events.

The briefing also outlined a number of actions that can be taken by individuals to tone down the rhetoric, including:

- Condemning all acts of political violence regardless of motivation.
- Lowering the temperature by calling for calm and patience.
- Modeling respectful language when speaking about victims.
- Encouraging in healthy and nonviolent ways to express dissent and becoming politically active to promote change.
- Exercising free speech responsibly.
- Avoiding demonizing and dehumanizing any person or group.
- Do not amplify conspiracy theories and unvalidated and unvetted information.
- Do not exaggerate and use rhetoric of existential threats, including references to civil war or equate extremist beliefs with mainstream political parties.
- Avoid assuming motives or unknown information related to an incident without factual information

Senate Majority Deputy Leader Michael Gianaris said, “Political violence has no place in a functioning democracy, where differences should be resolved through debates and elections, not guns. In this critical moment, we must stand together so that we are not further torn apart. I thank Governor Hochul for uniting us and leading on this critical issue.”

Assembly Majority Leader Crystal Peoples-Stokes said, “Violent political ideology has no place in our democracy. The instances of people being attacked or killed for their political beliefs is horrifying. We can agree to disagree on political issues and move forward with what we believe is right and just for the people we serve. But amplifying extremist rhetoric only encourages people to act on their worst impulses. I applaud Governor Hochul’s effort to bring together a bi-partisan group to say ‘lets tone it down.’ There are better ways to get our political points across and we need to do a better job at exercising those alternatives.”

To View The Full Press Release Please Click [Here](#).

To View Governor Hochul’s Op-Ed In The Empire Report About The Rise Of Political Violence In America Please Click [Here](#).

State And City Lawmakers Arrested At 26 Federal Plaza

According to recent press reports more than a dozen city and state elected officials were arrested Thursday while participating in a protest at the federal building that houses immigration courts in lower Manhattan.

New York City Comptroller Brad Lander, state Sens. Jabari Brisport, Julia Salazar and Gustavo Rivera and Assembly Members Bobby Carroll, Emily Gallagher, Jessica González-Rojas, Marcela Mitaynes, Claire Valdez, Tony Simone and Steven Raga were arrested by U.S. Department of Homeland Security agents after attempting to gain access to the 10th floor of the building, which U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement has turned into a makeshift detention facility.

In addition, city Public Advocate Jumaane Williams, Assembly Member Phara Souffrant Forrest and New York City Council Members Sandy Nurse and Tiffany Cabán were arrested by New York City Police Department officers outside the building.

The elected officials arrested inside the building had requested access to the 10th floor to determine whether ICE was complying with a [recent court order](#) requiring the agency to provide detainees with meals, sanitary products like soap and bedding, and access to attorneys, a spokesperson for Jews for Racial and Economic Justice – one of the groups organizing the direct action – told City & State. She said that those arrested outside the building had attempted to peacefully block a garage that serves as an entry and exit point for vehicles used by ICE to transport immigrant detainees.

The 11 elected officials who were arrested inside the building were taken up to the 30th floor, where they were processed and then released. Each was each issued a misdemeanor violation notice stating that they had violated [41 CFR 102-74.390\(b\)](#) – a Class C misdemeanor which prohibits “unreasonably obstructing the usual use of entrances,

foyers, lobbies, corridors, offices, elevators, stairways, or parking lots” – and told that they would be mailed a federal court summons.

This is not the first time that elected officials have been arrested in 26 Federal Plaza. In June, Lander, who was then running in the Democratic primary for mayor, was arrested by federal agents in a hallway outside of an immigration courtroom while working with JFREJ to escort immigrants to and from their court hearings.

In a statement about Thursday’s action, DHS Assistant Secretary Tricia McLaughlin stated, ““Another day, another sanctuary politician pulling a stunt in attempt to get their 15 minutes of fame while endangering DHS personnel and detainees,” she [wrote](#), adding that more than 70 demonstrators were arrested. “Here are the facts: Brad Lander showed up to 26 Federal Plaza unannounced with agitators and media and proceeded to obstruct law enforcement and cause a scene.”

