

RMS End of Week Update 10/30/2026



NYS Voting Update

As of Thursday, More than 1.1 million New Yorkers have cast early ballots since Saturday, surpassing overall early voting turnout numbers from 2022. State election officials expect participation rates to rise further through the upcoming weekend.

Kathleen McGrath with the New York Board of Elections noted that voter participation during this early voting period is approaching levels typically seen during presidential election years. “They’re almost closer to a presidential year than a midterm year,” McGrath said.

2026 General Election Early Voting will run through November 1st.

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

2026 General Election Day is November 3rd.

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

2026 New York State General Election Races To Watch

In addition to the statewide races which include:

- Incumbent Governor Kathy Hochul (D) vs Nassau County Executive Bruce Blakeman (R)
- Incumbent Attorney General Letitia James (D) vs Saritha Komatireddy
- Incumbent Comptroller Thomas DiNapoli (D) vs Joseph Hernandez

The 26 congressional seats are also up for reelection in New York. A number of the races are hotly contested according to a recent [City & State Article](#).

1st Congressional District

Suffolk County

Incumbent: Rep. Nick LaLota (R)

Challenger: Christopher Gallant (D)

What you need to know:

While historically more purple, the district has grown increasingly red in recent years. The incumbent, Republican Rep. Nick LaLota, is fairly popular in his district, an advantage his Democratic challenger, former Army pilot Chris Gallant, could be hard-pressed to overcome. LaLota is endorsed by President Donald Trump and has appeared with him on Long Island to promote public safety initiatives. Gallant has been added to the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee's Districts in Play program, which has thrown him some funding. He is focusing on affordability for Suffolk County residents who have been hit hard by rising gas prices, as well as other rising costs due to tariffs. As of their September quarterly reports, LaLota has received nearly \$4.4 million in total contributions and has more than \$2.7 million in cash on hand, while Gallant has more than \$1.5 million in total contributions and just over \$609,000 in cash on hand.

3rd Congressional District

Eastern Queens and parts of Nassau and Suffolk counties

Incumbent: Rep. Tom Suozzi (D)

Challenger: Mike LiPetri (R)

What you need to know:

Suozzi then won the seat back in a 2024 special election following Santos' expulsion from Congress. He won a full term later that year in a race that pit him against Republican former Assembly Member Mike LiPetri, whom he defeated by just under 4 percentage points – a small enough margin that LiPetri is now looking to best Suozzi in a rematch. The district includes a large chunk of Nassau County, which is Republican gubernatorial candidate Bruce Blakeman's home turf and contains strong MAGA pockets. Suozzi has more than \$7.1 million in total contributions, and nearly \$5 million in cash on hand as of the September quarterly filing. Also, as of then, LiPetri has more than \$2.3 million in total contributions, and just over \$883,000 in cash on hand.

4th Congressional District

Nassau County

Incumbent: Rep. Laura Gillen (D)

Challenger: Jeanine Driscoll (R)

What you need to know:

It's not the rematch that political observers were expecting, but Democratic Rep. Laura Gillen is still in for a fight to defend her swing Long Island seat. She successfully flipped the 4th Congressional District in 2024, winning the seat from former Rep. Anthony D'Esposito in a close race. She fell short of victory against D'Esposito in 2022 as the pair competed to replace former Democratic Rep. Kathleen Rice. Gillen has more than \$6

million in total contributions, and \$3.9 million in cash on hand as of Sept. 30. Driscoll has more than \$664,000 in total contributions and about \$270,000 on hand.

17th Congressional District

Rockland and Putnam counties and parts of Westchester and Dutchess counties

Incumbent: Rep. Mike Lawler (R)

Challenger: Cait Conley (D)

What you need to know:

The purple 17th Congressional District is one of the most competitive – and therefore expensive – elections in the fight for the House. This time around, everything's in play as Rep. Mike Lawler vies to keep the seat for a third term, and stave off Democrat Cait Conley, the former director of counterterrorism for the National Security Council under President Joe Biden. Cost-of-living issues remain front and center for the diverse district, which major election forecasters have long-declared a toss-up. But how each candidate discusses international issues has also taken a front seat.

Lawler knows what's at stake, and tries his best to remind voters he only agrees with President Donald Trump most of the time. Meanwhile, Conley's busy campaigning against the status quo. Polling has remained consistently close since the end of the Democratic primary, though the most recent public independent poll put Conley up by 2 points. As of the September quarterly filing, Lawler has \$10 million in total contributions, and more than \$2.8 million in cash on hand. Conley has \$9.7 million in total contributions, and nearly \$1.2 million in cash on hand.

