



NEW YORK STATE SENATOR

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O'Mara, Senate colleagues call for 'a more affordable New York'

THOMAS F. O'MARA March 19, 2025

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It doesn't respond to the issues of affordability for everyday New York families, taxpayers, and workers. It won't stop the exodus of New York taxpayers and employers to other states, and it risks further devastating already hard-hit state and local economies.

News Release

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O'MARA, SENATE COLLEAGUES CALL FOR 'A MORE AFFORDABLE NEW YORK'

Albany, N.Y., March 19--In response to what they see as fiscally irresponsible state budget proposals being advanced by Governor Kathy Hochul and the Legislature's [REDACTED] majorities that continue uncontrolled state spending, State Senator Tom O'Mara (R,C-Big Flats) today joined his Senate [REDACTED] Minority colleagues to highlight the conference's commitment to taking actions to create "a more affordable New York."

The Senate [REDACTED] Minority highlighted affordability initiatives today that are part of the conference's larger "Liberate New York" agenda that Republicans put forth at the beginning of this year's legislative session.

O'Mara said, "Albany [REDACTED] majorities readily acknowledge the affordability crisis causing the exodus of citizens to more affordable states, yet the [REDACTED] majorities can't give up increasing handouts to their base. They have no interest in reining in out-of-control spending, eliminating taxes, lowering costs, cutting burdensome regulations and mandates, or restoring public safety. We need to liberate New York by restoring the right priorities, rebuilding stronger and safer communities, and working toward a more responsible and sustainable future for middle-class communities, families, workers, businesses, industries, and taxpayers."

O'Mara, Ranking Member on the Senate Finance Committee, noted that Senate [REDACTED] majority is calling for spending far beyond the approximately \$252-billion plan proposed by Governor Kathy Hochul in her 2025-2026 Executive Budget, which is already nearly \$9 billion higher than New York's current spending. According to the Senate GOP finance staff, the Senate [REDACTED] majority budget has proposed an approximately \$259-billion state budget this year or at least \$7 billion higher than Hochul's proposed budget and more than \$15 billion higher than current spending. If enacted, it would mark the highest ever state budget. According to O'Mara, the Senate [REDACTED] majority also project that their proposed spending plan, if enacted, would lead to a string of state budget deficits over the next three fiscal years totaling \$6.5 billion in 2027, \$9.8 billion in 2028, and \$11 billion in 2029.

O'Mara and the Senate [REDACTED] Minority Conference again warned that Hochul and the Legislature's [REDACTED] majorities are focusing on tax hikes and unrestrained spending instead of providing broad-based tax relief to spark job creation and economic growth, restraining state

spending, tackling unfunded state mandates on localities to ease the burden on local property taxpayers, and reducing New York's long-term debt load.

The Senate [REDACTED] Minority highlighted several pieces of legislation conference members have introduced as part of their affordability agenda, including legislation sponsored by O'Mara (S1487) to provide a \$464 million tax cut to support small businesses and farmers. Additional legislation includes:

- S.587 to exempt state taxes from cash tips;
- S.850 to establish the First-time Homebuyer Tax Credit Act;
- S.1031 to direct the Public Service Commission and the state comptroller to determine the cost of the Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act mandates for each ratepayer and to establish a credit for ratepayers and businesses to cover those costs;
- S.3914 to exempt state taxes from overtime compensation;
- S.4487 to supplement the state's existing child tax credit by providing a \$1,000 "baby bonus" refundable tax credit for all parents of newborns; and
- S.4801 to enact the 'Affordable New York Act,' which is designed to lower the tax burden on individuals in New York State. Specifically, this legislation doubles the current School Tax Relief (STAR) exemption and lowers the income tax rate on middle-income taxpayers by 2%.

The Senate [REDACTED] Minority continued to strongly criticize the Albany [REDACTED] majority's focus on out-of-control spending.

O'Mara said, "Is it affordable and is it sustainable for the citizens of New York State to continue down this road of spending? The Senate [REDACTED] Minority has repeatedly warned that Governor Hochul's out-of-control state spending plan would only skyrocket once the Legislature's [REDACTED] majorities, the biggest spenders in state history, got their hands on it. That's exactly where we're headed. It remains irresponsible, unaffordable, unsustainable fiscal insanity. It doesn't respond to the issues of affordability for everyday New York families, taxpayers, and workers. It won't stop the exodus of New York taxpayers and employers to other states, and it risks further devastating already hard-hit state and local economies."