



**HINMAN
STRAUB** PC
ATTORNEYS AT LAW

Advocacy Training

Agenda

Advocacy Overview

Who to Advocate & State of Albany

Legislative Session & Budget Process

How to Advocate

Budget and Legislative Priorities

Advocacy Meetings

Advocacy Objectives



To **educate** policymakers on the important role of Youth Bureaus



To **act** as the voice for youth



To develop and **maintain** relationships with policymakers

Advocacy Components



- Defining goals & identifying priorities
- Understanding the landscape/audience
- Developing a public policy platform
 - Crafting messaging, asks & documents
- Building relationships
- On-going communications
 - Advocacy must be layered and sustained



Who to Advocate & State of Albany

Political and fiscal components of advocacy

Governor Kathy Hochul

- Democrat
- First female Governor in NY history
- From Buffalo, NY
- Former Lt. Governor, Congresswoman and local elected official
- Took office in August 2021 after Governor Cuomo resigned
- Won a full term in the 2022 election



State of Albany: The Governor

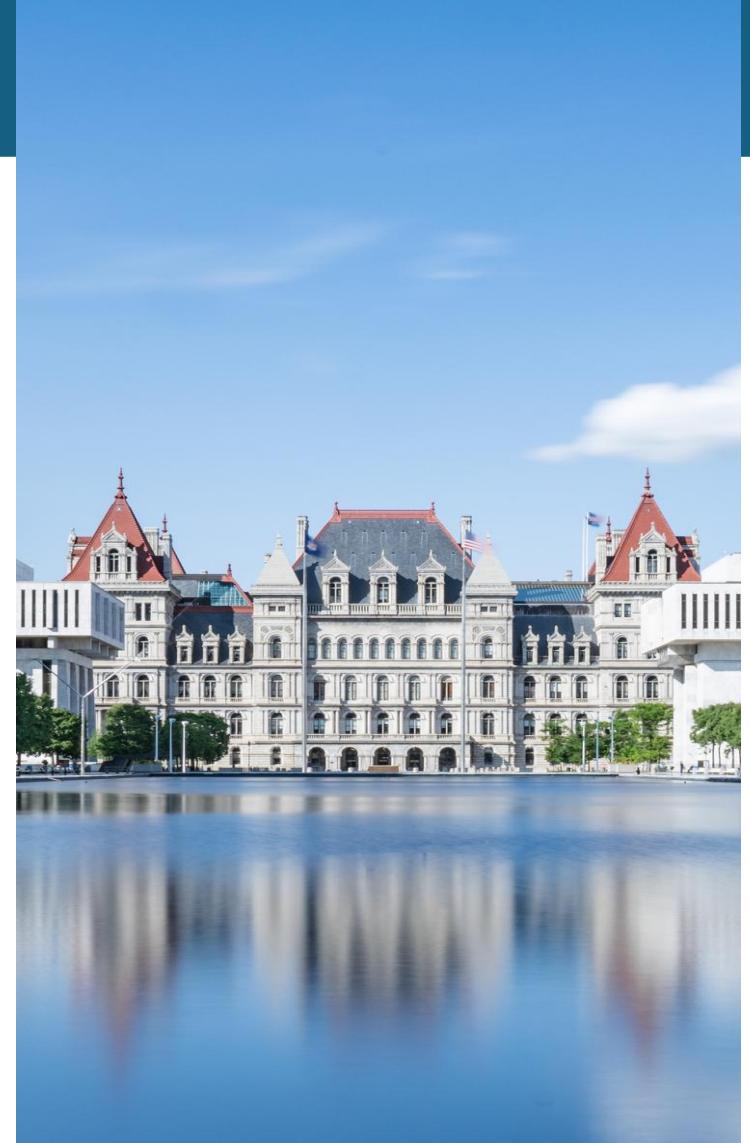


Focus:

