



March 6, 2025

Hon. Andrea Stewart-Cousins
Temporary President & Majority Leader
New York State Senate
Capitol, Room 332
Albany, New York 12247

Re: FY 2026 NEW YORK STATE BUDGET

Dear Leader Stewart-Cousins:

As budget negotiations kick into high gear, the Senate Republican Conference would like to propose the following budget proposals. The proposals are a commitment to responsible stewardship of tax dollars, jump-starting our slow economic recovery and restoring common sense to our criminal justice system. We believe a state budget that follows the tenets of this agenda will improve and strengthen our State and make the State more affordable and safer for everyday New Yorkers. A greater New York where New Yorkers have the opportunity to build a better and brighter life for themselves and their families.

The following proposals provide an outline of possibilities that are priorities of the Senate Republican Conference for the FY 26 budget:

Affordability

Helping New York Families Grow and Thrive by:

- Providing New Yorkers with a \$5,000 state-level flexible savings account for dependent care.

- Supplementing the State’s existing child tax credit by providing a \$1,000 “baby bonus” refundable tax credit for all parents of newborns.
- Creating a tax credit to incentivize employer-provided or sponsored childcare options.
- Enacting 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%.

Providing Tax Relief for Residents and Small Businesses by:

- Providing \$2.2 billion in direct relief to taxpayers by making the Property Tax Rebate program permanent and returning billions of dollars to hardworking individuals and families.
- Providing a \$464 million tax cut to support small businesses by raising the corporate tax threshold from \$390,000 to \$500,000 and lowering the rate to 2.5%; expanding the small business exemption to all PIT businesses, regardless of whether they have employees and increasing the threshold to \$500,000, raising the exemption to 15%, and setting the exemption at 20% for farmers.
- Providing tax parity for all manufacturers.
- Protecting businesses from unemployment insurance (UI) tax increases.
- Repealing Congestion Pricing and auditing the MTA.
- Eliminating state income taxes on cash tips and overtime pay.

Ensuring a Reliable and Affordable Supply of Energy for New Yorkers by:

- Delaying implementation of the Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act by at least ten years, at which time the State will reevaluate the feasibility of the act’s emission mandates.
- Preventing the State from closing any power generation facility before new facilities come online to ensure a reliable energy grid.
- Studying the feasibility of bringing Indian Point back online.
- Expanding investment in alternative energy options.
- Repealing the electric vehicle/truck mandate.
- Repealing Cap and Invest.
- Repealing the All-Electric Buildings Act.
- Repealing the Zero-Emission School Bus Mandate.

Cutting Housing Costs, Revitalizing our Housing Stock, and Increasing Housing Supply by:

- Giving first-time homebuyers a tax credit for local property taxes.
- Giving homebuyers who rehabilitate dilapidated properties an exemption from property tax reassessment.
- Increasing the supply of housing by working with local communities to develop the best practices for new development.
- Expanding the 421-A program to create more affordable housing in New York City.
- Means testing rent-controlled apartments to ensure that people who need affordable housing are occupying them.

- Streamlining the environmental review process to make it easier to build more homes.

Protecting Our New York Farmers and Keep Agriculture in Our State by:

- Rolling back the harmful decision by the Farm Laborers Wage Board to lower farm workers' overtime threshold to 40 hours.
- Making the Farm Workforce Retention Credit permanent, including workers' housing costs in eligibility, and creating a refundable investment tax credit for agriculture.
- Providing a tax credit for the creation of worker housing.

Responsibly Invest in Sustainable Infrastructure by:

- Supporting investment in local roads and bridges by increasing Consolidated Local Street and Highway Improvement Program (CHIPS) base aid, Winter Recovery and PAVE NY.
- Requiring funding parity between upstate and downstate infrastructure funding by putting NYSDOT and MTA capital programs on equal footing.
- Providing funding opportunities for municipal wastewater and water treatment facilities.

Keeping Budgets in Check and Stop Egregious Government Spending Increases by:

- Reinstating the Two Percent Spending Cap.
- Providing additional AIM funding for municipalities.

Public Safety

Prioritizing Victims over Criminals by:

- Enhancing penalties for criminals who threaten or intimidate their victims.
- Empowering victims by giving them a voice through the parole process by requiring at least one member of the parole board to be a crime victim and allow a crime victim to file an appeal challenging the Parole Board's decision to release the criminal who victimized them.
- Increasing penalties for domestic violence offenses.
- Establishing grant programs for non-profit organizations and local law enforcement agencies to offer self-defense classes and firearm education and safety programs.
- Creating a peer-to-peer support program for survivors of domestic violence and sexual abuse.

