



NEW YORK STATE SENATOR

Thomas F. O'Mara

O'Mara on state budget: 'Another late, bloated, unaffordable spending spree'

THOMAS F. O'MARA May 7, 2025

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During debates on the floor of the state Senate, Senator O'Mara, Ranking Member on the Senate Finance Committee, has helped lead the Senate Minority Conference's opposition to the state's budget adoption process and New York's final 2025-2026 budget.

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News Release

O'MARA ON STATE BUDGET: 'ANOTHER LATE, BLOATED, UNAFFORDABLE SPENDING SPREE'

Albany, N.Y., May 7—State Senator Tom O'Mara (R-C, Big Flats), Ranking Member on the Senate Finance Committee, today called the final 2025-2026 New York State budget being enacted by Governor Kathy Hochul and the Legislature's [REDACTED] majorities "another late, bloated and unaffordable spending spree."

O'Mara stressed that the final budget, which the [REDACTED]-led state Senate began adopting today, is being enacted over a month late. He criticized the final plan for its continued focus on spending that is out of control, a broken budget adoption process, and keeping New York moving in the wrong direction economically, fiscally, and on public policy priorities in fundamentally key areas including health care, public safety and security, and transportation.

O'Mara noted that Hochul and the [REDACTED]-led majorities of the state Legislature are increasing spending by at least \$15 billion over last year and will adopt a \$254-billion fiscal plan. He said that action will result in state spending under all-[REDACTED] majority control since 2018 will have increased by more than \$90 billion.

O'Mara said, "New York State taxpayers today and long into the future already face trying to afford, live, and work under a bloated, wasteful, and unaffordable state government. New York is already one of the highest taxed, heavily mandated, overregulated, and least affordable states in the nation. This budget makes it worse. It increases spending and handouts by at least fifteen billion dollars but fails to address any meaningful tax relief, mandate relief, debt relief, or key priorities in health care, public safety, local roads and bridges, and so many other fundamentally important areas. It ignores the economic and fiscal warnings on the horizon and keeps on increasing government spending like there's no tomorrow.

"To afford it, Governor Hochul and the [REDACTED] majorities in the Legislature will go on squeezing every penny they possibly can from state and local taxpayers through higher taxes, passing the buck to localities, ignoring badly needed priorities, more borrowing, raiding reserve funds, increasing fees, and every other anti-taxpayer, anti-business, anti-economic opportunity, anti-economic growth, anti-freedom action contained in this new budget and that will be the cornerstone of every future state budget for as long as New York remains under one-party, all-[REDACTED] majority control.

"We will remain the nation's leader in irresponsible, irrational, misguided, and unsustainable spending that will overburden and make this state unlivable for taxpayers, families, workers,

small businesses, manufacturers, farmers, and every segment of our local communities and economies.”

O’Mara also strongly criticized the state’s budget adoption process that has produced a string of late state budgets and continues to allow the use of “messages of necessity” to rush through votes on final budget legislation. He said the existing process prevents individual legislators, and the public, from having adequate time to review and debate budget legislation before it’s voted on and enacted.

“It’s time to bring this state’s budget adoption process into the modern day, especially at this time when one-party control keeps on producing skyrocketing state spending plans that are increasingly chock-full of policy initiatives that should, for accountability’s sake, be given stand-alone consideration,” O’Mara said. “Fundamental checks and balances have effectively been thrown out in this state government. Governor Hochul and the Legislature's [REDACTED] majorities go on working behind closed doors to allocate state taxpayer dollars and set in motion far-reaching public policies impacting our local citizens, communities, and economies in consequential ways.

“The state budget demands a full public airing and the appropriate time for review and debate, but that’s never what we get. It’s a broken process that blindfolds the public and keeps producing bloated state budgets that taxpayers will never be able to afford.”