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RMS End of Week Update 11/13/2026



<u>Background on Newly-Elected Members of the New York State Legislature</u>

Following the 2026 elections, while two contested races have yet to be called, at this time Democrats have won at least 47 of the 63 seats in the State Senate and 111 of the 150 seats in the Assembly. These historic supermajorities in both chambers of the State

Legislature give Democrats the votes needed to override gubernatorial vetoes and strengthen their negotiating position during the upcoming state budget process. The remaining uncalled races include one in the Capital Region for the 43rd Senate District, currently represented by Sen. Jake Ashby, and the other in Central NY for the 126th Assembly District, currently represented by AM John Lemondes, as affidavit and mail-in ballots continue to be processed.

New members include both progressive voices and more moderate Democrats elected in traditionally Republican districts, creating opportunities for broader perspectives in policymaking. **Attached and linked here is a guide to all the newly elected legislators across the State, grouped by region**.

New York State Budget Update

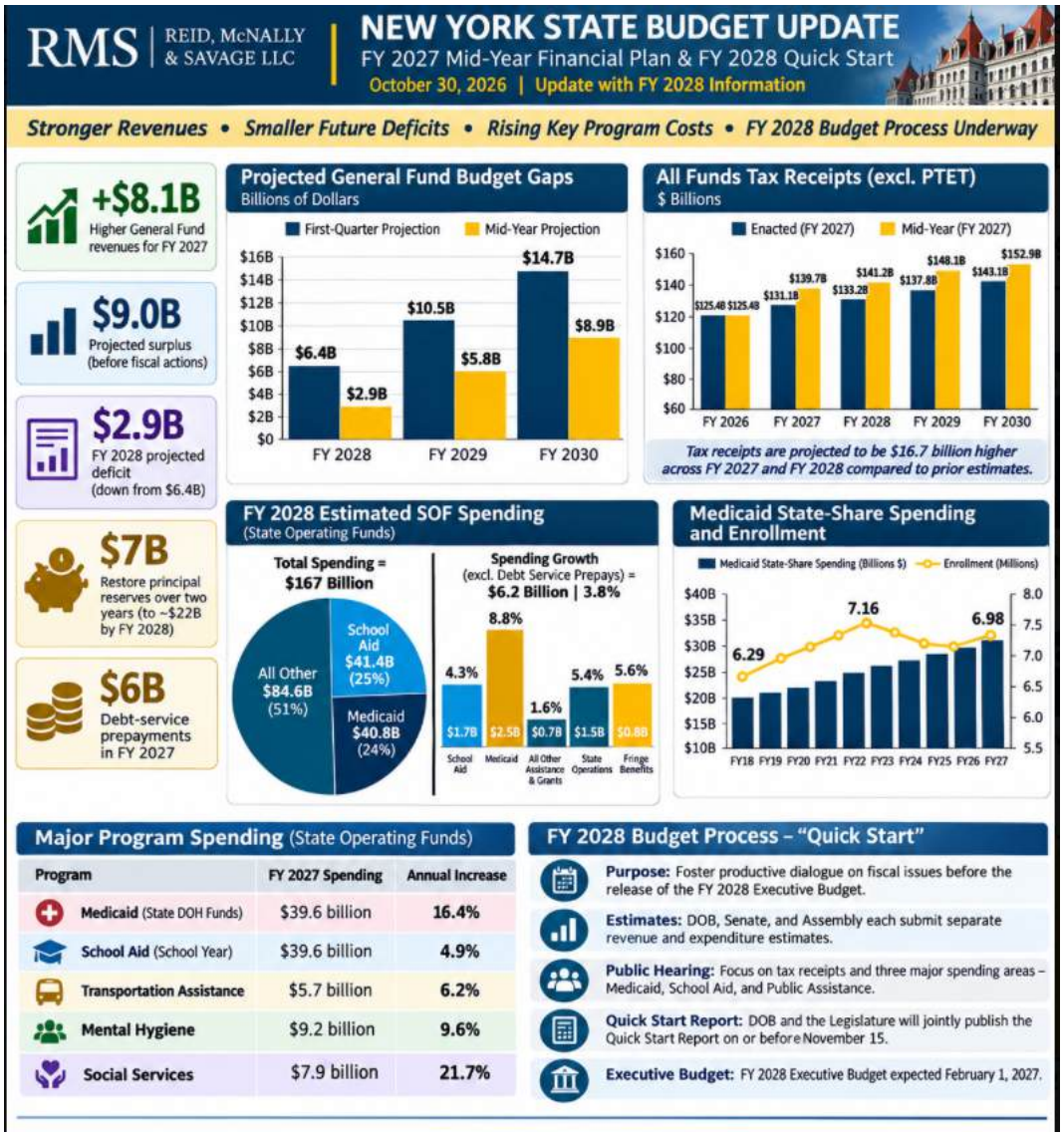
New York State is entering the FY 2028 budget process in a significantly stronger financial position that previously forecasted. The State's Mid-Year Financial Plan projects $8.1 billion in additional General Fund revenues for FY 2027, driven largely by strong tax collections and financial-sector performance. The improved revenue outlook has substantially reduced projected budget deficits. The FY 2028 General Fund gap has declined from $6.4 billion to $2.9 billion, while projected deficits for FY 2029 and FY 2030 have fallen to $5.8 billion and $8.9 billion, respectively.

