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One Commerce Plaza
Suite 402
Albany, NY 12210
Phone: 518.465.7330
Fax: 518.465.0273
Website: lobbywr.com

ROBERT REID | MARCY SAVAGE | KELLY FORSTER | KAYLA BOGDANOWICZ | ELIZABETH REID | MAGGIE SHUGRUE

RMS End of Week Update 6/12/2026



Albany Democrats Leadership Changes Expected With Retirement of Senate Deputy Majority Leader and Assembly Majority Leader

Last week's conclusion of Albany's legislative session left Democratic state lawmakers poised for the biggest shakeup in their ranks since they assumed one-party control in 2019 according to a recent [article](#) in POLITICO.

Assembly Majority Leader Crystal Peoples-Stokes is retiring at the end of the year, opening up the No. 2 job for only the second time since Carl Heastie became speaker 11 years ago.

State Sen. Mike Gianaris is retiring as well and his departure will leave open the role of Democratic Senate Campaign Committee chair, which he's held since he was a senator-elect in 2010 in addition to his seat as Deputy Senate Majority Leader.

On top of that, Senate Democrats are about to become the first conference in NYS state history to bump up against term limits. Rules enacted in 2009 imposed eight-year caps on the majority leader and committee chairs. No party has remained in power long enough to be impacted since then, but the rules will soon apply to Senate Majority Leader Stewart-Cousins and up to a dozen of her members.

“I’d probably have to,” state Sen. Liz Krueger said when asked if she’d vote to scrap the term limits. “Because it would mean Andrea couldn’t remain leader. And I do not actually accept the concept where Andrea doesn’t remain leader.”

Senator Krueger is one of seven impacted chairs surveyed in recent months who unanimously said they want Stewart-Cousins to remain. But Democrats haven’t yet settled on what should happen to other top jobs.

“It’s really a question of ‘do you change all the term limits for everybody while you’re changing them for leadership, or do you allow for some new opportunities at the committee level?’” Investigations and Government Operations Committee Chair James Skoufis said. “I don’t know where I land on that.”

“The level of expertise I’ve developed, it’s not because I’m better or smarter than anyone else, I’ve just been in it longer,” state Sen. Gustavo Rivera said of the “deep and dark and mysterious” realm of policy he oversees as Health Committee Chair. “I would be hard pressed to find somebody in the Senate who would be able to do the job on day one.”

Senator Gianaris’ departure might lead to widespread shuffling, regardless. And while Senator Krueger is running again, she missed the conclusion of this year’s session after an April stroke. It remains to be seen whether she’ll return to the job of being the top Democrat on the Finance Committee as she’s been since 2011.

Senate Majority Leader Stewart-Cousins said she’s looking for a deputy “who can bring the same types of talents and skills that Sen. Gianaris has brought.” Names that came up in surveys of legislators and lobbyists include state Sens. Jamaal Bailey, Andrew Gounardes and Shelley Mayer. Still, there isn’t a widespread consensus.

There’s more agreement over who might replace Assembly Majority Leader Peoples-Stokes. Upstaters have held the job since 1979, providing some balance to speakers from New York City over the years. The pick will need to be somebody who can work well with Speaker Heastie, and conventional wisdom holds they should have a good amount of tenure. Over a dozen insiders mentioned the same three names as fitting each of those criteria: Syracuse’s Pamela Hunter, Rochester’s Harry Bronson and Albany’s John McDonald.

Speaker Heastie, however, isn’t making a firm commitment to tradition.

“The requirement that the majority leader comes from upstate, that’s more of a y’all thing,” he told reporters. “I inherited a great majority leader who happened to be upstate in Joe Morelle, one of my closest friends. And then Crystal was somebody I knew even before I was elected, and she’s been amazing. But I don’t know if I feel limited to if it’d have to be somebody from upstate. It could be Long Island, it could be the Hudson Valley — I haven’t even really thought about it.”

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

NYS Final Budget: Detail Corporate Tax Actions, Federal De-Coupling, and Pied-a-Terre Tax

On May 28, 2026, Governor Kathy Hochul signed New York's FY 2026-2027 Budget Bill (A.10009-C/S.9009-C), enacting a series of significant tax changes affecting corporations, partnerships, pass-through entities, multinational businesses, real estate investors, and high-net-worth individuals. The legislation extends several temporary tax provisions, decouples New York State (NYS) and New York City (NYC) from key provisions of the federal One Big Beautiful Bill Act (OBBBA), creates a new pied-à-terre surcharge on certain NYC residential properties, and modifies various sales and use tax, personal income tax, and incentive provisions.

The legislation is particularly noteworthy because many of the decoupling provisions apply retroactively to tax years beginning on or after January 1, 2025, requiring taxpayers to revisit estimated tax payments, tax provision calculations, and compliance processes.

Among the most significant provisions:

- Extension of the 7.25% NYS corporate franchise tax rate for taxpayers with business income exceeding \$5 million through tax years beginning before January 1, 2030.
- Retroactive decoupling from selected federal OBBBA provisions affecting depreciation, research and experimental (R&E) expenditures, and other business tax incentives.
- Creation of a new NYC pied-à-terre surcharge on certain non-primary residential properties.
- Relief from penalties and interest associated with retroactive decoupling adjustments.
- New IRC Section 962 relief for individual shareholders of controlled foreign corporations.
- Extension of various real estate, energy, and business tax incentives.
- Implementation of a statewide sales tax vendor re-registration program.

