



**ASSEMBLY REPUBLICAN REVIEW COMMITTEE**

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# **THE FUTURE OF NEW YORK**

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**OUR PLAN FOR A SAFER, STRONGER, MORE PROSPEROUS  
NEW YORK**



**2023-24 LEGISLATIVE AGENDA**

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# ASSEMBLY REPUBLICAN REVIEW COMMITTEE

## MEMBERS



**ASSEMBLY REPUBLICAN LEADER  
WILL BARCLAY**

Assembly Republican Leader Will Barclay was first elected as a Member of the New York State Assembly on November 5, 2002. He currently represents the 120th Assembly District, which includes much of Oswego County and parts of Cayuga and Jefferson Counties.

He was unanimously elected to serve as Assembly Republican Leader on January 7, 2020. Previously, Leader Barclay served as the Ranking Republican Member of both the Insurance and Ways and Means Committees. He is currently the Ranking Republican Member of the Rules Committee.

As Assembly Republican Leader, he works closely with Assembly Republican Members to put forward statewide public policies that reflect the legislative priorities of the Conference.



**ARRC CHARIMAN  
JARETT GANDOLFO**

Jarett Gandolfo was elected to the New York State Assembly on November 3, 2020. The 7th Assembly District includes parts of Suffolk County, including Bay Shore, Brightwaters, Islip, East Islip, Islip Terrace, Great River, Oakdale, Bohemia, West Sayville, Sayville, Bayport, Blue Point, Patchogue, and East Patchogue.

He is currently the Ranking Republican Member of the Mental Health Committee, and serves on the Health; Higher Education; Insurance; and Racing and Wagering Committees.



**ASSEMBLYMAN  
MICHAEL DURSO**

Michael Durso was elected to the New York State Assembly on November 3, 2020. His district is comprised of parts of both Nassau and Suffolk Counties, including South Farmingdale, Massapequa Park, West Babylon, Babylon, West Islip, and portions of Fire Island and the Great South Bay area.

He is currently the Ranking Republican Member of the Governmental Operations Committee, and serves on the Environmental Conservation; Labor; Science and Technology; and Transportation Committees.



**ASSEMBLYMAN  
MICHAEL J. FITZPATRICK**

Michael J. Fitzpatrick was elected to the New York State Assembly, representing the 8th Assembly District, on November 5, 2002. Prior to serving in the New York State Assembly, he represented the people of Smithtown as an elected Member of the Town Board for 15 years, from 1988 through 2002.

He serves as the Ranking Republican Member on the Housing Committee and is also a Member of the Ways & Means; Higher Education; Banks; and Agriculture Committees. His leadership post is Chairman of the Program Committee.



**ASSEMBLYWOMAN  
JODI GIGLIO**

Jodi Giglio was elected to the New York State Assembly on November 3, 2020. Her district includes parts of Suffolk County, including the North Fork of Long Island, and portions of the towns of Brookhaven, Riverhead, and Southampton.

She is currently the Ranking Republican Member of the People with Disabilities Committee and serves on the Environmental Conservation; Governmental Employees; Labor; and Transportation Committees. She is also a Member of the Subcommittee on Employment Opportunities for People with Disabilities.



**ASSEMBLYMAN  
JOSH JENSEN**

Josh Jensen was elected to the New York State Assembly on November 3, 2020. His district includes a portion of Monroe County, specifically the towns of Greece, Ogden, and Parma and the villages of Hilton and Spencerport.

He currently serves at the Ranking Republican Member of the Health Committee and serves as a Member on Banks; Corporations, Authorities & Commissions; Insurance; and Libraries & Education Technology.



**ASSEMBLYMAN  
ANGELO MORINELLO**

Angelo Morinello was elected to the New York State Assembly on November 8, 2016. His district includes parts of Niagara and Erie Counties.

He is currently the Ranking Republican Member of the Codes Committee and also serves on the Economic Development, Job Creation, Commerce and Industry; Labor; Tourism, Parks, Arts and Sports Development; and Veterans' Affairs Committees. He also serves as the Chairman of the Steering Committee.



**ASSEMBLYMAN  
MATT SLATER**

Matt Slater was elected to the New York State Assembly on November 8, 2022. His district includes parts of Putnam and Westchester Counties, including the towns of Kent, Patterson, Putnam Valley, Carmel, Southeast, Somers, and Yorktown, as well as the village of Brewster.

He is currently the Ranking Republican Member of the Libraries and Education Technology Committee, and serves on the Governmental Operations; Labor; Oversight, Analysis and Investigation; Real Property Taxation; and Transportation Committees.



**ASSEMBLYMAN  
ROBERT SMULLEN**

Robert Smullen was elected to the New York State Assembly on November 6, 2018. His district is comprised of Hamilton County and parts of Fulton, Herkimer, Montgomery, and Oneida Counties.

He is currently the Ranking Republican Member of the Higher Education Committee, and serves on the Banks; Environmental Conservation; Labor; Veterans' Affairs; and Ways and Means Committees. He also serves as the Assistant Minority Whip.







# ACCOMPLISHMENTS

# ASSEMBLY REPUBLICAN CONFERENCE

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

## Tax and Mandate Relief

*Property tax cap to protect homeowners*

*School Tax Relief (STAR) program*

*Allowing seniors to substitute a recent income tax return for Enhanced STAR*

*Estate Tax threshold increase, providing more tax relief to families of deceased individuals*

*Cut the Corporate Franchise Tax for manufacturers*

*Sales tax cap on gasoline*

*Local Medicaid costs cap*

*Expanding property tax cap exemptions to include BOCES capital project payments and PILOT payment calculations*

*Creating uniformity throughout the alcohol industry by exempting tastings at licensed beer, cider, and liquor producers from sales tax*

## **Government Reform, Fiscal Responsibilities, Better Budget Process**

*Ethics reform to clean up Albany*

*Legislative paperwork reduction, allowing bills to be placed on Senate and Assembly Members' desks in digital form rather than in printed form*

*Shared Services agreements between the Department of Transportation and Thruway Authority*

*Prohibiting use of campaign funds for certain personal uses*

*Increasing funding to the Rainy Day Reserve Fund*

*Passing a Constitutional Amendment that was approved by voters to strip pension benefits from convicted corrupt officials*

*Rules Reforms to improve the operations of the State Assembly, including televising committee meetings and making all votes available electronically*

## **Economic Development, Housing, and Energy**

*Repealing the annual notice requirement in the Wage Theft Prevention Act, eliminating a burdensome and costly mandate on employers*

*Accelerating the phase-out of the 18-A "Energy Tax," a tax placed on the utility bills of all individuals and businesses*

*Design-Build process to streamline municipal capital projects*

*Expanding the Linked Deposit Program, which provides businesses access to low-interest loans made affordable by State deposits*

***Consolidated Local Street and Highway Improvement Program (CHIPS) funding increase to help pay the cost of building and maintaining local roads and bridges***

***Article X Power Plant Siting Law to expedite the process for building new power plants***

***Establishing an Economic Gardening pilot program in the Finger Lakes Region, where non-profit entities will provide counseling and marketing services to support businesses***

***Legalizing professional Mixed Martial Arts events in New York State***

***Property tax credits for manufacturer***

***Granting small businesses a cure period to remedy first-time regulatory violations to avoid penalties***

***Repealing the fiber optic tax in order to facilitate broadband buildouts***

## **Education**

***Prohibiting Common Core test results from counting against students***

***Prohibiting student data from being given to third parties***

***Common Core and testing reforms, specifically the creation of the content review committee***

***Community College Base Aid increase***

***Library Aid increase***

***Authorizing libraries to use Public Library Construction Grant Program funds for broadband services***

*Funding increases for State schools for the blind and deaf*

*Restoring funding to school districts by ending the Gap Elimination Adjustment (GEA) within three years*

