

# RM&S

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## **RMS End of Week Update 5/29/2026**



### **Governor & State Legislature Reach Agreement on \$268.5 Billion Budget for SFY 2026-27**

Nearly two months after the April 1 constitutional deadline, the legislature passed and the Governor signed the SFY 2026-27 final state budget into law this week.

The final spending plan totals about \$268.5 billion, the budget includes major policy changes across climate, immigration, education, public safety, pensions, and more. Immigration measures include banning local ICE cooperation agreements and expanding protections for "sensitive locations" such as schools and hospitals. Education funding will reach a record \$39 billion, expands universal pre-K, and delays the electric school bus mandate. Housing reforms renew the J-51 tax incentive and ease environmental review rules to speed up construction of affordable housing.

Additionally, a major point of contention during negotiations, climate policy changes delay emission regulations and soften some targets under the historic Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act. The budget also creates a new tax on luxury second homes, a 75% tax on nicotine pouches, eliminates state income taxes on tips, and includes pension reforms lowering retirement contributions and the retirement age for teachers to 58 after 30 years of service, down from 63. Additional measures add new oversight for utility rate hikes, target "super speeders," crack down on ghost guns and drones, and give NYC the ability to delay some pension payments.

Governor Hochul said, "Every proposal included in this Budget was a fight for New Yorkers and their future. Working with my partners in the Legislature, we delivered an

ambitious agenda that will lower costs for hardworking families, keep New Yorkers safe and create opportunity for all,... While Washington continues to make life more difficult for New Yorkers, I'm doing everything in my power to make real, tangible progress on the issues New Yorkers are facing and I will always fight for the people who call this great state home."

Senate Majority Leader Stewart Cousins said, "This year's budget is centered on our shared commitment to addressing the everyday needs of New Yorkers. From lowering utility costs and advancing meaningful ratepayer protections, to expanding access to childcare and Universal Pre-K, we are taking real steps to ease the financial burden on New Yorkers and putting working families first. At the same time, we are standing up for our immigrant neighbors, defending our healthcare system from federal attacks, and continuing to invest in the essential services that New Yorkers rely on. Far too many families have been forced to simply get by while costs continue to rise, and affordability feels further out of reach. This budget is about changing that—lowering bills, expanding opportunity, and addressing New Yorkers' desire to get ahead, not just get by."

Speaker Heastie said, "While the federal government causes instability and uncertainty, the Assembly Majority is committed to investing in and supporting our communities," Speaker Heastie said. "This budget makes critical investments in our students and their futures, protects immigrant New Yorkers and our communities, and puts money back into the pockets of hardworking New Yorkers. We will continue working to uplift all New Yorkers."

The legislators have now begun the last days of scheduled session which is scheduled to conclude June 4<sup>th</sup>. While the legislature may stay an additional day to conclude some business for the year, they are expected to return to their districts fairly quickly as many face competitive primaries, especially in New York City.

**To view the Governor's Budget press release please click [here](#).**

**To view the Senate Majority's Budget press release please click [here](#).**

**To view the Assembly Majority's Budget press release please click [here](#).**

### **RMS Health/Mental Hygiene Final Budget Table**

Linked below and attached please find our sector-by-sector update related to the Health/Mental Hygiene provisions of the final budget. Upon review, please let us know if you have any questions or if you would like additional information on any of the budget items.

**Link: [RMS Health/Mental Hygiene Final Budget Table](#)**

### **RMS Revenue and Tax Final Budget Table**

Linked below and attached please find a complete tax table summarizing the final budget Revenue and Tax provisions. Upon review, please let us know if you have any questions or if you would like additional information on any of the budget items.

**Link: [RMS Revenue and Tax Final Budget Table](#)**

### **Resources for New York Essential Plan and Medicaid Enrollees**

The NYS Department of Health is sharing various resources that detail the impacts of the funding cuts from federal budget legislation H.R. 1 (Public Law No. 119-21) to New York's Essential Plan and Medicaid programs. The resources also include contact information for constituents who may have questions or need assistance.

As you may know, federal funding cuts have impacted New York's Essential Plan program. Governor Hochul has taken steps to protect Essential Plan coverage for most enrollees, but there are changes that will impact some enrollees starting July 1, 2026. In addition, there are also changes to Medicaid that will take effect on January 1, 2027.