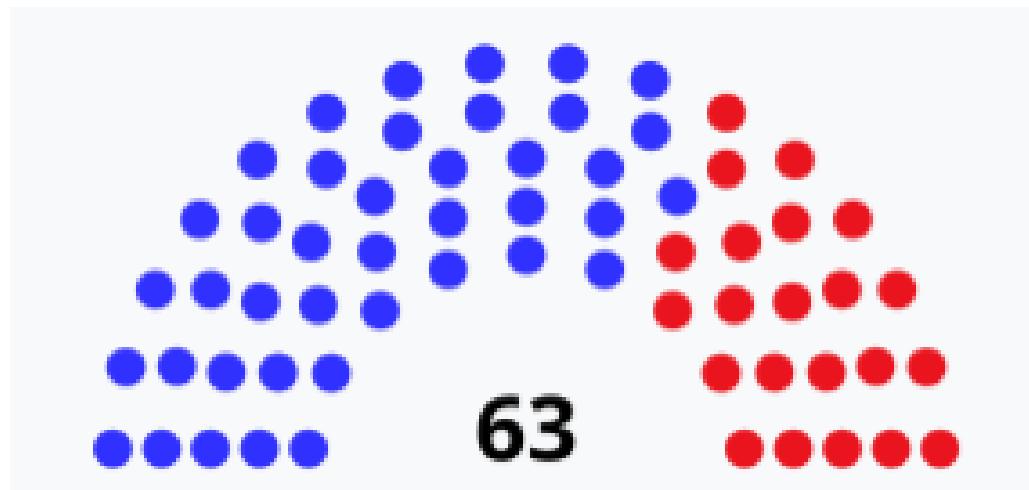
- Affordability agenda
- “Push-pull” with NYC Mayor
- Protecting NYS from federal cuts
- Governing style
 - Favorability- 2026 Election year

NYS Legislature

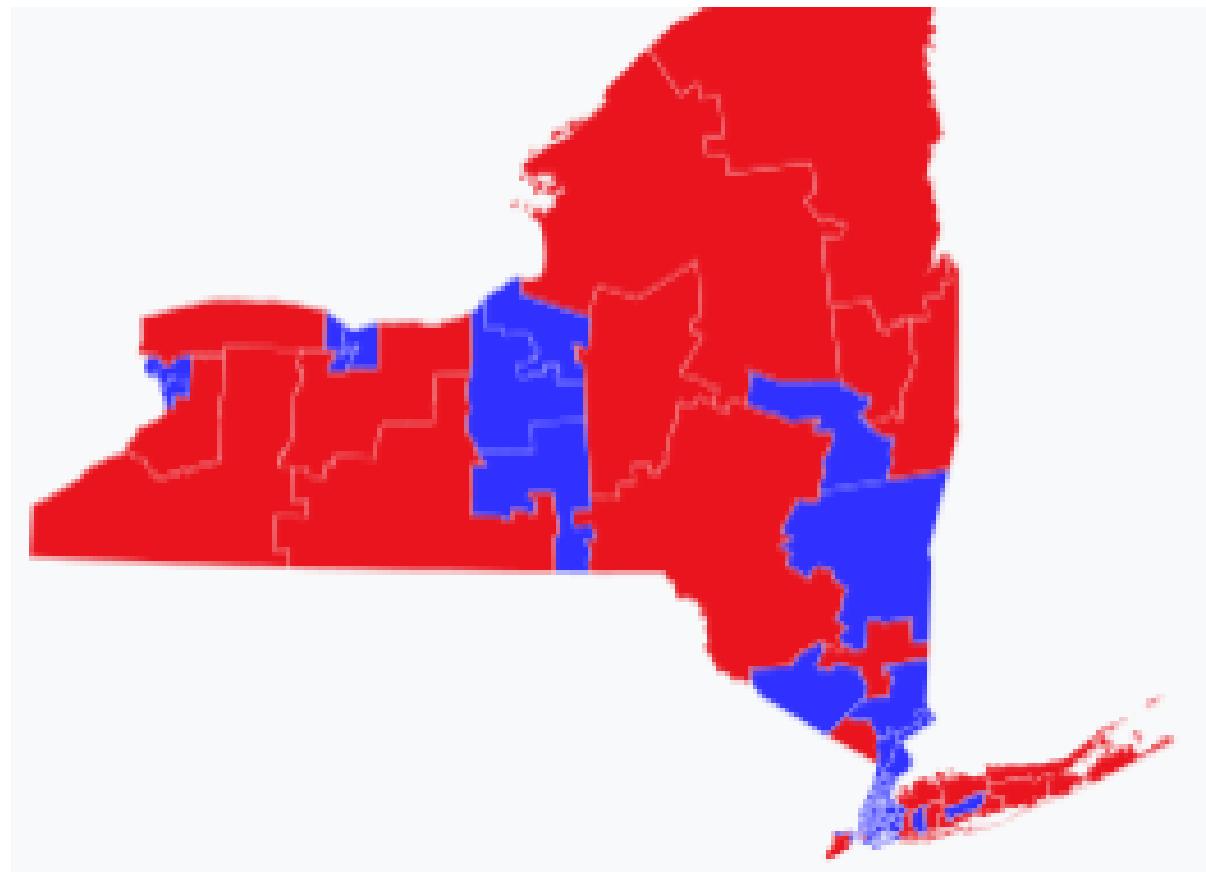
- Bicameral (Senate and Assembly)
- 2 year terms – no term limits
- All 213 Legislators up for re-election in 2026
- Historic level of turnover of the last few years, many new members, more to come



