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RMS End of Week Update 7/24/2026



U.S. Department Of Justice Release Guidance That Enforcement Of The ADA's Integration Mandate And Olmstead V. L.C. Is "Not Enforceable."

This week the U.S. Department of Justice issued a **notice** clarifying that its long-standing guidance on enforcement of the ADA's integration mandate and Olmstead v. L.C. is "not enforceable."

"The department will not rely upon the Olmstead guidance in its enforcement of Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act," reads the notice from Harmeet K. Dhillon, assistant attorney general for civil rights.

Governor Hochul issued the following statement in response:

"Every Republican in Congress must stand up for their constituents with disabilities and oppose the United States Department of Justice's recent decisions to undermine the Americans with Disabilities Act. For decades, the Olmstead v. L.C. Supreme Court ruling and the guidance that followed defined a fundamental truth: every individual with a disability deserves to live, receive care and support, and thrive in their own community — not isolated in an institution.

The federal government's decision to cease enforcement of its Olmstead guidance signals a troubling step backwards towards the segregation and institutionalization of people with disabilities and is an insult to millions of Americans with disabilities, their families, and the advocacy groups who fought for generations to live in the community. In New York State, we value community-based care, independent living, and full accessibility. We will continue to uphold the spirit and the letter of the ADA across every corner of our state.”

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

Governor Hochul Pens Op-Ed On Commitment To Responsible New York Framework For AI Data Centers

Earlier this week, the Wall Street Journal published an op-ed by Governor Hochul regarding her commitments to ensuring New York has a responsible framework for AI Data Centers. [Text of the letter to the editor can be viewed online](#) and is available below:

Governor Hochul’s Op-Ed:

Your editorial criticizing New York’s approach to artificial intelligence data centers gets both our decision and rationale wrong (“[New York’s Data Center Self-Sabotage](#),” July 15).

New York adopted a temporary, targeted pause on new hyperscale AI data centers that use 50 megawatts or more while we establish clear rules for an industry that will reshape our economy for generations.

Existing facilities will continue to operate. Smaller projects can move forward. The pause will be lifted when we have clearer rules in place to protect New Yorkers. What we’re pausing isn’t innovation. It’s the rush to build first and answer questions later.

I reject the false choice that New Yorkers must pick between leading the future of AI and protecting affordability, ratepayers, existing job creators and the communities where these facilities are built.

The notion that thoughtful regulation that protects American ratepayers somehow hands victory to China is absurd. America’s competitive advantage has never been the absence of rules. It has been our ability to attract the world’s best talent, develop breakthrough technologies and earn public confidence in them.

The majority of AI jobs aren’t tied to where servers are built; in fact, these [data centers](#) create few long-term jobs. Jobs are created where talent, groundbreaking research and innovative companies come together—all areas where New York is second to none. Years ago, I launched Empire AI, a \$500 million public-private partnership to make New York a global leader in AI research and innovation. I announced our state’s use of AI to modernize our outdated regulations.

I want AI companies to succeed here. But when they succeed because of New York, New Yorkers should succeed too. Success means communities reap economic benefits, ratepayers don't foot the bill for massive new energy demand and infrastructure keeps pace with unprecedented growth.

I have confidence that New York has the ability to get this right. Within the next year, the world will see our model in action—government and industry building a responsible AI future, together.

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

Campaign Finance Update: Top Donors to Democratic Legislative Campaign Committees

A recent [article](#) by Dan Clark this week provided a snapshot of the largest contributors to Democratic legislative campaign committees in New York using recent campaign finance filings. The recent filings highlight the organizations providing the most financial support to Democratic majorities in the Assembly and Senate.

In the New York State Assembly, the largest contributors to Assembly Democratic campaign committees during the latest filing period included:

- Transport Workers Union (TWU): \$195,000 combined from local and national affiliates.
- New York State United Teachers (NYSUT): \$165,000 across multiple Democratic accounts.
- Pharmaceutical Research and Manufacturers of America (PhRMA): \$150,000.
- Greater New York Hospital Association (GNYHA): \$125,000.
- Hotel Trades Council: \$94,000.

Other notable contributors included the New York State Trial Lawyers Association (\$80,000), StubHub (\$50,000), and Kalshi (\$50,000).

In the New York State Senate, the top contributors to Senate Democratic campaign committees included:

- New York State United Teachers (NYSUT): \$138,600.
- New York State Dental Association PAC: \$133,600.
- Transport Workers Union (TWU): \$130,000.
- Airbnb: \$125,000.
- Greater New York Hospital Association (GNYHA): \$125,000.

Several organizations tied at approximately \$100,000 in contributions, including PhRMA, the AFL-CIO, the Laborers' International Union of North America (LIUNA), and 1199SEIU. While other significant donors included the Sports Betting

Alliance (\$75,000), United Food and Commercial Workers (UFCW) (\$75,000), and the Hotel Trades Council(\$69,000).

