

PARK STRATEGIES, LLC

BULLETIN

January 10, 2023

2023 State of the State Address

Overview

Governor Kathy Hochul began her first full term after becoming the first duly elected female Governor of New York State, by delivering her State of the State Address on January 10, 2023 in fulfillment of her constitutional duties.

The State of the State serves as the Governor's first statement of priorities at the onset of the budget process with the New York State Budget due by April 1, 2023. As the next step in the budgetary process, the Governor is constitutionally required to release her Executive Budget Proposal by February 1, 2023, which will provide more detail and clarity on her fiscal and certain budget related policy proposals.

The full State of the State Book can be accessed [here](#) and her prepared remarks [here](#).

Summary of 2023 State of the State Initiatives

Housing

The Governor proposed several initiatives in order to meet a goal of building 800,000 new homes including:

- Facilitate housing approval when localities do not meet goals, encouraging housing near transit, creating greater opportunities to convert office space into residential housing.
- Provide \$250 million to support planning and infrastructure needs.
- Reclaim vacant and abandoned housing.

Mental Health

- Expand Insurance Coverage for Mental Health.
- Expand mental health services for school-aged children.
- Increase operational capacity for inpatient psychiatric treatment by 1,000 beds, and expanding 3,500 new housing units for individuals with mental illness.

Public Safety

- Double investment in alternatives to incarceration, and triple investment in reentry services.
- Expand State's Gun-Involved Violence Elimination Program (GIVE) across the 17 counties that account for 80 percent of the violent crime that occurs outside of New York City.
- Triple funding to hire new prosecutors around the state, as well as expand funding for the implementation of discovery and pretrial reforms.

Health

- Expand Medicaid coverage for preventative health services by expanding coverages for nutritionist services, increasing dental care reimbursement rates and rates for children's vaccine administration, expanding coverage of spinal muscular atrophy prenatal screening, and other initiatives aimed at improving overall community health.
- Expanding the Medicaid Buy-In Program for New Yorkers with Disabilities.
- Improve the Essential Plan Coverage through reducing cost sharing for patients, ensuring access by increasing reimbursement rates for health care providers, expanding funding for health plans to broaden coverage of mental health and social services, and requiring health plans to spend more on patient care.
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- Expand Access to Primary Care via increasing overall Medicaid reimbursement rates for all primary care, ensuring Medicaid coverage of primary and urgent care within the shelter system, and other targeted initiatives.
- Rebuild the Wadsworth Laboratories.

General Business

- Introduce legislation to expand upon the State's ban on the sale of flavored vaping products by prohibiting the sale of all flavored tobacco products.
- Creating a program for reciprocity on MWBE certifications.
- Index the minimum wage by automatically increasing the minimum wage to keep pace with inflation going forward. After reaching \$15 per hour, each region's minimum wage will increase consistent with the year-over-year Consumer Price Index-W for the Northeast Region. To ensure that no single-year increase would threaten employment, annual increases would be capped, and an "off-ramp" would be available in the event of certain economic conditions.

Environment

- Institute a "Cap and Invest" Program that establishes a gradually declining cap on greenhouse gas emissions, while investing the proceeds in programs that drive emission reductions in an equitable manner.
- Making Energy more affordable: New York State will extend \$200 million in relief for New Yorkers experiencing high electric bills to provide a monthly discount to the more than 800,000 electric utility customers who are making under \$75,000 a year and have not been eligible for the State's current utility discount program.
- Advance Transportation Electrification: Direct the Department of Public Service (DPS) to launch a proceeding that will identify and remove the barriers to the efficient and timely deployment of the charging infrastructure needed to electrify New York's medium and heavy-duty vehicles.

Transportation:

- Expand EV charging station infrastructure; improve bus reliability by enhancing automobile compliance with laws to clear bus lanes, specifically directing the MTA to install Automated Bus Lane Enforcement (ABLE) cameras on 900 buses in an effort to reduce illegally parked vehicles impeding bus routes.
- Innovative Mobility Initiative will provide funding for public transportation services for riders facing barriers to traditional public transit and for the creation of new options in locations currently without transit.

Others:

- Education: Make historic investments in education; continue prekindergarten expansion; directly admit all New York students to their local community colleges.
- Agriculture: Utilizing State purchasing power to bolster demand for NY Agriculture.
- Abortion: Ensuring access at public college campuses; safeguard abortion access through enhanced data privacy protection.

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