



2020 State of the State Proposals

SOTS Proposals Directly Impacting County Government

1. Ensure Cellular Coverage Across New York State

- Create a new position called State Cellular Coverage Director.
- Implement use of “batch permitting” to approve multiple projects under a single application.
- Establish “shot clocks” for common forms of cellular deployments on State land and rights of way and designate priority corridors.
- Promulgate model permitting ordinance, siting requirements, and master-lease agreements for cellular infrastructure deployments in areas of the state without adequate cell service.
- Advance legislation to standardize the permitting of next generation small cell technology on municipal-owned infrastructure.

2. \$3 Billion Restore Mother Nature Bond Act

- Bond for \$3 billion to launch an aggressive program for habitat restoration and flood reduction, which will include:
 - A Conservation Corridors Program to restore critical habitats for fish and wildlife;
 - Investing in hatcheries and the network of fishing access sites;
 - Working with farmers and communities to reduce the harmful runoff that contributes to some harmful algal blooms (HABs);
 - Doubling reef acreage by expanding seven existing reefs and creating four new artificial reefs in the Long Island Sound and the Atlantic Ocean; and
 - Planting nearly 200 million additional shellfish on Long Island.
 - Upgrading the Lake George wastewater treatment plant, adding \$9.4 million in funding.

3. Electrify Upstate Transit Systems

- Require five of the largest upstate and suburban transit authorities, which currently operate 1,400 transit busses, to electrify 25% of their fleets by 2025 and 100% by 2035. (The five transit authorities are not identified by name.)
- Invest \$100 million in green bank financing to attract electric vehicle-sector manufacturers and other related businesses.

4. Enacting Adult-Use Cannabis

- Create a new Office of Cannabis Management to specialize in cannabis regulation overseeing the medical, adult-use and hemp programs.
- Create the SUNY Global Cannabis Center for Science, Research and Education.
- Projected to generate an estimated \$300 million in total tax revenue when fully implemented.

5. Medicaid

- The Governor mentioned comments about the \$4 billion Medicaid budget hole. It is yet to be determined how this will impact county budgets, the Governor implied that counties and New York City must pay a higher share and that counties are partly responsible for the higher costs.
- *Governor Cuomo's direct quote*, "Today, we face a \$6 billion gap, attributable largely to our Medicaid costs. Now, thanks to our good work, 95 percent of the citizens of New York have health coverage and that is the first time ever. That is a remarkable achievement and it's a standard that previous generations could have only dreamed of reaching. But now we must pay for it intelligently and prudently."

"We now face federal cuts and we must correct for cost increases incurred when local governments were held harmless by this state for Medicaid increases. Remember what we did: Six years ago, we froze the cost of Medicaid to local governments to help those local governments meet their property tax cap. For six years, we have been paying all of the increased costs in local Medicaid spending and holding the local governments harmless. This year alone, we will spend \$4 billion in covering the increase in the local government share. We're paying \$177 million on behalf of Erie, \$175 million on behalf of Westchester, \$2 billion on behalf of the City of New York to cover their costs. Also, the local governments still administer the program, even though they no longer share the costs and we have seen dramatically higher cost increases recently, Why? You can't separate administration from accountability. It is too easy to write a check when you don't sign it."

6. Veteran Homelessness Assistance

- Invest \$5 million to expand permanent supportive housing for homeless veterans through the state's Homeless Housing Assistance Program (HHAP).
- Work with localities and the Division of Veterans' Services to develop plans to improve coordination of efforts and ensure that permanent housing is provided to veterans within 90 days of home. The state will mandate that counties add a veteran homelessness section to the mandatory homeless service plans submitted to the state every two years.

7. Suicide Prevention and Anti-Stigma Efforts for Veterans, Law Enforcement, Correction Officers and First Responders

- Invest \$1 million to partner with organizations that help veterans, law enforcement, and first responders with suicide prevention efforts.
- Convene a panel of stakeholders and experts to develop and implement strategies for preventing suicide among these populations.