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

Continuous Recruitment for NYS Drug Utilization Review Board Membership

The New York State Department of Health continuously accepts letters of interest from individuals seeking to serve as a member of the Medicaid Drug Utilization Review (DUR) Board. Candidates requiring licensure (i.e., physicians and pharmacists) must be actively practicing and licensed in New York State.

The DUR Board plays an integral role in the State's Medicaid program by establishing clinical criteria for the DUR program, developing educational interventions for physicians and pharmacists, and making recommendations related to several drug rebate programs.

For more information about the DUR program and the DUR Board, including DUR Board member vacancies, please visit the [NYS DOH Drug Utilization Review \(DUR\) web page](#).

Individuals interested in membership or seeking further information are encouraged to submit inquiries and/or CV or resume to dur@health.ny.gov. Submissions are accepted on a continuous basis and will be reviewed as vacancies become available.

Governor Hochul Highlights Statewide FIFA World Cup Impacts

This week Governor Hochul highlighted the statewide economic impacts of the FIFA World Cup on New York. The Governor's World Cup strategy was designed to ensure that the benefits of the tournament reached every region of New York, not just the area around the host stadium. The State built a statewide activation model, combining flagship events, regional grants, accessibility initiatives, tourism promotion and community programming into one coordinated strategy. As fans from around the world visited New York, our businesses, bars, restaurants and hotels flourished.

“When we brought the FIFA World Cup to New York, we wanted to make sure every New Yorker, every community and every industry would benefit — these past six weeks have proven that effort a success,” Governor Hochul said. “As fans from around the world flocked to New York, hotel revenues went up, spending at local businesses increased and our affordable buses moved people to and from the game faster than ever. And it doesn't just stop here, we're making sure the World Cup has a lasting impact on our state by investing in soccer fields and youth soccer programming to support young athletes for years to come.”

Senior Director of Major Events Justin Brannan said, “With the eyes of the world on New York, Governor Hochul delivered once again. Thanks to extraordinary coordination at every level of government, we welcomed millions of soccer fans from around the globe and hosted one of the largest sporting events in history — delivering an experience that was unforgettable, safe, inclusive and seamlessly executed. From the Lower East Side to Niagara Falls, when all the numbers are in, the 2026 FIFA World Cup will stand as a clear win for New York and proof that investing in major events generates real economic returns for taxpayers, local businesses and communities across our state. Over the past six weeks, we didn't just host the world — we showed the world exactly what New York does best: creating opportunity, welcoming visitors, keeping people safe and performing on the biggest stage.”

Tourism and Economic Impact

Throughout the duration of the World Cup, there were eight consecutive sellout games at New York New Jersey Stadium, welcoming more than 560,000 fans. According to an analysis by Tourism Economics, through the first five World Cup Group Matches hosted at MetLife Stadium in June, there was \$1.2 billion in direct visitor spending, generating a total economic impact of \$2.1 billion. These figures are not inclusive of the final three games since June, but the state is expected to far exceed the revenue projections for hosting the World Cup and will provide an updated final economic report with operational spending.

In June, \$228 million in state and local tax revenue was generated and to date, more than one million fans have attended official New York New Jersey fan events between the two states. Additionally, since the Host Committee launched the Welcome World Rewards Program in May, the program has generated approximately 10,000 small business visits across more than 1,000 local businesses, restaurants, cultural institutions and community events across New York and New Jersey.

Affordable Bus Transportation to MetLife

Made possible through support from New York State, the cost of Official NYNJ Stadium Shuttle bus tickets to and from matches was reduced from the initial \$80 round-trip price to \$20.

As a result, 97 percent of fans on average entered the stadium before kickoff and nearly 120,000 of the Official Host Committee shuttle bus tickets were sold through the tournament. Buses have transported fans from staging areas to the Lincoln Tunnel in less than 10 minutes, consistently outpacing general traffic on the same corridors. Additionally, Midtown travel times ran up to 23 percent faster than historical averages throughout all eight match days, even as one million visitors came through the region.

Hotel Occupancy Rates

From June 8-July 4, hotels in the New York City Metropolitan area saw an increase in room revenue compared to the same time period last year.

- New York City: New York City Hotels generated approximately \$1.07 billion in room revenue, which is up 20.6 percent over the same period last year.
- Mid-Hudson: Mid-Hudson hotels generated approximately \$86 million in room revenue, up 18.3 percent year over year.
- Long Island: Long Island hotels generated approximately \$117 million in room revenue, up 24 percent year over year.

World Cup Community Grant Program

The \$500,000 New York State Community World Cup Grant Program ensured the 2026 FIFA World Cup was celebrated throughout New York State by supporting locally led viewing events. It aims to drive regional economic activity, increase visitation to local businesses, and provide all New Yorkers with a safe, accessible opportunity to participate in this once-in-a-generation global sporting event.

As a result, 13 projects across seven Upstate regions received Regional Activation grants to produce dozens of World Cup-themed community events.

