

The Advocacy Institute supports social justice organizations to build the advocacy skills, knowledge and power they need to shape government policy for a more just and equitable New York.



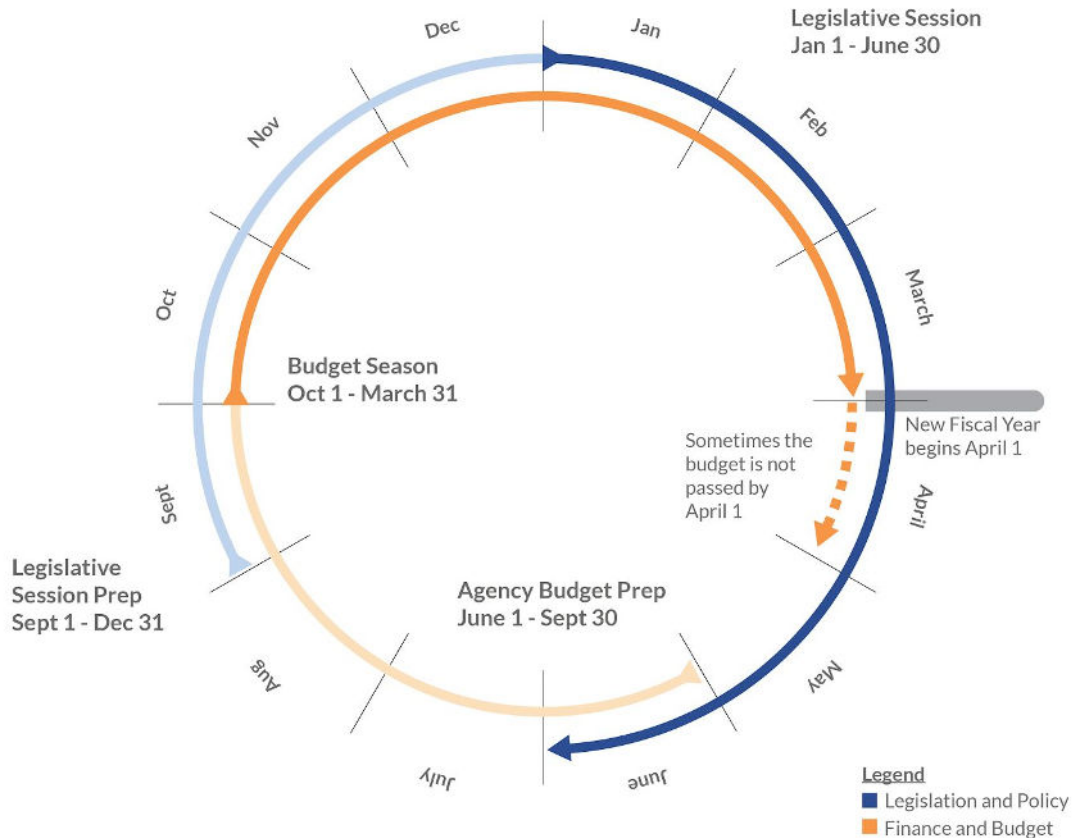
Who's Who: Understanding State Politics



Two-year session



New York State timeline

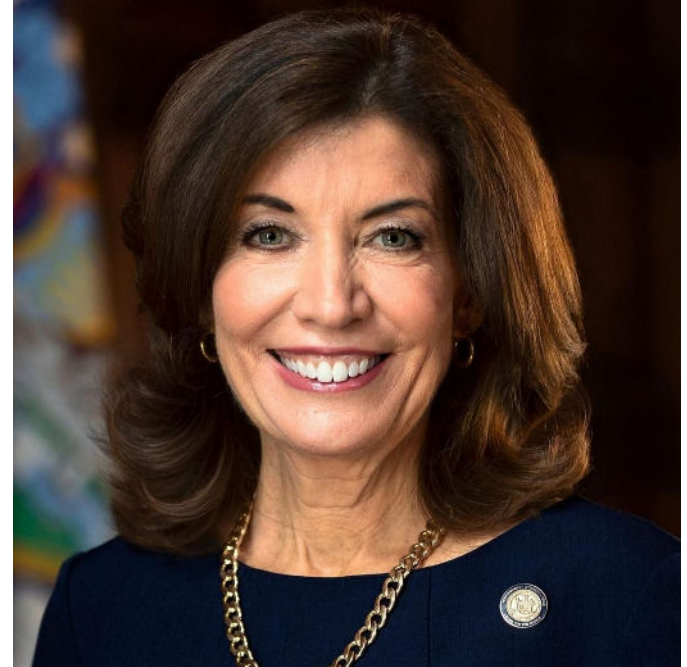


Who's Who: The Executive



We need relationships with the Executive to get our bills passed and priorities funded

- Governor has to approve every single bill
- Governor is the driving force in the budget process
- Know where the Governor stands as you begin your campaign



The Governor

- Re-elected every 4 years
- No term limits
- Governor: role as initiator/driver
 - Top-down, strong executive, controls agencies
 - State of the State
 - Executive Budget

Executive's administration

- Deputy Secretaries
 - Public-facing roles for Governor
- Second Floor
 - Report directly to Governor
 - Budget, policy and legal staff