*Expanding funding for broadband services in libraries*

*Strengthening reporting requirements related to child abuse in educational settings*

## **Health and Human Services**

*Funding restoration for the developmentally disabled*

*Emergency Medical Marijuana program to expedite treatment for persons with serious conditions*

*Creating the Public Umbilical Cord Blood Banking Program to utilize cord blood stem cells for treating life-threatening diseases*

*Creating an Autism Advisory Board to provide better treatment and services to persons on the autism spectrum*

*Providing for enforcement of violations involving accessible parking spaces for people with disabilities at all retail establishments with at least 20 off-street parking spaces*

*Extending child support payments in cases involving children with developmental disabilities until the age of 26*

*Creating a study on the health impacts of John F. Kennedy International Airport and LaGuardia Airport*

## Public Protection

*Awarding temporary spousal support for victims of domestic violence who obtain a temporary order of protection against a moneyed spouse*

*Re-entering Federal LESO 1033 Program to equip law enforcement with federal surplus*

*Jenna's Law – elimination of parole for violent felony offenders*

*Megan's Law – sex offender registration requirement*

*Civil confinement of sexual predators*

*DNA Databank expansion*

*Repeal of the Combined Ballistic Identification System (CoBIS), a DNA database for handguns that was costly and failed to solve gun crimes*

*Buster's Law – stronger penalties against animal abusers*

*Enacting legislation to combat the growing heroin epidemic*

*Additional reporting requirements related to untested sexual offense evidence kits being stored by law enforcement agencies*

*Creating a grant program for counties to improve regional interoperable communications systems*

*Simplifying the ability to redeem a repossessed motor vehicle or motorcycle*

*Establishing a "Blue Alert" system to aid in the apprehension of any individuals suspected of killing or seriously wounding any law enforcement personnel*

*Protecting children under the age of 17 from predators*

*Increasing penalties for felony offenders committing certain crimes with a firearm*

*Adding crimes to the list of bailable offenses, including class A-I drug felonies*

*Protecting witnesses from discovery requirements in certain cases*

## **First Responders, Volunteers, and Veterans**

*Replacing the Division of Veteran's Services with a newly created Department of Veterans' Services*

*Expanding the Military Enhanced Recognition Incentive Tribute (MERIT) Scholarship to provide free college to surviving dependents of any veteran who loses their life or becomes disabled while performing their official duties*

*Eliminating and refunding fees for adding a veteran distinguishing mark to a driver's license*

*Protecting jobs of public employees on military duty*

*Implementing updated reporting requirements related to veterans' suicide*

*Prohibiting protests at veterans' funerals*

*Putting Service-Disabled Veteran Business Enterprises on an equal basis as MWBEs for the purposes of State contracts*

*Providing local governments with the option to provide a property tax exemption to volunteer firefighters and ambulance workers*

*Establishing paid leave for public employee members of the Civil Air Patrol during a declared emergency*







# Affordability Agenda



## Immediate Relief for Families

***Inflation Relief*** - Enact the "Inflation Relief & Consumer Assistance Plan" to reduce the costs of everyday items and ease the burden on consumers

***Reduce Energy Bills*** - Cut energy assessments, ensure transparency on utility bills, and protect access to lower-cost energy production

***Increase Take-Home Pay for Working Families*** - Increase the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) and offer the EITC in monthly installments to help with immediate expenses

***Provide Child Care Support*** - Expand the Child and Dependent Care Tax Credit to help with rising child care costs

## Protect Families from Future Cost Increases

***Supermajority for Tax Increases*** - Require a two-thirds vote of the Legislature for new or increased State taxes, including the "Ted Lasso Tax" on streaming services

***Protect Health Care Choice*** - Oppose government-run "Single-Payer" in New York and codify the right of New Yorkers to purchase private healthcare coverage

***Stop Unfunded Mandates*** - Place a permanent moratorium on unfunded mandates, reduce existing mandates, require fiscal notes on bills with local impacts, and require the State to fund mandated programs to reduce the property tax burden on homeowners and renters

## Tax Relief

**Relief for Seniors** - Reduce taxes on pensions and provide additional property tax relief to make New York more affordable for senior citizens

**Cell Phone Bill Reduction** - Eliminate State Sales Tax on mobile telecommunications services and authorize local governments to eliminate the local Sales taxes to lower cell phone bills

**Simplify the New York State Tax System** - Examine the current State tax policies to determine the benefit of eliminating tax credits and taxing individuals at a lower rate

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## Affordability Agenda Related Legislation

***Inflation Relief & Consumer Assistance Plan:*** Eliminate sales tax on dozens of everyday items for two years, including (but not limited to) gasoline, personal care products, housekeeping supplies, and prepared foods ([A.1690, Barclay](#)).

***Reduce Energy Assessment:*** Reduce the amount a utility can be assessed for costs and expenses of the Department of Public Service and the Public Service Commission, from one percent to one-third of one percent ([A.2015, Hawley](#)).

***Ratepayer Disclosure and Transparency Act:*** Require annual reporting on State mandated energy programs (**To be introduced, Palmesano**).

***Energy Choice Protection:*** Prohibit the governing board of a municipal corporation from adopting any law, ordinance, regulation, or policy that prohibits, or has the effect of prohibiting, the connection or reconnection of a utility service to a customer based upon the type or source of energy to be delivered to the customer ([A.3836, Barclay](#)).

***Earned Income Tax Credit Expansion:*** Expand the New York State value of the Earned Income Tax Credit from 30 percent to 45 percent of the federal amount ([A.5442, Barclay](#)).

***Offer the Earned Income Tax Credit in Monthly Installments:*** Provide an option to individuals receiving the State EITC to receive installment payments instead of a lump sum when filing their income taxes ([A.6013, Maher](#)).

***Legislative Requirement for Tax Increases:*** Constitutional Amendment to require a 2/3 majority vote of both the Assembly and the Senate to increase, impose, or extend any State tax ([A.5187, Palmesano](#)).

## Affordability Agenda Related Legislation

**Legislative Approval for Fees, Surcharges, or Taxes:** Prohibit State departments, offices, agencies, and authorities from imposing any fees, surcharges, or taxes that have not been approved by the State Legislature ([A.5637, Friend](#)).

**Freedom of Choice in Health Care Act:** Ensure it is the policy of New York that its citizens can enter into private contracts with healthcare providers and purchase private healthcare coverage. In addition, the State cannot impose a penalty or fine against any New Yorker who chooses not to participate in any healthcare system or plan ([A.6061, Jensen](#)).

**Unfunded Mandate Moratorium:** Place a permanent moratorium on unfunded mandates and require fiscal notes on bills detailing estimated annual costs to localities ([A.5447, Barclay](#)).

**State Funding for Mandates on Local Governments:** Enact a Constitutional Amendment to require the State to fund the costs that result from any special or general law mandating a new program or increasing the level of service of an existing program by a local government. Also require the Legislature to establish procedures for the allocation of funds among the local governments ([A.5652, Friend](#)).

**Optional Medicaid Services Opt-Out:** Allow counties to opt out of providing optional Medicaid services to new enrollees. Also, require the Commissioner of Health to apply for a federal waiver to implement these provisions ([A.5462, Barclay](#)).

