

RMS End of Week Update 10/17/2025



NYC Mayoral Debate

The Democratic nominee and front-runner Zohran Mamdani, the former governor Andrew M. Cuomo, and the Republican nominee Curtis Sliwa participated in a NYC mayoral debate this week.

They tangled over housing, Israel and Gaza, and President Donald Trump, with frontrunner Zohran Mamdani pressing main competitor Andrew Cuomo during the heated two-hour debate.

With early voting set to begin next week, neither dominated the evening - though both declared victory afterwards. The most recent polling suggests Mamdani has widened his lead to 46%, while Cuomo stands at 33%.

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

New York's Top Court Upholds Law Moving Most Local Elections To Even Years

New York's highest state court rejected arguments from several counties on Thursday that a state law approved to move most elections from odd- to even-numbered years violates the state Constitution. The Court of Appeals ruled in a unanimous decision that the state had the legal power to change when those elections are scheduled.

"We hold that there is no express or implied constitutional limitation on the Legislature's authority to enact the Even Year Election Law," wrote Associate Judge Michael Garcia, who authored the court's opinion.

The ruling will not affect local elections set for November. But it will shorten the terms of some officials on the ballot this year, like county executives, to align future elections with even years.

It doesn't impact when elections are held for offices set in the state Constitution. That includes elections for district attorney, county clerk, county sheriff, town justice and judges in family court, county court and surrogate court.

The law also does not apply to elections in New York City, where races for citywide office and the City Council are held in odd-numbered years.

Democrats in the state Legislature approved the law in 2023. Their intent, they've said, was to allow more voters to weigh in on local elections by moving them to years when turnout is higher. More voters head to the polls in even-numbered years because more high-profile races appear on the ballot, including elections for president and members of Congress.

State Sen. James Skoufis, a Democrat from the Hudson Valley called Thursday's decision "unsurprising yet extremely welcome."

"No longer will a small minority of voters choose who gets to hold critical local offices such as county executive and town supervisor," Skoufis said.

The law had been challenged by several county officials who've argued that local issues that impact elections will be overshadowed by federal and state politics during even years and influence choices from voters as a result.

They argued in their lawsuit against the state that the law conflicts with sections of the Constitution that delegate power to localities to craft their own government.

"Nothing in the text of these provisions, or in our jurisprudence, supports that view," Garcia wrote in the court's opinion Thursday.

Suffolk County Executive Edward P. Romaine, whose county was also among those that challenged the law, said in May that other options may be on the table to defeat the statute.

“I’m very concerned about the Court of Appeals, and I also believe there are federal issues with this that affect our rights,” Romaine said. “So even if we do not prevail ... this is a battle that will continue.”

The counties could seek an appeal of Thursday’s decision to the U.S. Supreme Court, which can choose to review rulings from the top court of any state. They could also file a federal lawsuit.

Democrats in the state Legislature could next consider moving local elections not affected by the decision Thursday to even-numbered years, but that wouldn’t be able to happen until 2028 at the earliest.

That’s because it would require an amendment to New York’s Constitution to remove the language that requires elections for those offices to be held on odd-numbered years.

Such an amendment requires approval from the state Legislature twice. The second vote can’t happen until a new two-year legislative session begins in 2027. It would then have to be approved by voters in that year’s election. Senator Skoufis already sponsors legislation that would move that process forward.

“Doing so will eliminate the need to administer any odd-year elections in the state and save hundreds of millions of tax dollars every two years,” Skoufis said.

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

N.Y. GOP Leaders Vote To Disband New York State Young Republicans

The New York State Young Republicans group was disbanded today, in a unanimous vote by Republican state leaders following the disturbing story released earlier this week in [Politico](#). Politico reported on leaked messages from the group chat that included revealing discourse between young Republican leadership, littered with racist, sexist and antisemitic language exchanged in a digital message chat on the messaging platform telegram. Former New York State Young Republicans Chair Peter Giunta joked about gas chambers, compared Black people to monkeys and the group’s ex-vice chair, Bobby Walker, mocked rape, according to Politico. Both Giunta and Walker as well as numerous others in the chat have reportedly been fired from their jobs.

“Today, the Executive Committee of the New York Republican State Committee unanimously voted to suspend authorization of the New York State Young Republicans

following a report of a group chat that included racist and antisemitic language on the part of leadership,” NYGOP Chair Ed Cox said in a statement.

“The Young Republicans was already grossly mismanaged, and vile language of the sort made in the group chat has no place in our party or its subsidiary organizations,” Cox’s statement continued.

