



91st Assembly District
Larchmont - Mamaroneck - New Rochelle - Port Chester - Rye Brook and Rye



January 7, 2021

Dear Friends,

Happy New Year to you and your family. If the first week of 2022 is any indication, the new year will bring important challenges, opportunities and actions from state government to address the issues before us.

On Wednesday Governor Kathy Hochul's gave her first State of the State address in which she outlined her priorities for the new year. As a reflection of the continuing Covid-19 threat, Governor Hochul gave her address in the Assembly Chamber with practically all members of the Legislature watching remotely from our Albany offices to comply with the limit on the number of people who could be in that confined space.

The governor provided a broad vision of her priorities. Some highlights included issues of affordable housing, criminal justice, staffing of health care entities and education.

I am very pleased that Governor Hochul's agenda focused on a number of issues that have been an important part of my work. I am excited about her initiatives to support storm resilience, water quality, broadband and digital inclusion and tax relief for small business and property taxpayers. She has made a very strong commitment to expanding the rollout of electric vehicle charging stations and a program of clean energy actions to help us meet our climate change goals.

Governor Hochul deserves high marks on these proposals and on her broader agenda to address the needs of New Yorkers throughout the state. I look forward to working with her to make this vision a reality. To view the address, read the speech or download the book containing the policy initiatives please see the links below.

This week also brought the one-year anniversary of the January 6th attack on the Capitol in Washington and the attempt to stop the counting of the Electoral College votes by Congress. A year later, it is clear that we cannot take our democracy for granted.

Our form of government depends on respect for election results and more broadly on the ability to engage in a productive way with others, even when we disagree on issues. Tolerance and respect for differing views is essential for democracy. Those around the world who seek freedom and self-governance are watching closely to see whether we can maintain democracy here. We each have a responsibility to make sure democracy does not die.

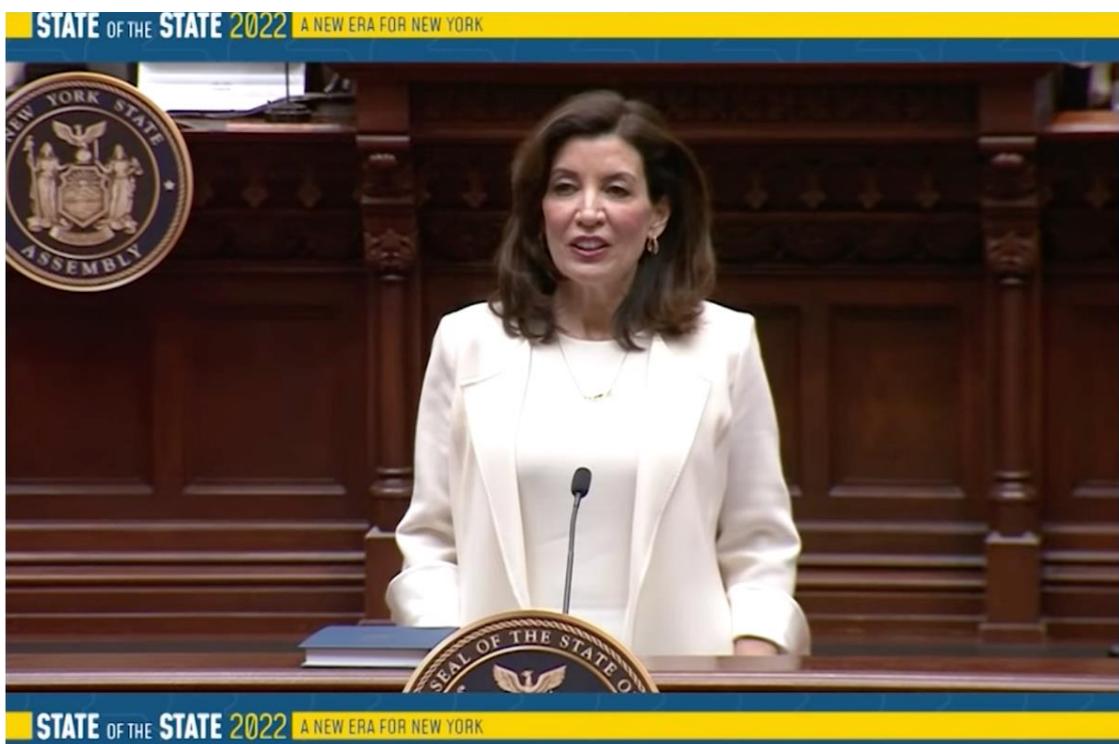
As always, please contact me on flooding, Covid-19 or any issue on which I can be of assistance. Please call my District Office at 914-939-7028.