**Reinstate the Mandate Relief Council and Temporary Moratorium on Unfunded Mandates:** Place a three-year moratorium on unfunded mandates, require detailed fiscal notes on legislation that imposes an unfunded mandate, and reinstate the mandate relief council ([A.2915, Ra](#)).

**Private Pension Taxes:** Make the first \$100,000 of a private pension non-taxable ([A.5235, Barclay](#)).

**Mobile Tax Freedom Act:** Eliminate the State sales, compensating use, and excise taxes on mobile telecommunications services. Also, authorize local governments to eliminate their sales and compensating use taxes on mobile telecommunications ([A.5103, Barclay](#)).

## Affordability Agenda Related Legislation

***Tax Simplification and Fairness Study:*** Establish a study to examine the current tax system to see if there is a benefit to eliminating existing tax credits and simplifying the tax code by taxing individuals at the same, lower rate ([A.4791](#), [Smullen](#)).

***Structural Change for New York:*** Reduce Medicaid costs for local governments, redesign our public benefit system, expand the Child and Dependent Care Tax Credit, and provide real relief to reduce the property tax burden on homeowners and businesses ([A.3390](#), [Ra](#)).

***Enhanced STAR Expansion:*** Raise the income cap for senior citizens applying for the Enhanced STAR property tax exemption ([A.2769](#), [Gandolfo](#)).

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An aerial photograph of a city skyline at sunset. The Empire State Building is the central focus, with its iconic spire reaching towards the sky. The sky is a mix of soft blue and pinkish-purple. Other skyscrapers are visible in the background, including One World Trade Center. The foreground shows a dense cluster of buildings.

# **Economic and Workforce Development Agenda**



# ASSEMBLY REPUBLICAN REVIEW COMMITTEE

A New Approach to  
Economic and Workforce  
Development In New York  
State

Economic and Workforce Development Agenda

## Economic Growth

***Inflation Relief*** - Enact the "Inflation Relief & Consumer Assistance Plan" to reduce the costs on everyday items and ease the burden on consumers

***Tax Simplification and Reduction*** - Reduce taxes on overburdened employers and study simplifying the State tax system

***Elimination of Burdensome Regulations*** - Establish the Division of Regulatory Review and Economic Growth (D-RREG) and the Legislative Office of Fiscal Transparency to eliminate or prevent burdensome regulations that negatively impact the economy

## Infrastructure Improvements

***Bridges and Highways*** - Increase infrastructure investment and specifically provide support for upgrading the State's highways and bridges

***Repair and Maintenance*** - Increase State reimbursement rates for the repair and maintenance of State and local infrastructure

***Water Infrastructure*** - Address safety and quality issues in our public water system by reducing chemicals found in public water and providing support for those looking to install purification systems

## Support For Small Businesses

**Shop Local** - Support local businesses by offering financial support to advertise and emphasize the importance of shopping local

**Small Business Tax Cuts** - Reduce the burden on the small businesses that [employ over 4.2 million](#) New Yorkers

**Emergency Relief** - Authorize the Governor to repurpose certain monies as needed for the Restart New York Grant Relief Program

**Minimum Wage Assistance** - Expand eligibility in order for employers to receive reimbursement credits, expand/restructure the State Earned Income Tax Credit to reduce the reliance on the minimum wage for increasing take-home pay, require legislative approval for Wage Board orders

## Learning for Work

**Youth Apprenticeship Programs** - Provide career-focused curriculum in our high schools by combining academic classroom coursework with mentored on-the-job training in a specific occupational area

**Enhanced Professional High School Diploma** - Offer a degree with a designation in a career field of a student's choice

**Youth Apprenticeship Tax Credits** - Establish a per apprentice tax credit for businesses that take part in the Youth Apprenticeship Program

**Sector Partnerships** - Support industry clusters that partner with local education, workforce development, not-for-profit, and similar entities to address industry skill needs and other priorities

## Rural Support and Access

**Broadband Expansion** - Ensure internet access to every citizen in their designated area by implementing the "Regional Broadband Expansion and Access Program"

**Financial Assistance for Farmers** - Provide farmers with grants and regulatory relief to help them expand and sustain their operations

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# ASSEMBLY REPUBLICAN REVIEW COMMITTEE

A New Approach to  
Economic and Workforce  
Development In New York  
State

Economic and Workforce Development Agenda  
Related Legislation

## Economic and Workforce Development Related Legislation

***Inflation Relief & Consumer Assistance Plan:*** Eliminate sales tax on dozens of everyday items for two years, including (but not limited to) gasoline, personal care products, housekeeping supplies, and prepared foods ([A.1690](#), [Barclay](#)).

***Tax Simplification and Fairness Study:*** Establish a study to examine the current tax system to see if there is a benefit to eliminating existing tax credits and simplifying the tax code by taxing individuals at the same, lower rate ([A.4791](#), [Smullen](#)).

***Manufacturing Company Tax Credit:*** Create a tax credit for manufacturing companies that have one established place of business in the State and relocate a minimum of fifty employees from outside New York into the State. Provide that manufacturing companies shall be allowed a credit in the amount of 2.5 percent of the average salaries of newly created manufacturing jobs multiplied by the number of new jobs brought to the State ([A.2271](#), [Norris](#)).

***Manufacturer Real Property Tax Credit Increase:*** Increase the Manufacturer Real Property Tax Credit from 20 percent to 100 percent ([A.5441](#), [Palmesano](#)).

***Division of Regulatory Review and Economic Growth (D-RREG):*** Establish a division, led by a commissioner who has a fixed term, to review and make binding recommendations for the elimination of burdensome regulations ([A.5389](#), [Barclay](#)).

***Legislative Office of Fiscal Transparency (LOFT):*** Require fiscal notes on proposed rules and Executive Orders affecting localities, and require legislative committee approval of certain proposed rules ([A.2903](#), [Jensen](#)).

## Economic and Workforce Development Related Legislation

**Streamline Environmental Permitting Process:** Streamline the State Environmental Quality Review (SEQR) process by making the Department of Environmental Conservation the lead agency if a permit process is to be carried out or approved by two or more State agencies, reducing the timeline allowed for certain steps of the SEQR and State Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (SPDES) permitting processes, and clarifying which areas are eligible for inclusion on the State Register of Historic Preservation to clearly show businesses which locations may be subjected to an archaeological survey during the SPDES process ([A.5460, Barclay](#)).

**Dedicated Bridge and Highway Funding:** Dedicate a portion of gasoline sales tax revenues into the Dedicated Highway and Bridge Trust Fund to ensure revenues are used on road and bridge repair ([A.5089, Palmesano](#)).

**Dedicated Highway And Bridge Trust Fund Reform Act:** Ensure that money deposited into the Dedicated Highway and Bridge Trust Fund is spent for construction purposes and not DOT and DMV operational activities ([A.5082, Palmesano](#)).

**Increased Reimbursement Rates for Repairing State Arterials:** Increase reimbursement rates paid by the State to cities for repair and maintenance of State arterials; the rate would be raised to \$1.80 from \$0.85 per square yard of the pavement area that is included in the State highway system and an additional \$0.20, up from \$0.10, per square yard of such pavement area where such pavement area is located on any elevated bridge ([A.5078, Palmesano](#)).

**City Reimbursement for State Highway Construction:** Raise the amount of reimbursement from the current rate of not more than \$0.85 per square yard of the pavement area to a new rate of not more than \$1.80 per square yard of the pavement area ([A.5084, Palmesano](#)).

**Water Purification Tax Credit:** Create a tax credit for households or businesses that install water purification or filtration systems ([A.3739, Bendett](#)).