8. Additional Election Reforms

- Implementing uniform statewide standards.
- Establishes rules to determine when a recount should be triggered and a process for counties to follow.
- Creates an election security rapid response team.
 - The Governor will direct the creation of a Cyber Swat Team consisting of staff with expertise from State Police, DHSES, Department of Financial Services, and other agencies, to work closely with local boards of election to supplement and provide additional support to the work of the State Board's Secure Election Center place ahead of the 2020 election cycle.
 - The Governor will direct relevant state agencies to work with the State Board and local boards of election to establish (in advance of the 2020 elections) a comprehensive plan that is ready to be executed immediately if a cyber-attack should jeopardize the timely and accurate counting and reporting of all eligible ballots.

9. Establishing the NYS Foster Care Success Program

- Create the New York State AmeriCorps Foster Care Success program, enabling 50 youth transitioning from foster care the opportunity to participate in AmeriCorps service and be given intensive and specialized training and “wrap-around” supportive services.

10. Kin-First Firewall

- Each local social services district will be required to establish a Kin-First Firewall policy – a second look at every child removed to ensure that all steps are taken to make the first placement a kinship placement where appropriate.

Additional Proposals

11. Combatting the Opioid Epidemic

- Make fentanyl analogs subject to the same criminal sale or possession penalties as other controlled substances. The proposal allows the state health commissioner to ban any new fentanyl analogs that have been added to federal schedule of controlled substances.
- Expand MAT treatment in emergency departments.
- Direct OASAS to add ten new mobile health clinics in each economic development zone statewide to ensure access to addiction treatment in rural areas of the state and provide funds for at least one treatment program in each county across the state to acquire equipment needed for telehealth services.
- Expand MAT to DOCCS facilities (state prisons).

12. Preventing Individuals Who Commit a Serious Crime in Another State from Owning a Gun in New York

- Prevent anyone who commits a serious crime in another state from buying or possessing a gun in New York.

13. Combat MS-13 and Gang Activity

- Maintains resources for gang prevention initiatives coordinated between the New York State Police and local law enforcement.
- Continues to support the Gun Involved Violence Elimination (GIVE) initiative and SNUG street outreach program.

14. Banning Untraceable "Ghost Guns" by Requiring Firearm Parts be Treated as Guns and Have a Serial Number

- Ban individuals from obtaining major components of a firearm, rifle or shotgun online.
- Require in-store transaction at a licensed gun dealer.
- Prohibit individuals who cannot legally possess a gun from having a major component part that can be used to easily build a firearm.
- Establish a new misdemeanor and felony penalties for violating these new provisions.

15. Prevent Sexual Predators from Using Social Media, Dating Apps and Video Games to Exploit Children

- Pass legislation to build on New York's e-STOP law to further protect children from online predators to keep pace with the online world, and safeguard kids using websites and apps.

16. Closing the Rape Intoxication Loophole

- Advance legislation clarifying that a victim's ability to consent is jeopardized whether they were voluntarily or involuntarily intoxicated.
- Gives prosecutors ability to hold sexual abusers accountable.

17. Banning the Use of Single-Use Styrofoam Food Containers in New York State

- Bans the sale of styrofoam packing peanuts and empowers the Department of Environmental Conservation to review and act to limit or ban other packaging materials.
- Builds on single-use plastic bag ban and aimed at protecting the environment for future generations.

18. Create a Recycling Program for Mattresses and Carpeting

- Expand other takeback programs to two particularly difficult-to-manage products, mattresses and carpets.

19. Lowering Prescription Drug Prices for All New Yorkers Through Comprehensive Three-Part Plan

- Introduce legislation to cap co-payments for insulin and empower State Department of Financial Services to investigate skyrocketing prescription drug prices.
- Register and regulate pharmacy benefit managers (PBM's).
- Establish a commission to explore the possibility of a Canadian drug importation program, which some counties already have in place.

20. Advancing the Strongest Net Neutrality Protections in the United States

- Introduce legislation to prevent the blocking, throttling and paid prioritization of online content.
- Prohibit "Zero-Rating" practices, which penalize consumers for accessing content or applications that are not preferred by their internet provider.

