1. **Make Albany Work for All New Yorkers with Comprehensive Campaign Finance and Voting Rights Reform**

New Yorkers deserve a responsive, accountable government. Voter turnout in New York is among the lowest in the nation, due in part to antiquated procedures for registration and voting that discourage participation. And our campaign finance system favors the wealthy over everyday, working New Yorkers. To tackle the crisis we face in housing, living wage jobs, criminal justice, affordable health care, transportation, climate, fair taxes, and more, we must transform a campaign finance system that advantages the interests of the few over those of the many. Leaders in Albany must act swiftly to not only on voting rights, but also passing comprehensive campaign finance reform, including a small donor matching system.

- **Small donor public financing.** A small donor matching system for candidates in state elections, including District Attorneys, like the successful program in New York City. Includes $6-to-$1 public matching on small dollar donations, enforcement, and robust candidate support services to help anyone running for office comply with the law. Governor Cuomo, Leader Andrea Stewart-Cousins, and Speaker Carl Heastie have all authored small donor matching systems proposals in the past. There’s no excuse not to get the job done.
- **Limit the influence of big money.** Close the “LLC loophole,” which allows anyone to funnel unlimited money into our elections and conceal the donor’s identity. Also, reduce New York’s unusually high contribution limits to restrict how much money wealthy donors can give to candidates and committees, among other improvements.
- **Making it easier, not harder, to vote.** Including but not limited to automatic voter registration, early voting, same day registration, online voter registration, no excuse absentee voting, new party enrollment deadlines, pre-registration for 16- and 17-year-olds, full voting access for people with disabilities, and codify into law New York’s new policy to extend voting rights to all New Yorkers with past criminal convictions.

2. **Invest in our communities by modernizing and reforming our out-of-date tax system -- make billionaires & Wall Street pay their fair share, provide tax relief to working-class taxpayers statewide**

It’s time to renew our Millionaires Tax -- and to modernize it by adjusting tax rates for multi-millionaires and billionaires to make it more progressive and more fair. We should ensure Wall Street pays its fair share by closing the carried interest tax loophole and passing a stock buyback recapture tax on huge corporations that pass their federal tax breaks to the wealthy instead of creating living wage new jobs or raising pay. We need a targeted tax on Manhattan luxury real estate to fund transportation improvements in New York City and statewide. We should stop rebating our Stock Transfer Tax to Wall Street traders and collect the sales tax on high-frequency and high-leverage stock speculation.

- We need to eliminate Governor Cuomo’s arbitrary and damaging two percent cap on the state budget. This cap, which is not in law, chokes off programs for children, families and
communities. It is straight out of the Republican playbook and the Legislature needs to declare it dead on arrival.

- We need to provide direct relief to hard-pressed homeowners, farmers and renters with a "SuperSTAR" tax & rent rebate to roll back the Pataki-Bruno property tax crisis created in the '90s. And we should strengthen and expand tax policies that support working families including the State Earned Income Tax Credit, Empire State Child Credit, and Child and Dependent Care Credit.

3. Ending Homelessness & Making Housing a Right:

In the past eight years the pace of evictions and displacement has accelerated across New York State, leaving more than 89,000 people homeless, a 36% increase since 2010. Nationwide, homelessness has actually declined 14% over the past 10 years. New York currently has the highest rate of homelessness in the country. While most attention has been focused on New York City, communities across the State have also faced increases in homelessness. In Rochester, the homeless population increased by 18%; Long Island homelessness increased by 20%; Albany’s homeless population increased by 18%; and Binghamton has seen homelessness increase by 31%. Nearly half of the State’s 8 million renters are rent burdened, paying more than 30% of their income in rent. But most tenants lack any protections at all. In fact, rent stabilization only applies to 8 of the State’s 62 counties. Increasing evidence shows that increase in rents leads to a subsequent increase in homelessness. In order to address the State’s homelessness crisis, we need preventative measures that stop rents from going up, and we need an immediate investment in rental assistance programs and supportive and very-low-income housing to re-house 89,000 people right away. In 2019, we are calling on the State government to pass our #UniversalRentControl package of tenant protections and make critical investments to bring us one step closer to ending homelessness. This means:

- End loopholes in rent stabilization that lead to sudden rent hikes for tenants: preferential rent and major capital improvements
- Eliminate individual apartment improvement increases and the vacancy bonus landlords – rent hikes landlords receive when apartments switch hands and that, therefore, incentivize harassment.
- Regulate or re-regulate thousands of apartments by eliminating vacancy decontrol and expanding the right to opt-into rent stabilization to cities across New York State.
- Bring the right to a renewal lease to tenants in small buildings and in cities across New York State by passing good cause eviction
- **The state must invest in statewide long-term rental assistance programs.** Home Stability Support (HSS) (Hevesi, A08178/Krueger, S09195) is a new statewide rent supplement for low-income families and individuals who are facing eviction, homelessness, or loss of housing due to domestic violence or hazardous conditions. HSS would help bridge the difference between public assistance shelter allowance and fair market rents.
- **The state must fully fund and create 20,000 units of supportive housing.** Supportive housing breaks the cycle of homelessness by pairing permanent housing with on-site services for people with a history of substance abuse, and/or who have mental and physical health needs. Supportive housing is widely seen as the most cost-effective strategy proven to solve homelessness for those with the greatest needs. In partnership with New York City’s commitment for 15,000 units of supportive housing, New York State could benefit from a total of 35,000 units of vital supportive housing.

4. Reducing Incarceration and Improving Police Accountability:

Approximately 200,000 New Yorkers cycle through jails across the state each year. The vast majority of those detained have not been found guilty of any crime but sit in jail in large part due to an inability to pay bail amounts set by judges and requested by
prosecutors. As a result of a pretrial regime that greatly empowers prosecutors above all other court actors, just 5% of criminal cases actually go to trial in New York State, less than 1% in New York City. Even short jail stays can have significant consequences for people including loss of employment, loss of housing, or loss of custody of your children. Pretrial detention alone is a significant driver of mass incarceration and economic inequality in New York State, specifically for people of color. Meanwhile, police in New York State, the first point of contact with the system for many, operate with little to no oversight or accountability. New York is one of just two states where the public is specifically barred from access to police disciplinary records. This means cops who have falsely arrested people, beaten people or participated in other misconduct continue to work the streets without anyone knowing their past misdeeds.

1. NYS must pass a new law requiring early, open, automatic discovery, which is the evidence held by prosecutors in criminal cases. New York is currently one of just four states that allows prosecutors to withhold evidence until the day before trial.

2. NYS must end money bail while ensuring that the regime that replaces money as the gatekeeper to jail vastly decreases the pretrial population, ensures due process protections, prohibits algorithmic risk assessments and specifically addresses racial disparities.

3. New York State must pass a Speedy Trial Law. New York is the only state in the country without a true speedy trial statute. Once discovery and bail are addressed, we must implement speedy trial.

4. NYS must make police records public by repealing (not modifying) New York Civil Rights Law Section 50a. New York is one of just two states in the country that restricts the public, and courts, from accessing police disciplinary records. This means that police officers who have been found to have lied in court and on official reports, made false arrests or brutalized people are able to continue in their roles, with little public oversight or accountability.

5. Invest in Schools Not Jails

- **Funding Equity- Fully Fund the $4.1 Billion owed in Foundation Aid (3 year phased-in)** Without adequate funding, schools struggle to meet the basic needs of students, especially low-income students, English language learners, and students with disabilities. Without adequate funding schools cannot have culturally responsive education, smaller class sizes and access to early childhood programs.