## Economic and Workforce Development Related Legislation

**New York – Shop Local Program:** Provide immediate assistance to small businesses by providing grants of up to \$10,000 to support online marketing campaigns and social media strategies, and provide valuable business assistance to locally-owned businesses ([A.3626, Ra](#)).

**Small Business Infectious Disease Reduction Credit:** Establish a small business tax credit of up to \$5,000 for efforts to improve a facility in order to reduce the spread of infectious diseases ([A.3695, Bendett](#)).

**Minimum Wage Reimbursement:** Expand the eligibility to receive the Minimum Wage Reimbursement Credit to employers who pay the minimum wage plus fifty cents to certain employees ([A.4809, Norris](#)).

**Legislative Approval of Wage Board Orders:** Require legislative approval of minimum wage increases authorized through wage orders ([A.5419, Palmesano](#)).

**Earned Income Tax Credit Expansion:** Expand the New York State value of the Earned Income Tax Credit from 30 percent to 45 percent of the federal amount ([A.5442, Barclay](#)).

**Offer the Earned Income Tax Credit in Monthly Installments:** Offer the State EITC as installment payments instead of a lump sum when filing income taxes ([A.1737, Goodell](#)).

**Learning for Work Program:** A three-part plan to accelerate career readiness and reduce the burden of student loan debt:

- **Youth Apprenticeship Program:** Creates a one- or two-year program beginning in 11th or 12th grade that combines academic classroom coursework with mentored on-the-job training in a specific occupational area.
- **Enhanced Regents Professional Degree:** Students who enroll in the Youth Apprenticeship Program would earn this degree with a designation in their career field of choice.
  - Any student who is not offered or who decides not to seek employment in their field of choice will be awarded a minimum of 15 credit hours at any SUNY or CUNY institution.
- **Youth Apprenticeship Tax Credit:** Establishes a \$1,500 per apprentice tax credit for businesses that take part in the Youth Apprenticeship Program ([A.3200, Ra](#)).

## Economic and Workforce Development Related Legislation

***Sector Partnership Enhancement and Reinforcement Program:*** Provide State support for the establishment or expansion of local sector partnerships designed to address industry-specific workforce and other training needs ([A.6496, Maher](#)).

***Regional Broadband Expansion and Access Act:*** Allow localities to work together and design regionally-based plans to ensure internet access to every citizen in their designated area utilizing available state and federal funding ([A.4686, Smullen](#)).

***NY Food Insecurity, Farm Resiliency, and Rural Poverty Initiative*** – Connect farmers with excess products to food banks while simultaneously providing farmers with grants and regulatory relief to help them expand and sustain their operations ([A.5708, Tague](#)).

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# **Energy and Climate Agenda**



## Addressing the Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act (CLCPA)

**Cost-Benefit Analysis** - Pass legislation directing the Public Service Commission (PSC) to commission a full and complete cost-benefit analysis of renewable-energy goals based on CLCPA mandates

**"Green Guarantee"** - Consider legislation to ensure New Yorkers are covered for the full cost of implementing CLCPA mandates, including the implementation of a Statewide Electrification Tax Credit for the potential cost of converting to all-electric homes

**Mandate Referendum** - Widespread mandates such as banning natural gas should be subjected to a vote of the public

## Ensure Electric Vehicle (EV) Safety and Fairness

**The "EV Fire Safety Campaign"** - Study the environmental impact and safety issues related to lithium-ion fires, institute a public media campaign to educate on potential fire concerns, install fire suppression systems and put in place buffer areas at EV charging stations, and work to protect first responders who are called to put out lithium-ion fires

**Protect Our Kids** - Halt the mandated replacement of school bus fleets with electric buses and require a complete safety and feasibility study to ensure children are protected from the dangers and limitations of lithium-ion batteries

**EV Market Fairness** - Ensure the State does not mandate zero-emission vehicle purchases, curtail rebates and financial incentives for EV purchases, and require truth-in-advertising and safety warning notifications with every EV purchase

## Across-the-Board Energy Production

**Nuclear Now** - Require nuclear power to be included and expanded in order to meet future energy needs

**Natural Gas** - Reverse the ban on gas pipelines, and protect natural gas use in new and existing homes to ensure grid reliability and human safety (especially in winter months)

**Renewable and Alternative Energy Resources** - Utilize solar, wind, hydroelectric, hydrogen, and other forms of renewable energy to ensure grid reliability to meet current and future needs. Study the durability of existing pipelines to transport alternative fuels

## Protect Our Land

**Ban Deforestation** - Complete ban on deforestation of public lands when siting wind and solar power generation

**Environmental Impact** - Form a task force to study the adverse effects of wind and solar siting in Upstate New York

**Local Control** - Restore home-rule rights for renewable energy projects, and ensure rural and community control over future climate actions by the State

## Health, Safety, Environment, and Human Rights

**Protect Human Rights** - Ban purchases of green energy components and require pension divestiture from nations and industries utilizing child/slave labor

**Environmental Protections** - Remove State Environmental Quality Review exemptions for major renewable energy projects and require disposal plans for removal of potentially toxic renewable energy components

**Additional Protections** - Address liability issues, require emergency preparedness plans, and strategies to educate the public on potential hazards and dangers of renewables such as large-scale battery storage

Energy and Climate Agenda

Related Legislation

## Energy and Climate Agenda Related Legislation

**Cost-Benefit Analysis:** Direct the Public Service Commission (PSC) to commission a full and complete cost-benefit analysis of renewable-energy goals based on Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act (CLCPA) mandates. The study will be undertaken by an independent third-party contractor to help ensure a neutral perspective ([A.5198, Palmesano](#)).

**Energy Choice Protection:** Prohibit the governing board of a municipal corporation from adopting any law, ordinance, regulation, or policy that prohibits, or has the effect of prohibiting, the connection or reconnection of a utility service to a customer based upon the type or source of energy to be delivered to the customer ([A.3836, Barclay](#)).

**Renewable Reclamation Bond:** Require developers of wind and solar power to post a reclamation bond to ensure the proper reclamation of a solar or wind project at the end of its useful life ([A.1733, Goodell](#)).

**Renewable Human Rights Abuse Divestiture:** Require the Office of the State Comptroller to divest pension fund investments from cobalt and lithium mining and production, including exploration, extraction, drilling, production, refining, processing, or distribution activities related to cobalt and lithium, for the manufacture of batteries used in large-scale battery storage power stations and the primary propulsion systems for electric vehicles (including, but not limited to, cars, trucks, and boats) because of the widespread human and environmental abuses connected with the mining of these elements ([A.4827, Palmesano](#)).

**Lithium-Ion First Responder Safety Commission:** Create a commission to study the health and safety risks to first responders concerning fires and other dangers associated with lithium-ion battery casualties, to determine best practices, training, and equipment costs for volunteer fire departments ([A.5386 Palmesano](#)).

## Energy and Climate Agenda Related Legislation

**Lithium-Ion Health and Toxicity Awareness:** Require the Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) to educate about the health and environmental impacts of lithium-ion battery use and manufacture, such as toxicity and contamination resulting from battery leakage or deterioration, environmental impacts of lithium-ion battery casualties and disposal, high-heat fires, and health risks associated with exposure to lithium-ion battery components ([A.4848, Palmesano](#)).

**Marine Electric Propulsion Environmental Impacts:** Require the Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation (OPRHP) to educate the public about the environmental and health impacts of marine electric propulsion systems ([A.4849, Palmesano](#)).