 - Especially pay attention to Assistant Counsels
- Division of Budget
 - Crucial if you want to move anything in the budget

Executive's Administration: the "2nd Floor"



Elizabeth Fine
Counsel to the
Governor



Karen Persichilli Keogh
Secretary to the
Governor



Blake Washington
Budget Director



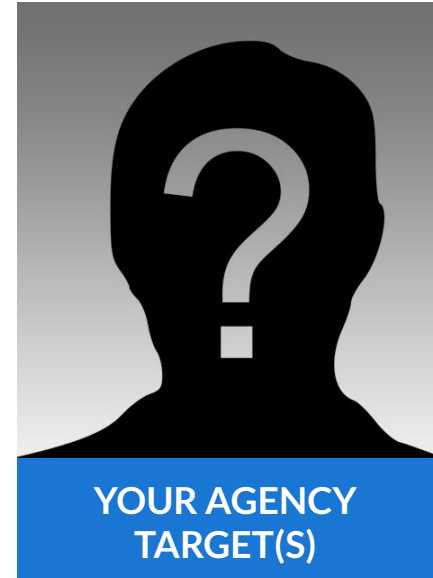
Kathryn Garcia
Dir. of State Ops



Stacy Lynch
Chief of Staff

We need relationships with agencies to:

- Help craft our bills
- Identify legal or practical challenges
- Collaborate during implementation process / program roll-out



Who's Who: Legislature



We need relationships in the Senate and Assembly to:

- Get bill sponsors
- Pass through committees
- Get enough votes on the floor
- Get us intel & support
- Advocate for our budget items



State Legislators: Fast Facts

- Elected every 2 years
- No term limits
- Part-time positions
 - Legislators can have outside paid work
- Base pay of \$142k/year
 - Big increase from \$110,000 in 2022