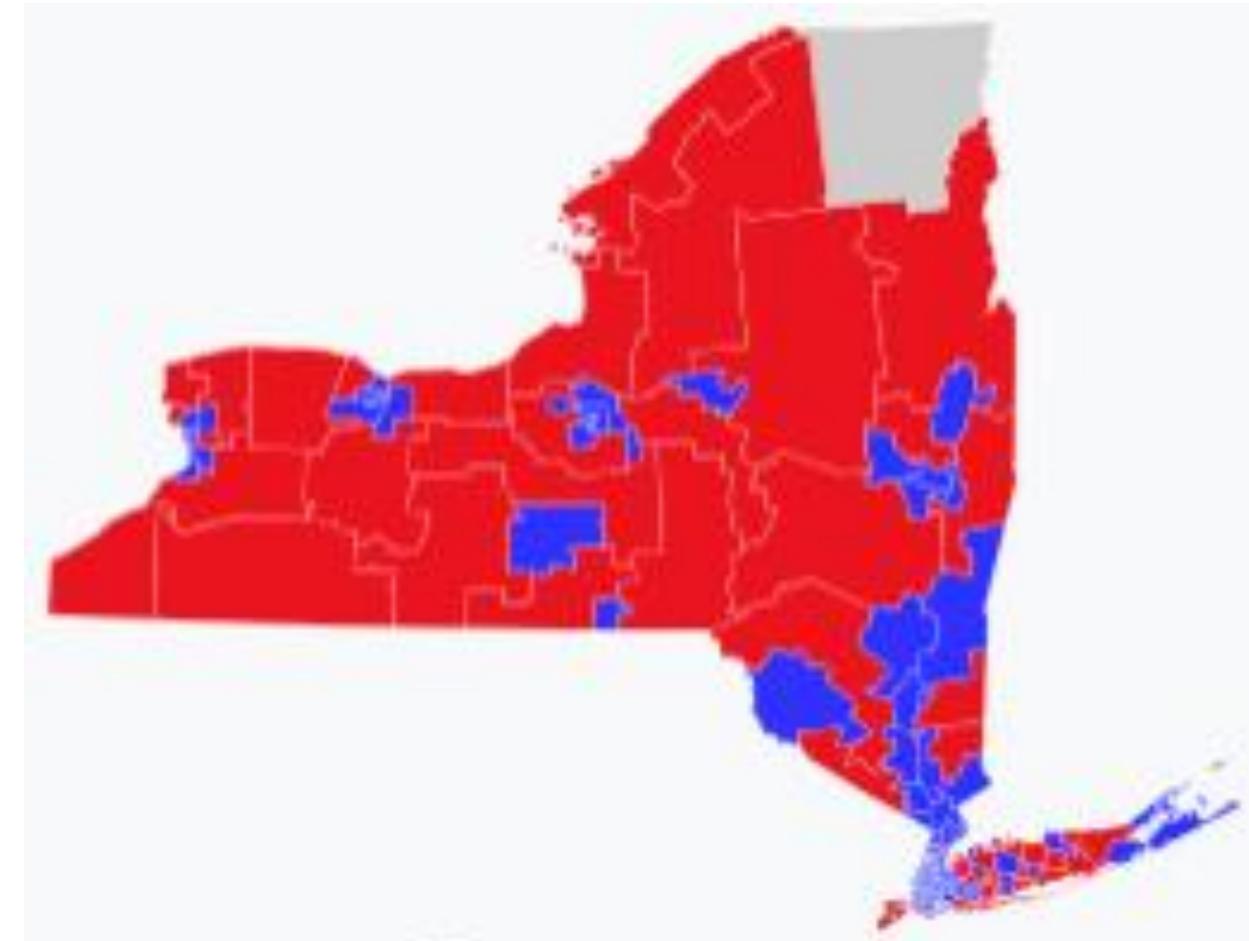
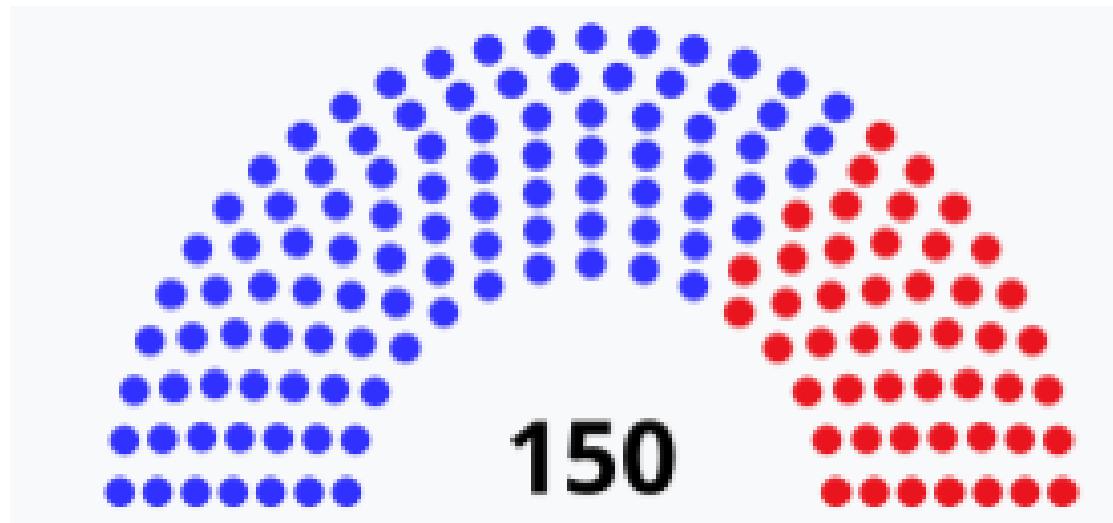
NYS Senate



