

NEW YORK

This November, New Yorkers will elect a governor, attorney general, and comptroller. For the first time in 2026, gubernatorial candidates chose their running mates before the primary, and Governor Kathy Hochul (D) is up for reelection with a new running mate. All 150 assembly seats and all 63 senate seats are also on the ballot.

Governor

Democratic Nominee

Governor Kathy Hochul

Governor Kathy Hochul has served as Governor since 2021 and is the first woman to hold the post in the state of New York. For her reelection campaign, Hochul's website focuses on four priorities: lowering costs, investing in safety, improving education, and "protecting New York from MAGA extremism."

To make New York more **affordable**, Hochul's campaign boasts that she has eliminated tax on tips, sent inflation refund checks to 8 million New Yorkers, cut middle-class tax rates, and tripled the New York child tax credit. For **education**, she supported universal childcare and pre-kindergarten, secured free school meals, and implemented free community college for high-demand occupations. On **public safety**, she lists accomplishments including investing \$3 billion in public safety, reducing retail theft and hate crimes, and signing the "Local Cops, Local Crimes" law. Finally, her campaign highlights her opposition to President Trump by challenging his tariffs in court and "holding ICE agents accountable."

In Hochul's 2026 policy plan, she plans to "double down on these efforts." She hopes to fully fund **universal childcare** and **pre-kindergarten** by 2028, further expand the child tax credit, cut auto insurance rates, and protect rent-stabilized tenants. On **safety**, Hochul wants to increase enforcement of her ban on 3D printed guns and promote technological innovation in road safety. Additionally, Hochul wants to invest a further \$250 million to build affordable housing, increase the number of land banks in the state, and embrace innovative solutions to the housing crisis.

Hochul also recently signed the first statewide moratorium on new large data centers in the country, which bans construction of new data centers using over 50 megawatts of energy for one year.

Hochul is endorsed by all 19 Democratic U.S. House lawmakers, including Minority Leader Hakeem Jeffries, as well as New York City Mayor Zohran Mamdani.

The Cook Political Report and the Center for Politics Sabato's Crystal Ball rate this race as Safe Democratic.