



## **One New Yorker Budget Agenda**

### *The New York Voter*

- **Early Voting** - There are 34 states plus the District of Columbia that have enacted some form of early voting or in-person absentee voting, leaving New York as only 1 of 13 states that does not allow voters to cast a ballot before election day. The IDC proposal includes 14 days of early voting with the last day of early voting beginning the Friday before the election day. This provides the Board of Elections the weekend and day before the Election Day to prepare. The 14 days of early voting would include Sundays but exclude state holidays. All costs for early voting hours and implementation would be paid for by the state.
- **No-Excuse Absentee Voting** - Under the current election law, an absentee ballot can only be submitted by a voter for the following reasons: 1) absence from the county or NYC on election day; 2) permanent illness or physical disability; 3) primary care duties of a disabled person; 4) patient or resident of a veterans hospital; or 5) awaiting a criminal proceeding or incarcerated for a misdemeanor. Thus, a voter who has extended work or family obligations throughout election day is not eligible to receive an absentee ballot.

Currently 27 states plus the District of Columbia have enacted no-excuse absentee voting. The IDC proposal includes Senator Avella's bill, S.4413, to remove these five categories of excuses for absentee voting, and allows absentee voting for any reason.

- **Expanding Voting Hours** - Across the state, poll sites are open 6 a.m. - 9p.m. for general election days. However, voting hours vary by county for primary days. Currently the counties of Nassau, Suffolk, Westchester, Rockland, Orange, Putnam, Erie and the five New York City counties are required to have polls open from 6 a.m.- 9 p.m for primaries. All other counties, such as Oneida County and Onondaga County, are only

required to hold voting hours from 12 p.m.- 9 p.m. for primary elections. Accordingly, this provision would extend voting hours by six hours at these counties, giving greater flexibility to voters for when they choose to vote. The additional six hours of voting time would also enable voters who may not have time to vote from 12 p.m.- 9 p.m., the time to vote in the morning. The legislation would include full reimbursement of costs from the state to counties for implementation.

- **Automatic Voter Registration** - A person would be automatically registered to vote once an application is submitted to a state agency, under this proposal. A person would be automatically registered to vote and would have to affirmatively opt out of voter registration or be ineligible to vote under existing state law. This would increase voter enrollment in New York by over a million people. There are currently 10 states plus the District of Columbia that have enacted automatic voter registration via the DMV or other state agencies.
- **Pre-Registration of 16- and 17-Year-Olds** - Under a bill introduced by Senator Carlucci, S.1661, 16- and 17-year-olds could pre-register to vote, and their applications would be marked as “pending” until they reach the age of 18 and are eligible to vote. A space on the ballot would indicate a marking to vote for pre-registration as a 16- or 17-year-old, with language on the ballot notifying a 16- or 17-year-old that they are not eligible to cast a ballot until they are 18-years-old. There are 13 states that allow 16-year-olds to pre-register to vote, 19 states that allow all 17-year-olds to pre-register to vote, and an additional 10 states that allow certain 17-year-olds to pre-register to vote under certain conditions.
- **Extending Voter Registration Deadlines** -This proposal would allow voters to change their address any time until at least 7 days before the primary, general or special election. Under existing law, a voter must submit a new voter registration form at least 20 days before a primary, general or special election if their address has changed from the address on file with the board of elections.

Further, the legislation would expand voter registration deadlines to give residents more time to change their party affiliation. Under existing law, voters must change their party enrollment at least 25 days before the previous general election (193 days prior). The IDC proposal would allow voters to change their party registration up to 25 days before the primary day, giving them more time to change their registration to vote in the Democratic or Republican primaries.

Finally, all costs associated with implementing this election reform Act would be paid by the state of New York instead of the costs being an unfunded mandate on counties and localities.