State Senate

- 63 members
- ~ 300,000/district
- Leader is Andrea Stewart-Cousins

32
votes
to get
majority

State Assembly

- 150 members
- ~ 128,000/district
- Leader is Speaker Carl Heastie

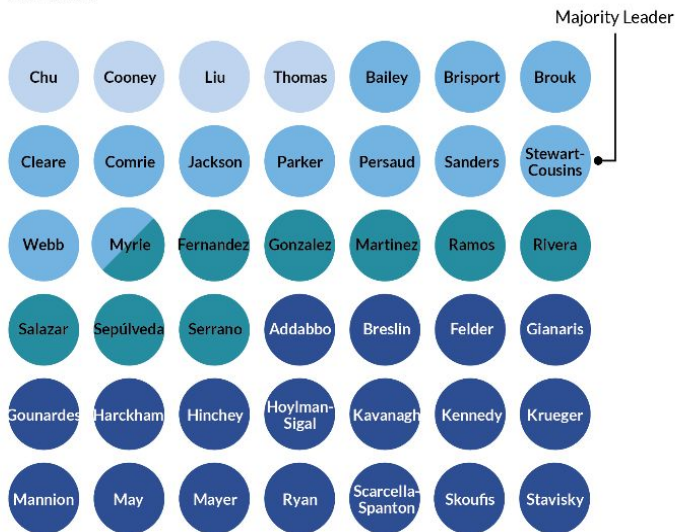
76
votes
to get
majority

Senate

32 votes to get majority

Legislature Snapshot: New York State

Senate



Democrat: 42

Minority Leader

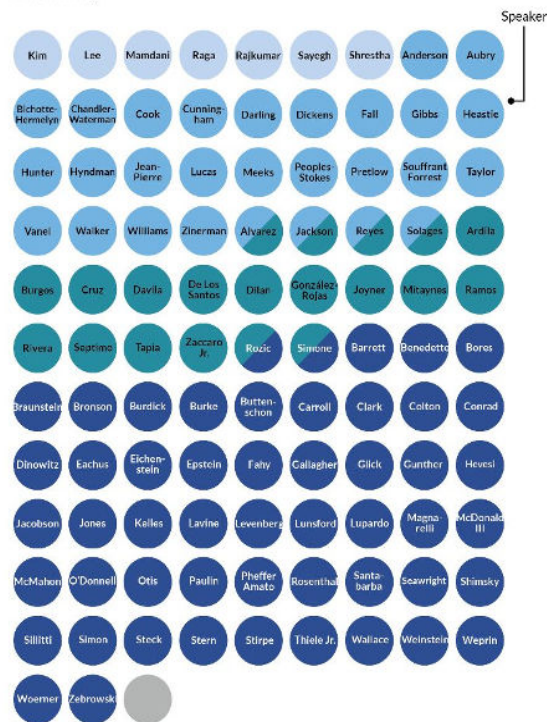


Republican: 21

Assembly

76 votes to get majority

Assembly



Democrat: 101

Legend

- Arab/Asian Democratic Conference Legislators
- Black Democratic Conference Legislators
- Latino/a Democratic Conference Legislators
- White Democratic Conference Legislators
- Asian Republican Conference Legislators
- White Republican Conference Legislators
- Vacant seat

