



Healthcare Advocacy Day

Feb. 26 | Empire State Plaza



About our legislative speakers



Senator Andrea Stewart-Cousins (D-35)

Majority Leader and President Pro Tempore,
New York State Senate

Senator Andrea Stewart-Cousins is the Majority Leader and President Pro Tempore of the New York State Senate.

She is also a history-maker: She's the first woman in the history of New York state to lead a conference in the New York State Legislature and is also the first female Senate Majority Leader. She represents the 35th Senate District, which includes Greenburgh, Scarsdale and parts of White Plains, New Rochelle and Yonkers.

Majority Leader Stewart-Cousins was first elected to the New York State Senate in 2006. Before that, she was a Westchester County Legislator from 1996 to 2006. In 2012, she was chosen by her colleagues to lead the Senate Democratic Conference. She became Majority Leader in January 2019.

Majority Leader Stewart-Cousins has overseen the passage of historic legislation on issues including voting reforms, gun safety, women's rights, healthcare, immigration and DREAMers, the LGBTQ community, the justice system, and sexual harassment in the workplace.

Since the very beginning of her tenure in government, Majority Leader Stewart-Cousins has espoused the values of empathy, empowerment and civic engagement. She is a strong advocate for human rights; quality education; accessible and affordable healthcare; and government efficiency and transparency.



Assemblymember Carl E. Heastie (D-83)

Speaker, New York State Assembly

Assemblymember Carl Heastie is the 100th Speaker of the New York State Assembly. He has the historic distinction of being the first African American to serve as leader of the chamber's 150 members representing communities across the state of New York.

Speaker Heastie represents the 83rd Assembly District in the Bronx. He was first elected to the Assembly in 2000 and served as Chair of the Assembly Labor Committee prior to being elected Speaker.

Since Feb. 3, 2015, he has led the Assembly Majority in efforts to uplift communities and promote a "Families First" agenda that prioritizes strategic investments in the health, safety, economic and social well-being of New York's families.

Before taking public office, Speaker Heastie served as a budget analyst in the New York City Comptroller's office. This experience has proven to be an invaluable asset to the Legislature during the New York state budget process.



Senator Gustavo Rivera (D-33)

Chair, Senate Health Committee

Senator Gustavo Rivera has represented the 33rd Senate District in the Bronx since 2010. The 33rd Senate District includes the neighborhoods of Kingsbridge Heights, Fordham, Belmont, Riverdale, Norwood, Bedford Park, Pelham Parkway, Van Nest, Morris Park and parts of Allerton in The Bronx.

Since taking office, Sen. Rivera has focused on addressing issues of health inequity both legislatively and on the ground. In 2018, his passion for improving the health of New Yorkers led Majority Leader Andrea Stewart-Cousins to appoint Sen. Rivera as the chair of the Senate Health Committee. As chair, Sen. Rivera's goal is to collaborate with his colleagues, stakeholders and constituents to improve health outcomes, increase access to coverage and ensure a financially viable system for the 20 million New Yorkers he proudly serves.

Sen. Rivera previously served as the ranking member of the Senate Health Committee for six years. In March 2017, he became the main sponsor of The New York Health Act, which would create a single-payer health system in New York state.



Assemblymember Amy Paulin (D-88)

Chair, Assembly Health Committee

Assemblymember Amy Paulin has served the 88th New York State Assembly District, which includes Scarsdale, Edgemont, Eastchester, Bronxville, Tuckahoe, Pelham, Pelham Manor, and parts of New Rochelle and White Plains, since 2001.

A full-time legislator, Assemblymember Paulin annually ranks among the state's most productive lawmakers. She served as the chair of the Assembly Committee on Energy from 2013 to 2017, working to encourage renewable energy and ensure our electricity grid is reliable. She chaired the Assembly Committee on Corporations, Authorities and Commissions from 2018 to 2022.

In 2023, after the retirement of long-time Assemblymember Richard Gottfried, Assemblymember Paulin was appointed to chair the Assembly Health Committee. Among her legislative priorities, she sponsors legislation aimed at improving health equity and outcomes for all New Yorkers. In particular, she sponsors bills related to access to reproductive health services and equalizing birthing experiences and outcomes.



Senator Toby Ann Stavisky (D-11)

Chair, Senate Higher Education Committee

Senator Toby Ann Stavisky is the first woman from Queens County elected to the State Senate and the first woman to chair the Senate Committee on Higher Education. First elected in 1999, she has been re-elected 11 times. Her district includes parts of Whitestone, College Point, Little Neck and Holliswood.

Sen. Stavisky sponsors legislation protecting immigrant populations, allowing nurse education programs to include simulation experiences and establishing a clinical preceptor personal income tax credit for certain healthcare professionals.



Assemblymember Alicia Hyndman (D-29)

Chair, Assembly Higher Education Committee

First elected in 2015, Assemblymember Alicia Hyndman represents portions of Laurelton, Rosedale, St. Albans, Addisleigh Park, Hollis, Springfield Gardens and Jamaica in Queens.

Assemblywoman Hyndman's professional career spans over 15 years with the Department of Education as a senior professional conduct investigator, overseeing adult trade and vocational schools. She previously held many positions in the field of education, including counselor for the Brooklyn College Educational Talent Search Program; director of minority affairs at the New York College of Osteopathic Medicine of NYIT; and assistant with the New York State Education Department Office of Higher Education.

As a longtime education advocate, she has focused on creating educational opportunities for the Queens community through the redevelopment of John F. Kennedy International Airport, growing small businesses, and providing access to living-wage jobs and entrepreneurial opportunities.



Senator Jamaal Bailey (D-36)

Chair of the Senate Insurance Committee

First elected in 2017, Senator Jamaal Bailey serves the Bronx neighborhoods of Woodlawn, Williamsbridge, Co-op City, Wakefield, Baychester and the city of Mount Vernon.

Sen. Bailey is serving his first term as the chair of the Senate Insurance Committee, replacing his predecessor, Neil Breslin, who has retired from the Senate. Before serving as the chair of the Senate Insurance Committee, Sen. Bailey chaired the Senate Codes Committee.

Sen. Bailey dedicated his first term in office to advocating for criminal justice reform. He has spearheaded speedy trial, bail and discovery reform in the Senate. He was able to achieve reforms in all three areas in the 2019 state budget.



Assemblymember David Weprin (D-24)

Chair of the Assembly Insurance Committee

First elected in 2010, Assemblymember David Weprin represents the Queens neighborhood of Richmond Hill and parts of Briarwood, Jamaica Estates, Jamaica Hills, Hollis and Oakland Gardens. He was named chair of the Assembly Insurance Committee in 2023.

Assemblymember Weprin was born and raised in Queens and held a variety of roles in the public and private sectors before he was elected to the Assembly. These roles included deputy superintendent of banks, secretary of the Banking Board for New York State and chairman of the New York City Council Finance Committee.

Assemblymember Weprin considers tackling fraud (specifically motor vehicle and workers' compensation fraud) as a top legislative priority for the 2025 legislative session.