



NEW YORK STATE SENATOR

Anna M. Kaplan

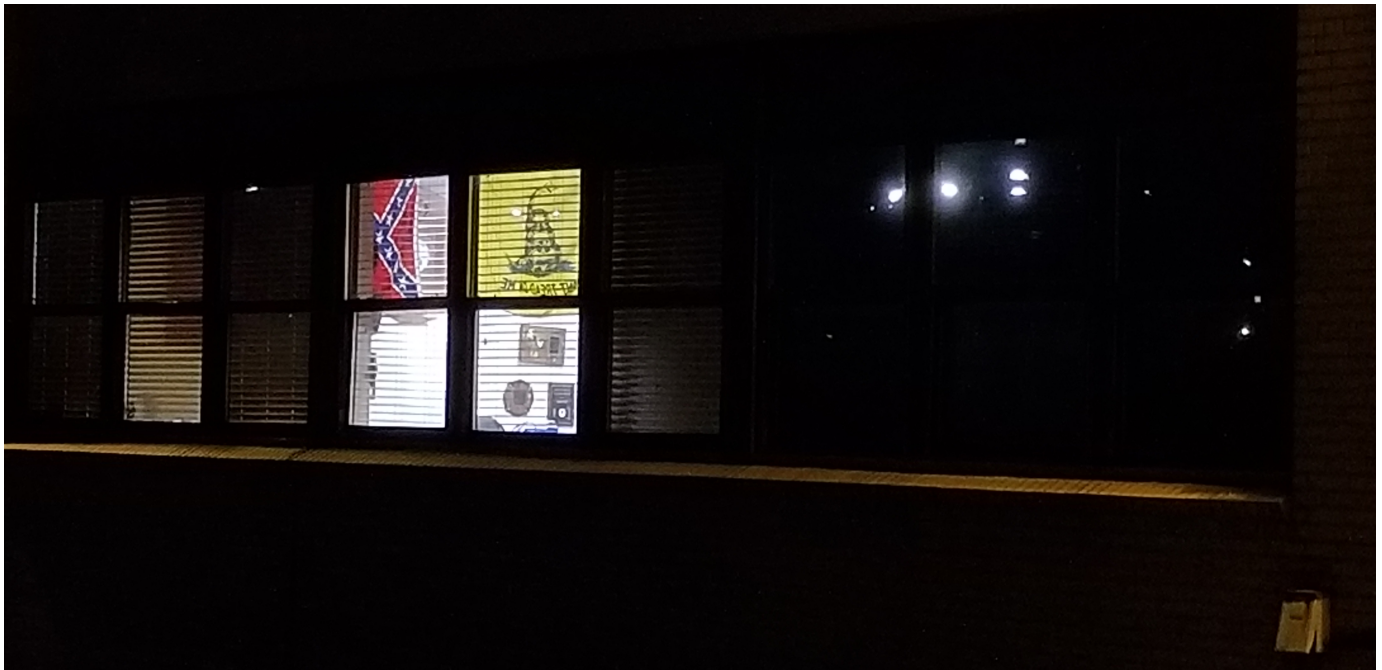
Hate Symbols on Public Property Banned in New York State

SENATOR ANNA M. KAPLAN November 2, 2021

| ISSUE: **COMBATING HATE SPEECH, PROTECTING TAXPAYERS, WHITE SUPREMACY, COMBATING ANTI-SEMITISM, HATE CRIMES**



Legislation was introduced following incidents on Long Island where Confederate Flags were displayed on Fire Trucks and on Public Property



CARLE PLACE, NY (November 2, 2021) - Today, **Governor Kathy Hochul** signed legislation sponsored by **State Senator Anna M. Kaplan** (D-North Hills) and **Assemblymember Michaele Solages** (D-Elmont), [S.4615A/A.5402A](#), that will ensure symbols of hate are prohibited from being displayed on public property and taxpayer funded equipment throughout the state of New York. The legislation comes following a [widely reported incident last year](#) involving the display of a confederate flag on a fire truck in a parade in Suffolk County, and following the revelation of a confederate flag being displayed in a window at a fire department in Nassau County.

"The recent and disgusting rise in racist, homophobic, and hateful behavior will never be tolerated in New York," **Governor Hochul** said. "Symbols of hate have no use other than to spread ignorance and incite violence. As New Yorkers, we must remain united and actively fight to eradicate these attitudes, and this legislation bolsters those efforts. There is no reason for a symbol of hate to ever be on display, let alone by a police or fire department charged with protecting their community. With this law now signed, we aren't only doing

away with this deplorable behavior, but also ensuring that every New Yorker, no matter their background or identity, feels welcome in their community.

"With hate on the rise around the world and in our own community, it's more urgent than ever that we take action to eradicate it wherever we find it. You would think it was common sense that taxpayer-owned property couldn't be used as a platform for hate, but shockingly there was no law on the books saying so--until now" said **bill sponsor Senator Anna M. Kaplan**.

"Public property belongs to all of us, and this measure is critical to ensure that our public property isn't being used to promote hatred. I'm grateful to Governor Kathy Hochul for signing this measure into law and for her leadership to ensure that hate has no place in our State. I'm also thankful for my partnership with Assemblymember Michaelle Solages on this measure and others to our community safe from hatred."

"In this time of high polarization, publicly owned entities must maintain their neutrality and ensure their workplaces are apolitical settings for municipal workers and taxpayers alike," stated **bill sponsor Assemblymember Michaelle C. Solages**. "Our state is home to one of the most diverse populations in the world, and no New Yorker should have to interface with symbols of hate when engaging with their local governmental agencies. I am proud to work together with Senator Anna Kaplan on this good-government measure, and I am grateful to Governor Hochul for signing our bill into law."

The legislation, [S.4615A/A.5402A](#), will

- **Prohibit the selling or displaying of symbols of hate on public property:** Expanding on legislation enacted last year ([S.8298B](#)), the bill will prohibit municipal corporations, towns, cities, villages, fire districts, volunteer fire companies, or police departments from selling or displaying symbols of hate, except when the display is for educational or historical purposes.

The new law takes effect immediately.

RELATED LEGISLATION

2021-S4615A

[hate crimes](#), [Combating Hate Speech](#), [white supremacy](#), [Combating anti-Semitism](#), [protecting taxpayers](#)

- Introduced

- - In Committee Assembly
 - In Committee Senate

- - On Floor Calendar Assembly
 - On Floor Calendar Senate

- - Passed Assembly
 - Passed Senate

- Delivered to Governor

- Signed By Governor

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[Prohibits the selling or displaying of symbols of hate by municipalities, fire districts, volunteer fire companies, police departments and school districts](#)

February 08, 2021

Signed by Governor

Sponsored by **Anna M. Kaplan**

Do you support this bill?