



## Government Reform

The Assembly Republican Conference's plan for changing the reputation of government in New York

### Restore Faith in Your Government

- Enact the most comprehensive anti-corruption measure in New York; the Public Officers Accountability Act:
  - Member item reform:
    - Require a detailed list of appropriations for any discretionary request by the Governor or the Legislature.
    - Require the Governor or member of the Legislature requesting a member item to submit a form to the Attorney General to make sure there is no conflict of interest.
  - Stronger government oversight:
    - Establish a Commission on Official Conduct that assumes the duties of the Joint Commission on Public Ethics, the State Inspector General, and the former Temporary State Commission of Investigation.
  - New or enhanced crimes:
    - Make failing to report corruption a crime.
  - Campaign Finance Reforms:
    - Make any elected official who has been convicted of a felony offense that is connected to their governmental duties forfeit all campaign contributions.
    - Prohibit the use of campaign contributions for a criminal attorney or legal fees.
  - Term Limits for Legislative Leaders:
    - Implement eight-year term limits for legislative leaders and committee chairs (**A.3945, Kolb**).

### Adjust Operations and Control State Spending

- Save taxpayer money and strengthen oversight over government operations:
  - Merge the day-to-day operations of the Thruway Authority with the Department of Transportation and name the Commissioner of the Department of Transportation as the chair of the Thruway Authority Board (**A.4361, Kolb**).
  - Cap state spending to the average rate of inflation of the last three years (**A.4446, Kolb**).
  - Require legislative approval of minimum wage increases authorized through wage orders (**A.3542, Palmesano**).

- Require five percent of any settlement over \$1 million to go directly into the State's General Debt Service Fund (**A.5904, Barclay**).
- Require each section of the budget bills to clearly reference an appropriation to ensure the budget is focused on fiscal issues (**A.6018, Barclay**).
- Require elections to fill the vacancies of Comptroller and Attorney General to take place at the next scheduled general election, which would allow the Legislature to fill the vacancies only until the next general election (**A.3584, Hawley**).
- Require the State to pass enabling legislation before entering into any compact, program, or other legal agreement with any other State (**A.4874, Friend**).

### **Give All New Yorkers a Stronger Voice**

- Give all New Yorkers a voice in their State Legislature:
  - Allow each member of the Legislature to bring one substantive piece of legislation to the floor during each two-year term (**A.5715, Johns**).
  - Require Minority Leader appointments on any commission or panel formed by an act of the Legislature (**A.4099, Kolb**).
  - Pass Public Authorities Control Board (PACB) reform that will grant voting powers to minority leaders of each legislative house and require a 4/5 vote in order for the PACB to pass a resolution (**A.4162, Kolb**).
  - Create a non-partisan "Office of Policy Research and Analysis" designed to provide nonpartisan and confidential information on the impact of current and proposed legislative policy to any member of the Assembly or Senate (**A.4127, Ra**).