### *The New York Child*

- **Ensuring, Enhancing and Enriching Afterschool Programs** – After school programs help keep children and adolescents in a safe environment to grow academically and stay off the streets. The IDC proposes restoring \$2.5 million to the Advantage After School program to provide a total investment of \$22.3 million for after school programming for over 20,000 kids. To increase STEM education, the IDC proposes \$3 million to provide STEM and coding after school programs. To keep track of afterschool outcomes the IDC is advocating for \$3 million to provide a data system to track participant outcomes from expanded learning opportunities.
- **Universal Full Day Kindergarten** – Currently, New York offers districts one year of transition aid to transition from half-day to full-day kindergarten. For some districts, however, this is not enough. The IDC proposes \$25 million to implement Senator Carlucci’s bill S.700A to provide those districts that have half-day programs with transition funding for five years.
- **Expansion of Pre-K Access** – Only 20 percent of families outside of New York City have access to Universal Pre-K. The IDC advocates for \$150 million to ensure that children across the state have access to UPK programs. The IDC also proposes \$177 million in matching state funds to fund New York City’s 3K for All program, providing 11,000 students with access to three year old pre-K. To promote safety and wellbeing in these new pre-K programs the IDC proposes \$10 million to QUALITYStarsNY.
- **Increased Support for ELL Schools** – There are over 236,000 English Language Learners in New York schools, with a shortage of ELL teachers that has put strain on many districts. The IDC proposes \$500,000 in funding for a pilot program with a focus on decreasing ELL classroom size by increasing the number of teachers who are certified to teach English Language Learners.

### *The New York Student*

- **Teacher Loan Forgiveness** – As enrollment in New York education programs has declined by 49 percent within the last seven years, the need for teachers grows, especially in specialized areas like bilingual studies, special education and STEM. The IDC proposes \$5 million for the creation state level loan forgiveness program aimed at teachers and modelled on the current social worker program.
- **College Debt Freedom Accounts** – The College Debt Freedom Account program allows residents to set aside part of their pre-tax income into an account solely intended for undergraduate student loan payments. Employers that match employee contributions

would be eligible for a state tax deduction on each contribution. The maximum annual contribution would be \$2,500 with a minimum employer match of 50% and a maximum of 100%. The IDC proposes \$70 million in funding for the creation of a pilot program.

- **Student Loan Interest Deduction** – The federal government allows individuals making up to \$80,000 to claim a deduction on their student loan interest. To further aid those with student loan debt, the IDC proposes \$100 million for a state above the line deduction to be claimed by middle income families that are not able to claim the federal benefit, targeting filers making \$80,000 to \$125,000 and couples making up to \$250,000.

***The New York Family***

- **Cutting NYC Income Taxes for the Most Vulnerable** - The IDC supports giving New York City residents making under \$50,000 relief by cutting the New York City income tax rate to 0%. 2.2 million New York City residents would see tax relief. This relief will leave these individuals with over \$1,000 more a year in their pockets, money that they desperately need to make the rent and fill their other expenses.

<b>Filer Type</b>	<b>Max. Income under Proposal</b>	<b>Current NYC PIT rate</b>	<b>New PIT rates under IDC Proposal</b>	<b>PIT Savings</b>
Single	\$32,500	3.53%	0%	Up to \$1,060
Married, Filing Jointly	\$45,000	3.24%	0%	Up to \$1,456
Head of Household	\$32,500	3.21%	0%	Up to \$1,043

This proposal will cost New York City \$352.1 Million in revenue for the 2018 tax year.

- **Statewide SALT Responses to Federal Tax Changes** - The IDC has proposed legislation (S.6502 Carlucci) that would reduce the tax burden caused by the Congressional tax plan and maintain particular state tax deductions. Specifically, the IDC has proposed legislation that would allow taxpayers to deduct sales and real property taxes from their state tax bill. Under the Congressional tax plan, \$10,000 is the maximum deduction for real property tax; however, IDC’s proposed legislation would allow the full property tax deduction under state law. The bill will specifically allow for taxpayers to deduct property taxes on from their state taxes over the proposed federal cap. For example if a taxpayer paid \$13,000 in property taxes, they would only be able to deduct \$10,000 from their federal taxes, but will be able to deduct the full \$13,000 from their state taxes. The purpose of the legislation is to maintain the state tax policy that allows individuals to carry over their federal deductions into their state tax returns.

Consequently, the legislation is revenue neutral because it aims to continue current state tax policy to offset negative changes made by the federal Government under the Trump Administration.