**“Solar Panel Collection Act”:** Establish a solar panel recycling infrastructure and related protocols. Direct each solar panel manufacturer to, individually or collectively, with other solar panel manufacturers, establish and maintain a program for the collection, transportation, and recycling of out-of-service solar panels ([A.5101, Byrnes](#)).


**Ratepayer Disclosure and Transparency Act:** Require annual reporting on State mandated energy programs (**To be introduced, Palmesano**).

**SUNY and CUNY CO2 Competition:** Create a competition among SUNY and CUNY schools with prizes going to the schools that produce the most cost-efficient method of reducing CO2 emissions ([A.3042, Ra](#)).

**Reduce Energy Assessment:** Reduce the amount a utility can be assessed, for costs and expenses of the Department of Public Service and the Public Service Commission, from one percent to one-third of one percent ([A.2015, Hawley](#)).

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A photograph of the Statue of Liberty in New York City, taken at sunset. The statue is the central focus, standing on its pedestal. The sky is a mix of orange, yellow, and blue, with some clouds. In the background, the city skyline is visible with some lights and structures. The text "Government Reform Agenda" is overlaid in white, bold, sans-serif font.

# Government Reform Agenda



# ASSEMBLY REPUBLICAN REVIEW COMMITTEE

Restoring Legislative Oversight  
and Innovating State Government

## Government Reform Agenda



## Legislative Oversight

**Limit Executive Powers** - Provide for greater legislative oversight of Executive agencies, provide legislative oversight over proposed agency rules, and limit the Governors' authority to extend emergency declarations

**Update Assembly Operations** - Implement needed Rules reforms to ensure the concerns of all constituents are heard in the "People's House"

**Provide Non-Partisan Support** - Establish the Office of Policy and Research Analysis to provide non-partisan information on current and proposed legislative policy to any member of the Assembly or Senate

## Budget and Regulatory Reform

**Control State Spending** - Enact a statutory State spending cap, provide safeguards to prevent tax increases, consolidate agency operations, and require certain monies to be utilized to pay down our debt

**Increase Budget Transparency** - End the "Three-men-in-a-room" budget negotiations and ensure the budget is focused on fiscal issues instead of policy

**Prohibit "Back-door Borrowing"** - Prohibit the use of public authorities to issue debt on behalf of the State and also limit the amount and scope of debt issuance

**Regulatory Review and Oversight** - Establish the Division of Regulatory Review and Economic Growth (D-RREG) and the Legislative Office of Fiscal Transparency to eliminate or prevent burdensome regulations that negatively impact the economy

## Ethical and Transparent Government

**True Ethical Oversight** - Create a new Department of Oversight and Investigation to enforce legal and ethics compliance for State officials

**Open Government** - Require complete transparency for State Government contracts and provide for elections to fill the vacancies of Statewide elected officials

**Fixing Operations** - Merge the day-to-day operations of certain State agencies and authorities, and limit the use of messages of necessity to situations involving a State of Emergency

# ASSEMBLY REPUBLICAN REVIEW COMMITTEE

Restoring Legislative Oversight  
and Innovating State Government

## Government Reform Agenda *Related Legislation*



## Government Reform Agenda Related Legislation

**Limit Executive Powers:** Restrict State emergency declarations to 45 days unless approved by the Legislature, require emergency declarations to be based on a county-by-county analysis, and allow localities to request termination of a State of Emergency related to their jurisdiction ([A.1953](#), [Goodell](#)).

**Legislative Office of Fiscal Transparency (LOFT):** Require fiscal notes on proposed rules and Executive Orders affecting localities, and require legislative committee approval of certain proposed rules ([A.2903](#), [Jensen](#)).

**Department of Oversight and Investigation:** Abolish the investigative agencies in New York State and create one politically-neutral agency to investigate criminal activity, fraud, waste, abuse, and wrongdoing by all State employees and those people doing business with the State ([A.2496](#), [J.M. Giglio](#)).

**State Contracts Sunlight Act:** Require the Comptroller to establish the State Contract Project Sunlight Database; a detailed and searchable statewide database of all contract bids and final contracts ([A.2489](#), [Norris](#)).

**New York State Thruway Authority Accountability Act:** 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.5471](#), [Barclay](#)).

**Office of Policy Research and Analysis:** Create a nonpartisan “Office of Policy Research and Analysis” designed to provide confidential information on the impact of current and proposed legislative policy to any member of the Assembly or Senate ([A.2955](#), [Ra](#)).

## Government Reform Agenda Related Legislation

**State Agreement Enabling Legislation:** Require the State to pass enabling legislation before entering into any compact, program, or other legal agreement with any other state ([A.5650](#), [Friend](#)).

**Settlement Money Designated for Debt Service:** Require five percent of any settlement over \$1 million to go directly into the State's General Debt Service Fund ([A.3270](#), [Ra](#)).

**State Spending Cap:** Cap State spending to the average rate of inflation of the three previous calendar years, and increase the maximum capacity of the rainy day fund ([A.4845](#), [Barclay](#)).

**Itemization in the State Budget:** Require each section of the budget bills to clearly reference an appropriation to ensure budget negotiations are focused on fiscal issues ([A.3268](#), [Ra](#)).

**Elections to Fill Vacancies of Comptroller and Attorney General:** Require elections to fill the vacancies of Comptroller and Attorney General to take place at the next scheduled general election following a vacancy. Allow the Legislature to appoint vacancies in the office of Comptroller and Attorney General only until the first general election following a vacancy in either office ([A.4251](#), [Hawley](#)).

**Sensible Opportunity for Legislative Equality (SOLE) Act:** Allow each member of the Legislature, during each two year term, to bring one substantive piece of legislation of his or her choosing to the floor for a vote ([A.4961](#), [Jensen](#)).

**Message of Necessity:** Limit the use of messages of necessity to situations involving a state of emergency (**To be introduced**).

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# ASSEMBLY REPUBLICAN REVIEW COMMITTEE

Restoring Legislative Oversight  
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## Government Reform Agenda *Assembly Rules Reforms*



## Assembly Republican Rules Reforms

**Extended Debate for Budget Bills, Messages of Necessity, and Rules Reforms:** Make Budget Bills and bills with Messages of Necessity exceptions to the 5-hour debate limit. Make same exception to the one 15-minute speaking limit. Make Assembly Rules reform resolutions exceptions from the 30-minute debate limit ([E.218, offered by Assemblyman Slater](#)).

**Archiving Committee Meeting Video:** Require Committee Meeting recordings to be archived on the Assembly Website ([E.219, offered by Assemblyman Maher](#)).

**Committee Hearing Petitions:** Allow one-third of the members of a committee to petition for a hearing on a bill or an oversight hearing [Under current Rules, a majority is required] ([E.220, offered by Assemblyman Tague](#)).

**Motion to Discharge Reform "Spirit of 76":** Declare a motion to discharge to be in order if the bill or resolution is sponsored by at least 76 members of the Assembly ([E.221, offered by Assemblywoman Walsh](#)).

**Petition to Convene Session:** Establish a petition process for a minimum of 76 members to call the Assembly back to Session to address specific matters ([E.222, offered by Assemblyman Hawley](#)).

**Reporter Floor Access:** Allow news reporters access to the Floor during session proceedings ([E.223, offered by Assemblyman Ra](#)).

**Committee Bill Removal Prohibition:** Prohibit a bill from being removed from a committee agenda once voting on the bill has started ([E.224, offered by Assemblyman Brown K.](#)).

## Assembly Republican Rules Reforms

**Timely Bill Introduction:** Require all bills to be assigned a bill number within five business days after being delivered to the Index Clerk ([E.225, offered by Assemblyman Brown A.](#)).