19th Congressional District

Broome, Chenango, Columbia, Cortland, Delaware, Greene, Sullivan and counties and parts of Cortland, Otsego, Rensselaer and Ulster counties

Incumbent: Rep. Josh Riley (D)

Challenger: State Sen. Peter Oberacker (R)

What you need to know:

In 2024, the race for the 19th Congressional District was the most expensive House race in the country, as Democrat Josh Riley narrowly unseated then-Rep. Marc Molinaro by 2.3 percentage points – just two years after Molinaro won the seat by 1.6 points. Now, the district is in play yet again as Riley faces off against state Sen. Peter Oberacker. As of the September quarterly filing, Riley has \$5.8 million in total contributions, and \$2.1 million in cash on hand. Oberacker has \$1.4 million total contributions, and just \$43,000 in cash on hand.

21st Congressional District

Clinton, Essex, Franklin, Fulton, Hamilton, Herkimer, Lewis, Montgomery, Schoharie, St. Lawrence, Warren and Washington counties and parts of Jefferson, Oneida and Saratoga counties

Incumbent: None, Republican Rep. Elise Stefanik is not seeking reelection.

Candidates: Anthony Constantino (R) and Blake Gendebien (D)

What you need to know:

When President Donald Trump rescinded Rep. Elise Stefanik's nomination to be the next United Nations ambassador, Northern New Yorkers could feel the tide shifting. Now, there's a chance the 21st Congressional District – long thought to be a Republican stronghold – could flip blue. Sticker Mule CEO Anthony Constantino trounced the establishment pick for the Republican nomination, Assembly Member Robert Smullen, in the primary. But an October poll had Democratic dairy farmer Blake Gendebien leading Constantino by 4 percentage points. Gendebien declared his candidacy early and has been campaigning on economic problems that resonate with upstaters ever since. The bombastic Constantino, a fierce Trump loyalist who self-funds his campaign, says little on issues until he's spoken with the president. But the former wrestler is using party leaders, and artificial intelligence-inspired music videos. It's still a tough climb for Gendebien in a district with a solid majority of Republican voters who have backed Trump every step of the way. As of Sept. 30, Constantino has \$14.4 million in total contributions, and just over \$4.1 million in cash on hand. Gendebien has just under \$7.2 million total contributions and just under \$470,000 in cash on hand.

According to another recent article in City & State unlike during primary season in New York, when many hot state legislative contests are in New York City or elsewhere downstate, the most tightly contested races in November are taking place in many different areas of the state. And those races come with a variety of dynamics, be it varying demographics or stronger coattails from the top of the ticket. With Republicans unlikely to gain a majority in either chamber anytime soon, a lot of the intrigue in this year's races is about where Democrats can make inroads in an expected "blue wave" election – and whether they can once again secure a supermajority in the state Senate. With the general election nearing, here are the state legislative races City & State recommends keeping an eye on.

State Senate District 7

Nassau County, including North Hempstead

Incumbent: Jack Martins (R), who is not seeking reelection

Candidates: Rory Lancman (D) and Jake Blumencranz (R, C)

What you need to know:

This is a traditionally swingy seat, shifting back and forth between Democrats and Republicans over the past 20 years. Currently it's held by state Sen. Jack Martins, who bested former state Sen. Anna Kaplan – a Democrat – in 2022 to win back the district he represented in the 2010s. Rory Lancman, a former New York City Council member who represented part of eastern Queens, originally entered the race to unseat Martins. But the Republican incumbent made a last-minute decision not to seek reelection after a state judge affirmed that outside income limits will take effect next year, prompting local GOP leaders to nominate two-term Assembly Member Jake Blumencranz in his place. Martins dispatched his Democratic opponent easily two years ago, but with the seat now open, the race is even more up in the air. Lancman has a long track record in elected

office, including a stint in the Assembly, but he has never represented Long Island. Blumencranz, meanwhile, handily won both his elections but is a relative newcomer to the political scene and has represented a more reliably Republican district. Lancman had \$250,000 in cash on hand as of Oct. 23, while Blumencranz had \$331,000.

State Senate District 9

Nassau County, including Lynbrook, Elmont and Long Beach

Incumbent: Patricia Canzoneri-Fitzpatrick (R, C)

Challenger: Lisa Vider (D)

What you need to know:

The 2024 outcome of the state Sen. Patricia Canzoneri-Fitzpatrick's election may make this Long Island seat appear uncompetitive. But despite her landslide victory, the seat has alternated between parties each time it has gotten a new representative during the past couple decades. Voters first elected Canzoneri-Fitzpatrick after former Democratic state Sen. Todd Kaminsky resigned in 2022.

