

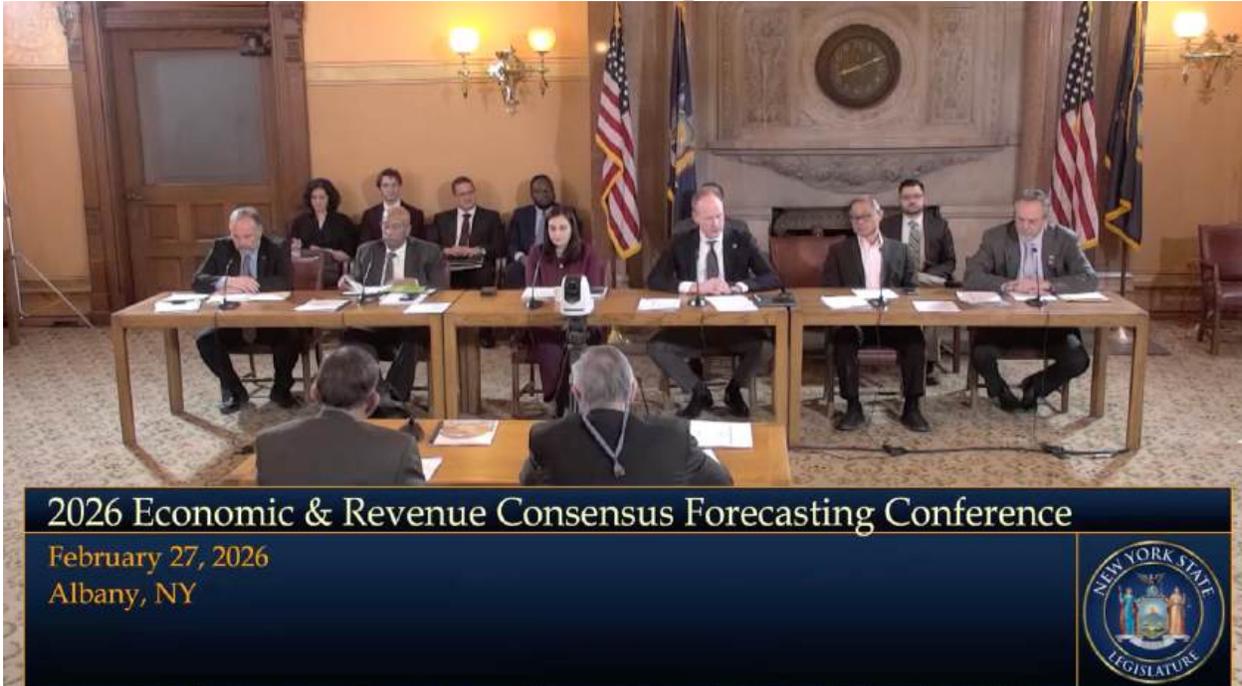
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RMS End of Week Update 3/6/2026



Budget Update

Late last week the Governor, Senate, and Assembly reached a consensus on revenue estimates from all parties for FY 2026 and projections for FY 2027. There was significant variance, but they reached consensus on a two-year revenue total range that is \$700 million to \$800 million above the Executive Budget estimate. To view the full Consensus Report please click [here](#).

The next step is the release of the one house budgets. The Senate and Assembly Democrats are currently compiling their one-house budgets, which are their rebuttal spending plans to Governor Hochul's executive budget proposal released in January. Press reports have noted at least one thing that lawmakers expect to include in their one-house budgets in both chambers, income tax hikes for high-income earners. Democrats in both chambers have included this type of proposal in their one-house budgets for the last several years.

State Senate Majority Leader Andrea Stewart-Cousins confirmed Wednesday that their one-house budget proposal will include revenue raisers but didn't say if that would extend

beyond income tax hikes. “In general, we have always believed in this progressive tax structure,” she said. “We’ve always put forth ways that we can meet the needs of New Yorkers.”

We expect the one house budget proposals will be released and passed next week. After which the Senate and Assembly will meet for the General Budget Conference Committee meeting that is required by law. Leaders from both conferences in each chamber hold a public meeting in a hearing room in the Legislative Office Building to provide an update on where the state budget stands. Because negotiations haven’t really begun, there’s not much for them to say but it is typically held the Monday after the week the one house budgets are passed.