**Single Opportunity for Legislative Equality (SOLE) Act:** Allow each member of the Legislature, during each two-year term, to bring one substantive piece of legislation of his or her choosing to the Floor for a vote ([A.226, offered by Assemblyman Durso](#)).

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# Public Protection

## Agenda

**SAFER**



# SAFER NEIGHBORHOODS. SECURE STREETS.

Protect New Yorkers and  
Support Law Enforcement

Public Protection Agenda

## Hold Criminals Accountable

**Fix Cashless Bail** - Restore the ability of judges to consider dangerousness when determining bail

**Address Raise the Age** - Require Youth-Part Criminal Court for violent felony offenses, ensure access to juvenile delinquency proceeding records, and require victims of crimes committed by a person under 18 to be made aware of the final disposition of a case

**Expand Qualified Offenses** - Expand the list of crimes eligible for issuing bail and denying pre-trial release

**Parole Changes** - Require a unanimous vote to grant early release, authorize life in prison for persistent violent felony offenders, prevent parole for sexual assault or murder of a child, and allow the Legislature to remove Parole Board Commissioners

## Tackle the Opioid and Drug Epidemic

**Support Addiction Treatment** - Create dedicated opioid rehabilitation facilities, expand required insurance coverage for substance abuse treatment, and allow for longer custody times when one is at risk for continued substance abuse

**Target Drug Manufacturers and Dealers** - Provide additional tools to law enforcement and prosecutors to go after those with intent to manufacture, distribute, and/or sell dangerous narcotics, and support "Death by Dealer" laws

**Protect New Yorkers from Fentanyl** - Criminalize distribution, punish exposing law enforcement, and educate New Yorkers on the extreme danger posed by fentanyl

## Supporting Law Enforcement

**Protective Equipment** - Establish an equipment grant program for police officers to ensure access to much-needed protective gear

**Criminalize Targeting of Law Enforcement** - Establish new criminal offenses for targeted violence toward police officers and obstructing law enforcement activities, and support law enforcement when enforcing larceny crimes

**Safety for Correctional Officers** - Require DOCCS to establish a contraband screening program to protect correctional facilities

## Protecting New York's Children

**Zero Tolerance for Sex Offenders** - Require lifetime parole for violent sex offenders and prohibit their early release, prohibit certain sex offenders from voting at a school or facility for children

**Ensure School Safety** - Implement the recommendations of the Assembly Republican Task Force on School Safety & Security, including increased law enforcement presence in schools

**School Bus Safety** - Increase penalties for causing injury or death while passing a stopped school bus and protect children from dangerous lithium-ion fires

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# SAFER NEIGHBORHOODS. SECURE STREETS.

Protect New Yorkers and  
Support Law Enforcement

Public Protection Agenda  
Related Legislation

## Public Protection Agenda Related Legislation

**Judicial Discretion:** Restore judicial discretion to allow judges the ability to determine whether a violent criminal poses a dangerous threat to the community and can be held without bail ([A.3183, Reilly](#)).

**Raise the Age Reforms:** Require violent felony offenses to be tried in Youth-Part Criminal Court, ensure access to records, and keep victims of crimes committed by a person under 18 aware of the final disposition of cases (**To be introduced, Barclay**).

**Make "Hate Crime" a Qualified Offense:** Make a "hate crime" a qualified offense for purposes of bail issuance and denying pre-trial (**To be introduced, E. Brown**).

**Ensure Punishment for Gun Crimes:** Remove all gun crimes from the no-bail list of offenses Democrats established in 2019 ([A.1503, Barclay](#)).

**Additional Penalties for Committing Crimes with a Firearm:** Provide for an additional five-year term of imprisonment for committing a felony while possessing a loaded firearm ([A.4222, Mikulin](#)).

**Firing into a Crowded Space:** Make it a class B violent felony to fire into a crowded space with the intent to harm ([A.2929, Jensen](#)).

**Parole Reform:** Require a unanimous vote of at least three parole commissioners to grant a prisoner early release. Also allows a majority vote of the Legislature to remove a commissioner from the Parole Board ([A.5225, Barclay](#)).

**"Paula's Law":** Prevent the parole of anyone who sexually assaults and murders a child under 18 years of age ([A.4661, McGowan](#)).

## Public Protection Agenda Related Legislation

**Three Strikes & You're In:** Authorize life in prison without parole for persistent violent felony offenders ([A.5557, Brabenec](#)).

**Lifetime Post-Release Supervision:** Require lifetime post-release supervision for offenders convicted of rape in the first degree, criminal sexual act in the first degree, aggravated sexual abuse in the first degree, course of sexual conduct against a child in the first and second degrees, or sexual abuse in the first degree when the other person is less than eleven years old; prohibits good behavior allowances against a determinate sentence for a person convicted of any such crimes ([A.5463, Barclay](#)).

**No Parole for Murder Involving a First Responder:** Require a sentence of life imprisonment without parole for murder in the first degree involving the killing of a first responder ([A.5747, Slater](#)).

**Police Safety Equipment Grant Program:** Establish the police safety equipment grant program within the Division of Criminal Justice Services and make an appropriation ([A.5532, Smith](#)).

**Obstructing a Police Officer:** Create the class E felony offense of Obstructing a Police Officer when a person intentionally interferes with, inhibits, or attempts to interfere with or inhibit a police or peace officer from performing their official duties ([A.5540, Smith](#)).

**School Resource Officer and DARE Grant Program:** Establish a \$30 million grant program for the cost of school resource officers or costs related to the Drug Abuse Resistance Education (DARE) Program **(To be introduced)**.

**Menacing a Police Officer:** Establish the offenses of menacing a police officer or peace officer in the first degree and menacing a police officer or peace officer in the second degree **(To be introduced)**.

**Unlawful Discharge of a Firearm:** Create a class B felony when a person willfully discharges a loaded firearm when pointed at a peace officer, police officer, corrections officer, firefighter, or emergency services professional ([A.4522, Durso](#)).

**Increased Penalties for Crimes During a Riot:** Enhance the penalties for crimes committed during a riot ([A.3373, Reilly](#)).

## Public Protection Agenda Related Legislation

***Killing a Police Animal:*** Elevate killing a police work dog or police work horse from a class E felony to a class D felony ([A.5558](#), [Brabenec](#)).

***Strengthen Penalties for Crimes Against Children:*** Address current statutes pertaining to child abuse, child sex abuse, and murder by strengthening child endangerment laws, strengthening penalties for those who sexually abuse children, and clearly defining depraved indifference ([A.5605](#), [Barclay](#)).

***Increase Penalties for Passing School Buses:*** Increase penalties for individuals who cause injury or death to a person while overtaking and passing a stopped school bus (**To be introduced**, [Palmesano](#)).

***Voting Location Restrictions for Sex Offenders:*** Prohibit level two or three sex offenders from voting at a school or facility for children ([A.2212](#), [Norris](#)).

***Presumption to Sell Heroin:*** Provide that possession of 40 or more individual packages containing heroin or a heroin mixture is presumptive evidence of a person's intent to sell it, thereby increasing the severity of the crime ([A.5475](#), [Smith](#)).

***Criminal Possession of Fentanyl:*** Create the class E felony of criminal possession of fentanyl which is committed when a person knowingly or intentionally manufactures, distributes, dispenses, or possesses with intent to manufacture, distribute, or dispense fentanyl or any derivate ([A.5592](#), [Brabenec](#)).