The IDC proposes to create a state deduction in conjunction with the Carlucci bill to allow New Yorkers to deduct any state and local taxes that exceed the federal cap of \$10,000 from their state income taxes. For example, if a taxpayer has property taxes that equal \$8,000 and state income taxes of \$8,000 under current federal law the taxpayer could deduct all \$16,000 from their taxes, however, under the new federal tax reforms, this deduction is capped at \$10,000. The taxpayer will only be able to deduct a combined \$10,000 of their property and income taxes. Resulting in \$6,000 that the taxpayer will no longer be able to deduct. The new deduction that the IDC proposes to create will allow the taxpayer to deduct that remaining \$6,000 from his or her state taxes. This will help middle-income families who live in counties with high property and income taxes. The state deduction will allow taxpayers with an income up to \$300,000 to take this new state deduction.

- Senior Citizen Homeowner Exemption Expansion** - The IDC proposes to provide real property tax relief for seniors by increasing the income threshold and the corresponding abatement levels. Increasing the income eligibility thresholds and corresponding abatement levels will ensure that more seniors will receive much needed property tax relief. These changes expand this program to approximately 400,000 seniors across the state. The expansion of this program will make it easier for seniors and disabled homeowners, who live on a fixed income, to reside in a state with high property taxes and ever increasing living expenses. The program will cost approximately \$503 million dollars. The current SCHE program is a local option, where localities pay for the program themselves. Under the IDC proposed legislation New York State would require localities to increase the thresholds but will offset the cost of such expansion with state assistance.

Proposed- Statewide SCHE/DHE Expansion	
Income Range	Abatement Level
\$29,000 and 50,000	50%
\$50,000 and \$60,000	35%
\$60,000 and \$75,000	15%
\$75,000 and \$85,000	5%

- SCRIE/DRIE preferential rent adjustment** - The IDC fought to expand the SCRIE/DRIE program by increasing the income levels to \$50,000 from the previous \$29,000. In order to ensure that these rent freezes are effective, the IDC wants to amend these program to ensure that the rent will be frozen at the level the applicant was paying

at the time they applied, regardless of whether they were paying a preferential rent or the legal regulated rent. Under this plan, if the tenant was paying a non-permanent preferential rent, the landlord would receive an abatement covering the difference between the frozen rent level and the legal regulated rent.

### *The New York Workforce*

- **Fighting for Fair Wages** - The Securing Wages Earned Against Theft (SWEAT) bill (S.579/Peralta) is a tool for victims of wage theft. The SWEAT bill gives an employee a better chance of collecting their owed wages from violators after a court or the Department of Labor judges in their favor by: expanding New York's mechanic's lien law to allow all workers the right to put a temporary lien on an employer's property when they have not been paid for their work; adopting an attachment standard to allow workers with wage theft claims to temporarily hold an employer's assets through litigation, under the supervision of a judge, if the workers show a likelihood of success on their claims; and amending the New York Business Corporation Law and Limited Liability Company Law to help workers collect wage theft judgments from the principal owners of privately held corporations.

Many victims of wage theft also find that their employers are not incorporated within the state. Current law imposes liability of unpaid wages on the 10 largest shareholders of a Limited Liability Company (LLC) if a judgement against the company is unsatisfied. However, the same is not true for foreign LLCs. Senator Valesky's legislation (S.5966) would extend liability to foreign LLCs, ensuring that the law will protect all workers that live in New York and are employed by an LLC.

The IDC will also call for \$1 million to fund a public education program on wage theft.