Minority Leader

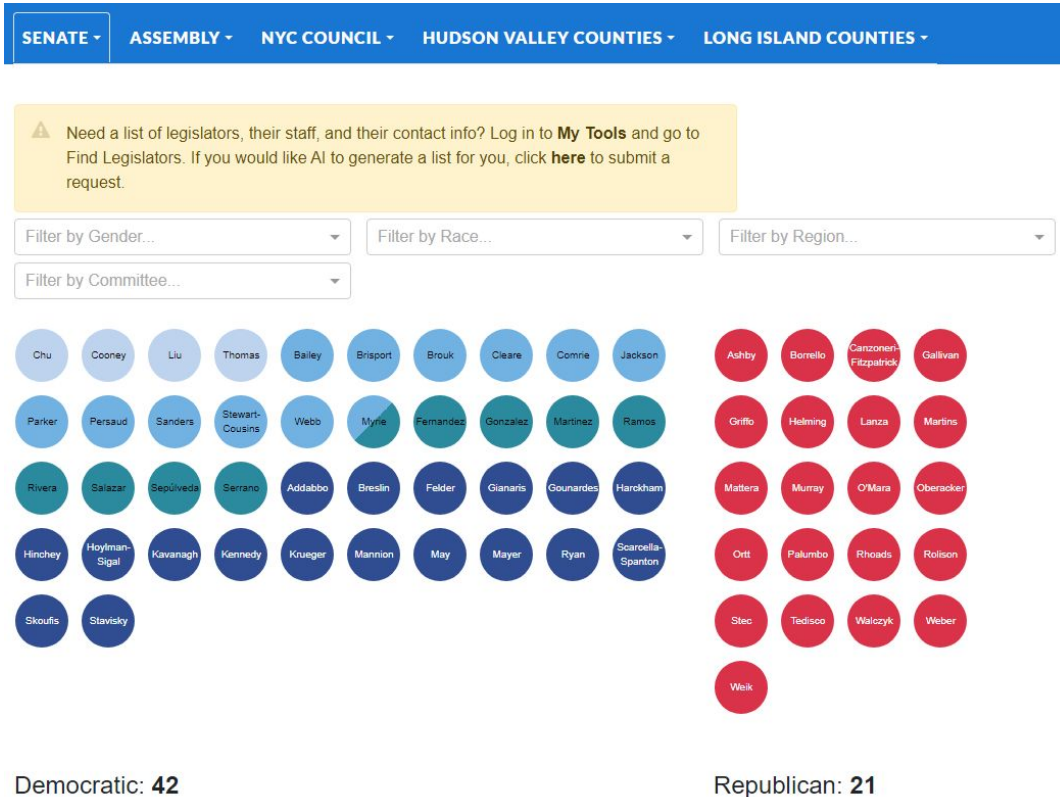


Republican: 48



AI Interactive Snapshots

<https://interactive.advocacy-institute.org>



A photograph of two individuals, a woman on the left and a man on the right, sitting on a grey couch. The woman is wearing a blue jacket and a patterned scarf, and the man is wearing a white shirt and a patterned tie. They are both smiling and have their hands clasped together in front of them. In the background, there are several red candles on black stands.

Leadership

Andrea Stewart-Cousins

- Minority Leader for many years
- First Woman to lead an NYS Chamber (2012)

Carl Heastie

- In office since 2000
- First Black speaker (2015)
 - Took over for Sheldon Silver, who was Speaker for +20 yrs

Committee chairs

- Chosen by leadership
- Determine what bills are on the agenda
- Being lobbied by committee members to put their bills on the agenda



Liz Krueger
Chair, Senate Finance
Committee



Helene Weinstein,
Chair, Assembly Ways
and Means Committee

Legislative caucuses

- Represent specific communities
 - Black, Puerto Rican, Hispanic, and Asian Caucus
 - Legislative Women's Caucus
- Members choose to join
- Decision-making process varies
- Can rally around packages of bills that impact the population their caucus serves

Different types of staff

- **Personal Staff**

- Based in District office or Albany office
- Accountable to the elected
- May travel with the electeds

- **Central Staff**

- Based in Albany, accountable to conference leader
- Work on specific issues and committees
- Negotiate bills
- Can be helpful with hearings
- May be around for a long time