You are encouraged to share these resources with your networks and take time to understand how the changes may affect the individuals you serve. Health care providers and community-based organizations can help raise awareness about the new eligibility rules and can work together to ensure proper documentation of conditions and community engagement requirements.

#### **Resources:**

- [Impact of H.R.1 Legislation on New York's Essential Plan](#)
- [Impact of Essential Plan Changes by Congressional District](#)
- [Stay Connected with NY State of Health](#)
- [Changes to Medicaid Starting January 2027](#)

### **The 2026 State Legislative Primary Races To Watch**

This upcoming primary election season in NY there's no shortage of competitive state legislative races. While that's in part due to retirements and incumbents looking to move up the ladder, it's also due to the upcoming enforcement of a cap on legislators' outside income, leading some to prepare to leave public office in favor of hanging on to their side hustles.

Below are some of the legislative primaries to watch according to a recent City & State Article (linked [here](#))

#### **Senate District 12**

Queens neighborhoods of Sunnyside, Woodside, Maspeth and Ridgewood and parts of Astoria, Long Island City and Elmhurst

**Incumbent:** Michael Gianaris (retiring)

**Candidates:** Aber Kawas and Steven Raga

**What you need to know:** The New York City chapter of the Democratic Socialists of America is backing Aber Kawas, a Palestinian American organizer, over Assembly Member Steven Raga, who became the first Filipino American elected to the state Legislature in 2022, and who also happens to be a dues-paying member of the DSA but is not a Socialist in Office. As of early May, Raga had a slight edge in fundraising, with matching funds included.

### Senate District 13

Queens neighborhoods of Corona, Jackson Heights and East Elmhurst

**Incumbent:** Jessica Ramos

**Challenger:** Jessica González-Rojas

**What you need to know:** Incumbent state Senator Jessica Ramos endorsed Andrew Cuomo for New York City mayor last year as her own mayoral campaign sputtered. Ramos quickly drew a primary challenge from Assembly Member Jessica González-Rojas after that endorsement. Both candidates have qualified for the public matching funds program, but González-Rojas leads in fundraising overall.

### Senate District 25

Central Brooklyn neighborhoods of Fort Greene, Bedford-Stuyvesant and Brownsville

**Incumbent:** Jabari Brisport

**Challenger:** Marlon Rice

**What you need to know:** Senator Jabari Brisport is having to defend his seat from a more mainstream Democrat, Marlon Rice. Active in the district as the event director at the Bedford Stuyvesant Restoration Corp. Rice is pounding the pavement, arguing he's the more locally focused candidate versus Brisport, who's more interested in pushing the socialist policy agenda. Rice has also nearly kept pace with Brisport's fundraising. But the incumbent, a former teacher, has easily cruised to reelection twice before, including when he defeated two similarly anti-socialist challengers in 2022.

### Senate District 27

Manhattan neighborhoods of Chinatown, the Financial District, SoHo, the East Village, the West Village and the Lower East Side

**Incumbent:** Brian Kavanagh (retiring)

**Candidates:** Yuh-Line Niou and Grace Lee

**What you need to know:** It's a rematch in New York City's Chinatown as onetime Assembly contest rivals now compete for an overlapping state Senate district. While there is no incumbent, Assembly Member Grace Lee's status as a sitting elected official could give her a leg up, she did not have when she unsuccessfully challenged Yuh-Line Niou in

2020 for the seat she now holds. Lee also enjoys a significant fundraising edge, as well as more public matching funds so far.

### Senate District 61

Part of Buffalo and all of Tonawanda, Amherst and Grand Island

**Incumbent:** Jeremy Zellner

**Challenger:** Jonathan Rivera

**What you need to know:** The showdown between state Sen. Jeremy Zellner and Assembly Member Jonathan Rivera is coming to a head. The former political allies are now engaged in a fight over the state Senate seat previously held by now-Buffalo Mayor Sean Ryan.

Zellner raised eyebrows earlier this year when the Erie County Democratic Party chose him in the special election to replace Ryan. Zellner has chaired the organization for nearly 15 years. Zellner isn't the only party leader in the state Legislature, but it's much rarer for a chair to have their own name put forward during the party-controlled special election process. (Zellner technically recused himself from the nominating process.)

Rivera vied to be the party's pick earlier this year but decided to focus his attention on the primary race in June rather than try to run an independent special election campaign against Zellner in February.

