



NEW YORK STATE SENATOR

Thomas F. O'Mara

Senator O'Mara's weekly column 'From the Capitol' -- for the week of January 27, 2025 -- 'Tune into the state budget adoption process'

THOMAS F. O'MARA January 27, 2025

| ISSUE: **2025-2026 STATE BUDGET**



Senator O'Mara offers his weekly perspective on many of the key challenges and issues facing the Legislature.

We need to keep working against New York State tax and regulatory mindset that puts our businesses and manufacturers at a competitive disadvantage, imposes red tape that strangles local economies, or prioritizes higher and higher spending, overtaxing, outrageous mandates, and burdensome overregulation.

Senator O'Mara offers his weekly perspective on many of the key challenges and issues facing the Legislature, as well as on legislative actions, local initiatives, state programs and policies, and more. Stop back every Monday for Senator O'Mara's latest column...

This week, "Tune into the state budget adoption process"

Guest Column from



for the week of January 27, 2025
“Tune in to the state budget adoption process”

Budget adoption season is underway at the State Capitol, which means, first, that joint Senate-Assembly public hearings on Governor Kathy Hochul’s 2025-2026 Executive Budget proposal kick off on Monday and will remain underway until the end of February.

Conducted jointly by the Senate Finance Committee, and the Assembly Ways and Means Committee, these forums examine and critique the governor’s proposal in detail and solicit testimony from state agency officials, public policy and fiscal experts, local government representatives, business leaders, educators, farmers, law enforcement, and many other advocates.

I have served as the Ranking Member on the Finance Committee since 2021 and continue to welcome having a direct voice on the legislative committee most responsible for overseeing the adoption of the state’s annual budget. These hearings highlight the course that the New York government is looking to set for short- and long-term fiscal practices and responsibilities. They also begin setting the stage for the Legislature’s negotiations with the governor over a final state budget.

Most importantly, they are a chance for the public to learn more about what’s being planned by Governor Hochul and Albany [REDACTED] legislative majority leaders for the future direction of New York State.

Remember that the governor has proposed a 2025-26 budget that starts at \$252 billion, an astounding number in a state that over the past several years has been no stranger to big-spending budgets. The governor’s proposal is already an approximately *\$19-billion increase* over her proposed budget last year, which was record-breaking. In other words, the governor and the [REDACTED] leaders of the Senate and Assembly majorities – the biggest-spending Legislature in state history -- will start final negotiations over a new budget looking to increase state spending by at least \$19 billion. In other words, it’s likely to go significantly higher.