21. Protecting Consumers from Abusive Debt Collectors

- License and regulate debt collection companies.

22. Combating the Scourge of Robocalls

- Require telecommunication companies to block robocalls.
- Develop new tools to unmask those who hide identity with "spoofed" calls and impose financial penalties on companies that do not comply.

23. Cracking Down on Retailers Who Sell Illegal Cigarettes

- Impose additional consequences, including the possibility of closure on retailers who acquire cigarettes in other states and sell them illegally in New York.
- Strengthen penalties and fines for retailers that sell tobacco products to people under 21 years of age.

24. Legislation Banning Flavored Nicotine Vaping Products and Vaping Ads Aimed at Youth

- Authorize health department to ban certain carrier oils used in vaping products that have been connected to vaping-related illnesses.
- Prohibit online, phone and mail order sale of e-cigarettes.

25. Eliminating the Pink Tax

- Prohibit gender-based pricing discrimination for substantially similar goods and services to level the economic playing field between women and men.

26. Legalizing Gestational Surrogacy

- Establish criteria for surrogacy contracts to protect both parents and surrogates.
- Streamline second parent adoption process, removing barriers for LGBTQ couples and helping couples struggling with reproductive technology to start families.

27. Making the "New York Buy American" Act Permanent

- Require the use of American-made structural steel and iron for state road and bridge projects costing over \$1 million.

- The measure would amend current act signed by Governor Cuomo in 2017 that is set to sunset this year.
- 28. Developing an Innovative Strategy to Build High Speed Rail in New York**
- Convene a panel of experts would re-examine and reimagine designs to develop high speed rail on New York's Empire Corridor.
- 29. Increasing Transparency in Healthcare Costs**
- Create a consumer-friendly website where New Yorkers can easily compare cost and quality of healthcare procedures and learn about financial assistance options.
- 30. Passing the First-in-the-Nation Inclusive Equal Rights Amendment**
- Establish sex, ethnicity, national origin, age, disability, sexual orientation and gender identity as protected classes in the state constitution.
- 31. Growing New York's Craft Beverage Manufacturing Industry by Reforming Antiquated Prohibition Era Laws**
- Remove barriers to attract new investments in beverage manufacturing into New York State.
 - Expand the license for alcoholic beverage sales at movie theatres.
 - Support the craft beverage workforce by creating a new license for educational institutions.
- 32. Expanding Access to Safe and Affordable Financial Services**
- Create an excelsior banking network to increase access to affordable financial products in underrepresented communities.
 - Create a new statewide office of financial inclusion and empowerment.
 - The Office will maintain a centralized list of financial services counseling providers - across housing, student loan, debt and general financial literacy and coordinate state and local services aimed at enhancing financial empowerment.
- 33. Preserving 4,000 Acres of Land in the Mid-Hudson Valley**
- The latest land acquisitions will add buffers and trails to seven state parks in the Mid-Hudson Valley through an investment of \$20.6 million in state funding.
 - New land may help boost tourism in the Mid-Hudson Valley Region.
- 34. Investing \$9 Million In Unmanned Aerial System Experimentation and Test Facility at Griffiss International Airport**
- Establish, (through skydome) a small unmanned aerial system, or sUAS, experimentation and test facility at Griffiss International Airport in Rome, Oneida County. This skydome will be a year-round indoor sUAS research facility that will support the safe experimentation of drone technology and techniques, including secure command and control, vehicle-to-vehicle communication, autonomy, sense-and-avoid, and other techniques that will enable applications, such as emergency management services, damage assessment and recovery search and rescue.
- 35. Industry-Leading High Technology Companies to Create More Than 700 Jobs in and Near Rochester's Downtown Innovation Zone**
- Cloudcheckr, Mastodon, and Calero will grow operations in Rochester.
 - Investment further support "Finger Lakes Forward," the region's comprehensive economic development strategy.
- 36. Rebuilding the Mid-Station Lodge at Whiteface Mountain**
- Allocate \$14 million to rebuild structure that was destroyed by fire.