- 39 Democrats
- 22 Republicans
- 2 Vacant Seats



NYS Assembly



Members Not Seeking Re-election for 2027-28 Session

Assembly	Senate
<u>DEMOCRATS</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Stacey Pheffer Amato (23) - <i>Retiring</i>- Jessica Gonzalez-Rojas (34) - <i>Running for NYS Senate</i>- Zohran Kwame Mamdani (36) - <i>Elected NYC Mayor</i>- Claire Valdez (37) - <i>Running for Congress</i>- Deborah Glick (67) - <i>Retiring</i>- Micah Lasher (69) - <i>Running for Congress</i>- Alex Bores (73) - <i>Running for Congress</i>- Harvey Epstein (74) - <i>Elected to NYC Council</i>- Nader Sayegh (90) - <i>Retiring</i>- Marianne Buttenschon (119) - <i>Retiring</i>- Donna Lupardo (123) - <i>Retiring</i>- Jonathan Rivera (149) - <i>Running for NYS Senate</i> <u>REPUBLICANS</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Christopher Tague (102) - <i>Running for NYS Senate</i>- Kenneth Blankenbush (117) - <i>Retiring</i>- Robert Smullen (118) - <i>Running for Congress</i>- Brian Manktelow (130) - <i>Retiring</i>- Angelo Morinello (145) - <i>Retiring</i>	<u>DEMOCRATS</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Brad Hoylman-Sigal (47) - <i>Elected Manhattan Borough President</i>- Sean Ryan (61) - <i>Elected Buffalo Mayor</i> <u>REPUBLICANS</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Alexis Weik (8) - <i>Retiring</i>- Peter Oberacker (51) - <i>Running for Congress</i>

State Agencies

- In charge of:
 - Setting rules and regulations
 - Developing competitive bids and requests
 - Administering programs and services
 - Providing oversight and compliance with programs and services
 - Fiscal agent (with oversight by Comptroller)





Legislative Session & Budget Process

When to advocate

Session Calendar



New York State Legislative Session Calendar

January – June 2026



The New York State legislative session calendar establishes a schedule for the 2026 legislative session and provides dates important to the legislative process. The session calendar is intended to afford Members flexibility in conducting legislative business in Albany and planning activities within their home districts. The session calendar will foster orderly and timely consideration of legislation. Unforeseen events may require modification of the session calendar.