The Hochul Administration plans to use additional resources to strengthen reserves and reduce debt obligations, including $7 billion in reserve restoration over two years and $6 billion in debt-service prepayments.

Despite stronger revenues, significant spending pressures remain. State Operating Funds spending is projected to reach approximately $167 billion in FY 2028, with Medicaid spending increasing 8.8% and school aid increasing 4.3%.

The FY 2028 budget process is now underway, the FY28 Quick Start meeting took place November 9. The NYS Division of Budget, Senate Finance, Assembly Ways & Means, and the NYS Comptroller's Office met to discuss revenue and disbursement estimates for FY28. The NYS Department of Budget will publish their full findings report on November 15th . **To view the slides from the meeting please click here.**

RMS Perspective: The improved fiscal outlook creates a more favorable environment for organizations seeking State funding and policy initiatives. However, rising program costs and the Administration's emphasis on fiscal restraint suggest that competition for additional resources will remain significant during the 2027 Legislative Session.



1115 MRT Waiver Extension Application Updates

The New York State Department of Health formally submitted the five-year 1115 MRT waiver extension request to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) on September 30, 2026.

CMS completed their preliminary review and determined the State's application was complete on October 9, 2026 (https://health.ny.gov/health_care/medicaid/redesign/1115_waiver/docs/2026-10-09_completeness_ltr.pdf).

The application has been posted for a 30-day federal public comment period, which will close on November 14, 2026. The final application and information for the federal public comment period can be found here: https://1115publiccomments.medicaid.gov/jfe/form/SV_4UEy7aOHI4wBWsu.

Commission on Ethics and Lobbying in Government Ethics Training For Lobbyists And Clients Update

The 2026/27 Fiscal Year Budget (Part U of Chapter 55 of the Laws of 2026) amended the ethics training requirement for lobbyists and clients. The statutory amendments:

- Authorized the imposition of late fees of up to $25 per day for late completion of the online ethics training course provided by the Commission on Ethics and Lobbying in Government; and
- Effective January 1, 2027, changed the required training frequency from at least once every 3 years to at least once every Biennial Period and every 2 years.

Beginning January 1, 2027, any lobbyist or client listed on an active Registration who is overdue or fails to timely complete their ethics training may be subject to late fees assessed by the Commission.

Any such lobbyist or client who, because of the change in required training frequency from every 3 years to 2 years, will automatically be late on January 1, 2027, or due in January 2027, must complete their training by February 1, 2027. This applies to any lobbyist or client who:

- previously took the training between January 1, 2024, and January 31, 2025; and
- is still on an active Statement of Registration.

The Commission has published a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking which creates a new section 943.16 in its comprehensive lobbying regulations to reflect and further effectuate the above statutory amendments. The proposed regulation can be found on the Commission's website. The public comment period for this rulemaking ends on December 14, 2026.

To view the RMS Summary of New York State Proposed Changes to Mandatory Ethics Training for Lobbyists and Clients please click here.

Helpful Links and Resources

NYS Assembly FY28 QuickStart
NYS Senate FY28 QuickStart
FY 2027 Enacted Budget Financial Plan
NYS Congressional Results
NYS Senate Results
NYS Assembly Results
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/