37. Transferring Pier 76 Tow Pound to Hudson River Park for Reuse

- Transfer nearly 250,000-Square-Foot waterfront property to Hudson River Park Trust to develop a reuse plan for greenery, recreation, community access and market potential.

38. Transforming Buffalo's North Aud Block

- Deliver \$10 million in funding (announced in August 2018) to transform the North Aud Block, the State's final remaining parcel to be developed at Canalside.
- Canalside project will include residences, restaurants, shops, parking and public piazza.

39. \$300 Million Plan to Reimagine the Iconic Erie Canal

- Grow regional tourism, reduce flooding in canal communities, improve irrigation for upstate farmers, expand fishing opportunities and restore wetlands.
- Begin Phase One, funding \$165 million, this year.
 - \$100 million economic development fund to invest in communities along the Canal.
 - \$65 million investment in solutions that will help prevent ice jams and related flooding in the Schenectady area.
- The remaining \$135 million of the plan's funding will subsequently be allocated to research recommended by the *Reimagine Task Force*, as well as to solutions related to flood mitigation, invasive species prevention and ecosystem restoration.

40. Creating a 21st Century Empire Station Complex

- Transform the existing Penn Station, integrating the soon-to-be completed Moynihan Train Hall.
- Acquire the block south of Penn Station to create one interconnected train and subway complex.
- Increase track and train capacity by 40 percent by creating terminals and 8 new tracks.

41. Creating the State's First Comprehensive Education & Workforce Training Center in Syracuse

- Create a multipurpose facility that will house SUNY Empire State College, Regional High School and Worker Training and Skills Center.
- High School to focus on STEM and new workforce training center to offer job training certifications and college degrees in community to meet private sector job demand.

42. Expanding New York's \$175 Million Workforce Development Initiative

- Establish two additional Future of Work center by Fall 2020 for retraining people in preparation for jobs in emerging industries
- Invest \$14 million to expand apprenticeship opportunities statewide.
- Create the New Offshore Wind Training Institute at SUNY Stony Brook and Farmingdale to train 2,500 New Yorkers by 2021.

43. Banning Sex Offenders from MTA Transit Systems

- Authorize the MTA to issue orders prohibiting individuals who commit repeat sex-related violations of the MTA code of conduct, or who are high-risk sex offenders (Level 3), from using MTA transportation services for a period of three years.

44. Strengthening the Relationship Between Local Police and the Communities They Serve

- Ask the Attorney General, Letitia James to be available as a resource for local governments in need of help to address and improve the relationship between individual communities and police.
- "We are all better off when our police and the communities they serve build stronger relationships," **Attorney General Letitia James** said. "New Yorkers deserve to be safe and respected at the same time and better police-community relations go a long way toward that goal. I welcome the opportunity to play a role in improving police-community relations."

45. Reducing Taxes on Small Businesses by 40 Percent

- The State lowered the Corporation Franchise Tax rate from 7.1 percent to 6.5 percent.
- Further reduces the rate for small corporate taxpayers (less than 100 employees and less than \$390,000 in income), from 6.5 percent to 4 percent. An estimated 36,000 taxpayers would benefit from this proposal.

46. Making the Investment Tax Credit Refundable for Farmers

- Current law allows refundability for the Investment Tax Credit (ITC) only for new businesses.
- Make the ITC refundable for taxpayers whose primary source of income is from farming operations, allowing taxpayers to receive the full benefit of their credits earned.

47. Economic Development Investments

- \$100 million for Downtown Revitalization Round 5.
- Continue REDC Investments, Round 10.
- Upstate Airport Economic Development & Revitalization Competition Round 2

48. Gig Economy Workforce

- Make sure all of New York's workers have necessary benefits and protections.

49. E-Bikes and E-Scooter Legislation

- Ensure that sustainable vehicle alternatives such as e-scooters keep riders, pedestrians, and drivers safe.