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*Just Another Day ...*

## New LG, Election Uncertainty, Session Days Dwindle

With just 12 session days remaining on the calendar, the legislature will likely begin the process of shutting down committees (Senate), limiting new bill introductions and passing local bills in the coming days. The two houses will also likely press to address priorities such as NYC Mayoral Control over City schools, that were not included in April's enacted state budget.

The final four weeks will play out against a backdrop of uncertain primary dates and the redrawing of at least the state Senate and the Congressional district lines, legal challenges to Assembly district lines, pressure to consolidate primary dates that are now spread between June and August, and dealing with the fallout from a U.S. Supreme Court leak related to a pending Roe v. Wade decision. Stay tuned.

**Governor Hochul picks LG:** After the [legislature passed legislation](#) allowing the removal of former Lt. Governor Benjamin from the ballot ( and the Governor subsequently signed the bill into law), Governor Hochul [announced former Congressman Antonio Delgado](#) from Rhinebeck as her running mate for the 2022 election. Delgado will vacate his congressional seat and appear on the ballot for Lieutenant Governor, with the NYS [Board of Elections certifying](#) his appearance on the ballot after a committee to fill vacancies formally ratified his appointment.

**Election Uncertainty:** Following the NYS Court of Appeals decision to invalidate the Congressional and NYS Senate maps adopted earlier in the year, much uncertainty surrounds the electoral process for the rest of the year. As of right now, the NYS Assembly, Governor, Lt. Governor, and local primaries are set to be held on June 28 as had been scheduled initially. However, there are a number of legal challenges pending. The NYS Court of Appeals decision was [challenged in federal court](#), and [a new lawsuit has emerged related to the NYS Assembly maps](#). The federal court, [denied a stay](#) related to the NYS Court of Appeals decision meaning the decision will stand for now. However, the federal court did ask the Board of Elections to seek approval from an Albany federal judge before they consolidate all of the primaries to a date in August. With the lawsuits pending, and the consequent plans remaining in limbo, it remains yet to be determined how exactly the process will move forward in terms of collecting new signatures for the ballot or utilizing signatures previously collected by candidates to move forward, and when primaries will ultimately be held.

**Supreme Court Leak:** An [unprecedented leak of a draft U.S. Supreme Court decision](#) related to a challenge brought against the Roe V. Wade decision has brought the conversation on Roe V. Wade protections back into the forefront. While the protections afforded by the Roe V. Wade decision have been codified in NYS, public officials have spoken out against the draft decision with the [NYS Attorney General Tish James holding a rally](#) this week to oppose the decision. The legislature and the Governor have also weighed in promising further action in the coming weeks.

**PSLLC Notes:**

This week, firm client the **Capital District Transportation Authority (CDTA)** [made the official announcement](#) that they will launch transit services in Montgomery County and the City of Amsterdam. CEO Carm Basile was joined by elected officials from Federal, State, County and City government, heralding the long-awaited initiative that will further connect the community to the Greater Capital Region, while boosting economic opportunities throughout the County.

PSLLC Partner Lisa Marrello led the campaign with CDTA engaging state government officials, culminating in an appropriation of \$4.3M in state operating assistance from this year's state budget. CDTA officials opted to make the move after the municipally operated bus service was cut in 2018, leaving city residents with limited options for mobility.



*Pictured from left: Montgomery County Executive Matt Ossenfort, Congressman Paul Tonko, CDTA board Chair Jayme Lahut, Amsterdam Mayor Mike Cinquanti, Assemblyman Angelo Santabarbara, Senator Michelle Hinchey, and CDTA CEO Carm Basile.*

## Legislative News

### **Legislative Activity**

The Legislature will be in session four days next week on the 9<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup> (the *2022 Legislative Calendar* can be accessed [here](#)). There were 144 bills passed this week. Of particular note was:

~ [A2020A \(Reyes\) / S6373B \(Savino\)](#) in relation to claims for mental injury premised upon extraordinary work-related stress.

### **Public Hearings**

~ The Assembly Standing Committees on Energy; Governmental Operations; Environmental Conservation; and the Assembly Climate Change Work Group will host a May 12<sup>th</sup> Hearing on "All-Electric Buildings." The public hearing calendar can be accessed [here](#).

## From the Governor

### **Governor Signs Legislation Boosting Consumer Protections and Addressing Inequities in Financial Service System**

Governor Kathy Hochul [signed legislation](#) that boosts consumer protections and addresses inequities in the state's financial services system. Legislation ([S.1684/A.8293](#)) directs the Department of Financial Services to conduct a study of underbanked communities and households in New York and make recommendations to improve access to financial services for them. Legislation ([S.4894/A.1693](#)) protects consumers from potentially unsafe banking products by prohibiting the issuance of unsolicited mail-loan checks.

### **Executive Orders:**

EO 4 which establishes a statewide disaster emergency due to healthcare staffing shortages was extended by [EO 4.8](#) through May 30, 2022.

## State Agencies

### **From the New York Office of the Attorney General** **NYS Calls for Full Cancellation of Federal Student Loan Debt**

The state Attorney General [led a multistate coalition](#) of eight attorneys general urging President Biden to cancel federal student debt owed by every federal student loan borrower in the country by exercising his authority to do so under the Higher Education Act. In [a letter to President Biden](#), the AG and the coalition stressed that immediate relief is needed for borrowers struggling with the unmanageable burden of student loan debt. The Biden administration recently announced a continuation of the pandemic related student loan repayment pause that began in March 2020.

### **From the New York Office of the NYS Comptroller** **Comptroller: Releases Analysis of 2022-23 Enacted Budget**

Historic federal aid and better-than-expected revenues allowed for a steep increase in spending in the \$220.5 billion enacted state budget for State Fiscal Year (SFY) 2022-23, [according to an analysis released](#) by [New York State Comptroller Thomas P. DiNapoli](#). While some of the new spending will be temporary, much of the year-over-year growth will be for new initiatives and more funding for existing programs. DiNapoli expressed concerns about the growth in capital spending and debt. He also cautioned that many provisions weaken essential oversight and protections, leaving public resources more vulnerable to misuse. DiNapoli's review is based upon the enacted budget bills, preliminary estimates for SFY 2022-23 from the Executive and the Legislature, as well as actual results from the three prior state fiscal years.

### **From the New York Office of Cannabis Management** **Cannabis Control Board Approves Conditional Adult-Use Cultivators**

The Cannabis Control Board met this week and [passed a resolution](#) which approved an [additional 36 conditional](#) adult-use cultivator licenses. This measure brings the total approved cultivation licenses to 88 as the state prepares for the implementation of adult-use retail operations.

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