The state Democratic Senate Campaign Committee isn't targeting the district as one of its priority pickup opportunities, but Democrats in the area are bullish about healthcare executive Lisa Vider. Though new to being a candidate, Vider has spent time in Albany advocating for healthcare providers. If elected, she would also be New York's first Orthodox Jewish woman to serve in the state Senate.

Vider had over \$200,000 in cash on hand 11 days before the election, and Canzoneri-Fitzpatrick had \$295,000 at the same time.

State Senate District 17

Southern Brooklyn, including Dyker Heights, Bensonhurst and Bath Beach

Incumbent: Steve Chan (R, C, Stop Mamdani)

Challenger: Larry He (D)

What you need to know:

It's been two years since Republican state Sen. Steve Chan defeated Democrat Iwen Chu in this newly drawn district that contains a plurality of Asian voters. It was a seismic win that garnered much attention, in part because Chu's loss meant the Democrats lost a supermajority in the state Senate. Chan's victory was seen as a microcosm of Chinese Americans' recent shift to the right, as well as southern Brooklyn's political evolution as a whole. Now, he must defend his seat amid a serious challenge from Democrat Larry He, a district leader and chief of staff to Assembly Member William Colton. Despite their different political parties, observers say there's not too much of an ideological divide between Chan and He. The latter, who is also Chinese American, describes himself as a "common-sense Democrat" committed to fighting for things like a safer community, better schools and cleaner neighborhoods.

Chan had \$350,000 in cash on hand 11 days before Election Day, with He having about \$375,000 left in his campaign account.

State Senate District 38

Rockland County

Incumbent: Bill Weber (R, C)

Challenger: Joseph Rand (D, WFP)

What you need to know:

Democrats are growing hopeful that voters will oust Republican Bill Weber on Election Day. With Republican momentum on his side in 2022, Weber flipped the Hudson Valley seat red, ousting then-state Sen. Elijah Reichlin-Melnick. But in what's expected to be a "blue wave" year, Democrats are working hard to elevate Nyack Mayor Joseph Rand. As of Oct. 23, Weber has just over \$200,000 cash on hand, but is only slightly ahead of Rand's roughly \$165,000.

State Senate District 39

Hudson Valley, including parts of Dutchess, Orange and Putnam counties

Incumbent: Rob Rolison (R, C)

Challenger: Lisa Kaul (D, WFP)

What you need to know:

Democrats have been eyeing this Hudson Valley seat ever since it was recreated in the last round of redistricting, and with national headwinds in their favor, they may finally flip it. Drawn with a more Democratic lean, Republican state Sen. Rob Rolison has still held the seat since redistricting in 2022. Rolison's reelection two years ago was tight, and Democrats are once again targeting the district as a prime pickup opportunity. This year, Dutchess County Legislator Lisa Kaul won the chance to take on Rolison after a competitive Democratic primary in June. She defeated two other candidates, including the pick of the state Working Families Party – though the progressive third party has since backed her candidacy and given her its ballot line. Kaul is a seasoned elected official with both organizing and government experience – and previously unseated a popular Republican.

Roughly 11 days before Election Day, Kaul had \$425,000 in the bank, giving her a significant edge over Rolison, who had \$79,000 left.

State Senate District 43

Rensselaer County and parts of Washington and Albany counties

Incumbent: Jake Ashby (R, C)

Challenger: Devin Lander (D, WFP)

What you need to know:

State Sen. Jake Ashby has represented Rensselaer County for more than eight years, including in the Rensselaer County Legislature and Assembly before his election to the state Senate in 2022. The incumbent is airing a multitude of local TV ads this year

because of Democrat Devin Lander. The state historian has his work cut out for him to unseat someone like Ashby, a retired U.S. Army Reserve captain who served multiple tours overseas. Lander is focusing on affordability, specifically improved access to healthcare and childcare, as well as investing in infrastructure. He's also running on expanding public transportation, green energy and sustainable agriculture. Ashby continues to blame Democrats for high utility bills and the fiscal impact of climate mandates the party has passed in the past decade. Though Ashby has held on to the seat since redistricting, despite it slightly favoring Democrats, in a possible "blue wave" year, it's possible for Lander to pull off an upset. But Ashby still has the advantage with about \$77,000 cash on hand as of Oct. 23, which was much more than Lander's \$46,000.