Repealing Harmful Criminal Justice Policies such as:

- Bail Reform.
- Discovery Reform.
- Less is More.
- Clean Slate Act.

Combating the Rise of Antisemitism and Hate Crimes by:

- Classifying acts of antisemitism as violations of the State’s Human Rights Law and ensuring that any act of violence or damage or destruction of property caused or incited by antisemitism will be prosecuted as a hate crime.
- Protecting the identity of victims of hate crimes during the discovery phase of criminal prosecutions.
- Increasing funds for the Securing Communities Against Hate Crimes grant program.
- Requiring the Municipal Police Training Council to develop mandatory training for law enforcement officers relating to antisemitism.

Protecting and Empowering Our Law Enforcement Officers by:

- Repealing the HALT Act.
- Increasing penalties for those who assault first responders.
- Fully funding our criminal justice system and ensuring that law enforcement agencies have the resources necessary to solve and prosecute crimes.

Stopping Subway Crime and Theft by:

- Ensuring all security resources such as cameras, gates, and personnel are readily equipped and working properly.
- Providing a seat on the MTA Board for the MTAPD Chief of Police and representatives from the MTAPD PBA to ensure their focus is on protecting their riders.

Health

Improving the State’s Healthcare System by:

- Investing in the stability of New York’s long-term care residential facilities by requiring the State to recalculate Medicaid rates to reflect growth in the cost of procedures.
- Ensuring accessible and affordable health care by phasing out the Health Care Reform Act’s onerous insurance taxes, establishing the New York State Health Care Quality and Cost Containment Commission and fighting to reduce costs on life saving care.

Confronting the Substance Use and Mental Health Epidemics by:

- Increasing inpatient and outpatient mental health treatment options.
- Making Kendra’s Law permanent and expanding the Assisted Outpatient Treatment (AOT) Program.

Helping our Veterans and Military Families Thrive by:

- Expanding mental health treatment and support to our veterans by expanding and making funding permanent for the Joseph P. Dwyer Veterans Peer Support Program and local veteran service agencies, expanding the number of Veterans Treatment Courts across New York State and establishing the “New York’s Own Combat Veterans Healthcare Choice Program Act” to establish tax-free savings accounts to pay the healthcare costs of certain combat veterans until covered by the federal government.
- Expanding housing opportunities for homeless veterans.

Supporting Mental Health, Disability, and Other Human Services Direct Care Workforces by.

- Continuing the increases of cost-of-living adjustments for direct care workers.

Ensuring Clean Drinking Water for all New Yorkers by:

- Increasing funding for safe, reliable water and sewer infrastructure.

Protecting Funding and Care for CDPAP

End the New York Migrant Crisis

Ending New York’s “sanctuary status” by:

- Withholding funding from sanctuary cities by enacting the New Yorkers Combatting Alien Recidivism and Ending Sanctuary Act (NY CARES Act).

Ensuring the swift removal of illegal migrants by:

- Passing “Laken’s Law,” which requires the State to cooperate with federal immigration officials.

Repealing the Green Light Law.

Prohibiting the use of taxpayer funds and taxpayer-funded programs to benefit illegal migrants.

Protect Students and Defend Parental Rights

Protecting New York Students from antisemitism and other hateful violence by:

- Implementing antisemitism training on college campuses.
- Barring anyone convicted of a hate crime from attending public colleges.
- Implementing penalties for college students who engage in antisemitic behavior.

Protecting Girls’ Sports by:

- Ensuring fair and equal opportunity for women in sports by maintaining a level playing field.

Providing Parents with Broader Educational Opportunities for Their Children by:

- Providing record state aid to public and private schools and lifting the charter school cap.

Expanding Access to Mental Health Services in Our Schools by:

- Establishing a Mental Health Services Coordinator Program and reimbursing school districts for the hiring of mental health services professionals.

Expanding Opportunities for Schools to Hire School Resource Officers by:

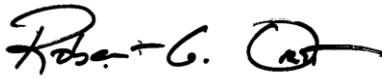
- Establishing a grant program for districts to determine their needs in this area for the protection of students, teachers and staff.

Ensuring notification to school districts of juvenile offender's reentry into school.

Call for Government Accountability and Responsibilities

Enacting Statewide Voter ID for Elections and Term Limits for Politicians

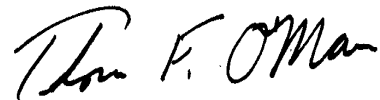
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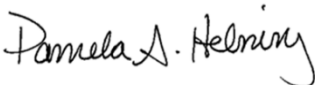
Robert G. Ort
Senate Minority Leader
62nd District



Senator Andrew Lanza
24th District



Senator Tom O'Mara
58th District



Senator Pam Helming
54th District



Senator William Weber
38th District