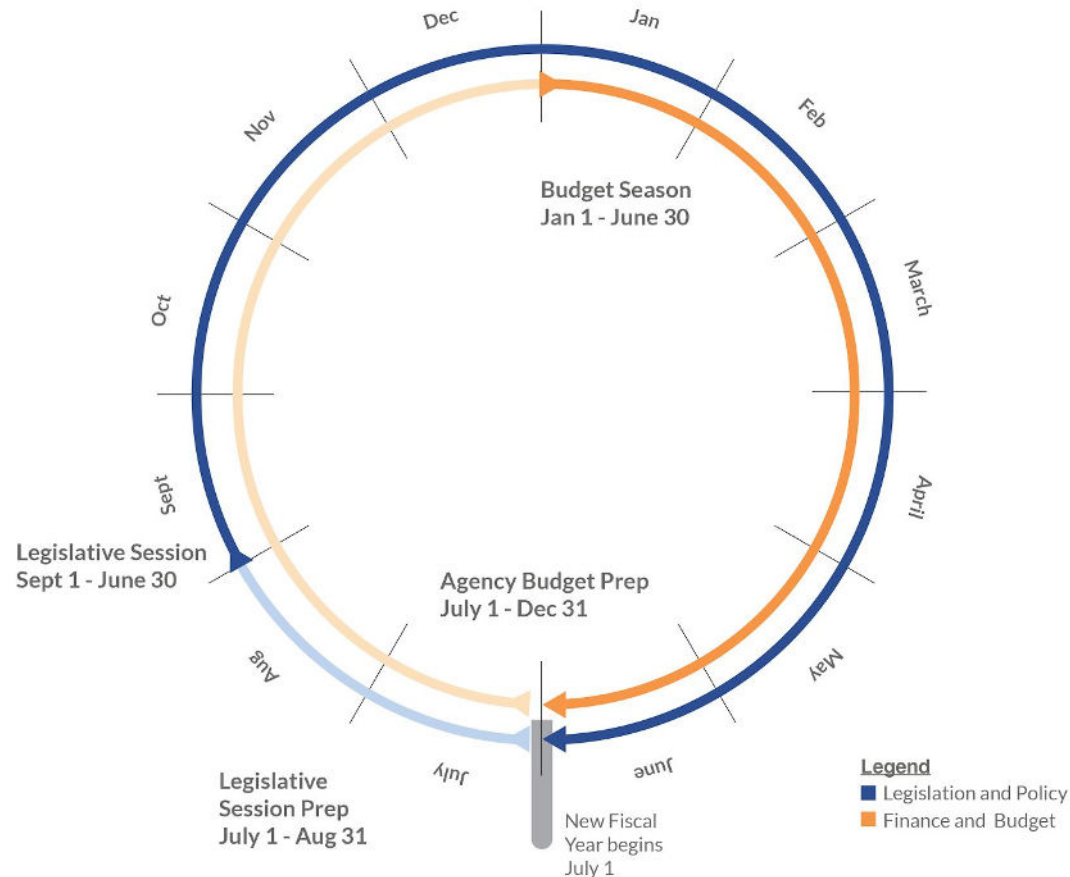




Who's Who: NYC



New York City timeline



You need relationships in the executive *and* legislature

Executive (Mayor)

Executes the law



Through agencies



Legislature (NYC Council)

Creates &
amends the law

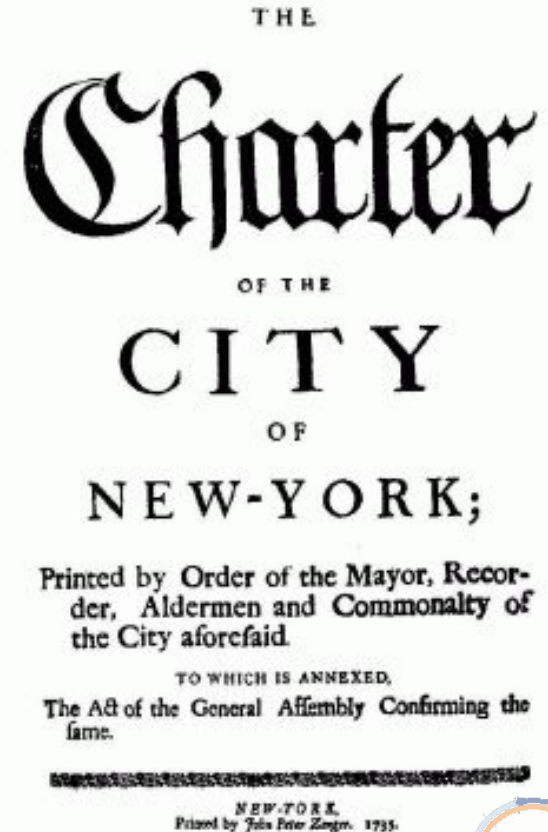
Judiciary

Interprets the law

Through
courts

"Strong Mayor" System

- City Charter = defines authority & roles of branches of City government
- Grants mayor a lot of power
- Mayor can appoint agency commissioners, restructure agencies - basically control all government services!



New York City Mayor



The Mayor

- Also referred to as “the Executive” and “City Hall”
- Authority over the infrastructure and operations of all City agencies and departments
- Hires and fires Commissioners and agency heads
- Veto power over City Council legislation
- Drives the budget process
- Elected every 4 years, limit of 2 terms



Deputy Mayors

- Appointed by the mayor
- Oversee city agencies & operations
- Advise mayor on policy issues
- Can be instrumental in implementation process



