



NEW YORK STATE SENATOR

Thomas F. O'Mara

Senator O'Mara's weekly column 'From the Capitol' -- for the week of January 20, 2025 -- 'NYS government can't have it both ways'

THOMAS F. O'MARA January 21, 2025

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Senator O'Mara offers his weekly perspective on many of the key challenges and issues facing the Legislature.

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Senator O'Mara offers his weekly perspective on many of the key challenges and issues facing the Legislature, as well as on legislative actions, local initiatives, state programs and policies, and more. Stop back every Monday for Senator O'Mara's latest column...

This week, "NYS government can't have it both ways"

Weekly Column from

Tom O'Mara
N.Y.S. SENATOR

for the week of January 20, 2025 **“NYS government can’t have it both ways”**

“We believe every family deserves to keep their hard-earned money in their pockets in a state they can truly be proud to call home,” Governor Hochul said in her recent State of the State message to New Yorkers, adding that it’s her goal “to make New York safer, healthier, cleaner, more affordable for you and your family — and that is what we’re doing with the initiatives announced as part of my 2025 State of the State.”

The trouble is that New York State doesn’t allow families to keep their hard-earned money in their pockets – and that’s been the case for quite some time now.

Over the past several years hundreds of thousands of proud New Yorkers have fled to more affordable, lower taxed states in search of greater opportunities and freedoms. While they love New York, they've made it clear that they feel the state is headed in the wrong direction largely because of policies coming out of Albany under all-██████████, one-party majority control. New York is not safer. New York is certainly not more affordable. Far from it.

So how does Governor Hochul propose to change course? There’s no question that she put forth an ambitious agenda on paper. And there’s no question that it doesn’t add up. Despite the overriding emphasis on addressing New York’s affordability crisis, she opened the door wide for the state’s ██████████-led Legislature to join her, once again, in prioritizing long-term commitments to higher state spending and ongoing state mandates that will be unaffordable and unsustainable for current and future taxpayers.

She’s talking a good game about finally beginning to provide badly needed tax relief for many New Yorkers. But the governor can’t promise permanent, long-term tax relief at the same time she’s looking to continue spending taxpayer dollars and imposing mandates like there’s no tomorrow. You can’t have it both ways. Eventually the well runs dry and taxpayers are left paying for it. That’s the way it is now in New York State. That’s the way it will go on being under the current direction of this state government.

New York State has not been stronger, safer, saner, or more affordable throughout this era

