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### Nine More Scheduled Session Days:

## Distractions Abound as Legislative Session Counts Down

Temperatures heated up in Albany this week as did rhetoric surrounding a myriad of issues, including redistricting and on highly charged federal issues, along with the pace of bills moving to the floor in both houses. Typically, this is the time of year when advocacy efforts ratchet up on bills in front of both houses, and when the legislature's attention shifts to local priorities and policy issues that must be addressed before the legislature leaves Albany in June. The fact that the Senate and Congressional electoral maps remain up-in-the-air and primary elections are currently split between June and August simply adds more to the Albany end of session swirl. The last scheduled day of session is June 2.

**More Court Decisions on Maps:** A [federal judge in Albany authorized New York](#) to move the congressional primary to August, allowing a "special master" to draw new congressional maps for this year's midterm election. The ruling effectively ends an effort by Democrats at the national level to preserve district lines that were adopted earlier in the year. Their court filing argued a decade-old federal court order fixed the primary date in June to protect the voting rights of Americans casting their ballots from overseas. Judge Gary L. Sharpe of the Northern District indicated he saw little reason to keep that date, he went on to say, "it is clear that a modification of the court's prior injunction order is sensible and necessary to avoid a chaotic situation for all New York voters – overseas or not."

In a separate lawsuit, [a Steuben County Supreme Court judge threw out](#) a late challenge to the NYS Assembly maps as well as an attempt to move the primary for the Assembly and statewide offices from June to August when the congressional and Senate primaries will be held. However, Justice Patrick McAllister [made it very clear](#) that he agrees the Assembly maps were adopted pursuant to a flawed process, and suggested another lawsuit could address that question - but not in time for this year's election. There is precedent for such action, [as in 1964 lines were tossed](#) and the ultimate resolution to that issue resulted in members serving one-year terms with special elections for every Assembly seat held in 1965 in order to determine who would serve the remaining year of those terms.

**Congressman Tom Reed Resigns from Office Early:** New York Congressman Tom Reed had previously announced he would not seek re-election this year after allegations of sexual misconduct surfaced relating to his alleged misconduct at a networking event with a lobbyist in Washington DC. This week, Congressman Reed [announced he was resigning from office](#) more than seven months prior to the end of his term. The timing of the resignation triggers a special election to fill the seat prior to the end of his term, with a separate race to be held in November to fill the seat for the next term. Governor Hochul has not yet indicated when she will call for the special election to be held.

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**Assemblyman’s Car Stolen from LOB Parking Lot:** Assemblyman Andy Goodell (R-Chautauqua) reported his car was [stolen from the Legislative Office Building parking lot](#). According to reports, the suspect apparently stole uniforms from the Office of General Services (OGS), which oversees the parking lot. The vehicle was recovered after the suspect was involved in a crash a few blocks from the Capitol on the corner of Madison Avenue and Lark Street. The vehicle was also found with tools that were stolen from the Capitol garage, and the Assemblyman’s state ID was recovered near the scene.

**NYS OCM workshops and listening series:** On Thursday, the NYS Office of Cannabis Management [posted](#) additional dates for their learning and listening series related to conditional dispensary licenses, cannabis cultivation, and ensuring equity in the state’s cannabis industry.

**PSLLC Notes:**

Leader of the Park Strategies Cannabis Practice, Joe Rossi, was highlighted this week in the New York Times for his work to help legacy businesses become licensed to run cannabis related businesses once the adult-use cannabis industry becomes fully operational. [See the whole story here.](#)

**Legislative News**

**Legislative Activity**

The Legislature will be in session four days next week on the 16<sup>th</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup>, 18<sup>th</sup> (the *2022 Legislative Calendar* can be accessed [here](#)). There were 207 bills passed this week. Of particular note was:

~ A9284A (Glick) / S8315A (Gianaris) prohibiting insurers from excluding, limiting, restricting, or reducing coverage on a homeowners' insurance policy based on the breed of dog owned passed the Senate this week, after previously passing the Assembly. This bill will eventually be sent to the Governor where she will either sign the bill into law or issue a veto.

**Public Hearings**

~ The Assembly Standing Committee on Children and Families will hold a [May 19th public hearing](#) on “the impact of alternative placement options for foster care youth. The public hearing calendar can be accessed [here](#).

**From the Governor**

**Limiting Ghost Guns**

Governor Hochul released a statement supporting NYC Mayor Adams, NYPD Commissioner Sewell, and the “Everytown for Gun Safety Action Fund” in their efforts to revoke the firearms license of Polymer80 – the largest source of ghost guns used in crimes according to the statement. [Read the full statement here.](#)

**Climate Smart Community Projects**

Governor Hochul has [announced](#) that \$14 million is now available for the Climate Smart Communities Grant. Funding is available for projects that reduce greenhouse gas emissions and adapt to the ongoing impacts of climate change.

**Executive Orders:**

No new statewide Executive Orders were issued this week, and likewise there were no extensions for existing statewide Executive Orders.

## State Agencies

### **From the New York Office of the Attorney General**

#### **AG issues Consumer Alert Warning of Price Gouging of Baby Formula**

With shortages of baby formula due to recalls and supply chain issues plaguing the country, [New York Attorney General Letitia James warned retailers](#) price gouging is illegal after her office received several reports of baby formula being sold online for prices far exceeding the retail value of the formula. AG James also cautioned consumers to be aware of price gouging of baby formula and to report any such activity to her office. She also cautioned parents to consult with their doctor prior to watering down formulas or attempting to make their own.

### **From the New York Office of the NYS Comptroller**

#### **Comptroller: Chipotle Needs to Address Concerns Over Racial Equity and Inclusion**

The NYS Comptroller is seeking support of fellow investors for a shareholder proposal calling on the company to conduct an independent racial equity audit. New York State Comptroller Thomas P. DiNapoli [released a statement](#) on behalf of the New York State Common Retirement Fund (Fund) to fellow Chipotle Mexican Grill Inc. shareholders in advance of the company's annual meeting on May 18 seeking their support for the Fund's [shareholder proposal](#) calling for an independent audit of the company's practices related to civil rights, racial equity, diversity and inclusion, and how these affect the company's business.

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