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Alert | New York Government Law & Policy



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New York State 2026 Election Update

Go-To Guide:

- **Statewide offices:** With approximately 90% of the election districts counted, incumbent Gov. Kathy Hochul won a second full term by approximately 20 percentage points. Attorney General Letitia James and Comptroller Thomas DiNapoli also won reelection by similar margins.
- **State Senate:** Democrats expanded their majority from 41 to 47 (with one race too close to call as of the date of this GT Alert), regaining the supermajority they lost in 2024.
- **State Assembly:** Democrats retained their supermajority, expecting the conference to grow to 111 of the 150 seats.
- **Turnout:** Early voting reached 1,965,043 votes, up about 67% from 2022.
- **Turnover:** More than 50 incumbent legislators will not return in 2027, due to a combination of retirements and primary season losses, plus incumbents defeated on Nov. 3, 2026. These departures set up a possibility for leadership and committee changes for the 2027 session.
- **Congress:** Democrats won 20 of New York's 26 U.S. House seats, representing a net gain of one, and one seat where the Democrat has not yet conceded**.** In half of the New York House seats that the Republicans won, they did so by a margin of less than 3 percentage points. Results in some of the most hotly contested seats are summarized below.

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Overview

On Nov. 3, 2026, New Yorkers voted on every statewide office, all 213 seats in the state legislature (63 in the Senate and 150 in the Assembly) and all 26 of the state's seats in the U.S. House of Representatives. Democrats entered the election with a 41–22 majority in the state Senate, one seat short of the 42 needed for a two-thirds supermajority, and a 103–47 majority in the state Assembly, three seats above the 100 needed. Democratic control of both houses was not in serious doubt, and incumbents were heavily favored in most statewide races. The open questions were the size of the Democratic majorities, how much turnover the legislature would see, and whether there would be enough of a draw for top-of-the-ticket races to lead to a growth of the Democratic members of the congressional delegation.

The 2026 cycle also brought unusually high turnover. Before Election Day, at least 38 incumbent state legislators were already certain not to return: 31 retired or declined to seek re-election (five senators and 26 Assembly members), and seven lost primaries (two senators and five Assembly members). No incumbent Democrats lost their seats to challengers in the general election, but another five Republican Senate incumbents lost, and seven Republican assemblymembers lost. Some of the most prominent departures from retirements include Senate Deputy Majority Leader Michael Gianaris and Assembly Majority Leader Crystal Peoples-Stokes. The election determined who will fill these open seats and how the new members will affect each chamber's political and institutional makeup.

The results of the 2026 election will reshape the legislature's leadership and committee structure. State Senate rules limit service as party leader, committee chair and ranking member to eight consecutive years. For Senate Majority Leader Andrea Stewart-Cousins' tenure to continue in 2027, the conference would need to amend the body's rules, a vote that cannot occur until the 2027 session begins. The Assembly will also see changes at the top due to retirements by Majority Leader Peoples-Stokes and former Minority Leader Will Barclay. There will be substantive changes to a number of committee chairs. These changes may help determine the legislature's priorities, committee agendas, and points of access for advocates as the 2027 session begins.

Voter Turnout

New York voter participation rose substantially compared with the last midterm election. Statewide, 1,965,043 New Yorkers voted early in 2026, up approximately 67% from 1,178,676 in 2022. Overall early voting rose nearly 60% in New York City and approximately 71% outside the five boroughs. More than 1.2 million early votes were cast outside New York City, compared with approximately 690,000 within the city. Initial numbers indicate this momentum continued into Election Day voting.

Statewide Races

Democrats retained all three statewide constitutional offices by historic margins. Gov. Hochul and her running mate, former New York City Council Speaker Adrienne Adams, soundly defeated the Republican ticket of Nassau County Executive Bruce Blakeman and Madison County Sheriff Todd Hood by approximately 20 percentage points. Gov. Hochul's 2026 win stands in stark contrast to her 2022 margin of 6 percentage points. Gov. Hochul may have even beaten Blakeman on his home turf of Long Island – initial returns indicate that the governor won a majority of votes in Nassau County and Suffolk County. This, in combination with the governor carrying New York City by more than 53 points and making a strong showing throughout the state, especially in the Hudson Valley, Capital Region, and Western New York, gave her a path to an early victory. Attorney General Letitia James defeated Republican Saritha Komatireddy, and Comptroller Thomas DiNapoli defeated Republican Joseph Hernandez, maintaining continuity in the leadership of the state's executive offices.