- **Protecting Collective Bargaining** - In order to strengthen the right to collective bargaining, Senator Alcantara, as the chair of the labor committee in the New York State Senate, with the support of the rest of the member of the IDC, introduced S.5778, aimed at clarifying and streamlining the dues authorization process for public sector unions. Over the years, The Taylor Law has been updated and this legislation seeks to clarify and streamline the dues authorization process in the public sector to ensure the process is consistent among public employers in the State. The current process varies among the different public employers and can result in confusion and delays in the ability of an individual to join their desired union and the ability of unions to effectively represent their membership, as required by law.
- **Expanding the Manufacturers Intermediary Apprenticeship Program** - Advanced manufacturing employs over a 100,000 New Yorkers, and the average age of this workforce is 56. In order to ensure the success of our advanced manufacturers, we need to help them train incoming workers so that skills are not lost as the current crop of workers retire. State approved apprenticeship programs give employers this ability, but

setting up such a program is administratively cumbersome, and until recently, each company had to go at this process alone. This discouraged many small and middle-sized firms from trying to implement such programs. The IDC championed a plan to cut the red tape, which has been successful in training workers in Central New York. The IDC will advocate for the continual growth and expansion of this program. We ask for \$1.25 million to keep the New York program current, which currently includes Central New York, Hudson Valley, the Capital District, Rochester, and Buffalo as well as to expand the program to New York City and Long Island.

- **Work & Save** - Many states, working with Senior groups, are looking for solutions to encourage workers to save for retirement. AARP has found that allowing employees access to save through payroll deductions encourages more to start saving. As a result, there has been a movement on the national level for states to begin creating access to retirement savings plans for individuals who do not have access to these kinds of plans. These include state-run programs that allow employers to offer employees to participate through payroll deductions into these IRAs. Under S.4344-B (Savino) and A.4982-B (Rodriguez) the New York State Secure Choice Savings Program would be created and are similar to the Illinois measure supported by the US DOL and protected by the proposed safe harbor regulation, helping employees save.

### *The New York Community*

- **Home Stability Support** – The homelessness crisis in New York City, in particular, cannot be solved by spending taxpayer dollars to place homeless families and individuals in temporary hotels and motels. The expensive, unstable and sometimes unsafe settings do nothing to solve the crisis. The IDC supports the creation of the Home Stability Support program to subsidize housing for homeless families and individuals, those on the brink of homelessness and families facing domestic violence or hazardous conditions. The program would save taxpayers money, while creating stability for families and individuals by giving them a place to call home.
- **Foreclosed Property Enforcement** – After successfully creating a central registration for zombie properties with DFS, the IDC proposes adding bank-owned foreclosed homes to the list to better keep track of all homes. The IDC recommends giving DFS \$5 million to hire code enforcement officers to inspect these properties, and increase fines on bank-owned foreclosed properties to up to \$500 a day.

- **NYCHA Office of the Independent Monitor** – For years, the IDC has called for more oversight for the mismanaged NYCHA. Now, with the lead paint scandal putting children’s lives at risk, the IDC is again calling for an independent monitor to create oversight and protect tenants.
- **Investing in Land Banks** – Syracuse’s land bank is a stunning example of land banks’ efficiency: for every \$1 of city money invested, the land bank generates \$2.90 in incentivized private renovation investment, \$2.10 in other grant funds, and \$2.66 in assessed property value returned to taxable status. Statewide, land banks have leveraged \$75 million in private investment, renovated over 400 structures and homes, sold over 650 properties, and demolished 480 blighted structures.

The IDC proposes a \$60 million general fund allocation (recurring, predictable public funding like that provided for Ohio’s extremely successful land bank program) - \$50 million for capital improvements and up to \$10 million for pre-development activities, for land banks across New York State. These funds will, among other things, provide robust affordable housing purchase options for New York families, as well as incentivizing longer-term strategic planning for land banks to make the very most of their resources to rehabilitate blighted properties.

- **The Rider Relief Plan** – MTA riders are fed up with delays, and the IDC’s Rider Relief Plan would fund Phase 1 of the MTA’s emergency repair plan, set to cost about \$863 million, by supporting the MTA’s effort to pay their half and advocating for the city to pay their half by diverting a portion of the \$7 billion in sales tax revenue New York City earns each year. The IDC also proposes keeping commuters safe by installing speed cameras in every school zone - public, private, parochial, and charter. This program is meant to deter vehicles from speeding, and fines would be dedicated back into mass transit. First, the IDC would advocate to freeze the fare for all riders, next to implement a Fair Fares program to offer discounted MetroCards to individuals whose earnings are under the Federal Poverty Level; and lastly, we would advocate to cut the \$6.50 Express Bus fare by up to half.
- **Transparency in Tolls** – The IDC seeks to create a toll payer bill of rights, which would act as an outline for all toll facilities in explaining that: (1) the tolling authority is required to send any bill through the mail within a statutorily set number of days, (2) excessive fines are prohibited and are capped at an amount that can be assessed against a vehicle at any given moment without further action by the authority, (3) toll fees must be properly itemized on the bill, and (3) prohibit a charge of a late fee in instances where the individual’s notice was late due to the authority. Toll payers will also be able to sign-up to have their bill delivered to them electronically, allowing the state to save money while also streamlining the toll payment process.

