

RMS End of Week Update 10/10/2025



New York's State Agencies Are Being Asked To Repeal Regulations, Keep Spending Flat

Yesterday, the state Division of Budget issued their State Fiscal Year 27 annual call letter to the state agencies as Governor Hochul is preparing her executive budget proposal which will be released in January.

The letter (linked [here](#) and attached) requested that agencies keep funding flat and find ways to scale back regulations as the state navigates federal funding cuts. With the state facing a \$34.3 billion cumulative budget gap through 2029, Budget Director Blake Washington requested that “Moving forward, agency budget requests for State Fiscal Year (SFY) 2027 should not exceed the total SFY 2026 Enacted Budget agency funding levels, excluding one-time investments,” which is similar to requests in previous years. However, unlike previous years Washington also asked state agencies to flip through their rules and regulations to find sections that could be rewritten or removed.

“We need to work to alleviate regulatory burdens we impose upon individuals, businesses and non-profits that serve to further exacerbate New York’s affordability crisis... Therefore, in addition to your budget requests, state agencies should review agency rules, regulations, or public facing policies and propose for repeal or reform those which are outdated or obsolete,”

The letter asked agencies submit those identified for “repeal or reform” to counsel in the executive chamber when they submit their budget requests no later than October 24, 2025.

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

Federal Cuts to Counterterrorism Funding for New York’s Mass Transit Safety

Earlier this week, Governor Hochul called out Washington Republicans for cutting critical safety and security funding for New York’s mass transit system. The Metropolitan Transportation Authority (MTA) had been slated to receive \$34 million in federal Transit Security Grant Program funds, which support essential counter-terror and transit security functions. Last week, lawmakers were notified that the MTA was to be the only agency of 21 applicants nationwide to not receive federal security dollars via this program.

“Keeping New Yorkers safe, from our streets to our subways, is my highest priority,” Governor Hochul said. “Since 9/11, New York has relied on federal support to ensure that our transit system has the counterterrorism resources it needs to keep millions of riders safe every single day. The shocking actions of Washington Republicans to slash these funds and defund the police put New York City at risk. We will not tolerate these cuts; New York will take every action available to us — including the courts — to ensure the MTA gets this critical funding to keep millions of riders safe.”

The Transit Security Grant Program was started after 9/11. Administered by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), these grants support critical functions to keep mass transit systems safe from security threats. The MTA carries a significant portion of the United States’ mass transit riders, with over 6 million daily trips taken on Metro-North, the Long Island Rail Road, and New York City Transit. In addition to approximately \$12 million which would go to the NYPD, the MTA had planned to utilize this year’s grant funding to support the following public safety and counter-terror investments:

- Two cybersecurity projects, extending cyber visibility into MTA’s key systems, and a cyber lab to develop protections and vet operational technology systems.
- The procurement and deployment of approximately 330 tactical cellular cameras to replace & expand upon current unsecure offline devices in a cost-effective manner.
- The expansion of MTA weapons of mass destruction chemical detection system across 9 subway lines and a commuter rail terminal.
- The TSA mandated frontline security awareness training of 16,000 MTA employees.
- 374 deployments of MTAPD counterterrorism teams.

- The procurement of 3 MTAPD counterterrorism coordination and response vehicles.
- The installation of several hundred cameras, access control points, and laser intrusion detection systems at a major subway complex.

MTA Chair and CEO Janno Lieber said, “Under Governor Hochul’s leadership, MTA has made huge progress on every front – safety, reliability and ridership. It’s truly strange that Washington keeps spinning stories about subway crime, but then defunds the NYPD and MTA cops who patrol the system.”

MTA Chief Security Officer Michael Kemper said, “I can’t overstate the importance of this grant funding in reinforcing and advancing our counterterrorism initiatives. It significantly enhances our operational capabilities, all with the goal of providing a safe and secure transit environment for our riders and workforce — a responsibility we take seriously every single day.”

Following initial reporting that the MTA would not receive Transit Security Grant Program funding, the Office of the New York Attorney General filed suit in the Southern District of New York, which issued a Temporary Restraining Order barring FEMA from executing the cuts. To date, FEMA has not formally notified the MTA that their funding has been restored.

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

NYS Assemblymember Jon Rivera Running For NYS Senate District 61 Seat

This week, Assemblymember Jon Rivera announced plans to run for New York State Senate’s 61st District. In a new campaign video, Rivera said that he is focused on "urgency, service, and accountability" and frames the 2025 election as a turning point.

"Our community needs a fighter," Rivera says in the video. "Someone who will stand up to MAGA extremism and deliver real results for the families of Buffalo, Amherst, Tonawanda, Grand Island, and everywhere in between. The men and women who build this region, care for our kids and elders, and keep our communities moving deserve leadership that has their back. This campaign is about them, and about making sure government works for those who work hard every day to build a better life."

“Over the past five years, I’ve fought for the 149th Assembly District, from strengthening housing protections on Buffalo’s West Side to investing in Hamburg and Lackawanna,” Rivera said. “Now I’m ready to bring that same determination

and experience to the State Senate, and I intend to continue to deliver for every corner of the 61st District.”

Assemblymember Rivera was first elected to the state assembly in 2020 and is running for the newly redrawn 61st Senate District which includes parts of Erie County, covering Buffalo, Amherst, Grand Island, Kenmore, Williamsville, and the Town and City of Tonawanda.

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

NY Attorney General Letitia James Indicted By Virginia Grand Jury

New York Attorney General Letitia James was indicted this week on federal criminal charges by a grand jury in Virginia by Lindsey Halligan, who President Donald J. Trump appointed last month as interim U.S. Attorney for the Eastern District of Virginia, on charges of bank fraud and making false statements to a financial institution after obtaining a mortgage in 2020 with terms for a “secondary residence” that she allegedly rented to a family of three, which would have made it an investment property.