Suspending the group’s authorization, would allow state Republican officials to be able to reconstitute the organization and bring in new leaders.

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

US State Governors Launch Alliance To Bolster Coordination On Public Health

A coalition of 15 U.S. state governors representing more than a third of the country's population have launched a new bipartisan alliance aimed at improving public health coordination and emergency preparedness.

The Governors Public Health Alliance will serve as a hub for governors and public health officials to share best practices, exchange data and collaborate on emergency response, vaccine policy and other technical issues, according to a joint statement from the coalition.

The alliance of mostly Democratic states and territories comprises Colorado, California, Connecticut, Delaware, Hawaii, Illinois, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, Oregon, Rhode Island, Washington and Guam.

"While Donald Trump and RFK Jr. turn their backs on public health, Governors are stepping up to make sure our residents have the health care they need and deserve," Massachusetts Governor Maura Healey said.

Severe budget reductions due to current and proposed federal cuts and funding pullbacks under the Trump administration have put public health at risk, the governors said.

"Democrat-led states that imposed unscientific school closures, toddler mask mandates, and vaccine passports during the COVID era are the ones who destroyed public trust in public health," U.S. Department of Health and Human Services spokesperson Andrew Nixon said in a statement to Reuters.

“The Trump Administration and Secretary Kennedy are rebuilding trust by grounding every policy in rigorous evidence and Gold Standard Science - not the failed politics of the pandemic”, Nixon added.

The alliance is supported by GovAct, a nonpartisan nonprofit initiative that supports coordinated governor action, and advised by national health experts, including Dr. Mandy Cohen, a former director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

The launch comes as U.S. states and territories prepare for seasonal illnesses like flu and RSV, monitor emerging threats such as avian flu and mpox, and plan for major international events like the 2028 Olympics, where cross-border coordination will be critical.

The Northeast and West Coast states have created similar alliances to make their own vaccine recommendations in response to the Trump administration's changes to federal vaccine policy.

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

New York State Tax Receipts Remain Above Budget Division Projections

NYS tax receipts totaled \$59.9 billion through September, the middle of State Fiscal Year (SFY) 2025-26, \$702.2 million higher than financial plan estimates from the Division of Budget (DOB), according to the monthly [State Cash Report](#) released by New York State Comptroller Thomas DiNapoli.

“Higher state tax collections largely stem from robust personal income tax collections, fueled by continued income growth in 2025,” DiNapoli said. “But the federal government shutdown and other policy shifts in Washington could weigh heavily on New York’s economy and revenues over the remainder of the state’s fiscal year.”

State tax collections through September were \$5.2 billion higher than those through the same period last year. Personal income tax (PIT) receipts totaled \$33.5 billion, nearly \$4.6 billion higher than the same period in SFY 2024-25, reflecting, in part, strong collections in 2025. PIT receipts were \$756.5 million above DOB’s financial plan projections. Year-to-date consumption and use tax collections totaled \$11.9 billion, 4.9%, or \$554.8 million, higher than the same period last year, and \$253.4 million higher than DOB anticipated. Sales tax receipts, the largest share of these taxes, increased by \$544 million, or 5.3%, through September. Business taxes, which include collections from the Pass-Through Entity Tax, totaled nearly \$13 billion, \$43.5 million lower than through September in the prior fiscal year and \$352.6 million lower than DOB’s projections.

All Funds spending through September totaled \$119.9 billion, almost \$7.5 billion, or 6.7%, higher than last year for the same period, primarily due to higher Medicaid costs. All Funds spending through September was \$1.1 billion lower than DOB projected, primarily due to lower capital projects spending. State Operating Funds spending through September totaled \$65.8 billion, \$5.3 billion, or 8.7% higher than last year and \$1.2 billion lower than DOB projected.

The state's General Fund ended September with a balance of \$57.6 billion, \$4.1 billion higher than DOB projected and \$5.2 billion higher than last year at the same time, primarily due to higher-than-anticipated tax collections and lower-than-anticipated spending.

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

Governor Hochul and Attorney General James Win Case Projecting Nearly \$34 Million in MTA Anti-Terrorism Funds

This week, Governor Hochul and New York Attorney General Letitia James released the following statement after the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of New York ordered the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) to award nearly \$34 million in critical anti-terrorism funding owed to the Metropolitan Transportation Authority (MTA) that DHS had tried to block.

Governor Hochul and Attorney General James said, "This ruling protecting critical counterterrorism funding is a victory for every New Yorker who rides our subways, buses, and commuter rails. A court has once again affirmed that this administration cannot punish New York by arbitrarily wiping out critical security resources and defunding law enforcement that keeps riders safe. We will always fight to ensure that New York gets the resources we need to support our law enforcement and keep people safe."

