

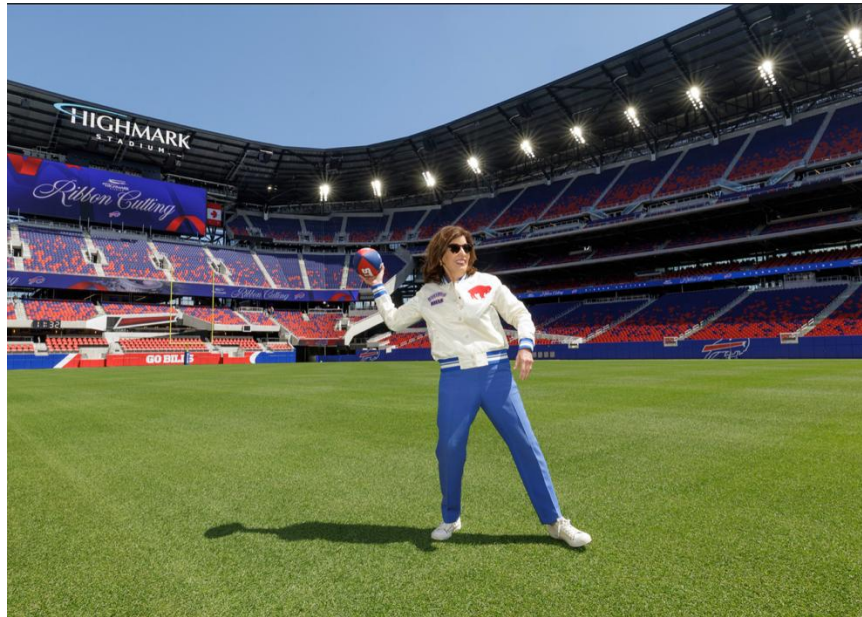
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RMS End of Week Update 6/26/2026



Governor Hochul, Buffalo Bills and Erie County Announce Completion of New \$2.1 Billion Highmark Stadium

Governor Hochul, the Buffalo Bills and Erie County today celebrated the official completion of the new \$2.1 billion Highmark Stadium in Orchard Park. The massive public-private partnership marks the largest construction project in Western New York history, delivering a state-of-the-art, open-air entertainment venue that secures the franchise's home in Buffalo for the next 30 years. Spanning 1.6 million square feet on a 242-acre site, the facility will host its first public event on August 8 with the Bills' inaugural scrimmage game, the Blue & Red practice under the lights.

“Welcome to the new home of the Buffalo Bills! Today, we are not just opening a stadium; we are cementing the Buffalo Bills’ rightful place in Western New York for generations to come,” Governor Hochul said. “We are profoundly grateful to Terry and Kim Pegula for their visionary leadership and unwavering commitment to Buffalo, and the hardworking men and women of labor who have made this idea a reality. This state-of-the-art facility represents a historic investment in our community, creating thousands of good-paying jobs and delivering a world-class experience for the best fans in the NFL. New York State

promised to keep the Bills home, and today we fulfill that promise with a stadium that matches the relentless energy and grit of Buffalo.”

Buffalo Bills Owner Terry Pegula said, “Our journey began on June 5, 2023, when several of us stood out here with shovels in our hands at the ceremonial groundbreaking of Highmark Stadium. Highmark has been a true partnership — a partnership between government, private business, the NFL and our fans, the Bills Mafia. I made a promise to our workers that somehow, we would have their names visible on the stadium where their offspring and friends could come and look and see their name on the side of the stadium. It’s one thing to talk about it, it’s one thing to get the money, and it’s another thing to get it done.”