### Assembly District 32

Queens neighborhoods of Jamaica and Rochdale Village

**Incumbent:** Vivian Cook (retiring)

**Candidates:** Nathaniel Hezekiah III, Latoya LeGrand, Tunisia Morrison, Queen Johnson, Mohammed Molla

**What you need to know:** When Assembly Member Vivian Cook announced she would not seek reelection, it opened up her seat for the first time in over three decades. Latoya LeGrand, a former staffer for Cook, became the first person who filed to run – before Cook officially announced her retirement – and has since picked up the support of the New York Working Families Party. But that doesn't mean LeGrand is the heir apparent for the seat.

Queens factions are split over who they want to succeed Cook. The Queens Democratic Party endorsed Nathaniel Hezekiah III, who serves as deputy chief of staff to party boss Rep. Greg Meeks. Queens Borough President Donovan Richards decided he'd do something different, and instead has backed Tunisia Morrison, a former chief of staff to Assembly Member Alicia Hyndman and his chief of staff's sister. Democratic socialist Queen Johnson and Mohammed Molla round out the candidates in a crowded race that promises plenty of internal political jockeying for the future of Southeast Queens.

Assembly District 38

Queens neighborhoods of Richmond Hill, Glendale, Ozone Park, Ridgewood and Woodhaven

**Incumbent:** Jenifer Rajkumar

**Challenger:** David Orkin

**What you need to know:** Assembly Member Jenifer Rajkumar faces a challenge from NYC-DSA-backed candidate David Orkin, a staff attorney at influential immigrant advocacy group Make the Road New York.

Assembly District 54

Brooklyn neighborhoods of Cypress Hills and Bushwick

**Incumbent:** Erik Dilan

**Challenger:** Christian Celeste Tate

**What you need to know:** NYC-DSA and the New York Working Families Party are backing anti-poverty activist Christian Celeste Tate's challenge to Assembly Member Erik Dilan, who has already beaten back two challenges from DSA members in previous cycles.

Assembly District 56

Brooklyn neighborhoods of Bedford-Stuyvesant and parts of Crown Heights

**Incumbent:** Stefani Zinerman

**Challenger:** Eon Huntley

**What you need to know:** NYC-DSA's Eon Huntley is taking another shot at unseating Assembly Member Stefani Zinerman, after falling short by less than 6 points in 2024.

Assembly District 59

Brooklyn neighborhoods of Canarsie, Flatlands, Georgetown, Mill Basin, Marine Park, Bergen Beach and Gerritsen Beach

**Incumbent:** Jaime Williams

**Challenger:** Jibreel Jalloh

**What you need to know:** Assembly Member Jaime Williams is fighting to hold on to her southeast Brooklyn seat as she faces a challenge from community organizer Jibreel Jalloh.

Assembly District 65

Lower Manhattan, including the Lower East Side, Chinatown and the Financial District

**Incumbent:** Grace Lee (running for state Senate)

**Candidates:** Jasmin Sanchez, Illapa Sairitupac, Mariama James, Wei-Li Tjong, Lilah Mejia, Jay Jacky Wong

**What you need to know:** In this crowded primary, Illapa Sairitupac has received the bulk of endorsements, including from NYC-DSA and politically powerful unions like the Hotel and Gaming Trades Council and 32BJ SEIU. He ran for the seat four years ago, losing by 14 points to current Assembly Member Grace Lee – whose run for state Senate has left the seat open. Meanwhile, Jasmin Sanchez has the support of Rep. Nydia Velázquez and Citizen Action of New York, Lilah Mejia just picked up an endorsement from New York City Council Member Harvey Epstein and Wei-Li Tjong is backed by state Sen. John Liu. And Jay Jacky Wong is well-connected in the Chinatown portion of the district. Sairitupac is endorsed by the mayor’s political home, NYC-DSA, and Sanchez worked with his former attorney and close ally, Ali Najmi, to avoid getting booted from the ballot due to a residency challenge.

#### Assembly District 66

Manhattan neighborhoods of Greenwich Village, Tribeca and SoHo

**Incumbent:** Deborah Glick (retiring)

**Candidates:** Ryder Kessler, David Siffert, Benjamin Yee, Furhan Ahmad, Jeannine Kiely, Corinne Arnold

**What you need to know:** Ryder Kessler, co-founder and former executive director of pro-housing group Abundance New York, is running in part on his identity as a gay person. But when he declared himself the only gay candidate running to represent a queer district, it raised eyebrows given David Siffert, a civil rights lawyer, is nonbinary and would make history if elected.