JANUARY

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

FEBRUARY

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28

MARCH

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

APRIL

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

MAY

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				1	2	
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

January 7 2026 Legislative Session convenes

January 19 Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

January 20 Final Day for Submission of Executive Budget

JUNE

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

February 16 Presidents' Day

April 1 Beginning of new Fiscal Year

May 25 Memorial Day

 Indicates session day

Budget Process



- Governor develops & submits the “Executive Budget proposal” to Legislature in January/Early February
 - Budget must be balanced
 - Non-fiscal policy often included (Article VII legislation)
- Legislature analyzes Executive Budget proposal, seeks input through budget hearings and meetings with stakeholders

Budget Process Continued

- Legislature undertakes conference committee process, but negotiations are conducted at leadership level (“Three leaders in a Room”)
- Budget is due April 1
- Governor controls any emergency spending extensions for late budgets – can and has inserted priorities
- Governor is required by the State Finance Law to manage the budget through administrative actions during the fiscal year

June-September

State agencies develop agency budgets

April 1st
Budget Passage

October/November

State agency budgets to Division of Budget

Mid-March
One-house budgets passes
Budget Conference Committees

Mid-February
Senate/Assembly work on One-house budgets

NYS BUDGET PROCESS

February/March
Joint Legislative Budget Hearings & Advocacy

January

Governor releases Executive Budget

A large, ornate, multi-story building with a red roof and multiple chimneys, likely a state capitol, with trees in the foreground.

How to Advocate

Advocacy Activities



- Legislative Meetings
 - Albany or in district
- Advocacy Touchpoints
 - Emails, phone calls
- Visits/Tours
- Social Media
- Budget Letters
- Legislative Events
 - Roundtables, hearings, caucus events

Advocacy Best Practices

- Make sure you are meeting with the right people at the right time
 - Funding, formula changes and bills with State fiscal impact must be addressed in the budget
 - New initiatives can not be acted on off session
 - Members of the Majority conference have most of the ability to fund things and move bills
- Advocacy for yourself, not against others
- Have a clear purpose and ask
- Multiple contacts are needed for effective advocacy



Budget and Legislative Priorities

Budget Priorities for 2026

- Adds/Restorations
 - NYS Youth Leadership Network – ADD \$225,000
 - Youth Development Program (YDP)- Support \$21.6 million and ADD \$5 million
 - Youth Team Sports (YTS)- ADD \$10 million
 - we request that municipalities and local youth bureaus (city, town, and village) be deemed eligible
 - Safe Harbor- ADD \$1 million
- New Funding
 - Child care
 - Support NY Kicks- \$5 million and \$5 million capital

Budget Priorities for 2026

- Support Level funding:
 - Youth Sports and Education Opportunity Funding (YSEF)- \$12.5 million
 - Runaway and Homeless Youth (RHY)- \$8.4 million
 - Youth Council- \$200,000
 - Community Optional Preventive Services (COPS)- \$12.1 million
 - Supervision and Treatment Services for Juveniles Program (STSJP)- \$11.3 million
 - Raise the Age- \$250 million



Advocacy Meetings

A few reminders

Albany Logistics

- **Security.** In order to gain access to the Legislative Office Building or Capitol Building, you will have to go through security.
 - Coats, bags and purses will be scanned, and you will have to walk through a metal detector.
 - Knives, Leatherman, nail clippers, etc. are not allowed and will be confiscated.
- **Be Prepared to Walk.** It will be a busy day in Albany. Please be prepared to do a lot of walking and wear comfortable shoes.
- **Food.** There are limited food options in the Capitol/LOB. Bring snacks and water.

Flow of Meetings

- Thank the member/staff for meeting
- Introductions: Yourself & your Youth Bureau
- Tie to the Association
- Discuss talking points/priorities
- **Conduct ask**
- Get contact information
- Take a picture and post to social media!
- Contact the Association and/or Hinman Straub for any questions or follow up that is needed

Meeting Reminders

- Meetings are generally 15-20 minutes
- Do not be disappointed if you meet with staff
- Courtesy Reminder.
 - Please be mindful of elevators/people around you

Q&A



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