Warm regards,



State of the State Address

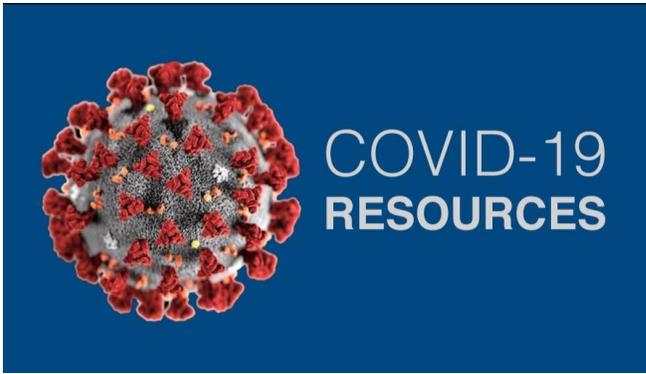
[Speech Video](#)



[Speech Text](#)

[State of the State Website](#)

[State of the State Book](#)



Booster Shots [Now Recommended](#) for 12-15 Year-Olds, Along with Previously Authorized 16+ Age Group

Covid-19 Testing Sites

[NYS Testing Site Directory](#) by zip code

Call (914) 202-4530 or visit [Westchester Medical Center](#) for testing in Valhalla.

Visit the [CVS COVID-19 Testing](#)

[Walgreens Drive Thru Testing](#)

[Forme Medical](#) White Plains

[City MD](#) Urgent Care Centers

Free PCR COVID-19 testing is available at the Westchester County Center. Tests can be scheduled here: <http://www.westchestergov.com/health>

SUNY PURCHASE TEST SITE

Governor Hochul also announced that SUNY Purchase will be operational as a COVID testing site. Testing at SUNY Purchase will take place at the school's **Performing Arts Center, 735 Anderson Hill Road, Purchase**. There will be both appointment and walk-in testing availability. Testing is set to begin there on Friday, Jan. 7. The SUNY Purchase test site will operate from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. You can book an appointment online [HERE](#).



\$539 M Homeowner Assistance Fund for Eligible New Yorkers at Risk of Foreclosure or Displacement

Funding Will Help Low- and Moderate-Income Homeowners Impacted by the Pandemic Stay in Their Homes

To Learn More, Residents Can Visit the [HAF Website](https://www.nyhomeownerfund.org) or Contact the New York State Homeowners Assistance Fund Call Center at 1-844-77-NYHAF

Applications are now being accepted.

Governor Hochul announced that New York State is the first state in the nation to receive U.S. Department of the Treasury's approval to launch its Homeowner Assistance Fund, a program that will provide up to \$539 million to help eligible homeowners avert mortgage delinquency, default, foreclosure, and displacement.

<https://www.nyhomeownerfund.org>

Governor Hochul Announces Billion Dollar Rescue Plan for Small Businesses

Governor Hochul announced a new Billion Dollar Rescue Plan for small businesses as part of the 2022 State of the State. Small businesses, accounting

for 98 percent of all businesses statewide, are the backbone of New York's economy and under the Governor's plan, the state will be supporting these entities through a variety of initiatives focusing on growing the businesses of the future, helping new businesses struggling to establish themselves and providing tax relief. Additionally, to support New York's restaurant industry, a sector that has especially been hit hard by COVID-19, the Governor will introduce legislation to permanently allow the sale of to-go drinks for bars and restaurants statewide.

To help small businesses at this critical moment, Governor Hochul's Billion Dollar Rescue Plan will include targeted programs strategically designed to respond to small business needs, and to ensure that disadvantaged, minority-owned, and women-owned small businesses prosper throughout the State.

The Billion Dollar Rescue Plan includes:

- **Funding for Small Businesses of the Future:** This initiative will support venture capital and venture debt awards to fast-growing, venture-backed startups that either locate to, or remain and grow in, New York State.
- **The Small Business COVID Capital Investment Tax Credit:** This initiative will provide a tax credit to small businesses which took on COVID-related capital expenses, including retrofits, renovations, machinery and equipment related to COVID safety enhancements.
- **Seed Funding for Small Businesses:** This initiative will provide flexible grants to early-stage small businesses to help those that recently opened get off the ground, despite the COVID pandemic. Priority will be given to socially and economically disadvantaged small business owners.
- **Small Business Lending Initiative:** This initiative will provide reduced interest rates and accessible loans to expanding small businesses.
- **The Excelsior Contracting Opportunities Initiative** - This initiative will provide state-backed funding and technical assistance to position small businesses — particularly those which are socially and economically disadvantaged — to secure federally funded contracts related to the \$1.2 trillion federal Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act.
- **Permanently Legalize the Sale of To-Go Drinks for Bars and Restaurants:** To-go drinks were a critical revenue stream for New York's bars and restaurants during the pandemic, helping many small businesses across the state pay their rents or mortgages.

Governor Hochul will also provide \$100 million in tax relief for 195,000 small businesses by widening eligibility and increasing a tax return adjustment that reduces a small business's gross business income.