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

OMIG To Host Health Care Provider Engagement Forum On Oct. 29

The New York State Office of the Medicaid Inspector General (OMIG) will host a health care provider engagement forum on Wednesday, October 29, 2025, from 10:00 to 11:30 AM, in New York City at 90 Church Street, regarding OMIG's Medicaid program integrity efforts.

The session will include updates on the agency's initiatives and opportunities for participants to provide input and ask questions.

In-person attendance is available on a first-registered, first-served basis, as seating is limited. To ensure providers from across the state have an opportunity to participate, a virtual option is also available.

Providers interested in submitting input, questions or recommendations prior to the session are encouraged to complete OMIG's [Health Care Provider Engagement Session Feedback Form](#).

Please Note: OMIG cannot consider, in any capacity, specific matters pertaining to audits or investigations that are currently before the agency.

Questions about the event can be sent via email to: information@omig.ny.gov.

EVENT INFORMATION AND REGISTRATION:

When: October 29, 2025; 10:00AM - 11:30AM

Location: 90 Church St., 4th Floor Conference Room, New York, NY, 10007

In-person registration: <https://forms.office.com/g/FTE6Z5af0W>

Please note: If attending in person, please remember to bring a government-issued photo ID, as only those who registered for the event and who have a valid ID will be allowed access past building security.

Virtual Registration:

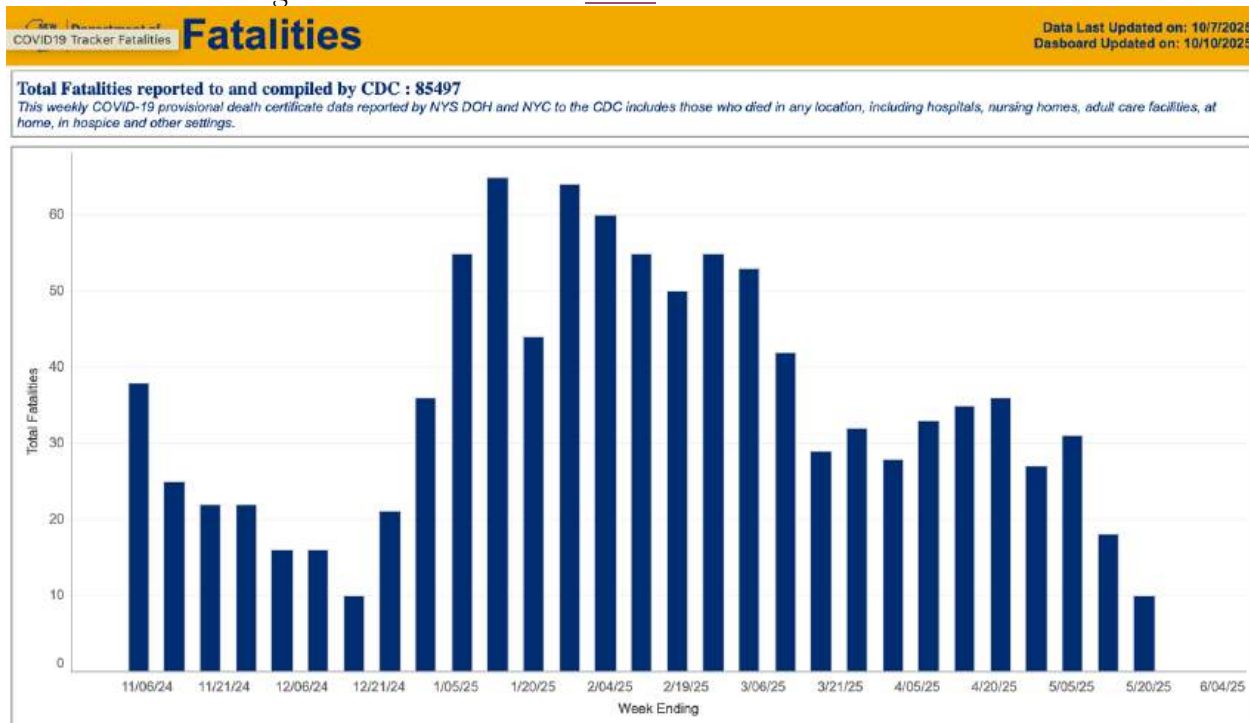
<https://totalwebcasting.com/view/?func=VOFF&id=nysomig&date=2025-10-29&seq=1>

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/>