Deputy Mayors



Sheena Wright
First Deputy Mayor



Anne Williams-Isom
Health and Human
Services



Meera Joshi
Operations



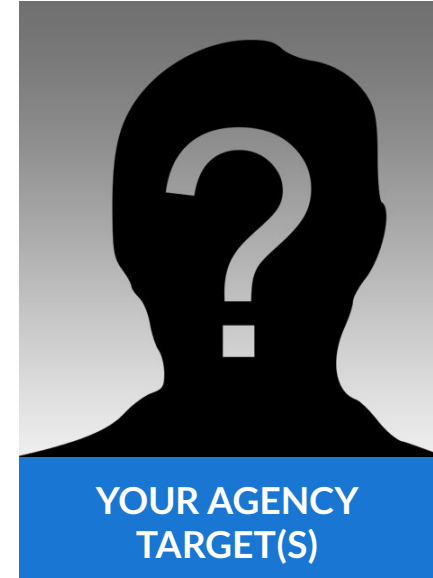
Maria Torres-Springer
Economic and
Workforce
Development



Philip Banks
Public Safety

Agencies: we need relationships to:

- Help craft our bills
- Identify legal or practical challenges
- Collaborate during implementation process / program roll-out



New York City Council



Key Council responsibilities

- Legislation: pass laws that impact how agencies act, what services & programs they provide
- Oversight of City agencies
- Land use decisions, such as rezonings of specific sites or neighborhoods, or deciding what to do with public land
- Budgeting
 - Allocate funds through discretionary dollars
 - Negotiate City's budget with the Mayor



We need relationships in the Council to:

- Get our bills drafted and introduced (sponsor)
- Vote for our bills
- Help us connect to other Council Members
- Make sure community interests are represented



City Council Members

Brooklyn (16)



Queens (14)



Manhattan (10)



Bronx (8)



Staten Island (3)



Legend



Democrat: 46
Republican: 5



Speaker of the Council - very powerful!

- Agenda: Sets the agenda for Stated meetings, where the Council votes on bills
- Budgeting: controls all discretionary funding (funds to CMs, Speaker funding); leading role in budget negotiations
- Committees: Makes committee assignments
- Staffing: appoints high-level central staff
- Elected by councilmembers



Key Leadership



Deputy Speaker
Diana Ayala



Keith Powers
Majority Leader



Selvena Brooks-Powers
Majority Whip



Joseph Borelli
Minority Leader

Committees

- Issue-based
- Chosen by leadership
- Determine what bills are on the agenda



Althea Stevens
D-16, Chair
Youth Committee



Diana Ayala
Chair of General
Welfare Committee



Caucuses

- Black, Latino, and Asian Caucus
- Women's Caucus
- Irish Caucus
- Jewish Caucus
- Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender and Queer Caucus
- Progressive Caucus
- Common Sense Caucus



Amanda Farias
D-18, Women's
Caucus, Co-Chair



Oswald Feliz
D-15, BLAC Co-Chair



Kevin Riley
D-12, BLAC Vice
Co-Chair



Farah Louis
D-45, Women's
Caucus, Co-Chair

Borough delegation chairs

Bronx



Althea Stevens
D-16



Eric Dinowitz
D-11

Brooklyn



Chi Ossé
D-36



Farah Louis
D-45

Staten Island



Joe Borelli
D-51

Manhattan



Christopher Marte
D-1



Eric Bottcher
D-3

Queens



Linda Lee
D-23



Nantasha Williams
D-27



Budget Negotiation Team

- Really hash out the budget
- “At the table” and usually in conversation for final stages of the budget process
- Chosen by the Council Speaker
- Consider priorities of CM’s and Borough Delegations



Also key in budget negotiations

Council



Finance Chair
Justin Brannan
NYC Council



Chief Financial
Officer
Tanisha
Edwards



Director of
Council
Finance
Richard Lee

Staff are key! Figure out the right person to talk to

- Personal staff
 - Accountable to the councilmember
 - Have specialized roles: policy, constituent services, etc.
- Central staff
 - Report to Council Speaker
 - Help to draft/negotiate bills
 - Work within specific Divisions/Offices in the Council, or for caucuses or committees
 - Several types: policy, legal counsel, budget/finance



Takeaways

- Mayor has a lot of power over budget, agencies, and legislation
- Council has a lot of power over legislation, land use, and oversight
- Speaker plays a leading role in the Council - build a relationship
- Staff help you get it done! Understand the types
- Agencies are key to implementation



**For more information contact
hello@advocacy-institute.org**