In addition to JFREJ, Thursday’s direct action was organized by Jewish Voice for Peace, the New York City chapter of the Democratic Socialists of America, the Sunrise Movement, Make the Road New York, the National Day Laborer Organizing Network and the Immigrant Defense Project.

Other elected officials – state Sen. Robert Jackson, Assembly Members Harvey Epstein and Alex Bores and Council Member Alexa Avilés – also attended the action outside the building but were not arrested.

“There were dozens of people sitting in the driveway blocking the vans, chanting, sitting down, being peaceful, but speaking with one loud voice on the need for change,” Bores told City & State. A new father, he added that he chose to leave the action before any arrests were made, not wanting “to spend even a night separated from (his) newborn,” noting how inhumane it is that the federal government now routinely separates immigrant New Yorkers from their children indefinitely.

The 11 elected officials who were arrested by DHS inside were released relatively quickly and later held a press conference outside of 26 Federal Plaza, while the four elected officials arrested outside the building were taken to 1 Police Plaza to be processed.

For more information please click [here](#).

Governor Hochul Issues COVID-19 Vaccine Guidance For New Yorkers In Partnership With The Northeast Public Health Collaborative

This week Governor Hochul announced the release of New York State’s 2025–2026 [COVID-19 vaccine guidance](#), ensuring residents continue to have access to vaccines and science-based information. The guidance recommends COVID vaccination for children(6 months to 18 years old), all adults, and individuals at higher risk, including

those who are pregnant, lactating, or immunocompromised. The guidelines are being released ahead of this week's federal Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) meeting, where national vaccine recommendations will be reviewed and voted on.

"Vaccines remain one of the strongest tools we have to safeguard our families and our communities," Governor Hochul said. "As Washington continues to launch its misguided attacks on science, New York is making it clear that every resident will have access to the COVID vaccine, no exceptions. By standing with our partners across the Northeast, we are ensuring that New Yorkers have the protection and the information they need to stay safe and healthy."

The State guidance also aligns with consensus COVID-19 recommendations agreed upon by the Northeast Public Health Collaborative, a group of several Northeastern states and municipalities including New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Massachusetts, Connecticut, Maine, Rhode Island and New York City. These recommendations are consistent with the Fall 2025 COVID-19 vaccination guidance from the American Academy of Pediatrics, the American College of Obstetrics and Gynecology, and the American Academy of Family Physicians.

The announcement comes as Governor Hochul has taken several steps to ensure that vaccines remain accessible to New Yorkers even as restrictions continue to hamper access at the federal level. Earlier this month, Governor Hochul signed an [**Executive Order**](#) allowing pharmacists to prescribe and administer COVID vaccines, ensuring continued access for all New Yorkers who wish to be vaccinated. The Order will be extended as necessary while a long-term legislative solution is developed to address access to all vaccines in order to combat the Trump Administration's misguided attack on immunization and healthcare.

At the direction of the Governor, the State also recently issued guidance to insurers encouraging them to continue covering all vaccines recommended by The Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP). The guidance also reminds insurers of previously issued guidance requiring insurers to cover COVID vaccines for children, and urges insurers to encourage employers and other entities who provide self-funded health care coverage to continue covering the cost of vaccines.

New York State Health Commissioner Dr. James McDonald said, "Vaccines save lives, and this guidance ensures every New Yorker from our youngest children to those at highest risk has safe, reliable access to the COVID vaccine. We are standing firm on our commitment to protecting the health of every New Yorker."

To view the Executive Order please click [here](#).

To view the COVID-19 Guidance Documents please click [here](#).

To view the full press release please click [here](#).

Governor Hochul Joins 17 Other Governors Signing an Open Letter Urging Congressional Leadership To Take Action to Protect Health Coverage

This week Governor Hochul called on Congressional leadership to pass an extension of the Affordable Care Act's enhanced premium tax credits, which are set to expire at the end of 2025. New York is one of 18 states to sign [a joint letter](#) stating that without these subsidies, millions of Americans will see their healthcare premiums rise by thousands of dollars. More than 140,000 New Yorkers rely on these enhanced credits to access quality, affordable health coverage. In addition, these credits support a further 1.7 million New Yorkers on the Essential Plan, which provides low or no-cost coverage for working families statewide.