***Exposing a First Responder to Fentanyl:*** Include exposing a first responder to fentanyl, or a fentanyl derivative, in the definition of offense of assault in the first degree ([A.4085-A](#), [Durso](#)).

***Insurance Coverage for Substance Abuse Treatment:*** Require insurance companies to cover at least seven days of detoxification treatment and 30 days of rehabilitation services for substance abuse disorders ([A.2401](#), [JM. Giglio](#)).

***Custody for Drug Treatment:*** Allow for principals to be remanded into custody for drug treatment where there is a risk of continued substance abuse or the use of an opioid antagonist was required ([A.5590](#), [K. Brown](#)).

## Public Protection Agenda Related Legislation

**Opioid Rehabilitation Facilities:** Establish and require the operation of a dedicated opioid rehabilitation facility and the personal needs allowance for residents of a dedicated opioid rehabilitation facility; relates to the diversion of certain defendants to a mandatory opioid rehabilitation facility; relates to the establishment of a dedicated opioid rehabilitation facility and the provision of correction officers to such facilities ([A.4146, Lemondes](#)).

**Penalties for Methamphetamine Possession or Sale:** Amend the penal law so that the penalties for the possession and/or sale of methamphetamine are similar to those of the penalties for possession and/or sale of heroin and cocaine ([A.4373, Palmesano](#)).

**Manufacturing Methamphetamine Penalties:** Increase the penalties for the crimes of criminal possession of methamphetamine manufacturing material and unlawful manufacture of methamphetamine ([A.4445, Palmesano](#)).

**Arson While Manufacturing a Controlled Substance:** Define a person as guilty of arson in the first degree who while manufacturing or attempting to manufacture a controlled substance destroys or causes to be burned, in whole or part, a building or person ([A.5418, Palmesano](#)).

**Contraband Screening at Correctional Facilities:** Require the Department of Corrections and Community Supervision (DOCCS) to establish a contraband screening plan in correctional facilities ([A.5388, Palmesano](#)).

**"Bella's Law":** Call for an investigation into possible domestic violence or abuse for persons who have been accused of animal abuse ([A.1276, E. Brown](#)).

**"Clara's Law":** Require hospitals and healthcare facilities to report incidents of sexual offense against a patient by a healthcare practitioner to the Department of Health and the Department of Education ([A.2991, Gallahan](#)).

**"Todd's Law":** Increase the punishment by one category when a person is convicted of petit larceny or grand larceny and the property stolen is necessary for the daily living of a physically disabled or elderly individual ([A.5402, Smith](#)).



## Public Protection Agenda Related Legislation

**Landowner Liability Protection:** Grant landowners protection from liability if an individual is injured on their property by providing for a general exemption from liability for “other recreational activities” ([A.5641, Friend](#)).

**Witnesses of a Hate Crime:** Protect the identity of witnesses of hate crimes in discovery proceedings ([A.2773, Gandolfo](#)).

**Combination of Petit Larceny Charges:** Authorize prosecutors to combine petit larceny charges within an 18-month period, potentially elevating petit larceny to grand larceny charges ([A.5029, Reilly](#)).

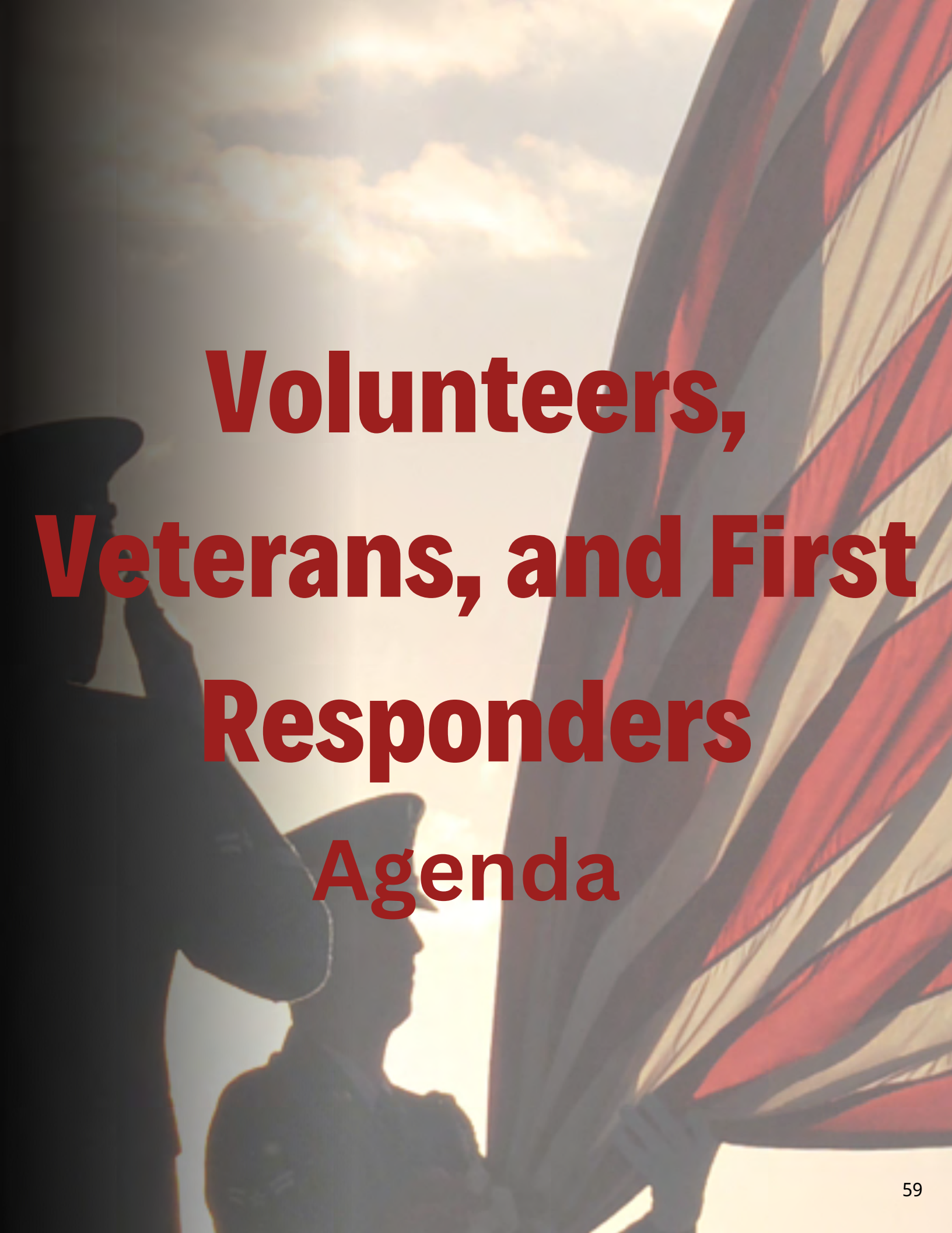
**Unfounded Complaints:** Prevent unfounded complaints against first responders from being disclosed or added to their personnel record ([A.2727, JA. Giglio](#)).

**Failure to Retreat:** Make it a class D felony for any person to approach or remain within 25 feet of police officers in the performance of their duties when ordered to retreat ([A.4211, Morinello](#)).

**Making a False Accusation:** Create the crime of offering a false accusation against a police officer when filing a report against a police officer knowing the information is false or baseless ([A.4205, Morinello](#)).

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The background of the page features a silhouette of two individuals wearing military-style caps, holding a large American flag. The scene is set against a bright, hazy sky with a sun low on the horizon, creating a warm, golden glow. The flag's red and white stripes are prominent on the right side of the image.