State Senate District 44

Saratoga County and parts of Schenectady County

Incumbent: Jim Tedisco (R, C, Vote Affordable)

Challenger: Sarah Rogerson (D, WFP)

What you need to know:

State Sen. Jim Tedisco has been a staple of Albany for over 40 years. Democratic challenger Sarah Rogerson is a professor at Albany Law School with expertise in immigration law and previously served a three-year stint on the Niskayuna Central School District Board of Education. She has campaigned on better healthcare and investments in housing to lower costs, and is an advocate against gun violence. And even though polls show Democrats nationally have an edge, Tedisco has a decadeslong record to lean on, from backing the state's first property tax cap bill, being a leading advocate for strengthening criminal penalties for animal cruelty and serving as the Assembly minority leader in the late 2000s. State Senate Democrats hope this is a seat they could flip in their efforts to restore the party's veto-proof supermajority that they lost in 2024. Tedisco was behind Rogerson in cash on hand on Oct. 23, with \$39,000 in his campaign account and his opponent had \$87,000.

Assembly District 4

Suffolk County, including Port Jefferson, Setauket and Stony Brook

Incumbent: Rebecca Kassay (D)

Challenger: Will Sussman (R, C)

What you need to know:

Assembly Member Rebecca Kassay's victory two years ago wasn't a shock. Though she narrowly unseated Flood to flip the seat back, she is in a stronger position this year as the incumbent. But still, Kassay must fend off her first Republican challenger to solidify her place in the Assembly. That challenge comes from Will Sussman, a 26-year-old activist focused on combating antisemitism. The Republican nominee had a little over \$32,000 in his campaign account 11 days before Election Day. But Kassay has a strong financial advantage with over \$98,000 in the bank.

Assembly District 11

Suffolk and Nassau counties

Incumbent: Kwani O'Pharrow (D)

Challenger: Joseph Cardinale (R, C)

What you need to know:

Assembly Member Kwani O'Pharrow, whom Democrats chose to run for the seat when Jean-Pierre stepped aside bested Republican Joseph Cardinale, a retired New York City lieutenant commander who he is facing again this year, by a better margin than his predecessor. Cardinale had \$76,000 in the bank on Oct. 23, which puts the Republican in a slightly better financial position than O'Pharrow, who had a little under \$55,000.

Assembly District 16

Nassau County, including Great Neck and Port Washington

Incumbent: Daniel Norber (R), who is not seeking reelection

Candidates: Kim Keiserman (D) and David Hassid (R, C)

What you need to know:

Two years ago, former teacher and local organizer Kim Keiserman tried her hand at running for state Senate, losing to now-retiring state Sen. Jack Martins. But rather than go for a rematch, Keiserman shifted focus to instead run against Assembly Member Daniel Norber. But like Martins, Norber decided against seeking reelection, similarly after a state court confirmed strict outside income limits would go into effect. She now faces David Hassid, a 2025 college graduate who had a short stint working in the Assembly last year.

Norber had managed to flip the seat back in 2024, defeating former Democratic Assembly Member Gina Sillitti, making the seat red for the first time in decades. With the seat now open, the chances it remains Republican seem less likely, especially with Keiserman's strong fundraising advantage. She had nearly \$119,000 on hand 11 days before the election, while Hassid had just \$9,500.

Assembly District 21

Nassau County, including Rockville Centre, Lynbrook and Baldwin

Incumbent: Judy Griffin (D)

Challenger: Irene Villacci (R, C)

What you need to know:

The past several elections for Assembly Member Judy Griffin have been tough – and many of her most recent matchups have been against the same person. She first flipped the district in 2018 to unseat former Assembly Member Brian Curran, but Curran took it back in 2022 and then she defeated him again in 2024. In a twist this year, she's facing a fresh Republican face in attorney Irene Villacci. The absence of Curran may be good news for Griffin, who entered the home stretch of the election with over \$220,000 on hand, compared to \$133,000 for Villacci.

Assembly District 23

Queens, including the Rockaways

Incumbent: Stacey Pheffer Amato (D), who is not seeking reelection

Candidates: Pesach Osina (D, Community First) and Thomas Sullivan (R, C, We The People)

What you need to know:

Retiring Assembly Member Stacey Pheffer Amato came close to losing her seat – which was once held by her mother – the past two cycles. This year, the veteran legislator decided she would call it quits, backing former New York City Council candidate Pesach Osina instead. This may be a prime opportunity for Republicans to win the seat now that it's open, with Thomas Sullivan surely hoping that the third time's the charm. He came close to defeating Pheffer Amato in the past two elections and finally has a nonincumbent to take on. Sullivan heads into the final 11 days of the election with about \$71,000, putting him behind Osina's \$127,000 campaign war chest.

