

INSIDE

Legislative News

Session Days

Public Hearing Calendar

From the Governor

Executive Orders

Guidance from OGS on EO 16

Agency News

AG: Sues U.S. Postal Service

Comptroller: Statement on NYC Executive Budget

DFS: New Guidance on Crypto

Maps Rejected, COVID hangs around, and Session Countdown Begins

As the calendar flips over to May, and hopefully some prolonged stretches of warmer weather, the legislature is looking at just five more weeks remaining on the session calendar to finalize priorities. Over the remaining 16 scheduled session days, the legislature will seek to address major policy issues that did not make it into the Enacted Budget, as well as local priorities, and of course the Senate will be grappling with the rejection of election redistricting maps that had been adopted earlier this year. The Court of Appeals rejected both the NY Congressional and State Senate maps this week. Also, the COVID-19 infection rate rose in many areas of the state while hospitalizations remain relatively flat this week, and the Office of Cannabis Management scheduled a Cannabis Control Board meeting for next week.

Appellate Court Strikes Down Maps: The New York State Court of Appeals, handed down a 4-3 [decision](#) this week stating that the re-drawn election district maps for Congress and the State Senate [violated the State Constitution and ignored the will of the voters](#). The Assembly districts that were also amended earlier in the year, were not challenged in court, and will remain in place. While details regarding the mechanics and timing of the primary election process remains in limbo, it is possible there will be two primaries: one for the Governor, Lt. Governor, State Assembly, and local races and the second for the Congressional and Senate races that are impacted by the court decision. However, it is also possible, the legislature will modify the law to hold all of the primaries on a later date, pushing back the previously scheduled June primaries to one consolidated date. Governor Hochul indicated the plan for the primaries is still being determined [stating](#) "we are still processing this case just came down. There's still time to look at all the options, find out what's best for the voters."

COVID Rises, No Mask Mandate: On Tuesday, Governor Hochul [announced](#) she was not considering reinstating an indoor mask mandate at this time, despite a recent rise in COVID cases. While citing the rise in infections, Governor Hochul noted there was not a corresponding increase in hospitalizations at this time that would indicate the need for bringing back the mask mandate. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), has recommended that masks be worn in 23 New York State counties with "high" transmission. An interactive map identifying the community transmission rates at the county level can be found [here](#).

OCM Meeting: The Office of Cannabis Management [announced](#) the New York State Cannabis Control Board will hold a public meeting of the Board at 1 PM on Thursday, May 5, 2022 which will be streamed live [here](#).



PSLLC Notes: *Park Strategies is proud to share our very own Senior Advisor Nick Barrella was honored this week by the New York State Snowmobile Association. Mr. Barrella received the 2022 NYSSA Staff Award for Outstanding Service in recognition of his dedication to the snowmobiling community and representation of the association since 2001.*

Legislative News

Legislative Activity

The Legislature will be in session four days next week on the 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th (the *2022 Legislative Calendar* can be accessed [here](#)). There were 59 bills passed this week. Of particular note was:

~ S66A (Hoylman) / A648A (Rosenthal) relates to the statute of limitations for civil actions related to certain sexual offenses committed against a person eighteen years of age or older, revives such actions otherwise barred by the existing statute of limitations and grants trial preference to such actions; directs the chief administrator of the courts to promulgate rules for the timely adjudication of certain revived actions.

Public Hearings

~ The Assembly Standing Committees on Energy; Governmental Operations; Environmental Conservation; and the Assembly Climate Change Work Group will host a May 12th Hearing on "All-Electric Buildings."

The public hearing calendar can be accessed [here](#).

From the Governor

New EO on Gender-Based Violence and the Workplace Policies

Governor Hochul signed [Executive Order 17](#) directing all New York State agencies and authorities to have a workplace policy on gender-based violence. The Executive Order expands on a previous order, which required domestic violence policies, and strengthens these policies while expanding New York State's protections to include stalking and sexual assault. The Executive Order—will require agencies to formulate and issue a Gender-based Violence and the Workplace policy that will include mandatory annual training for supervisors, Domestic Violence Agency Liaisons, and Human Resources staff.

Executive Orders:

The Office of General Services (OGS) released [guidelines for EO 16](#) which prohibits state agencies and authorities from contracting with businesses conducting business in Russia.

State Agencies

From the New York Office of the Attorney General **NYS AG Sues U.S. Postal Service**

New York Attorney General James and California Attorney General Bonta [led a multistate coalition](#) in suing the United States Postal Service (USPS) for failing to consider the environmental impact of its new fleet of mail trucks. According to the announcement, the USPS purchased a new fleet of vehicles without first holding a mandatory environmental review, a violation of National Environmental Policy Act's (NEPA) requirements. The suit seeks a court order to block USPS from moving ahead with the purchase until it fully complies with NEPA.

From the New York Office of the NYS Comptroller **Comptroller: Statement on NYC Executive Budget**

The NYS Comptroller [released the following statement](#) on the NYC Executive Budget Proposal:

“New York City released its Fiscal Year (FY) 2023 Executive Budget, totaling \$99.7 billion, allocating funds to newly announced agency initiatives and addressing a number of risks in the budget. The city’s short-term finances have improved dramatically from budget adoption and still has room to improve before the end of the year. This improvement reflects the city’s economic resilience and savings generated mostly through staff vacancies from earlier this year, which helped the city generate a nearly \$5.3 billion surplus in FY 2022. After adjusting for the surplus transfer, total budgeted spending in FY 2023 is expected to near \$105 billion. The Executive Budget mitigates [some fiscal cliffs](#) that emerged from planned federal aid spending, continuing a trend started in the Preliminary Budget released in February.”

From the New York Department of Financial Services **DFS Superintendent Issues New Guidance on Cryptocurrency Industry**

New York State Department of Financial Services (DFS) Superintendent Harris [announced](#) new guidance to New York State-regulated virtual currency entities related to establishing the use of blockchain analytics tools. According to DFS, the measures are aimed at bringing greater regulation, control, due diligence, and monitoring to transactions conducted utilizing block-chain technology. The guidance can be found [here](#).

PARK STRATEGIES, LLC

101 Park Avenue · Suite 2506 · New York NY 10178 · (212) 883-5608
111 Washington Avenue · Suite 600 · Albany NY 12210 · (518) 426-3800
50 Charles Lindbergh Boulevard · Suite 601 · Uniondale, NY 11553 (516) 794-9730
327 W. Fayette Street · Suite 415 · Syracuse NY 13202 · (315) 396-7535
www.parkstrategies.com

To stay up to date on the latest information, please follow us on [Park Strategies LinkedIn](#)