We will keep you updated as to when the one house budgets are released and what is in them as the budget process continues.

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

Climate Act Mandates In Public Service Commissions’ Hands

According to recent press reports the Public Service Commission, which regulates New York utility companies, has opened a proceeding that could roll back clean energy and greenhouse gas reduction requirements without legislative approval.

The proceeding may take pressure off Governor Hochul, who is trying to convince the state Legislature to amend New York’s 2019 Climate Act as part of the ongoing budget negotiations. The governor appoints the five to seven members who make up the commission, which is charged by law with setting utility rates and ensuring New York’s utilities provide adequate service.

Citing a section of the Climate Act that allows regulators to roll back the law’s clean energy requirements, the Coalition for Safe and Reliable Energy, which includes The Business Council of New York State and regional business groups, petitioned the Public Service Commission in January to have a hearing on the matter.

“Renewable energy development has not kept pace with generator retirements, which has resulted in declining reliability margins across New York, jeopardizing electric reliability and safe and adequate service,” their petition to the commission reads.

The Climate Act includes a provision allowing the commission to “temporarily suspend or modify” the law’s requirements for New York to have 70% renewable energy by 2030, and 100% clean power by 2040.

Those mandates can only be changed if the Public Service Commission determines they threaten grid reliability or will significantly raise utility rates. Many business leaders and energy sector stakeholders have warned the mandates will do both.

A recent analysis from the leader of the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority has ramped up pressure on lawmakers to amend the act, and potentially gives the commission cover to say the law is going to drive energy prices to unsustainable levels.

Upstate households relying on fuel oil or natural gas would pay over \$4,000 more a year for energy by 2031 if the Climate Act is fully implemented, the authority reported in a memo last week.

New York electricity prices have risen about 38% between 2019 and 2025, according to Energy Information Administration data. The rising cost of natural gas is playing an outsized role in augmenting electricity rates, the New York Independent System Operator reported in January.

“There’s going to be enormous cost to families,” Hochul said Monday, referencing the projections in the memo.

Strong proponents of the Climate Act are showing no willingness to budge.

“Before we talk about rolling back (the Climate Act), we should really try implementing it first,” said state Sen. Liz Krueger, a Manhattan Democrat.

Comments on the Coalition for Safe and Reliable Energy’s petition are due March 30. If the state Legislature agrees to make changes to the Climate Act it would likely part of a deal with Hochul on the state budget, which is also due at the end of March.

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

Governor Hochul Statement On Meeting With Tom Homan

Following Governor Hochul’s meeting with Tom Homan today she released the following statement.

“Today, I met with Tom Homan to make a straightforward appeal: Help us keep New Yorkers safe by ending aggressive and unlawful ICE operations in this state. No more militarized raids, no more plans for large-scale detention centers and no more attacks on law-abiding people who call New York home.”

“President Trump promised he would not engage in a federal immigration enforcement surge in New York unless we ask for it — and I made clear to Homan today that the request would never come.”

“New York will always work with federal immigration enforcement to take dangerous criminals off our streets, but every law enforcement agency operating in this state, federal or otherwise, must follow the same constitutional standards. That's why I've proposed legislation that would keep ICE out of sensitive locations like schools, health care facilities and houses of worship, and protects the constitutional rights afforded to everyone in our state.”

“ICE and federal law enforcement should focus on what they were created to do: Protecting the homeland from real threats, not creating new ones.”

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

Governor Hochul's Statement on Congestion Pricing

Governor Hochul released the following statement on Congestion Pricing this week.

“Congestion pricing has been a once-in-a-lifetime success story. In its first year, congestion pricing has yielded huge benefits: reduced gridlock, faster trips, safer streets, and cleaner air, all while unlocking critical funding for mass transit upgrades. I have been clear from day one: my administration will fight any unlawful effort by the Trump administration to attack the sovereignty of New York State with everything we've got. Today, we won again.”

“The judge's decision is clear: Donald Trump's unlawful attempts to trample on the self-governance of his home state have failed spectacularly. Congestion pricing is legal, it works, and it is here to stay. The cameras are staying on.”

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

Governor Hochul Highlights More Than 275 Million Free School Meals Served Across the State

During National School Breakfast Week, Governor Kathy Hochul highlighted that within just the first six months of the school year, 275 million free school meals have been served in schools statewide. The Governor celebrated this milestone today alongside students and administrators at Albany School of Humanities.

