

**PSLLC Rebrands:****Summer's Summary, Looking to the January 2024 Session**

Even after the New York State Assembly returned to Albany for the final days of session on June 20<sup>th</sup>, passing 62 additional bills and closing out the 2023 regular legislative session, activity in Albany only moderately slowed as an influx of migrants into New York City kicked off verbal sparring between the New York City Mayor, the Governor, the federal government and various local elected officials throughout the state. Some localities made arrangements to house migrants in local hotels, while other localities passed emergency orders barring hotels and other entities from contracting with NYC to house migrants without local approval. In other recent news, a lawsuit related to cannabis licensing has brought the licensing process to a halt at least temporarily, causing chaos in the implementation of legalizing the recreational use of marijuana; and the state Division of Budget (DOB) kick started the annual budget process issuing a call letter to the state agencies requesting their agency budget proposals, directing the agencies to keep their spending proposals flat as the DOB looks to rein in spending amid looming budget gaps created by lower than anticipated revenues (see inside).

**Cannabis**

In late August, [a judge ordered a preliminary injunction remain in place](#) for conditional adult-use retail dispensary (CAURD) licensees and that no exemptions may be granted in the interim. This follows a lawsuit filed by a group of disabled veterans who sued the New York State Office of Cannabis Management (OCM) on its CAURD program, claiming the state has kept licenses from disabled veterans and other minority groups that the Marijuana Regulation and Taxation Act (MRTA) prioritizes. The OCM subsequently adopted new [regulations](#) that will initiate an application process open to all applicants (set to open on October 4) that will also allow established medical cannabis companies to sell in the adult-use cannabis market in December of this year.

**Migrants**

According to [reports](#), more than 113,000 migrants have arrived in New York City since late spring causing the city to open 208 emergency shelters to house them. As of September 10, approximately 60,000 migrants are still in the city's care. As local governments have begun to see an influx of migrants across the state, more than half of New York's counties have issued emergency orders limiting shelters and hotels from accepting migrants without local permission. Advocates in NY have called on the state to release some of the \$25 million set aside under the Migrant Relocation Assistance Program in order to provide funds for housing.

**Partner Receives Local Recognition**

While we are excited to be ushering in a new era under the revamped Park Strategies banner, we would be remiss not to acknowledge some of the recognition our team received over the summer. We are proud to share Lisa Marrello was selected as a Women Who Mean Business honoree for the Albany Business Review's [2023 Women in Business Awards](#) and was subsequently featured in the [City and State 2023 Upstate Power 100](#).

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**New Park Strategies  
Logo**

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**DOB Releases  
Financial Plan**

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**Governor Hochul  
Announces New  
Actions on Migrant  
Crisis****Note:**

*The Park Strategies  
Capitol Update will  
be issued monthly  
through the end of  
the year, and will  
return to the  
traditional Monday  
schedule once  
session resumes.*



### Park Strategies Unveils New Logo

*It wasn't just the government that stayed busy during the off session. In addition to our full complement of government affairs and consulting work, Park Strategies is proud to share we have recently rebegun a rebranding process rolling out a new suite of logos with corresponding letterhead, email signatures and various other items.*

### Legislative Activity

So far this year the Governor has signed 498 bills that had been passed by the legislature into law. There are currently 21 bills currently in the Governor's Office awaiting action, and there are 373 pieces of legislation that have passed both houses but have not yet been delivered to the Governor for action. Since this is the first year of a two-year session, bills that were introduced but not acted on in 2023 will remain active with the same bill numbers for 2024.

### Governor Hochul Announces New Efforts on Migrant Crisis

Governor Kathy Hochul [announced](#) new state efforts to address the asylum seeker and migrant crisis in New York, after White House officials announced certain individuals from Venezuela, who have continuously resided in the United States on or before July 31, 2023, will be eligible to apply for Temporary Protected Status. Governor Hochul has directed the New York State Department of Labor to connect employers with newly-eligible asylum seekers and migrants who on the path to receiving work authorizations. More than 70 state personnel, representing 16 separate State agencies, have been urged to assist in this work authorization effort. Last month, the Governor [announced](#) the Department had launched a [new portal](#) enabling businesses to inform the State that they would welcome newly-authorized individuals into their workforce. The Department also created a [new registration](#) process where asylum seekers and migrants with work authorization can register for assistance.

## From the New York State Division of Budget and the New York State Comptroller

In June of 2023, the New York State Division of Budget (NYS DOB) released the fiscal year 2024 enacted budget financial plan, which among other items indicated the financial plan projects “outyear budget gaps of \$9.1 billion in FY 2025, \$13.9 billion in FY 2026, and \$13.4 billion in FY 2027, a total of roughly \$36 billion over three years.” Indicating there will be tough decisions to make in the coming years related to the state budget.

State Comptroller Tom DiNapoli opined on the situation stating “the state’s fiscal outlook has changed considerably over the past year, and significant economic and fiscal risks could further upend the state’s finances,” DiNapoli said. “The Governor and the Legislature prudently increased New York’s reserve funds, but that cannot replace fiscal discipline or be relied upon to plug recurring budget gaps. While there is no quick fix, a proactive approach by state leaders to align recurring revenues with recurring spending could help preserve the economic competitiveness of our state and avoid cuts to critical programs New Yorkers rely on.”

Heading into the fall, the Division of Budget will begin determining priorities for the Executive Budget Proposal which, with its release in January, will kick start the annual budget process. The Governor’s fiscal plan will be analyzed and critiqued by the legislature in the follow weeks, with the Senate and Assembly responding to the Executive Proposal with their respective proposals that reflect the two bodies’ priorities sometime in March. By statute and barring any extensions, the budget must be enacted by April 1.



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