Assembly District 45

Southern Brooklyn, including Midwood, Gravesend and Brighton Beach

Incumbent: Michael Novakhov (R, C)

Challenger: Joey Cohen-Saban (D, Fgt Antisemitism)

What you need to know:

Democratic District Leader Joey Cohen-Saban wants a rematch. It's been two years since Republican Assembly Member Michael Novakhov defeated him by a mere 270 votes. He contends that the Republican incumbent has failed to deliver results for the community, and that he has since gained valuable political experience that will help deliver him victory this time around. After his loss in 2024, Cohen-Saban became chief of staff to state Sen. Sam Sutton, who he'd helped get elected as his campaign manager.

Novakhov, a radio host who was born in Russia under Soviet Union rule, has represented the district since 2022, when he decisively defeated longtime Democratic incumbent Steven Cymbrowitz. His victory was a big deal for Republicans, flipping a seat that had been held by Democrats for decades. Looking to reflect voter sentiments in an area that's grown increasingly red, Novakhov is staunchly opposed to New York City Mayor Zohran Mamdani. In addition to running on the Republican and Conservative ballot lines, he attempted to run on an independent ballot line: "Stop Mamdani." Novakhov has \$216,000 in cash on hand heading into the final 11 days of the election, far ahead of Cohen-Saban's \$54,000.

Assembly District 46

Southern Brooklyn, including Bay Ridge, Coney Island and Sea Gate

Incumbent: Alec Brook-Krasny (R, C)

Challenger: Chris McCreight (D, WFP, Affordable & Safe)

What you need to know:

Chris McCreight, the former chief of staff to then-New York City Council Member Justin Brannan, is once again taking on Republican Assembly Member Alec Brook-Krasny after narrowly losing to him in 2024. McCreight is well-known to the community. In addition to representing the area as a district leader, he's a former small-business owner currently working as a senior adviser to Council Member Kayla Santosuosso, who succeeded Brannan in the legislative body.

As the incumbent, Brook-Krasny has a natural advantage. He flipped the district red in 2022 with his defeat of Democratic incumbent Mathylde Frontus, reclaiming a seat he had previously represented as a Democrat between 2007 and 2015. Brook-Krasny previously resigned from the Legislature amid controversy. (In 2017, he was indicted for bribery in a narcotics "pill mill" scheme, though he was acquitted of some of the charges a few years later.) Still, the district has been trending more Republican. McCreight, a district leader aligned with the reformist coalition seeking to take control of the Brooklyn Democratic Party, has argued he's capable of flipping back to blue. Brook-Krasny has \$131,000 in cash on hand, as of Oct. 23, which is slightly ahead of McCreight's \$100,000.

Assembly District 97

Rockland County, including Tappan, Pearl River and Monsey

Incumbent: Aron Wieder (D)

Challengers: Rob Bonomolo (R) and Abraham Klein (C)

What you need to know:

Whoever wins this Rockland County seat will overcome the district's political tug-of-war, with a rare third-party candidate in the mix. Incumbent Aron Wieder, a former Rockland County legislator, is keeping his focus on property tax relief, childcare vouchers and more state grants for local transportation. Republican Rob Bonomolo and Conservative Party candidate Abraham Klein are each running to oust Wieder, but could end up dooming each other by splitting the vote. Bonomolo, a local construction union president, is using his labor background to appeal to working families. Klein's platform is lackluster, with few detailed proposals about affordability, public safety or education. Wieder still has the advantage of incumbency and has \$126,000 cash on hand – far ahead of Bonomolo at \$38,000.

Assembly District 107

Parts of Columbia, Rensselaer, Washington and Albany counties

Incumbent: Scott Bendett (R, C)

Challenger: Chloe Pierce (D, WFP)

What you need to know:

Assembly Member Scott Bendett is facing a competitive rematch of two years ago. Bendett, a business owner, has to again try to fend off Democrat Chloe Pierce – an advocate at lobbying firm Malkin & Ross. Pierce came within shouting distance of flipping the seat in 2024, even though the district has a few more Democrats than

Republicans. But there's enough unaffiliated voters to make this a swing district. Bendett wants to cut taxes, government costs and regulations while Pierce has focused on investing in local services and holding utilities accountable to lower expenses. Pierce has an impressive \$149,000 cash on hand – roughly three times Bendett's \$49,000, per the Oct. 23 filing.