Extension of these tax credits is critical, as New York State grapples with the devastating impacts of the GOP reconciliation law, which guts federal funding for the Essential Plan by \$7.5 billion annually, more than half of the program's total funding, beginning in 2026. New York State is being forced to revert the Essential Plan back to a Basic Health Program as a result of the Republican budget bill, which was supported by all seven New York Congressional Republicans who knowingly voted to slash funding for the critical program.

"Republicans in Congress just voted to make healthcare more expensive than ever for all New Yorkers," Governor Hochul said. "I'm proud to stand with Democratic governors across the nation urging Congress to extend these tax credits that hardworking families deserve."

Enhanced premium tax credits have been a lifeline for many households, making health care accessible and affordable at a time when the cost of living continues to rise. They help lower monthly health insurance premiums for working families, small business owners, older Americans not yet on Medicare, and rural residents who often rely on marketplace plans as their only option for coverage.

First expanded under the American Rescue Plan and later extended through the Inflation Reduction Act, the tax credits capped benchmark-plan premiums at a maximum of 8.5 percent of household income and expanded eligibility to individuals and families earning above the traditional 400 percent federal poverty level threshold. These enhancements spurred a historic surge in ACA Marketplace enrollment—from around 11.4 million in 2020 to over 24 million in 2025.

Without Congressional action, these tax credits expire at the end of 2025, setting off a cascade of negative consequences: [New York State of Health estimates average premiums statewide will rise by nearly 40](#) percent – an average monthly increase of \$114 for individuals and \$228 for couples. The Congressional Budget Office estimates millions nationwide will lose coverage, leading to widespread issues in access to critical care and

triggering broader economic harm and job losses in the healthcare sector. Congressional Republican failure to extend these tax credits will reverse fifteen years of progress in driving down the State's uninsured rate.

[Read the full letter here.](#)

Please click [here](#) to view the full press release.

Governor Hochul And Speaker Heastie Endorse Democratic Mayoral Nominee Zohran Mamdani

Governor Hochul announced her endorsement of Mamdani this past Sunday with an Op-Ed published in the NY Times in which she presented her reasoning for the endorsement. A small excerpt from the opinion piece stated "Mr. Mamdani and I don't see eye to eye on everything, and I don't expect us to. I will always reserve the right to disagree honestly and to argue passionately. But I also believe that New York State and New York City are at our best when we stand together against those who attempt to tear us apart. For all these reasons, I am endorsing Zohran Mamdani in the upcoming election for mayor. And I look forward to working with him to ensure that New York City's best days lie ahead."

On Wednesday this week Speaker Heastie endorsed Mamdani for New York City mayor stating, "One of the things that's been great about Zohran's campaign is he has a romantic view of what the city can be and should be," Heastie said. "And, you know, sometimes people want to be romanced."

In the press event announcing the endorsement Speaker Heastie discussed how affordability is the main message resonating with voters, and Heastie said that includes raising taxes on millionaires, passing free child care and free buses.

"If you notice over the years, the number one population leaving New York has been Black, African-American, Caribbean because of affordability," Heastie said. "Zohran's message has really translated into people's consciousness that we actually have to have a place that people can afford to live."

Heastie said they have served together for five years in the Assembly and that Mamdani shared his plans of running for mayor very early on.

"As we celebrate this moment, Speaker Heastie's endorsement of our campaign, we do so in front of a great testament to so much of what Carl's politics are, they are a reflection of a love and a dedication to the people of this district and the ability to get things done," Mamdani said.

The Speaker and the Governor are the latest endorsements for Mamdani following Majority Leader Stewart-Cousins endorsement following his win in the democratic mayoral primary. The NYS Senate Majority Leader will be at a rally with Mamdani this afternoon.

To view governor Hochul's full NYT opinion essay on her endorsement please click [here](#).