More than 600 guests gathered outside the stadium to celebrate the milestone, achieved just 34 months after the initial groundbreaking. Designed by the Bills in collaboration with Legends and architecture firm Populous, the project represents a major triumph for regional labor and diverse business utilization:

- **Labor Force:** Approximately 6,000 craft workers clocked roughly 5 million labor hours to build the venue.
- **MWBE Participation:** The project surpassed New York State’s nation-leading 30% Minority and Women-Owned Business Enterprises (MWBE) participation goal, yielding more than \$490 million in payments to MWBE participants.
- **Local Contracts:** More than \$250 million in contracts were awarded directly to regional Western New York MWBE firms.
- **Return on Investment:** The long-term economic impact generated by the venue is projected to exceed the public contribution to the project. Standing at 116 feet above grade, nearly double the height of the previous stadium, the new Highmark Stadium features views of Lake Erie, downtown Buffalo, and the Boston Hills. Built to withstand Western New York winters while maximizing fan comfort, the venue includes a 60,108-seat capacity (plus standing room) and the following premier amenities:
 - **Engineered Canopy:** A 360-degree canopy covers 64% of the seating bowl, specifically designed to mitigate exterior wind factors and eliminate swirling winds on the playing field.
 - **Advanced Heating Technology:** Equipped with heated concourses, radiant heating above some seats, and the world’s largest stadium snow-melt system that utilizes roof sensors to automatically monitor and melt snow accumulations.
 - **Elite Playing Surface:** A premium Kentucky bluegrass field cultivated by Tuckahoe Turf Farms. The field features underground heating coils to prevent freezing, alongside sub-air ventilation, state-of-the-art sub-air technology, and grow lights to preserve optimal turf conditions year-round.
 - **Acoustics and Tech:** Two state-of-the-art video scoreboards paired with an industry-leading, high-fidelity sound system.

- **Community Culture:** Integration of the Buffalo Bills Public Art Program, showcasing site-specific permanent collections created by more than 45 artists in partnership with thousands of local community members. The stadium’s welcome plaza features a signature sculpture of an American Bison family.
- **Accessibility & Infrastructure:** Complete compliance and accessibility for individuals with disabilities, premium suites, loge seating, club levels, administrative offices, broadcast facilities, and modern food-service kitchens.

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

Governor Hochul Rallies With Immigration Advocates and 1199SEIU Members Following SCOTUS Ruling

Governor Hochul rallied with immigration advocates and 1199SEIU following the Supreme Court ruling on Thursday that will affect the lives of hundreds of thousands of Haitian and Syrian immigrants and the communities where they live and work, effectively ending a humanitarian program that allowed them to stay in the United States temporarily.

At the rally Governor Hochul said “Hundreds of thousands of individuals woke up with this dread, this fear in their hearts because their rights are being abandoned by the Trump administration and the Supreme Court of the United States. Temporary Protected Status has long been a vehicle to protect people who are living in war-torn countries, torn with political strife, those where there's starvation and violence, and our Statue of Liberty and our harbor has always been the place people come for support legally... Many of them are doing some of the most difficult, challenging work that needs to happen in our country and our state and I'm grateful to them – I'm grateful to them who show up every single day as healthcare workers to take care of our elderly, sometimes our children, people with disabilities, senior citizens. They're performing God's work here in New York State, and I'm grateful for them.”

“We're banning masks for immigration enforcers as well as anyone who wears a badge. We should know who you are. You should not be able to go into our communities, intimidate, threaten and create fear... We're not sitting on the sidelines. That's my message here today. This is New York. We fight back. We defend our people. And for those who think they can come here and just tell us that's going to be a different way than it is, you have to get through us first.”

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

Primary Election Update

The primary elections brought significant change to seats across the state with the Democratic Socialists of America picking up multiple seats in the New York Congressional delegation and in the State Legislature. Clearly, at least in NYC Mayor Zohran Mamdani

dealt a significant impact to the Democratic establishment. Below is an update on some of the key primary results across the state.

Statewide Primary Highlights:

- In the Democratic primary for Comptroller, incumbent Comptroller Thomas DiNapoli resoundingly won his primary against his two challengers.