Assembly District 113

Parts of Saratoga, Washington and Warren counties, including Saratoga Springs

Incumbent: Carrie Woerner (D)

Challengers: Allen Caruso (R, C, Vote Affordable) and Thomas Kenny (WFP, No Kings)

What you need to know:

A longtime incumbent like Assembly Member Carrie Woerner should be cruising to reelection in a midterm year favoring Democrats. But she is at risk of losing her bid for a seventh term. Republican Allen Caruso blames the Democratic-controlled Legislature for the state's expensive energy costs and taxes. Caruso owns and operates the Thorn + Root restaurant franchise and works in real estate, and has recently come under fire for reporting on his past legal troubles, including 15 lawsuits involving his business, evictions and over a dozen delinquent traffic tickets.

And an unusual third candidate, Thomas Kenny, has made the race more complicated. His hijacking of the Working Families Party ballot line sparked a legal dispute after he recently changed his enrollment from the Conservative Party to the progressive group, which disavowed his candidacy.

Woerner still has a financial advantage in the final 11 days of the election, with \$69,000 cash on hand to Caruso's \$6,900.

Assembly District 119

Central New York, including Utica and Rome

Incumbent: Marianne Buttenschon (D), who is not seeking reelection

Candidates: Jon Lipe (D, WFP, Mohawk Valley 1st) and Michael Gentile (R, C)

What you need to know:

This open seat contest will decide who replaces Assembly Member Marianne Buttenschon, who's leaving the office she's held since being elected in 2018. Democrat Jon Lipe is a congressional staffer who has worked for both Republicans and Democrats, including then-Rep. Anthony Brindisi (who held this Assembly seat before Buttenschon) and Rep. John Mannion. Republican Michael Gentile is largely campaigning on changing the state's priorities, like mandates in the 2019 Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act and prioritizing well-paying jobs and local infrastructure to ease cost-of-living concerns. Lipe has \$17,000 cash on hand to Gentile's \$4,400, as of Oct. 23.

Assembly District 143

Western New York, including Cheektowaga, Depew and Lancaster

Incumbent: Patrick Chludzinski (R, C)

Challenger: Ryan Taughrin (D, WFP)

What you need to know:

This Western New York seat has been a competitive district in the past three cycles, with narrow wins by each party. Democrat Monica Wallace flipped the seat in 2016 and barely held on until Patrick Chludzinski flipped it red in 2024. Chludzinski, a U.S. Army veteran who served 25 years in local law enforcement, is hoping to keep his place in Albany by criticizing Democrats who control the Legislature for their criminal justice policies and passing ambitious climate mandates he argues have raised prices. Ryan Taughrin, an educator and union member, supports universal healthcare, childcare, more protections for renters and regulations on license plate readers. Chludzinski has about \$39,000 in cash on hand in the final 11 days of the election, while Taughrin still has over \$93,000.

To read the full City & State articles please click [here](#) and [here](#).

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

Preparing For Federal Medicaid Changes

The federal H.R.1 law makes big changes that go beyond just updating policies — it creates real challenges for the health care system that millions of New Yorkers depend on. To help protect as many New Yorkers as possible from losing their health coverage, New York State is working with community partners to share information about what is changing and what people need to do. Here are key resources you can use to stay informed.

“Changes to Medicaid Coverage” Web Page:

<https://info.nystateofhealth.ny.gov/stay-covered>

This is the primary webpage for consumer-focused information about the changes. The page is updated regularly and includes a timeline of key changes due to H.R.1, steps Medicaid enrollees can take to prepare, and frequently asked questions. This page also includes a short interactive questionnaire to help New Yorkers learn if the new work requirements for Medicaid coverage will apply to them.

Implementing H.R.1 Communications Tool Kit:

<https://info.nystateofhealth.ny.gov/HR1-Tool-Kit>

This tool kit is designed to keep partners and stakeholders informed with the latest information, empowering them to help inform New Yorkers about the changes that are coming.

The tool kit currently includes:

- Educational materials in 27 languages, including fact sheets, flyers, and posters
- Videos and pre-written posts to share on social media accounts
- Co-branding guidelines for partners who would like to develop their own materials and co-brand them with New York's Stay Covered campaign
- Frequently Asked Questions for partners to provide information about what is changing and how they can help
- Quick Guide for Partners on the Stay Covered campaign
- Messages by month for work requirements for Medicaid coverage
- Demographic ZIP Code Report of NY State of Health H.R.1 Impacted Medicaid Enrollees
- Videos and presentation slides from about meetings where leaders from NY State of Health and the NYS Medicaid program shared updates with community organizations, health plans, and other health partners

Additionally, the ToolKit contains the recordings and slides from our H.R.1 Roundtable Series hosted by United Hospital Fund. The series serves as an opportunity for continuous quality improvement, fostering dialogue among government officials, consumer advocates, funders, health plans, and provider representatives.