For more information on Speaker Heastie's endorsement please click [here](#).

NY Democratic Party Chair Jay Jacobs refuses to back Zohran Mamdani

According to a recent [article](#) in the New York Post longtime state Democratic Party leader Jay Jacobs refused to back Zohran Mamdani for New York City mayor Thursday — and could step down over Governor Hochul's endorsement, sources said.

According to the article Jacobs bucked Hochul in a pointed statement, saying he had unbridgeable differences with the Democratic nominee, while acknowledging that fear-mongering over the socialist's ascendance was “wrong and a gross over-reaction.” “Mr. Mamdani and I are in agreement that America's greatest problem is the continued growth in income disparity in our nation. On how to address it – we fundamentally disagree,” his statement began.

“Furthermore, as I expressed to him directly, I strongly disagree with his views on the State of Israel, along with certain key policy positions,” Jacobs said.

“I reject the platform of the so-called ‘Democratic Socialists of America’ and do not believe that it represents the principles, values or policies of the Democratic Party. For those reasons I will not be endorsing Mr. Mamdani for Mayor of the City of New York.” The searing anti-endorsement came amid swirling rumors that Jacobs would resign after Hochul endorsed Mamdani Sunday evening — furthering the highly unusual divide between a sitting governor and their party's chair over who should be the city's next mayor.

To view the full article please click [here](#).

Governor Hochul Announces Special Election in Assembly District 115

Governor Hochul announced this week that a special election to fill the vacancy in the 115th Assembly District created by the resignation of Billy Jones will be held on Tuesday, November 4, to coincide with the general election. Governor Hochul issued the proclamation on September 15 pursuant to the Public Officers Law.

“To ensure residents of the 115th District have representation in the State Assembly, there will be a special election on Tuesday, November 4, coinciding with the general election, to fill the seat vacated by Assemblyman Billy Jones,” Governor Hochul

said. “Assemblyman Jones served the people of the 115th District with distinction, and we wish him well in his next chapter. I look forward to working with his successor.”

To view the proclamation please click [here](#).

To view the full press release please click [here](#).

NYS Legislature Upcoming Public Hearings

Date: Sept. 30, 2025

Joint - Senate Standing Committee on Corporations, Authorities, and Commissions

Chair: Senator Leroy Comrie and

Senate Standing Committee on Energy and Telecommunications

Chair: Senator Kevin Parker

Public Hearing: Oversight of the Public Service Commission's processes related to rate case and generic proceedings, and the Department of Public Service's efforts to implement the goals of the Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act

Place: Senate Hearing Room, 250 Broadway, 19th Floor,
New York, New York

Time: 10:00 A.M.

Contact: Nia James (518) 455-2701

Media Contact: Jayda Sealy (718) 765-6359

ORAL TESTIMONY BY INVITATION ONLY

Date: Oct. 14, 2025

Joint - Assembly Standing Committee on Consumer Affairs and Protection

Chair: Assembly Member Nily Rozic and

Assembly Standing Committee on Science and Technology

Chair: Assembly Member Steven Otis

Public Hearing: Data Privacy and Consumer Protections

Place: Roosevelt Hearing Room C, Legislative Office
Building, 2nd Floor, Albany, New York

Time: 10:00 A.M.

Contact: Allison Dooher (518) 455-4857

Media Contact: Assembly Press Office (518) 455-3888

ORAL TESTIMONY BY INVITATION ONLY

Date: Oct. 16, 2025

Senate Standing Committee on Internet and Technology

Chair: Senator Kristen Gonzalez

Public Hearing: To discuss risks, solutions, and best practices with respect to the use of artificial intelligence in consequential or high-risk contexts, and related issues, such as classification of the types and risk levels of AI uses, frameworks for auditing AI tools for bias, and transparency improvements

Place: Senate Hearing Room, 250 Broadway, 19th Floor,
New York, New York

Time: 10:00 A.M.