The state would also be required to create a system where drivers could sign up to receive text alerts. The text alerts would be sent to the drivers by the authority once the charge is



processed against their vehicle. These notices would be in addition to your monthly bill, which you would be able to receive via the physical or electronic mail. Allowing a text alert would speed up the notice and would also create more transparency with toll bills. The IDC will advocate to implement and fund this system so that toll payers have a more transparent system to deal with.

### *The Healthy New Yorker*

- **Addressing Healthcare Professional Shortages** – Upstate New York healthcare providers face constant recruiting challenges and only 45 percent of New York trained physicians report they intend to stay in state post residency. The IDC is proposing \$500,000 for expanded physician support for the “Take a Look” program to allow physicians in training to travel to areas in need and experience the geographic areas that need their service. The IDC also advocates \$2 million for the Doctors Across New York Program and the Primary Care Service Corps.
- **Funding for Community Health Advocates (CHA)** – CHA helps individuals navigate the health insurance world to get the coverage they qualify for and need. The IDC will support \$1 million in additional aid to CHA to help fund their current program. Further, with shifting health care priorities at the federal level, CHA is needed now more than ever and in more communities. To meet that need, the IDC will also support the push to expand the program to more Chambers of Commerce and small business organizations, which will allow CHA the ability to reach more individuals. For this program to be successful, the IDC will look to advocate for \$2 million more in funding to grow the small business component of the program.
- **Enhanced Safety Net Hospitals** – Current law limits to definition of safety-net hospitals, causing providers throughout vulnerable portions of New York to lose out on direly needed safety net operational funding, resulting in underfunding and insufficient reimbursement rates. The IDC proposes introducing legislation to update the definition of safety-net hospitals to appropriately include additional hospital types critically in need of additional state support.
- **Preserving CHIP** – Roughly 630,000 children rely on the Children’s Health Insurance Program for healthcare. While the federal funding for CHIP expired on September 30, 2017 a short term extension has continued the program, however it will need a more long term solution. The IDC proposes \$1.2 billion in funding of the state administered NY CHIP program to continue providing coverage for these children.

## *The New New Yorkers*

- **New Americans Homebuyers Program** – The program will address issues that impact recent immigrants particularly hard: asset requirements, income requirements, student loan calculations, and down payment requirements. The mortgage product offered through the program will set income limits at up to 130% of AMI, to hit a wide band of working and middle-class New Yorkers. For DTI qualifying purposes, SONYMA will use the borrower’s *actual* student loan payments, as opposed to a percentage of the student loan balance, regardless of whether the payments will fully amortize the loan, and will not take into account whether the borrower is on an income-based or standard repayment plan.

The loans would have an associated first-time homebuyer requirement, would not have loan level price adjustments, and 1-4 family homes would be eligible. The loans would be for 30-year terms, have a fixed interest rate set at an amount that will allow the program to remain solvent, and will have a 97% LTV requirement, with SONYMA’s Down Payment Assistance Loan (DPAL) eligible to cover the rest of the financing.

The program will feature flexible documentation guidelines to take into account foreign documentation of income and assets, and applicants will have access to translation services and support staff to facilitate the successful execution of the mortgage and closing process.

- **DREAM Act** – The IDC advocates for \$27 million for the DREAM Act, giving Dreamers access to the TAP program and other college assistance programs available to New Yorkers.
- **Office of New Americans Funding** – After securing \$10 million to fund legal services for immigrants in the 2017 - 2018 budget, the IDC proposes continuing these services with an additional \$10 million in the 2018 - 2019 budget.