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State Senate Highlights

Democrats gained at least six seats in the New York State Senate, expanding their conference to at least 47 members and regaining the supermajority (over 42 of 63 seats) they lost in 2024. Closely watched contests included the Saratoga-area 44th District, where decades-long Republican incumbent Jim Tedisco lost to law school professor and first-time Democratic candidate Sarah Rogerson; races in the Hudson Valley that resulted in Democratic candidates unseating incumbents Bill Weber and Rob Rolison in SD 38 and 39, respectively; and an open seat in Nassau County where the Republicans held on to the seat previously held by retiring Republican Sen. Jack Martins.

Location	New Senator(s)
Long Island	SD-1 E. Christopher Murray (D) SD-07 Jake Blumencranz (R) SD-09 Lisa Vider (D)
New York City – Brooklyn	SD-17 Larry He (D)
Hudson Valley	SD-38 Joseph Rand (D) SD-39 Lisa Kaul (D)
Capital Region	SD-44 Sarah Rogerson (D)

State Assembly Highlights

In the New York State Assembly, Democrats expanded their supermajority (100 of 150 seats), gaining eight seats to finish with a 111-39 advantage. Competitive races on Long Island, in New York City, and across upstate New York drew attention, but the results largely preserved the chamber's existing partisan balance. The election also brought notable turnover, with at least 19 newly elected members expected to join the Assembly when the 2027 session begins.

Region	New Assemblymembers
New York City – Queens	AD-023 Pesach Osina (D) AD-030 Patrick Martinez (D) AD-032 Nathaniel Hezekiah III (D) AD-034 Brian Romero (D) AD-037 Samantha Kattan (D) AD-038 David Orkin (D)
New York City – Brooklyn	AD-046 Chris McCreight (D) AD-054 Christian Celeste Tate (D) AD-056 Eon Huntley (D)
New York City – Manhattan	AD-065 Illapa Sairitupac (D) AD-066 David Siffert (D) AD-068 Diana Ayala (D)

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Region	New Assemblymembers
	AD-069 Eli Northrup (D) AD-073 Vanessa Aronson (D)
Hudson Valley	AD-090 Frank Jereis (D)
Central New York	AD-119 Michael Gentile (R) AD-123 Dan Norton (D) AD-129 Maurice Mo Brown (D)
Western New York	AD-149 Adam Bojak (D)

Congressional Highlights

New York's congressional elections featured several closely watched contests, particularly on Long Island, in the Hudson Valley, and the North Country. Ultimately, the one clear change is in NY-17, where Republican incumbent Mike Lawler, who sought a third term, conceded early in the night to Democrat Cait Conley, despite not having Election Day results from Westchester County due to technical difficulties. Other races that were expected to have potential national implications included:

- **NY-03 (Long Island):** Incumbent Democrat Tom Suozzi defeated Republican challenger Michael LiPetri by nearly 10 percentage points.
- **NY-04 (Long Island):** Incumbent Democrat Laura Gillen beat Republican Jeanine Driscoll by 13 points.
- **NY-19 (Upstate):** Incumbent Democrat Josh Riley defeated Republican State Senator Peter Oberacker by 15 points.
- **NY-21 (North Country):** This was one of the most-watched races in the state. The seat was open because Rep. Elise Stefanik (R) did not seek reelection after a potential run for governor. Unofficial results have the Republicans retaining this seat, but as of the date of this GT Alert, Democrat Blake Gendebien has not yet conceded to Republican Anthony Constantino.

New York is expected to stay in the spotlight with two former New York State assemblymembers from Brooklyn poised to lead the House and the Senate – due to the results nationally, Senator Chuck Schumer may become the Senate majority leader and Congressman Hakeem Jeffries may become the speaker of the House.

Looking Ahead to the 2027 Legislative Session

With the 2027 legislative session approaching, Capitol watchers should pay attention to the following:

- **Leadership:** Senate Democrats must fill the deputy majority leader post vacated by Sen. Gianaris, and Assembly Democrats must choose a successor to Majority Leader Peoples-Stokes. Details may surface in December.
- **Senate rules:** The Senate majority's vote on whether to amend its eight-year limit on leaders and committee chairs will determine whether Majority Leader Stewart-Cousins can continue in her role, and how many chair positions will need to change.

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- **Committees:** Chairs and membership will be set after the leadership questions are resolved. Departures and term limits may change who controls the committees that matter most to stakeholders' specific issues.
- **New members:** Fifty-one new legislators will take office in January, creating new opportunities for stakeholder engagement and education about organizations and their priorities.
- **Policy agenda:** The governor finished Election Day with a clear mandate, due to her 20-point victory. At the same time, however, given the growth of the Democratic conference in both houses — thus creating a veto-proof majority — the leadership in the Senate and the Assembly will feel similarly empowered. It will be particularly interesting to see how much legislative policy the governor seeks to push through in her Executive Budget proposal, which will be released no later than the first week of February, versus what the Senate and Assembly look to move on independently.

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