Thursday afternoon, James cast the criminal indictment filed against her as “nothing more than a continuation of the president’s desperate weaponization of our justice system.”

“These charges are baseless, and the president’s own public statements make clear that his only goal is political retribution at any cost,” James said. “The president’s actions are a grave violation of our constitutional order and have drawn sharp criticism from members of both parties. ... I stand strongly behind my office’s litigation against the Trump organization. We conducted a two-year investigation based on the facts and evidence — not politics.”

Last month, ABC News reported that after a five-month investigation, federal prosecutors found little evidence that James knowingly made false statements to secure favorable terms on a mortgage for a different Virginia home she purchased in 2023. In the wake of that report, Erik Siebert, the U.S. attorney for the Eastern District of Virginia, resigned under pressure from Trump’s administration.

Halligan, one of Trump’s former defense attorneys, was then sworn in as the acting U.S. attorney in that district in late September. In April, James’ office hired well-known criminal defense attorney Abbe D. Lowell to represent her personally in the matter.

Lowell issued a separate statement Thursday saying that James “flatly and forcefully denies these charges.”

“We are deeply concerned that this case is driven by President Trump’s desire for revenge,” he continued. “When a President can publicly direct charges to be filed against someone... it marks a serious attack on the rule of law. We will fight these charges in every process allowed in the law.”

Lowell had also sent a six-page letter to U.S. Attorney General Pamela Bondi on April 24, accusing Trump of seeking to weaponize the Justice Department by targeting James as part of a campaign of “political retribution” for the investigations her office has conducted into his business dealings.

Governor Hochul released the following statement, “New Yorkers know AG James for her integrity, her independence, and her relentless fight for justice. What we are seeing today is nothing less than the weaponization of the Justice Department to punish those who hold the powerful accountable”.

NYS Senate Majority Leader Senator Stewart-Cousins released the following statement, “Today’s groundless indictment of AG Letitia James is another example of The Trump Admin weaponizing the Department of Justice against its political opponents, We know AG James for her record of defending democracy, pursuing justice and protecting vulnerable New Yorkers”.

NYS Assembly Speaker Heastie released the following statement, “The Trump administration's never-ending quest to pervert our justice system continues. When career prosecutors declined to pursue charges against N.Y. Attorney General Letitia James, President Trump turned to his loyal aid serving as U.S. attorney to carry out his mission to continue to weaponize our justice system.

His comments and actions regarding this matter are far beneath the dignity of the Office of the President of the United States and are nothing more than political retribution for his own fraud conviction.

This is truly a sad day in our country's history. The ongoing weaponization of the DOJ is a direct threat to our democracy. I urge everyone - regardless of political affiliation - to stand up for our country's laws and rules, and demand an end to this cheap and vindictive prosecution”.

For more information 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](#).

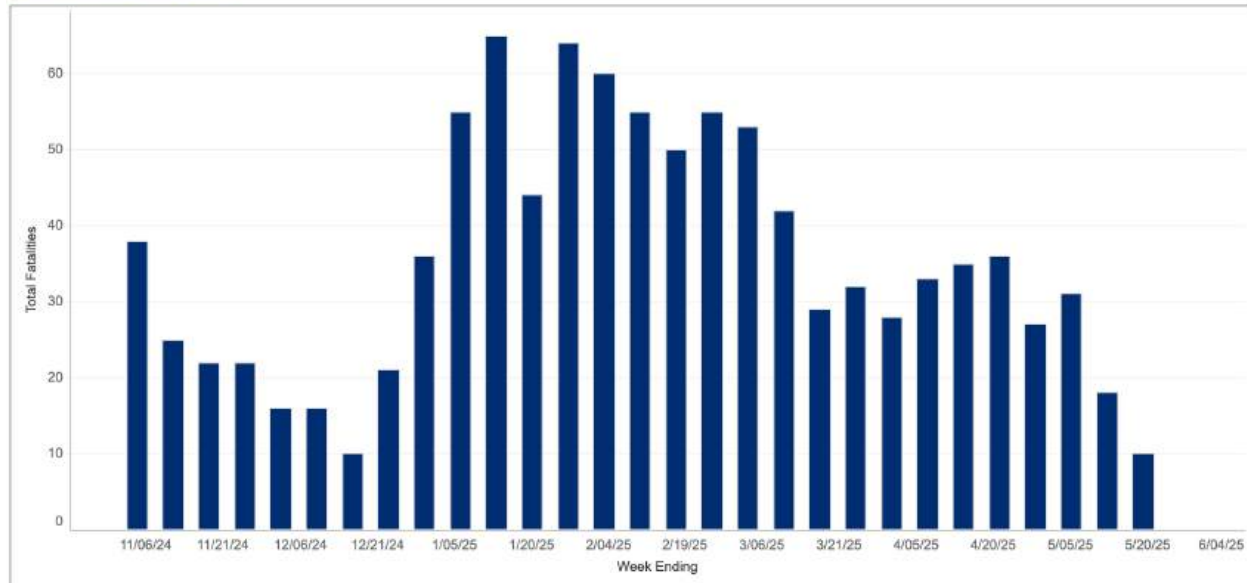
NYS COVID-19 Fatalities Tracker

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



Total Fatalities reported to and compiled by CDC : 85497

This weekly COVID-19 provisional death certificate data reported by NYS DOH and NYC to the CDC includes those who died in any location, including hospitals, nursing homes, adult care facilities, at home, in hospice and other settings.



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/>