- **Culturally Responsive Education- Invest $50 Million to support CRE statewide** New York is one of the most culturally diverse states in the nation, and our kids should be learning about our rich diversity. Students should learn about the histories and cultures of diverse people groups and how these intersect with gender, LGBTQIA and religious diversity. Every student and educator should have access to anti-racism and anti-bias education.

- The New York State DREAM Act would advance educational opportunities for undocumented students who attend college in New York by opening up state financial aid to them.

- New York needs to fulfill its promise to provide full-day Pre-K for all 4- and 3-year-olds across the state.

- **Safe and Supportive School Climate- Invest $50 Million statewide to promote alternatives to suspension and end the school-to-prison pipeline** There are more police in NY schools than guidance counselors & social workers combined. NY needs a public school system that is completely disentangled from the criminal justice system & a commitment that we are creating an equitable, nurturing & supportive education for all students. We need to invest in schools, not repeat the same policy failures that have led to our children ending up in jails.
• Every New Yorker should have access to a free, quality public higher education. Governor Cuomo must sign the Enhanced maintenance of Effort bill to give CUNY and SUNY a much needed funding boost in line with inflation. This bill would provide the opportunity for thousands of full-time faculty and academic advisors to be hired; adjunct faculty could see their pay increased to $7,000 per course; and capital funding would be increased to repair, upgrade and expand CUNY’s aging and over-used facilities. It would also mean that annual tuition hikes would stop – taking the burden of increasing costs off of students’ backs.

6. PROTECT IMMIGRANT NEW YORKERS FACING ATTACKS FROM WASHINGTON:

The Trump administration has declared war on immigrant communities. Trump has acted to end Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) and Temporary Protected Status (TPS), while also ramping up Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) efforts to criminalize immigrants and separate families. Any interaction with the criminal justice system, including minor driving violations, are used as a pretext for detention and deportation. New York must respond by acting to:

• Expand NYS TAP (Tuition Assistance Program) to cover Dreamers – The New York DREAM Act would allow undocumented students who meet the criteria to apply for state financial aid that is currently available to others, such as the Tuition Assistance Program (TAP). California, Texas, New Mexico and Minnesota have passed similar bills. Dream is a critical pathway to provide tuition equity and equal opportunity to undocumented youth in our state.

• Drivers Licenses for All – New York currently prevents hundreds of thousands of otherwise-qualified New Yorkers from obtaining a license because of immigration status. This puts many people who must drive to get to work, take kids to school, or get to the doctor, at risk of traffic stops that can lead to arrest and deportation. New York must restore access to driver’s licenses to all, which will also create a reliable revenue stream and enhance public safety by allowing all drivers to obtain insurance coverage.

• Ensure Immigrant Health Care Access – The state should allocate $542 Million to create a state-funded Essential Plan for ALL New Yorkers up to 200% of the federal poverty level. This will include immigrants losing their Temporary Protected Status and thus their health insurance eligibility, as well as other immigrants currently not eligible for insurance. Given potential changes to public charge regulations at the federal level, which will impact the number of immigrants enrolling in federally funded benefit programs, NYS should continue its trend to ensure that all immigrants are eligible for health insurance if their income is below 200% of the FPL. At the same time, we support a comprehensive solution, such as the New York Health Act (A4738, S4840) to improve the affordability of health coverage in New York.

7. A Green New Deal for New York to Fight the Climate Crisis:

The climate crisis is already here and getting far worse every year. There’s no time left: Without radical action to slash climate pollution, New York will broil while our coastal regions slip underwater, and far more extreme weather slams us. Instead of this dystopian future, New York should create good, union jobs and maximize investment in low income communities and communities of color in a massive push to reach 100% renewable energy throughout the economy.
• A first, minimum step to a Green New Deal for New York is passage of the Climate and Community Protection Act, which sets this framework into law. (A8270/S7971A in 2017-2018 session)

8. Comprehensive reproductive health care, including abortion, is a fundamental component of every person’s health, bodily autonomy, privacy and equality.

