Executive Summary New Hope for All of New York

DECEMBER, 2018

NEW POLITICS, NEW ACTION, NEW BUDGET,
NEW HOPE FOR ALL OF NEW YORK
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

New Hope Budget For All of New York

The economic “recovery” from the 2008 Financial Crisis and subsequent Great Recession has left most New Yorkers behind — it’s time to end extreme inequality with a bold new approach.

New York is one of the wealthiest states in the nation. But instead of economic fairness, many of our state government policies benefit the super rich, while the vast majority of taxpayers in New York, who are not in this rarified class and including impoverished, low-resourced, tax-burdened communities in rural, suburban and urban communities, are left to pick up the tab.

At the same time, the politics of fear, resentment, hate and division attempt to divide us along ethnic, racial, gender lines, rural vs. suburban vs. city, upstate vs. downstate, red versus blue.

New York has an opportunity starting in 2019 to forge a new and better way forward — one that firmly rejects the politics of manufactured scarcity, fear and division, embracing instead a politics of shared abundance, fairness, equity, respect and cooperation.

Together as one state we need a new budgeting approach which enables all New Yorkers in every part of the state to contribute and thrive, not just the few.

Our State Government Must Work for ALL New Yorkers!
Time for a Bottom-Up Strategy!

We need to invest in a bottom-up growth strategy that will benefit ALL New Yorkers, including those who have been left behind in this economic recovery. We call on our elected and public officials to embrace the following principles:

- **Fight Poverty and Racism** — Invest in Early Learning, Public and Higher Education, Healthcare & Local Communities and address the disproportionate burdens carried by people of color, immigrants, and people with disabilities.

To address gross inequities and discrimination, the state needs to fairly and fully fund our child and elder care, public schools, colleges & universities, housing people who are homeless, expanding access to affordable housing, providing healthcare for ALL, feeding people who are hungry, caring for children, and ensuring a fair criminal justice system for all New Yorkers.

- **Reduce Inequality—Tax the Wealthy and Wall Street** — Not Working and Middle-Class New Yorkers. We need to make our tax system more progressive and adjust our income tax brackets to reflect the explosion of wealth among multi-millionaires and billionaires at the very top. In addition to extending and expanding the Millionaire’s Tax, the state must take such measures as collecting and keeping the stock transfer tax and closing the carried interest loop hole.

- **Austerity Won’t Bring Prosperity—The 2% spending Cap is Not Progressive or Effective**

Austerity was never a good approach to meeting the needs of regular New Yorkers — and now it’s stretched beyond the limits of reason. The 2% spending cap is unevenly applied inflicting unnecessary austerity on programs which benefit people who are poor and middle class, people of color, immigrants and people with disabilities. It needs to be lifted.

- **Fix State and Local Tax Structure.** Our state and local tax systems are broken and need to be modernized. Working and middle-class homeowners, farmers, and small and medium sized businesses, struggling to pay their rent or property taxes, need relief by their municipalities who should be able to have some costs (like Medicaid) born by a state government benefiting from increased revenue from properly taxing people at the very top.

- **Protect our Environment and Deal with Climate Crisis.** We need to proactively address the looming economic and environmental disaster resulting from climate change. We urge the state to embrace the concept of the Green New Deal and take very aggressive steps by passing holistic legislation towards building a 100% clean energy economy by as early as 2030.

- **Strengthen Our Democracy.** New York needs to change some of the worst voting laws in the country which disenfranchise voters. Moreover, we need public financing of elections to eliminate the influence of big money used to encourage elected officials to vote against the best interests of their constituents.

- **Economic Development that Works.** The state often makes investments in companies and projects which are more geared to who has the most influence than what makes economic sense. Huge campaign contributions give the wealthy and corporations political access that locks in profound inequality — instead of smart bottom-up investments that will benefit all New Yorkers.
A CALL TO ACTION
Now is Not the Time for Timidity

Now is the time for our elected officials to take a bold new approach that benefits all New Yorkers and ensures no one in our state is left behind. New York has always been a beacon of hope. The Statue of Liberty stands tall in the harbor of our largest city. Our state has the resources and the ability to show the country how to stop runaway inequality, create good jobs and pay living wages, and build an economy that works for low- and middle-income families, celebrates diversity, protects each other, and gives a helping hand to those in need.

We have the leadership and the know-how to get this done. Now we need the political will and moral commitment. We have faith that the new year will bring new hope for all New Yorkers. Let New York lead the way!

Questions? Contact (below) to discuss:

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Together As One State We Need
A New Budgeting Approach

Which Enables All New Yorkers in Every Part of the State to Contribute and Thrive, Not Just the Few.