The Universal School Meals Program, launched earlier this year, ensures that every student in New York State has access to a healthy breakfast and lunch at school, creating more opportunities for students to succeed in school. By eliminating any financial

requirements to receive this benefit, New York State has leveled the playing field by taking the burden off of families.

“Today marks a major milestone in our overall affordability agenda, ensuring that New York students are not going hungry while they’re at school,” Governor Hochul said. “Students do better in the classroom when they’re not worried about where their next meal is coming from. In just six months, more than 275 million free school meals have been served – proof that New York is stepping up to support our children’s success while bringing down grocery costs for families statewide.”

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

Healthy New York Summit

The Health New York summit will take place on April 23rd at the Museum of Jewish Heritage in New York City. Among various health care decision makers and policy experts from all sectors that will be present The NYC Commissioner of the Department of Health & Mental Hygiene Dr. Alister Martin will be one of the keynote speakers. Dr. Martin was most recently working at an ER in Massachusetts before his appointment and has both his MD and a Master of Public Policy degree from Harvard.

To register for this City & State event and for more information on the other speakers please click [here](#).

New York Suing Trump Administration Over New Round Of Tariffs

New York is taking the Trump administration to court over tariffs. New York State is among some two dozen states challenging President Donald Trump's new global tariffs following a loss by the Supreme Court over those issued under the International Emergency Economics Powers Act (IEEPA).

The lawsuit is being led by New York, Arizona, California and Oregon. The Democratic attorneys general leading the suit argue that Trump is overstepping his power with planned 15% tariffs on much of the world. Trump has said the tariffs are essential to reduce America's longstanding trade deficits. He imposed duties under Section 122 of the Trade Act of 1974 after the Supreme Court struck down tariffs he imposed last year under an emergency powers law.

Section 122, which has never been invoked, allows the president to impose tariffs of up to 15%, though they’re limited to five months unless extended by Congress. The states argue that Section 122 was intended to be used only in specific, limited circumstances and does not give Trump authority to impose sweeping import taxes. It also contends the tariffs will drive up costs for states, businesses and consumers.

On Wednesday, a federal judge in New York ruled that companies are due refunds for paying tariffs imposed last year by President Donald Trump under the 1977 International Emergency Economic Powers Act (IEEPA). It's estimated the federal government collected more than \$130 billion in the now-defunct tariffs through mid-December.

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

Governor Hochul Appoints New York State's First-Ever Director of Security and Intelligence

Governor Kathy Hochul announced the appointment of Colin Ahern to serve as New York State's first-ever Director of Security and Intelligence (DSI). In this role, Director Ahern, who previously served as New York State's Chief Cyber Officer, will provide strategic direction and further unify the State's security assets on national security and intelligence matters. The DSI will also coordinate statewide activities to better respond to global risks and seize opportunities for advancing the defense industrial base and technologies crucial to national security.

“Keeping New Yorkers safe is my top priority, and the threats we face are more complex and interconnected than ever before, which is why we need to be aggressive, innovative and adaptive in the way we combat new threats and adversaries,” Governor Hochul said. “To meet these challenges and seize these opportunities, I am appointing Colin Ahern as the State's first Director of Security and Intelligence. Colin has served New York State well as our first-ever Chief Cyber Officer combatting cyber threats, and now, he will take his work to a new level collaborating with state, local and federal government partners to ensure we are meeting this moment head on and keeping our state and community safe from new and emerging threats.”

The Director of Security and Intelligence will report directly to Director of State Operations Jackie Bray, and will coordinate across state agencies, local governments, federal partners and the private sector to ensure a whole-of-state response to foreign malign influence, hybrid warfare and other national security issues. Furthermore, the DSI will champion and advocate for investment in New York's defense and security industries, facilitating partnerships in key areas including the defense industrial base, drones, quantum, and other technologies crucial to national security.

Director of Security and Intelligence Colin Ahern said, "It's an honor to be named New York State's first Director of Security and Intelligence and to continue working to help keep New Yorkers safe. New York continues to meet today's challenges, stepping up to strengthen our security, defense, and intelligence efforts, and I'm grateful to Governor Hochul for her continued leadership and commitment to making sure New York remains a national leader in security and intelligence."