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

To view the FY 2027 Enacted Budget Financial Plan please click [here](#).

NYS Primary Elections

Early voting for the primaries begins tomorrow June 13th and will run through June 21st with primary election day being June 23rd from 6am-9pm.

To find your polling place please click [here](#).

Summary Of National Health Law Program's Webinar On Exemptions In The Medicaid Work Requirement Interim Final Rule

Last week, our firm attended a webinar hosted by the National Health Law Program (NHeLP) on the interim final rule recently released by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services implementing the Medicaid community engagement (work requirement) provisions enacted in H.R. 1., which will take effect on January 1, 2027.

Please find linked [here](#) and attached our comprehensive summary of NHeLP's analysis.

Please find the link to NHeLP's presentation [here](#).

Governor Hochul Celebrates the Start of the World Cup at the Opening of NYNJ World Cup 2026 Queens Group Stage HQ

This week Governor Hochul celebrated the start of the FIFA World Cup at the opening of the NYNJ World Cup 2026 Queens Group Stage HQ. Governor Hochul was joined at this event by State and local leaders, FIFA World Cup NYNJ Host Committee CEO Alex Lasry, and New York soccer fans to celebrate the inaugural World Cup Fan Fest.

Governor Hochul said in her remarks,

“ New York isn't just hosting the World Cup, New York is the World Cup. You heard it here. You know, we're just beginning to count the minutes until the World Cup games begin. Starting today, Mexico versus South Africa in Mexico City. To kick things off, I'm here at the USTA Billie Jean King Tennis Center, one of the most iconic sports venues in the city. We're here because we know that one million people will be descending from around the globe, coming to our communities to witness this magic as well. We want to make sure that every single person, everybody, has a chance to experience this. If you don't have enough money for a ticket, you need to be right here, or at one of our many Fan Fests that we're doing around the city. I thank Mayor Mamdani for his support for this, as well as all the people involved.

But I also want to say this: I want to make sure it happens all over New York, so we're having Fan Fests everywhere, the boroughs, upstate, downstate, because no one should be denied the chance to get together for this once in a generation experience.”

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

FY 2027 Budget Changes To Commission on Ethics and Lobbying in Government Requirements For Clients and Lobbyists **Public Protection and General Government Article VII Part U: COELIG Training and Fines:**

In the final budget Part U made some changes to the current Commission on Ethics and Lobbying in Government (COELIG) training and deadlines.

- 1) The budget updated who is required to take the COELIG ethics training to include lobbyists **and the clients listed on the lobbying registration statement.**
- 2) The budget altered the frequency of the required COELIG Ethics training
 - **Through calendar year 2026:** Lobbyists and clients must complete the training at least once every three years while they are registered/listed.
 - **Beginning with the 2027–2028 biennial period and thereafter:** Lobbyists and clients must complete the training at least once every two years (each biennial period).
- 3) The budget established the ability for COELIG to impose late fees for missing training deadlines on clients and lobbyists. **The fee may be up to \$25 per day for each day the training is overdue. This section goes into effect immediately giving COELIG the ability to assess late fees if they choose to.** No guidance on how this enforcement will work has been published by COELIG to date.

Public Protection and General Government Article VII Part Z: Lobbyist Registration Fees and Fines:

In the final budget Part Z made some changes to the current lobbyist registration fee structure and the fines.

The Existing Registration Fee Structure Remains In Place Through March 31, 2026

Under this prior law, lobbyists were required to:

- File biennial registrations covering two-year periods.
- Pay a \$200 registration fee for each biennial registration.
- Pay an additional \$200 fee for any subsequent registration statement filed during the same biennial period.

The law also preserves the existing prorated fee provision through March 31, 2026. If a registration is filed After January 1 of the second year of the biennial reporting period, and before April 1, 2026, the registration fee is reduced to \$100 instead of \$200.

It is also important to note that in both the current structure and the structure that will be imposed after March 31, 2026, the exemptions are maintained requiring no registration fee for public corporations or lobbyists whose reportable compensation and expenses do not exceed \$5,000 in a year.

The New Registration Fee Structure Begins April 1, 2026

Annual Registration Fee:

Starting with the first registration filed on or after April 1, 2026, lobbyists must pay \$250 per calendar year in which the registration remains active. This replaces the former biennial registration fee model.

Subsequent Registrations:

Any additional registration statements filed during the same registration period will also require a \$250 fee.

New Late Filing Fees

The Commission on Ethics and Lobbying in Government (COELIG) is authorized to impose late fees for registration statements filed after their required deadline. For a standard late fee COELIG may assess up to **\$25 per day for each day a required registration statement remains overdue.**

There is a reduced Penalty for First-Time Filers If a lobbyist Has never previously been required by statute to file a registration statement, the maximum late fee is reduced to \$10 per day rather than \$25 per day. No guidance on how this enforcement will work has been published by COELIG to date.

Helpful Links and Resources

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

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

[**FY 2027 Enacted Budget Financial Plan**](#)

[**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/>