<https://info.nystateofhealth.ny.gov/news/uhf-roundtable-discussion-hr1-convening-3>

You can stay informed with the latest news and updates on the implementation of federal Medicaid changes by [subscribing to NY State of Health's monthly e-newsletter](#).

Governor Hochul Protects New York's Free School Meals From Cuts To Food Assistance

This week Governor Hochul announced that New York State will continue to fully fund its universal free school meals program despite President Trump's nationwide cuts to federal food assistance programs. By ensuring New York's program remains fully funded, Governor Hochul is protecting approximately 2.5 million free school meals per school day for kids across the state – and helping their families save up to \$1,600 per child per year on groceries.

This past week, new reports revealed other states across the nation are now facing declines in free school meal participation due to the impacts of federal cuts and changes to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) that are leading to Americans, including families with children, losing SNAP as a result of the Republican-led HR 1 bill that was passed last year and enacted by President Trump. However, those troubling impacts will not prevent New York schools from accessing the funds needed to continue providing free school meals.

“It’s shameful that President Trump and Washington Republicans are trying to take free school meals away from our kids – and that’s why I took action to ensure kids across New York won’t lose access to the free school meals they rely on,” Governor Hochul said. “While Trump keeps finding new ways to raise costs for hardworking families, I’ll never stop fighting to protect our kids and help New Yorkers keep more money in their pockets.”

New York’s universal free school meals program was enacted by Governor Hochul last year and ensures that 2.7 million students across the state have access to free school breakfast and lunch. That law requires all school districts, charter schools and nonpublic schools that participate in the national school lunch and breakfast program to provide free breakfast and lunch meals to all students regardless of their families’ income.

This year, a \$395 million statewide investment in universal free school meals was part of New York State’s FY27 Enacted Budget – representing an increase of \$55 million above the previous fiscal year. Due to this increased State funding and Governor Hochul’s commitment to continue fully funding the program, the federal government’s cuts to food assistance will not result in any New York schools receiving less funding for free meals – ensuring that no New York student would lose access.

With approximately 2.5 million free meals served per school day, State officials estimate that schools across New York have already served approximately 75 million free school meals since the current school year started in September. Free school meals are estimated to help families save up to \$1,600 per child per year on grocery costs.

Children whose households participate in SNAP and Medicaid are directly certified for free school meals. Those who are not enrolled in SNAP or Medicaid can still apply for the program. For more information on eligibility and how to apply for the program, families are encouraged to visit <https://www.cn.nysed.gov>.

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

NYS Local Sales Tax Collections Up

Local government sales tax collections totaled \$19.6 billion from January to September 2026, an increase of 7.6% (\$1.4 billion) compared to the same period last year, according to [the quarterly sales tax report released](#) by State Comptroller DiNapoli.

The year-over-year growth in collections was stronger than the same period in 2025 (4.3%) and more than four times higher than the increase in 2024 (1.7%).

“All regions of the state had year-over-year sales tax collection increases,” DiNapoli said. “But higher costs are forcing many families to stretch their household budgets, which

could in turn reduce consumer spending. Given this risk, local governments should temper their expectations for sales tax revenue growth.”

Findings from DiNapoli’s report on sales tax collections from January to September 2026 include:

- Each of the 10 regions in the state had a year-over-year increase in collections, with increases ranging from a low of 5.6% (North Country) to high of 8.5% (New York City). The Central New York region had the next highest increase at 8.2%.
- Year over year, New York City’s sales tax collections totaled \$8.8 billion, an increase of 8.5% (\$693 million), while aggregate collections for the counties and cities in the rest of the state grew by 6.7% (\$597 million) and other local sales tax collections increased 7.9% (\$93 million).
- All but one county outside of New York City experienced increases in collections, with eight counties seeing double-digit growth.
- Wayne County saw the highest growth at 16.3%, followed by the counties of Montgomery (15.3%), Seneca (13.4%), Genesee (11.8%) and Wyoming (11.2%).
- Sullivan County was the only county to see a year-over-year decrease in collections at -1.9%, and St. Lawrence County had almost no growth (0.3%).
- Sixteen of the 18 cities outside of New York City that impose their own sales tax experienced growth in collections. Ogdensburg had the largest increase at 28.6%, followed by Oneida (20.6%), Johnstown (19%) and Oswego (14.1%). The two cities that had decreases in collections were Gloversville and Salamanca at -3.4% and -1.8%, respectively.