NY Congressional Primary Highlights:

- Brad Lander succeeded in the winning the Democratic primary for the 10th Congressional district against incumbent Dan Goldman.
- Assemblymember Micah Lasher emerged victorious in the crowded 12th Congressional district Democratic primary beating a number of other challengers including Assemblymember Alex Bores.
- In the 13th Congressional district Mamdani backed Darializa Avila Chevalier defeated incumbent Adriano Espaillat.
- In the Republican primary race for the 21st Congressional District, Stefanik's seat, Anthony Constantion beat Assemblymember Robert Smullen.
- In the Republican primary race for the 19th Congressional district Senator Oberacker beat his primary opponent Alexander Portelli.

NYS Senate Democratic Primary Highlights:

- Assemblymember Jessica Gonzalez-Rojas defeated incumbent Senator Jessica Ramos.
- Assemblymember Jonathan Rivera defeated incumbent Senator Jeremy Zellner.
- In the Senate District 12 race, Senator Giannaris's retirement left the seat without an incumbent in the race, DSA candidate Aber Kawas defeated Assemblymember Steve Raga.

NYS Assembly Democratic Primary Highlights:

In the NYS Assembly a number of incumbents lost their primary elections.

- In the Democratic Primary for the 38th district Assembly seat David Orkin defeated incumbent Assemblymember Jennifer Rajkumar.
- In the Democratic Primary for the 54th district Assembly seat Christian Celeste Tarte defeated incumbent Assemblymember Erik Dilan.
- In the Democratic Primary for the 56th district Assembly seat Eon Huntley defeated incumbent Assemblymember Stefani Zinerman.
- In the Democratic Primary for the 68th district Assembly seat Diana Ayala defeated incumbent Assemblymember Eddie Gibbs.

A number of races still remain uncalled as of this morning most notably the race for the 129th Assembly district where 14 term incumbent Assemblymember William Magnarelli is

currently trailing Democratic primary challenger Maurice Brown is to close to call. The winner will not be known until absentee and affidavit ballots are counted on June 30. Under New York law, absentee ballots postmarked by Election Day can continue arriving for seven days after the election, so election officials won't begin counting the remaining ballots until June 30. Currently Brown leads Magnarelli 3,365 to 3,283.

We will continue to keep you updated as more results are finalized over the next weeks. For more information, please click [here](#).

NYS Medicaid Director Testified Before Congress

According to a recent article, linked [here](#), Amir Bassiri, the director of Medicaid in New York, appeared before Congress Thursday to testify about the state's handling of the federal program but didn't have much to say. Despite the state [recently being sued by the U.S. Department of Justice](#) over its transition of a Medicaid home care program, Bassiri's testimony didn't result in any fireworks between him and Republicans on the U.S. House Energy and Commerce Committee.

There was really only one moment in which the committee's members took aim at Bassiri and that was over the state's decision not to share certain information with members until this week. That information, which included a lengthy list of requests issued to the state about its enrollment in, spending on and oversight of Medicaid, has been sought by the committee's chairs since March, [when a letter was sent to New York](#).

“For example, you’ve not provided simple information, such as all the state’s designated risk levels for Medicaid-only providers,” said U.S. Rep. Brett Guthrie, a Kentucky Republican who chairs the Energy and Commerce Committee. “I’ll also note that you only provided the basic information that was requested about the frequency of on-site visits and nearly improper payment recovery efforts the day before,” he said. He asked Bassiri why New York hadn’t been able to provide the requested information to the committee since the March letter. Bassiri said it’s a bandwidth issue.

“We have been as responsive as we can,” Bassiri said. “We’re handling many inquiries from both the committee, the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services and (the Health and Human Services Office of Inspector General).”

Guthrie then asked Bassiri if he could commit to New York providing the information that’s being sought by the committee. Bassiri said he could not. “I can’t commit to that here but I’m happy to take that back and get back to you as soon as possible,” Bassiri said.

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

Helpful Links and Resources

[2026 RMS HMM End of Session Update](#)

[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/>