Glick has decided to endorse neither of them, though. She instead has backed Jeannine Kiely, a district leader and a founder of Friends of Elizabeth Street Garden. Also in the mix are state Democratic Committee member Ben Yee and Corinne Arnold, who runs an election services business.

#### Assembly District 68

Manhattan neighborhoods of East Harlem, Randalls Island and parts of the Upper East Side and Central Harlem

**Incumbent:** Eddie Gibbs

**Challengers:** Diana Ayala, Tamika Mapp and William Smith

**What you need to know:** A handful of candidates are looking to unseat Assembly Member Eddie Gibbs in East Harlem, sensing a potential opening in wake of several controversies the East Harlem Democrat has found himself embroiled in in recent years.

Former New York City Council Member Diana Ayala, who served as deputy speaker for several years, has mounted a challenge against Gibbs. District leaders Tamika Mapp and William Smith, who previously challenged Gibbs in 2024, are also in the running.

#### Assembly District 69

Manhattan's Upper West Side

**Incumbent:** Micah Lasher (running for Congress)

**Candidates:** Eli Northrup and Stephanie Ruskay

**What you need to know:** With Assembly Member Micah Lasher running for Congress, the race is on for his seat in Albany. Public defender Eli Northrup, who ran for the seat two years ago but lost to Lasher by 19 points, is making another attempt, with the support of the WFP and other progressive groups. His competition is Stephanie Ruskay, a rabbi and the associate dean of the Jewish Theological Seminary who has the support of much of the Upper West Side's political establishment, including New York City Comptroller Mark Levine and Manhattan Borough President Brad Hoylman-Sigal.

#### Assembly District 70

Central Harlem

**Incumbent:** Jordan Wright

**Challenger:** Conrad Blackburn

**What you need to know:** Assembly Member Jordan Wright was elected to the Assembly in 2024, taking over the seat once occupied by his father, Keith Wright, the leader of the Manhattan Democratic Party. He faces a strong challenge from Conrad Blackburn, a staff attorney at The Bronx Defenders who's running with the support of NYC-DSA and United Auto Workers Region 9A.

#### Assembly District 129

Syracuse

**Incumbent:** William Magnarelli

**Challenger:** Maurice Brown

**What you need to know:** Assembly Member William Magnarelli is a longtime fixture of Albany who has represented Assembly District 129 in Central New York for nearly 30 years. And as chair of the Assembly Transportation Committee, it's easy for him to campaign on his recent focus on housing and securing downtown revitalization funds for the city of Syracuse. But Onondaga County Legislator Maurice Brown is making an appeal to further-left Syracuse voters, urging them to upend the status quo and unseat Magnarelli, the incumbent more than twice his age he has labeled as a threat to progress. Brown is running on issues like lowering utility costs and building protected bike lanes, and most differs from Magnarelli on taxing the wealthy to fund better infrastructure. But

Brown is still the progressive underdog in this fight – taking on a sitting Assembly member who hasn't had an opponent in half of his elections.

#### Assembly District 149

Town of Hamburg, and parts of Buffalo and Lackawanna

**Incumbent:** Jonathan Rivera (running for state Senate)

**Candidates:** Adam Bojak, Karen Hoak and Kevin Deese

**What you need to know:** Although there are three candidates running, the main battle serves as a proxy war between Jeremy Zellner and the Erie County Democrats, and the Riveras. On one side, the local Democratic organization has thrown its weight behind Karen Hoak, a former Hamburg Town Council member with a long track record in government. Alex Burgos, a young politico with ties to the local party machine, dropped out to back Hoak, and now may run for Jonathan Rivera's father's Buffalo Common Council seat.

Supported by Rivera on the other side is attorney Adam Bojak, a Democratic Socialists of America-endorsed candidate who recently gained the backing of Bernie Sanders. A third candidate, Hamburg resident Kevin Deese, has also thrown his hat in the ring, and will be a wild card among the feuding factions.

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

#### **Helpful Links and Resources**

**[RMS Revenue and Tax Final Budget Table](#)**

**[RMS Health/Mental Hygiene Final Budget Table](#)**

**[Assembly Yellow Book](#)**

**[Senate Blue Book](#)**

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

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

**[Empire State Development Tariff Resource Guide](#)**

**[NYS COVID-19 Monitoring Dashboard](#)**

**[NYS COVID-19 Fatalities Tracker](#)**

**[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/>