# **Volunteers, Veterans, and First Responders Agenda**



Providing Support For  
Those Who Protect And  
Serve New York State

# SERVING THOSE WHO SERVE US

Volunteer, Veterans, and First Responder Agenda

## Voices for Veterans

**Housing Assistance** – Enact the "Homes for Heroes" plan to increase home affordability and ownership among veterans

**Support Military Spouses** – Expand when military spouses are eligible for a leave of absence

**Employ Our Veterans** – Provide State support to employers for hiring veteran employees

**Improve Veteran Facilities** – Allow State grants to be used for capital costs of construction, improvement, rehabilitation, or reconstruction of facilities owned by veterans' organizations

**Green Alert System** – Establish a missing person alert system for veterans struggling with mental illness

**Veterans Clearinghouse** – Create a veterans' clearinghouse for the purpose of identifying veterans eligible for benefits

## Providing Healthcare for Veterans and First Responders

**Access to Mental Health Care** – Require a study to improve the way we treat Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD)

**Cost of Health Care** – Establish the "New York's Own Combat Veterans Health Care Choice Program Act" to provide tax-free savings accounts to help certain veterans with healthcare costs

**Promote Information** – Provide information for veterans on health issues such as depression, eating disorders, anxiety, schizophrenia, post-traumatic stress disorder, and bipolar disorder

## Incentivizing Volunteerism in New York State

**Recognize Our Volunteers** – Establish the Omnibus Emergency Services Volunteer Incentive Act to provide numerous benefits to volunteer firefighters and ambulance workers

**Reduce the Tax Burden** – Provide income tax exemptions for qualifying volunteers

**Encourage Volunteer Education** – Reward volunteer firefighters with additional educational opportunities

## Supporting Our First Responders

**Peer Support** – Enact the “Health Care Worker Peer Support Program” which provides grants for entities establishing peer-to-peer mental health programs for health care workers.

**Line of Duty Sick Leave** – Allow PTSD to be a qualifying reason for line of duty sick leave for first responders

**Protect Firefighters Attending Training** – Ensure those taking part in firefighter training cannot be penalized by their employer

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## ASSEMBLY REPUBLICAN REVIEW COMMITTEE

Providing Support for  
those Who Protect And  
Serve New York State

# SERVING THOSE WHO SERVE US

Volunteer, Veterans, And First Responder Agenda  
Related Legislation

## Volunteer, Veterans, and First Responder Related Legislation

**Home Loan Guarantee:** Expand the Federal Home Loan Guarantee to provide a tax credit for National Guard and Reserve veterans equal to the extra 0.75% active duty veterans receive ([A.4253](#), [Hawley](#)).

**Affordable Home Ownership for Disabled Veterans:** Make the Affordable Home Ownership Development Program available to service-related disabled veterans ([A.1990](#), [Hawley](#)).

**Veterans Home, Rehabilitation, and Land Ownership Assistance Loans:** Authorize the State Housing Finance Agency to provide home purchase and rehabilitation assistance loans of up to 20% of the value of the home to veterans ([A.4307](#), [Hawley](#)).

**Veterans Assisted Forward Commitment Mortgages:** Authorize SONYMA to purchase veterans-assisted forward commitment loans from banks with low down payments and at favorable interest rates ([A.2066](#), [Hawley](#)).

**Veteran Nursing Home Study:** Direct the Department of Health to conduct a study on opening three new veterans' nursing homes in the State ([A.4162](#), [Manktelow](#)).

**Wage Tax Credit for Hiring Veterans and Emergency Services Personnel:** Create a wage tax credit for employers who employ New York National Guard men and women, reservists, volunteer firefighters, and EMS personnel ([A.2044](#), [Hawley](#)).

**Service-Disabled Veteran Benefits:** Allow veterans with a service-connected disability or Purple Heart to have free use of parks and campsites ([A.4181](#), [Manktelow](#)).

## Volunteer, Veterans, and First Responder Related Legislation

**Military Pay Income Tax Exemption Extension:** Extend the State Personal Income Tax exemption that is currently for active duty troops stationed overseas to include New York residents stationed within the U.S. ([A.1993, Hawley](#)).

**Green Alert System For Missing Military Members:** Establish a statewide green alert system for missing military members who have elected to join the system and who suffer from a mental illness, including post-traumatic stress disorder or a traumatic brain injury ([A.4163, Manktelow](#)).

**Omnibus Emergency Services Volunteer Incentive Act:** Provide a \$400 tax credit to volunteer firefighters and ambulance workers, exempt registration and use taxes for vehicles used in the performance of duty, create a loan forgiveness program, and provide some other benefits([A.5157, Palmesano](#)).

**New York State Volunteer Fire Protection Emergency Reimbursement Account:** Divert monies collected from the Public Safety Communications Surcharge into a newly created New York State Volunteer Fire Protection Reimbursement Account to be used to reimburse volunteer departments and emergency medical services for expenses incurred related to procuring personal protective equipment (PPE). Monies collected and deposited into the account may be used to reimburse volunteer fire departments and emergency medical services for lost revenue due to either municipal budget cuts or the cancellation of public events such as fundraisers or charity events ([A.4761, Norris](#)).

**Volunteer Firefighters Training:** Allow volunteer firefighters to attend training without being penalized by their employer; and create tax incentives for employing volunteer firefighters ([A.2267, Norris](#)).

**EMS and Volunteer Firefighters Income Tax Exemption:** Provide a State income tax exemption for qualifying volunteer firefighters and volunteer ambulance workers ([A.6310 of 2022, Tague](#)).

**PTSD Therapeutic Techniques:** Require the Office of Mental Health to conduct a study related to using therapeutic PTSD techniques ([A.2405, J.M. Giglio](#)).



## Volunteer, Veterans, and First Responder Related Legislation

**Health Care Peer Support Program:** Enact the “Health Care Worker Peer Support Program” to provide grants to eligible entities for the purpose of establishing peer-to-peer mental health programs for health care workers ([A.3702](#), [Manktelow](#)).

**PTSD Line of Duty Sick Leave:** Allow first responders who are diagnosed with post-traumatic stress disorder to request line of duty sick leave ([A.3701](#), [Bendett](#)).

**“New York’s Own Combat Veterans Health Care Choice Program Act”:** Establish tax-free savings accounts to pay the health care costs of certain combat veterans until covered by the federal government ([A.4178](#), [Manktelow](#)).

**Behavioral Health Website:** Require the Office of Mental Health, Office of Alcoholism and Substance Abuse Services, and the Department of Education to create a behavioral health website that shall provide information on various behavioral health issues such as depression, eating disorders, anxiety, schizophrenia, post-traumatic stress disorder, and bipolar disorder ([A.2906](#), [Reilly](#)).

**Leave of Absence for Military Spouses:** Expand leave of absence for military spouses by removing the requirement that leave be used when a person’s spouse is on leave, while deployed to a combat theater, or combat zone of operation ([A.1832](#), [Hawley](#)).

**Veterans’ Clearinghouse:** Create a veterans’ clearinghouse for purposes of identifying veterans eligible for benefits ([A.4551](#), [B. Miller](#)).

**Military Property Tax Relief:** Provide real property tax relief to veterans who have at least 10 years of service in the U.S. armed forces or in the NYS Militia ([A.2758](#), [Gandolfo](#)).

**Veterans’ Organization Capital Costs:** Allow for State grants to be used for capital costs of construction, improvement, rehabilitation, or reconstruction of facilities owned by veterans’ organizations ([A.7483 of 2022](#), [Ra](#)).

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# New York State Assembly

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