Report

[Local Sales Tax Collections from January to September 2026](#)

Data

[Regional Table with Detailed Sales Tax Collections by County and City](#)

New York State Department of Health Announces Open Enrollment for 2027

Coverage

This week The New York State Department of Health announced the start of Open Enrollment for 2027 health insurance coverage through NY State of Health, the state's official Health Plan Marketplace. **Open Enrollment for 2027 Qualified Health Plans runs from November 1, 2026, through January 31, 2027.** Consumers are encouraged to enroll by December 15, 2026, for coverage beginning January 1, 2027.

Over 800,000 New Yorkers are up for renewal this Open Enrollment Season across all programs in NY State of Health. The Marketplace will also launch its new "New Yorkers for New Yorkers" outreach campaign highlighting the local support available through NY State of Health, noting that NY State of Health provides "real help from real New Yorkers for real benefits."

"Every New Yorker deserves access to quality, affordable health coverage and the peace of mind that comes with knowing help is available," State Health Commissioner Dr. James McDonald said. As open enrollment begins, we encourage everyone to explore their options and take advantage of the free, trusted assistance available to find coverage that meets their needs."

The "New Yorkers for New Yorkers" outreach campaign will point New Yorkers to a statewide network of more than 9,000 enrollment assistors. Free, personalized assistance is available in every county for consumers who want help shopping for low-cost, quality health insurance. Assistors help consumers determine their program eligibility, compare coverage options, and enroll in a health plan. Assistance is available in multiple languages, with appointments offered at community locations throughout the state.

Helping New Yorkers Navigate Federal Coverage Changes

NY State of Health remains committed to helping New Yorkers navigate changes to their health insurance resulting from H.R.1, a sweeping federal budget reconciliation bill signed into law by President Trump on July 4, 2025. Two things New Yorkers can do today in preparation for changes coming next year are:

- Make sure their contact information is up to date; and
- Consent to allow NY State of Health to use trusted, secure data sources to confirm their eligibility so New York State of Health can attempt to automatically keep them enrolled.

Already, the federal H.R.1 legislation eliminated Essential Plan eligibility for approximately 450,000 New Yorkers with incomes above 200 percent and up to 250 percent of the federal poverty level. These changes took effect in July 2026.

NY State of Health was able to renew approximately 60% of these impacted New Yorkers into alternate coverage options, and this Open Enrollment period provides another opportunity for those who lost Essential Plan coverage to return to the Marketplace and select a new plan that meets their needs.

Coverage Options Through NY State of Health

NY State of Health offers a range of health insurance programs, including Medicaid, the Essential Plan, Child Health Plus, and Qualified Health Plans. Eligible consumers enrolling in Qualified Health Plans may qualify for financial assistance through premium tax credits to reduce their monthly premiums.

Qualified Health Plans

Open Enrollment provides an opportunity for new consumers to enroll and existing enrollees to renew their coverage, update their information and compare plan options for 2027. Consumers should consider monthly premiums, out-of-pocket costs, participating providers, and prescription drug coverage when selecting a plan.

All Qualified Health Plans cover essential health benefits, including doctor visits, hospital care, prescription drugs, and mental health services. Plans cover pre-existing conditions and provide certain preventive services without cost sharing when received from in-network providers.

Eleven health insurers are offering Qualified Health Plans in 2027, down from 12 in 2026. Oscar Health is no longer participating in the Marketplace, impacting 4,800 consumers who will need to select a new plan for 2027.

Information about 2027 plans and enrollment resources is available at info.nystateofhealth.ny.gov/2027plans.

Essential Plan, Medicaid, and Child Health Plus

Enrollment in the Essential Plan, Medicaid, and Child Health Plus is available year-round for eligible New Yorkers. These programs provide comprehensive coverage, with premiums and low or no out-of-pocket costs varying by program. Consumers do not need to wait for the annual Open Enrollment Period to apply.

Small Business Marketplace

Eligible small employers may qualify for the federal Small Business Health Care Tax Credit when purchasing Small Business Marketplace-certified coverage and meeting applicable requirements. Employers can learn more and complete an eligibility application at nystateofhealth.ny.gov/employer.

Real Help from Real New Yorkers

Certified enrollment assistors are available throughout the state. Consumers can find free, personalized help from an assistor or certified broker in their area using the [Find Local Help directory](#).

Consumers can also compare coverage options, apply or renew their coverage by visiting nystateofhealth.ny.gov or calling the Customer Service Center at 1-855-355-5777 (TTY: 1-800-662-1220).

Consumers should keep their mailing address, phone number, and email address current and carefully review notices from NY State of Health, so they understand any changes affecting their coverage.

To view the full press release 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/>