

2026

OPPORTUNITY & ECONOMIC GROWTH



nygoppolicy.com



Main Points

- 01 Strengthening Workers
- 02 Removing Barriers to Growth
- 03 Supporting Small Businesses
- 04 Redesigning Economic Development
- 05 Tackling Energy Costs



Strengthening Workers

*Ensuring our focus is on helping
New Yorkers on the path to a
successful life here in our State*

01



Providing Tax Relief: Ensure
excess revenues stay with the
New Yorkers who earned them

Support Wage Growth: Reform
and expand the State Earned
Income Tax Credit (EITC)



02

03



**Train Workers for the Jobs of
Today:** Enact the “Learning for
Work” Program, and rely on
industry Sector Partnerships to
create a pipeline of workers

**Reduce the Costs of Higher
Education:** Enact “Retain-NY” to
provide assistance with the costs
of attaining a college degree



04

Removing Barriers to Growth

Reduce Government Mandates



Put in place a Division of Regulatory Review & Economic Growth (DRREG) to rein in burdensome rules

Streamline the Environmental Permitting Process



Reform the State Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (SPDES) and State Environmental Quality Review (SEQR) process to get projects up and running

Help Businesses Expand and Stay in New York



Enact “GROW-NY” to assist companies looking to expand within New York State and increase access to Broadband services

SUPPORTING SMALL BUSINESSES



Reduce Overhead Costs

Provide tax relief and assist with labor costs to ensure a pro-growth environment for small businesses



Support Locally Owned Businesses

Create the “New York - Shop Local” program to provide valuable assistance to hometown small businesses



Promote New York State Products

Establish an online registry to highlight New York-made products and support small businesses that source products produced by our neighbors



Redesign Economic Development

Change the “Top-Down” approach that has made New York uncompetitive in the 21st Century



Remove Waste

Examine our Economic Development Programs to ensure taxpayers are getting the most out of State investments



Legislative Oversight

Provide true oversight over taxpayer funding of economic development programs



Local Input

Take away the ability of the Governor to pick winners and losers

Tackle Energy Costs

Cost-Benefit Analysis

Direct the PSC to commission a full cost-benefit analysis of renewable-energy goals of the Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act (CLCPA)

Remove Burdensome Mandates

Delay or opt-out of zero-emission vehicle mandates driving up consumer costs and removing individual choice

Ensure Energy Diversity

Prevent the government from prohibiting the connection of utilities based on the type of energy used and allow for the continued use of fossil fuel appliances

Protect Homeowners and Businesses

Eliminate energy assessments and require a true accounting of the costs of renewable energy mandates on taxpayers





RELATED LEGISLATION

List of Bills to Reimagine New York's
Job Environment



ASSEMBLY MINORITY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT LEGISLATION

Strengthening Workers

- **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.2118, Ra**).
- **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.1925, Maher**).
- **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.7417, Barclay**).

ASSEMBLY MINORITY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT LEGISLATION

Strengthening Workers (continued)

- **Retain-NY:** Increase the tuition tax credit and deduction to 2% or the Higher Education Price Index, whichever is greater, and allow for the deduction of all student loan interest (**A.9207, 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.5661, 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.6013 of 2024, Maher**).
- **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.2282, Smullen**).

ASSEMBLY MINORITY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT LEGISLATION

Supporting Small Business

- **NYS Small Business Products:** Provides a tax credit ranging from \$1,000 - \$5,000 to small businesses that source a certain percentage of New York-produced food, beverage, or agricultural goods (**A.3221, Simpson**).
- **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.6748, Bologna**).
- **Small Business Infectious Disease Reduction Credit:** Establishes 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.2474, Bendett**).
- **Eliminate the Interest Assessment Surcharge (IAS):** Appropriate \$500 million from the State's Economic Uncertainties Fund to pay off the IAS and remove this burden from employers (**A.1148, Ra**).
- **Small Business Study:** Directs the Department of Economic Development to study the attrition of small retail businesses from the state and create a pilot program to help maintain the existence of small businesses within the state and to train and counsel small business owners and potential small business owners (**A.981, Angelino**).
- **New York First – 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.2410, Ra**).

ASSEMBLY MINORITY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT LEGISLATION

Supporting Small Businesses (continued)

- **NYS Product Promotion Act:** Require the Department of Economic Development (DED) to establish an online registry that would highlight businesses that manufacture or produce products in New York State. Also, requires the DED to create a product label (with registry website listed on it) to help identify products manufactured or produced in New York State (**A.2405, 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.3623, Tague**).

ASSEMBLY MINORITY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT LEGISLATION

Removing Barriers to Growth

- **Division of Regulatory Review & Economic Growth (DRREG):** 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.5582, Barclay**).
- **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 time needed 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 Places to clearly show businesses which locations may be subjected to an archaeological survey during the SPDES process (**A.5651, Barclay**).
- **GrowNY:** Establish an economic gardening program to provide incentives to second-stage companies (10-99 employees) to help them expand in NY (**A.4408, Gallahan**).
- **Rural Equity Assistance Fund:** Assist rural communities with the technical aspects of applying for State and federal funding (**A.1913, Smullen**).
- **Regional Broadband Expansion and Access Program:** Decentralize the current broadband process and allow localities to design regionally based plans to ensure internet access to every citizen in their designated area (**A.2378, Smullen**).

ASSEMBLY MINORITY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT LEGISLATION

Redesigning Economic Development

- **Economic Development Transparency and Oversight:** Establish a three-member lump-sum allocation advisory committee to review and approve allocations worth \$1 million or more that originate from lump-sum appropriations;
 - Implement reforms to the lump-sum appropriation budgeting process so conflicts of interest are identified, appropriations are prohibited when such conflicts exist, and all appropriations are lined out with specific details provided;
 - Study the impact of streamlining the tax system and economic development programs;
 - Institute penalties related to late economic development or lump-sum appropriation-related reports by State agencies; and
 - Prohibit certain political contributions by individuals appointed to entities charged with the distribution of discretionary State funds (**A.7524, Barclay**).
- **Legislative Sunset Advisory Commission:** Establishes the Legislative Sunset Advisory Commission to review each State agency on a 10-year basis to determine whether a need exists for the continuation or reformation of such agency (**A.4464, Barclay**).

ASSEMBLY MINORITY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT LEGISLATION

Tackling Energy Costs

- **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.6260, Palmesano](#)).
- **“Ratepayer Disclosure and Transparency Act”:** Require annual reporting on State-mandated energy programs ([A.6152, Palmesano](#)).
- **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.7429, Hawley](#)).
- **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.653, Barclay](#)).
- **Continued Use of Fossil Fuel Appliances:** Allow for continued use of fossil fuel-combusting equipment and building systems in new/existing construction ([A.6796, Palmesano](#)).
- **Zero-Emission School Bus Mandate Opt-Out:** Allow schools to opt out of the zero-emission bus mandate ([A.2005, Smullen](#)).
- **Delay Zero-Emission School Bus Mandate:** Delay the zero-emission school bus mandate until 2045 or until all State agencies convert their fleets ([A.5168, Palmesano](#)).