Contact: Elan Silver (718) 765-6674

Media Contact: Katherine Veloso (718) 765-6674

ORAL TESTIMONY BY INVITATION ONLY

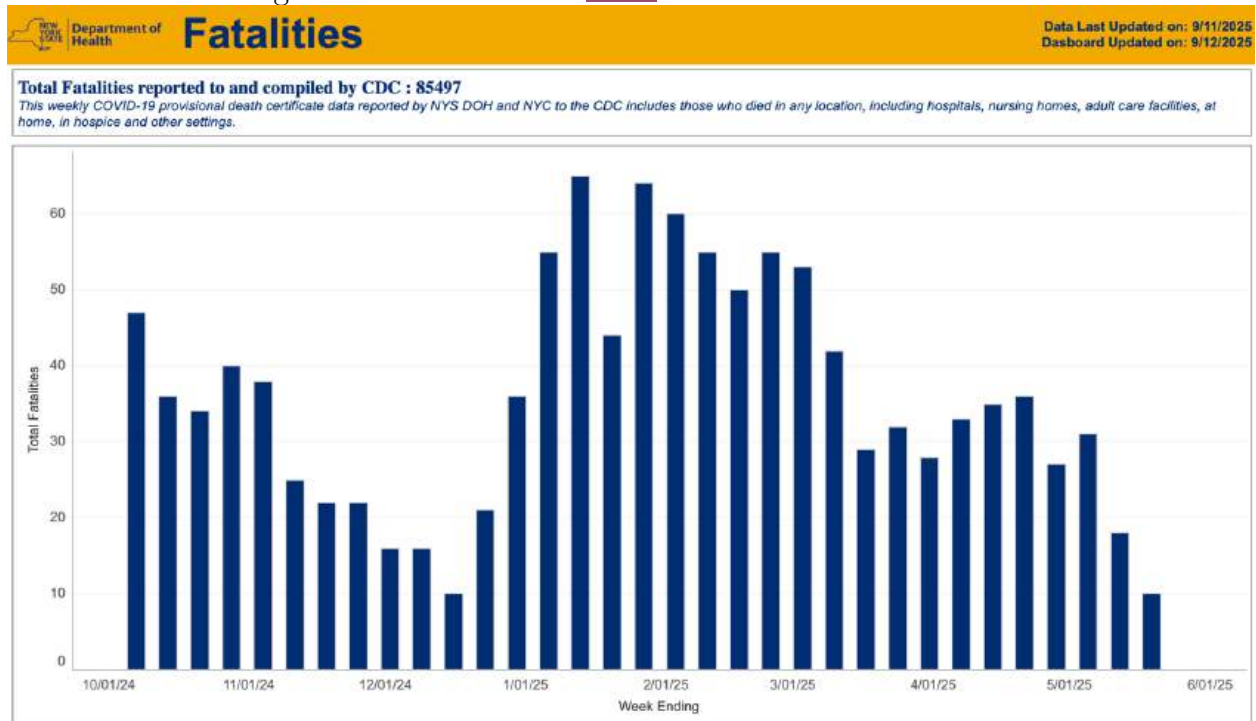
For more information please click [here](#)

NYS COVID-19 Monitoring Dashboard

Use this link to view the State's updated [COVID-19 Hub](#).

NYS COVID-19 Fatalities Tracker

Below we have included the Fatalities Tracker with the webpage where updated numbers can be found throughout the week linked [here](#).



Helpful Links and Resources

[Empire State Development Tariff Resource Guide](#)

[Eliminating Distractions In Schools Resource](#)

[RMS Final Budget Tax/Revenue Table](#)

[RMS SFY 2025-26 Final Budget H/MH Summary](#)

[Center for Disease Control and Prevention](#)

[Department of Financial Services information and resources](#)

[New York COVID-19 Vaccine Information Page](#)

Department of Health

<https://coronavirus.health.ny.gov/home>

COVID-19 Guidance for Medicaid Providers

Office of Mental Health

<https://omh.ny.gov/omhweb/covid-19-resources.html>

OPWDD

<https://opwdd.ny.gov/coronavirus-guidance>

State Education Department

<http://www.op.nysed.gov/COVID-19.html>

NYS Department of Labor

<https://dol.ny.gov/>