

NEW YORK'S PATHWAY ➤ TO SHARED PROSPERITY

New York is one of the wealthiest states in the nation. But, due to increasing income and wealth inequality and public policies that benefit the few over the rest of us, too many people in our state are left behind and struggle to make ends meet.

It's time for a new approach. New York has an opportunity to forge a better way forward, one that embraces the politics of shared abundance, fairness, equity, respect, and cooperation – and one that puts the public interest above private interests.

Here's how they can start.



▶ MAKE NEW YORK'S TAX CODE STRONGER AND FAIRER

New York can put itself on a sound fiscal footing and meet the needs of our population for good schools, a solid infrastructure, and high-quality social services. To do that, the state has to raise more revenue, especially from those who can best afford to pay. That's the way to provide adequate state services, and it's where the money must come from to keep property taxes from getting out of control.

Policymakers should:

- Make the current millionaires' tax permanent, and add new income tax brackets at \$5 million, \$10 million, and \$100 million of earnings
- Eliminate the 2 percent state spending cap, which artificially constrains services
- Reduce the pressure on property taxes by increasing the state share of jointly funded state/local services, increasing aid to municipalities, and implementing a property tax circuit breaker to help families that face a property tax burden they can't sustain



▶ INVEST IN NEW YORK'S STUDENTS

Every child in New York state is entitled to a sound, basic education. But currently, there are too many policy roadblocks that prevent our state's children from truly prospering.

Policymakers should:

- Fully fund our schools by meeting the state's obligations under the Campaign for Fiscal Equity settlement (currently a \$4.1 billion gap)
- Not let the governor distract from the need for more state school funding by proposing that districts could solve the issue locally if they shift money to underfunded schools from other schools in the district
- Rebuild the State University of New York and the City University of New York, institutions that have been starved of funding for years and are at risk of no longer being the pathway to a great education and a middle-class life that they have been



➤ MAKE THE STATE'S ECONOMIC-DEVELOPMENT SPENDING MORE TRANSPARENT AND MORE ACCOUNTABLE

New York State and its local governments currently spend approximately \$9 billion annually on a broad array of economic development programs throughout the state. There are dozens of different programs that provide the vast majority of their benefits to big businesses in the name of job creation and economic growth — but the results are very far from clear.

Policymakers should:

- Create a single “Database of Deals” of all state subsidies to businesses to provide a clear picture of the state’s economic development projects and enhance the state’s ability to track the return on its investments
- Reform the state procurement process to prevent corruption by passing the Procurement Integrity Act

➤ INVEST IN PROGRAMS THAT CAN BOOST OPPORTUNITY AND REDUCE HARDSHIP

While the federal government has tried to chip away at our country’s social welfare system, New York continues to move forward and strive towards protecting, and sometimes expanding, anti-poverty programs – but the governor and the legislature can do even better to ensure that all families can pursue economic opportunity.

Policymakers should:

- Invest significant resources in low-income communities across the state to combat pervasive poverty
- Expand working family tax credits like the state Earned Income Tax Credit and Empire State Child Credit
- Create and fund the Home Stability Support (HSS) program and other initiatives to reduce homelessness and housing instability
- Reinstate the annual cost-of-living pay adjustment for human service workers and provide adequate funding for state contracts to support the minimum wage increase to ensure quality services and fair treatment of workers



SUPPORT IMMIGRANT INCLUSION TO HELP NEW YORK THRIVE

Immigrants play an important role in economic, cultural, and social life around New York State, and the governor and legislature should do more to fully integrate immigrants. Almost a quarter of everyone living in New York State was born in a foreign country. When immigrants do better, we all do better.

Policymakers should:

- Make driver's licenses accessible to all, regardless of immigration status. We all benefit when everyone on the road is tested, licensed and insured.
- Expand New York's unique program of enhanced services to refugees from \$2 million to \$4.5 million. At a time of crisis in the federal refugee resettlement program, New York has a nation-leading program for the refugees and refugee resettlement agencies that are helping our communities grow. That's important around the state—nowhere more so than in upstate cities where refugees are a key to population rebound.
- Ensure a full and fair count in the crucial 2020 Census by allocating \$40 million for outreach by community-based organizations. Trusted voices in the community will be important to gain the participation of immigrants, people of color, young parents, and others who are often under-counted.



FPI

Fiscal Policy
Institute

Fiscal Policy Institute

11 Park Place, Suite 701
New York, NY 10007

1 Lear Jet Lane
Latham, NY 12110

For More Information:

 fiscalspolicy.org

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