State-Led Fan Fest Events

At Stony Brook University on June 12, the state's Long Island flagship event had approximately 6,000 attendees throughout the day, including about 5,000 for the evening USA vs. Paraguay watch party. The event was free and family-friendly, and included live match broadcasts, a concert by Third Eye Blind, a Family Fan Zone, interactive soccer experiences, food vendors, and public-facing exhibits from State agencies. The Stony Brook event also ensured inclusion and access were built into the event from the beginning, with accessible viewing areas, ADA accommodations, inclusive planning, Special Olympics New York participation, and family programming for attendees of all abilities.

The UBS Arena World Cup Watch Party on June 19 drew more than 13,000 attendees across two matches, including about 3,000 for USA vs. Australia and more than 10,000 for Haiti vs. Brazil. It resulted in a high-energy, destination watch party that combined live match broadcasts, indoor and outdoor fan activations, team experiences, food and beverage offerings, and broad community gathering space. It also brought together UBS Arena, Oak View Group, the New York Mets, the New York Islanders, and New York City Football Club in a rare cross-sector partnership that helped extend the benefits of the World Cup beyond the host venue.

The free New York State United — 2026 World Cup Watch Experience at Kensico Dam Plaza in Westchester County welcomed more than 5,500 New Yorkers. Over 25 partners, including New York State Agencies, local law enforcement, local soccer teams, and more hosted family-friendly activities before the match began. Additionally, 18 local food and

drink vendors attended, reinforcing New York's ability to extend the World Cup beyond host cities and drive local economies across the state.

The free watch party in Central Park for the FIFA World Cup 2026 Final welcomed over 30,000 fans. Backed by a \$9.5 million investment from Empire State Development and a \$3.5 million allocation from New York City, the watch party provided the attendees with a free place to gather and watch the World Cup Final. iHeartRadio served as the official media partner for the event. National syndicated on-air personalities Charlamagne Tha God and Elvis Duran emceed the watch party, and the event also featured live entertainment and local food vendors.

Statewide Lasting Impacts

As part of the enacted FY27 Budget, Governor Hochul launched the \$5 million [NY Kicks program](#): A World Cup Legacy Investment Fund aimed at building soccer infrastructure in disadvantaged communities across each region of the state to strengthen neighborhoods and bring people together through a shared love of the game even after the World Cup is over. The budget also includes \$1 million in additional funding providing NY Kicks recipients with fund programming, equipment, training, and other operating costs to maximize use of these new facilities including uniforms, shin guards, soccer balls, and coaches.

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

Mid-Decade Redistricting Could Be Linked To Challenging 2030 Census

According to a recent article because of cutbacks, changes to methodology and the possible inclusion of a citizenship question, the 2030 Census is expected to be the most challenging citizenship count in history.

In June, the U.S. Department of Commerce submitted a proposed rule on the following: "Decennial Census of the Population of Americans, Proposed Residence Criteria and Proposed Regulations for Demographic Questions."

There have been no additional details released, but according to a Rapid Response Briefing produced by groups including the Association of Public Data Users and the Census Quality Reinforcement Taskforce, the proposed rules changes may mean reforms to residence criteria; changes to demographic questions, including adding a citizenship question; and changes to questions about race and ethnicity.

All of these changes could mean a lower census count in New York state which is already projected to lose at least two congressional districts under the current rules.

Experts are also expecting to see a corresponding push by New York Democrats to find every possible seat using mid-decade redistricting, if a constitutional amendment allowing it is passed by voters.

According to Jeff Wice, a distinguished fellow and distinguished adjunct professor of law at New York Law School, and director of the New York Elections, Census and Redistricting Institute, the midterm elections will determine how much of a driving force redistricting will be in New York state.

If the Democrats win Congress by a comfortable margin, he says, it won't be as critical for New York to embark on an aggressive round of redistricting. If the margin is close, or if Republicans maintain control, it's likely that Democrats in New York would be more aggressive.

Wice is also looking ahead to the next presidential election. "In 2028, we need to see who controls the White House after Donald Trump leaves and would a new president bring the Census process back to the way it's been conducted in recent decades or will the next president be stuck with a completely challenging process, probably the hardest census to take in American history," he said.

The state constitutional amendment that the legislature approved in June will need second approval by the legislature in January. After that, it will need to go before New York State voters. If the amendment is approved, the 2028 cycle of mid-decade redistricting would begin.

If it passes, the amendment would also:

- Eliminate the ban against partisan gerrymandering
- Eliminate the requirement that districts are compact
- Rework language on minority representation
- Permit the legislature in the future to pass maps with a simple majority vote

While first passage of a new redistricting constitutional amendment was a top priority for lawmakers this session, according to [a recent Siena University poll](#), it's not a priority for New York voters. Siena found that only 21% of respondents think the amendment is a good idea, while 44% think it's not.

To view the full article 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/>