Michaela Lee will be the Acting Chief Cyber Officer until a permanent Chief Cyber Officer is named.

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

Governor Hochul Announces Two Agency Appointments

This week Governor Hochul nominated Terry O’Leary to serve as Acting Commissioner of the Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Services (DHSES), and Doris B. González to serve as Acting President of the Higher Education Services Corporation (HESC). Both will serve in acting roles until confirmed by the State Senate.

“These dedicated individuals have consistently demonstrated what it means to be a public servant, working to deliver for hardworking New Yorkers day in and day out,” Governor Hochul said. “Mr. O’Leary and Ms. González have made countless contributions to their sectors, and I am confident that they will continue to lead with the interest of all New Yorkers at the forefront.”

New York State Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Services Acting Commissioner Terry O’Leary said, “I thank Governor Hochul for the honor of leading this incredible team of public servants who have dedicated themselves to protecting the safety of New Yorkers. Since taking office, the Governor has placed a clear focus on strengthening our state’s public safety and emergency management postures and I am honored that she has asked me to lead the Division in carrying this vision forward.”

Higher Education Services Corporation Acting President Doris B. González said, “Education has been the foundation of my life and career, shaping my values and guiding my work. Serving New York’s students and families in this role is both an honor and a continuation of my lifelong commitment to expanding access to education. From my earliest roles, I have been driven by a deep belief in the transformative power of learning. I am incredibly proud of the work we do at HESC to empower New Yorkers with the financial resources they need to pursue higher education and turn their aspirations into reality.”

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

Governor Hochul Announces Nominee for Commission on Ethics and Lobbying in Government

This week, Governor Hochul announced her intention to formally nominate Dennis M. Walcott to the Commission on Ethics and Lobbying in Government. In accordance with the Independent Review Committee's procedures, the public will have twenty-one business days to provide comments on the nominee. The nominee will then be presented to the Independent Review Committee, comprised of the deans of New York’s law schools, for review of his qualifications to serve on the Commission.

“The Commission on Ethics and Lobbying in Government plays an essential role in our mission to promote integrity in government, regulate lobbying and increase transparency,” Governor Hochul said. “I am thrilled to nominate Dennis Walcott for the Committee's review and look forward to continuing our work in building trust between New Yorkers and their elected officials.”

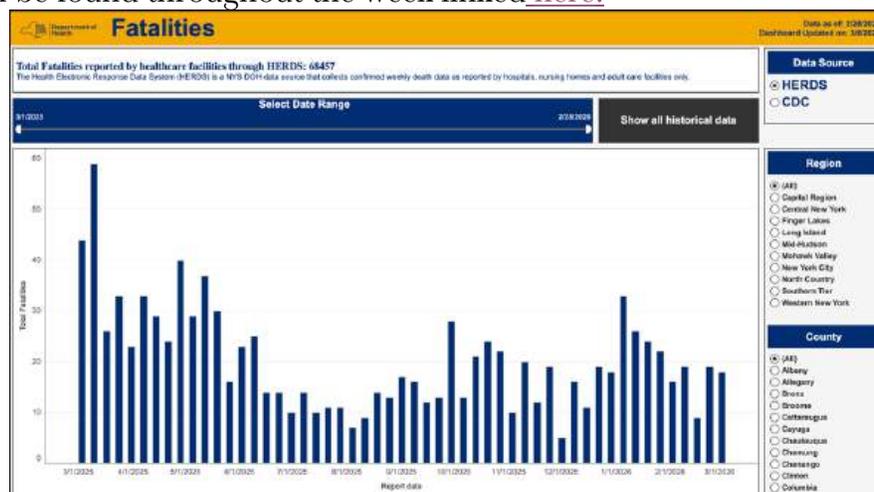
To view the full announcement please click [here](#).

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

[Rms Tax And Business Exec Budget Update SFY 2027](#)

[SFY 2026-27 Executive Budget Health/Mental Hygiene Budget Summary](#)

[Assembly Yellow Book](#)

[Senate Blue Blook](#)

[FY 27 Senate Finance Economic and Revenue Report](#)

[FY27 Assembly Ways & Means Economic and Revenue Report](#)

[Empire State Development Tariff Resource Guide](#)

[Eliminating Distractions In Schools Resource](#)

[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/>