• Pass the Reproductive Health Act: In the nearly 50 years since New York lawmakers legalized abortion in the state, never has the ability to access abortion faced such threat and uncertainty as it does right now. That’s why it’s imperative that Albany pass the RHA — the critical first step toward ensuring that abortion remains legal and accessible to all New Yorkers. New York is often called a progressive leader, however, its abortion laws were enacted prior to Roe v. Wade. They still regulate abortion as a crime, rather than a medical procedure, and maintain a Civil War-era prohibition on self-managed abortion that make women vulnerable to prosecution.

• Pass the CCCA: The new federal administration intends to repeal the Affordable Care Act and end coverage for contraception without a copay. Access to contraceptive services is essential to women’s health and equality. The Comprehensive Contraception Coverage Act is a way for New York to codify recent regulatory changes into New York state law and fulfill the promise of the federal contraception coverage mandate, so our residents have access to affordable contraception regardless of what happens to the ACA. Under current law, all insurers must cover at least one contraceptive method from each of the 18 distinct categories recognized by the FDA. The CCCA will require health insurance policies to cover at no co-pay all FDA approved contraceptive drugs, devices and products. That means that All New Yorkers- regardless of their gender – will be able to access the contraceptive method best suited for their health.

• Comprehensive, Statewide, K-12 Sexuality Education: Ensuring access to medically accurate, age appropriate comprehensive sexuality education (CSE) in schools by using an evidence based curriculum and reducing sociodemographic disparities in its receipt is central to improving the health and well-being of children and young adults in the State of New York. CSE, guided by the national standards, includes core content and skills to help young people acquire what is often called social and emotional learning (SEL). These skills include: self-awareness (the ability to recognize one’s emotions and thoughts and their influence on behavior); self-management (the ability to regulate one’s emotions, thoughts, and behaviors); social awareness (the ability to take the perspective of and empathize with others); relationship skills (communication, cooperation, active listening, and conflict negotiation); and responsible decision-making.

9. Medicare for All:

Astronomical health care costs and lack of access continue to drive individuals, families, and businesses past their breaking point while insurance and pharmaceutical companies continue to soak-up billions of health care dollars, even as basic needs go unmet. Medicare has provided guaranteed health care for millions of seniors and people with disabilities for more than 51 years. It’s time we have an improved Medicare for all, single-payer health care system with expanded benefits to cover medical care, prescription, dental, vision, hearing, long-term care, mental health and substance use treatment. We can cover everyone, with free choice of provider, effectively control costs, and assure that everyone has equal access to an excellent standard of care.

• A step in the right direction in New York State is to pass the New York Health Act (A4738A/S4840A in 2017-2018 session), which will create a universal, guaranteed healthcare system covering every resident with comprehensive coverage, at lower cost.
10. **Fix Public Transit:**

Reliable public transit is the bedrock of economic opportunity and social inclusion. Yet too often, riders have been left stranded by subway and bus services cut to the bone after a generation of disinvestment. State leaders need to step up and reverse that trend by adopting a comprehensive, fair, and sustainable transit funding plan. New York’s 5.8 million daily subway riders need congestion pricing as a cornerstone to any funding package to begin modernizing the subway with new signals, cars, and elevators. Bus riders throughout the state need better routing, frequent service and effective prioritization on congested streets and roadways.

11. **Clean Up Albany and End Corporate Welfare & Development Sweetheart Deals Like Amazon’s #HQ2Scam & the Buffalo Billion, Stop Amazon and All Corporate Giveaways Statewide:**

Each year, New York State gives away about $10 billion to connected corporations. Amazon is the (ahem) prime example: $3 billion for a deal covered by non-disclosure agreements for a trillion dollar corporation run by the world’s richest man. It’s time for New York to reject the corrupt Amazon deal and end corporate giveaways, close corporate tax loopholes, and use the funds for the people’s needs, not to satisfy corporate greed.

- Reject the Amazon deal; end all corporate giveaways; and close all the corporate tax loopholes