

**Week of March 6**  
**Senate and Assembly to Release One House Budget Proposals Next Week,**  
**Budget Negotiations Set to Begin in Earnest**

**2017-18 STATE BUDGET UPDATE**

It was another busy week in Albany as we readied for the release of the one house budget proposals. While we had anticipated release of such resolutions on Friday, March 10, legislators and their staff were still working on the final versions late in the day, and released new targets for release - early in week beginning March 13. The resolutions will lay out the priorities of the Senate and Assembly, ushering in the final phase of the budget process – Joint Budget Committee wrangling’s and negotiations between the Governor and Legislative Leaders. While we wait for the release of the one house budget proposals, some details have started to emerge. Among the reports:

- The Senate is expected to reject a host of new taxes and fees along with an extension of the millionaire’s tax, which the Governor is seeking to extend for another three years, keeping the top rate of 8.82 percent for individuals making more than \$1 million or couples making more than \$2 million a year. Meanwhile, the Senate Independent Democratic Conference supports the millionaires tax, while the Assembly will reportedly call for an expansion of the tax in its one-house budget proposal. (Link enclosed)
- Assembly’s one-house budget proposal will include a package of tax cuts for small businesses as well as doubling the research and development tax credits for businesses in New York State.

**RAISING THE AGE OF CRIMINAL RESPONSIBILITY**

Advocates and stakeholders continued their push for inclusion of comprehensive juvenile justice reform in the final budget. On Tuesday, March 7, nearly 300 advocates descended upon the million-dollar staircase for a press conference where Assembly Speaker Carl Heastie, Senate Democratic Conference Leader Andrea Stewart – Cousins, IDC Member Senator Jesse Hamilton, Governor’s Counsel, Alphonso David and advocate Courtney LaValle called upon the legislature to finally raise the age of criminal responsibility in NY state. The event garnered substantial media coverage among the Capitol press corps as well as many local news stations and newspapers around the State

Governor Cuomo amplified the advocates message by issuing two statements of his own, urging the Senate to come to an accord with him and the Assembly. The statement reads in part:

*“New York should be ashamed to be one of two states in the nation that treat 16- and 17-year-olds as adults for criminal liability. The hell that is Rikers Island would be a target for human rights groups if they ever looked in their own backyard. Speaker Heastie, to his credit, has strongly advocated to pass Raise the Age. I have included it in my budget proposal to afford maximum leverage. Senator Klein is in a unique position to end the Senate’s historic recalcitrance on this issue and insist that Raise the Age reform be passed in the budget.”*

Meanwhile, the list of supporters of raising the age grew on Friday with the Human Rights Watch joining the cause stating in part, “Those too young to vote, and to legally buy cigarettes or alcohol, should not be prosecuted in adult courts or sent to adult prisons.

On Friday, *Politico New York* reported on the a bill making its way through the North Carolina Legislature to raise the age, which has garnered bipartisan support and creating the potential of leaving New York to be the last in the nation if legislation is not passed and enacted soon. In this same article, Senator Patrick Gallivan, Chair of the Crime, Victims and Correction

Committee told *Politico* he expects the Senate's one house will incorporate language that expresses an openness to raising the age, but not outlining a detailed plan. (Link enclosed)

On a related note, the plan to remove sixteen and seventeen year olds from Riker's Island, a process that was supposed to take four years, may now take an additional two years, according to testimony provided at hearing at New York City hall. NY 1 reported on the hearing, noting the delay would mean these youth would not be moved into their own facility until 2023. (Link enclosed)

## LEGISLATION UPDATE

- **A.3977 (Glick)/S.263 (Hoylman)** – The bill to prohibit mental health professionals from engaging in efforts to change a minor's sexual orientation has advanced to third reading in the Assembly. **NOTE:** ABC's 20/20 aired an investigation into conversion therapy camps on Friday, March 10, 2017.
- **A.6444 (Den Dekker)** – The bill amends State Education Law to create a demonstration program through which licensed mental health practitioners, employed by the U.S. Veterans Health Administration, would be authorized to diagnose mental illness. The bill was referred to the Assembly Higher Education Committee.
- **A.6359 (Nolan)/S.122 (Griffo)** – Assemblymember Nolan, Chair of the Assembly Education Committee, introduced companion legislation to Senator Griffo's, which would amend State Education Law to confirm the authority of a parent to exempt their child or children from standardized assessments. In these instances, schools would be required to offer alternative programs under the legislation, which also prohibits retaliation. The bill is in the Assembly and Senate Education Committees.

## IMPLICATIONS OF FEDERAL HEALTH CARE REFORM

On the federal and state level, nothing has consumed more oxygen this week than the legislation House Speaker Paul Ryan released to repeal and replace the Affordable Care Act. Governor Cuomo and the Department of Health released an analysis outlining the potential impact, noting it could cost New York \$240 million in fiscal years 2017-18 and growing to \$2.4 billion in state fiscal years 2020-21.

The State's analysis concludes: (a) More than 1 million New Yorkers are at risk of losing health care coverage; (b) \$4.5 billion in potential cost shifts to the state, counties and safety net hospitals; (c) \$2.4 billion in costs starting in 2020, which could grow depending on the plan to block grant Medicaid; and (d) \$400 million in tax credits currently used by New Yorkers to obtain coverage through New York's exchange, New York State of Health.

In addition, there are very real concerns being expressed with the proposal to allow for the sale of insurance across State lines, which would allow for the federal pre-emption of State insurance laws and regulations. A number of national groups as well as statewide health care and hospitals associations have already weighed in against the proposal. Stay tuned as they say as the process continues with Speaker Ryan expecting to have legislation passed before the end of the month and the U.S. Senate aiming to have a bill passed by mid-April from the press reports we have seen.

## OTHER DEVELOPMENTS

Governor Cuomo issued a proclamation this week, setting up a special election to be held on Tuesday, May 23, 2017, to fill the Senate seat formerly held by Bill Perkins, who was elected to the New York City Council, and Assembly seat formerly held by Joseph Saladino, who was appointed Mayor of Oyster Bay last month by the Oyster Bay Town Board. Regarding the vacant Senate seat, *State of Politics (Spectrum News)* reports that there are a number of progressive groups that have organized in New York City to vet potential candidates to ascertain if the candidates seeking to run would join the Independent Democratic Conference (Link enclosed).

## Press Clips

### 2017-18 Budget

“Senate GOP: One-House Budget Will Reject Millionaires Tax,” *State of Politics*, March 8, 2017  
<http://www.nystateofpolitics.com/2017/03/senate-gop-one-house-budget-will-reject-millionaires-tax/>

### Other

“Progressive Groups Want To Avoid IDC Repeat In Manhattan,” *State of Politics*, March 9, 2017  
<http://www.nystateofpolitics.com/2017/03/progressive-groups-want-to-avoid-idc-repeat-in-manhattan/>

### Raise the Age

“North Carolina 'raise the age' bill could leave New York behind” *Politico*, March 10, 2017  
<http://www.politico.com/states/new-york/albany/story/2017/03/north-carolina-raise-the-age-bill-could-leave-new-york-behind-110268>

“Young People May Not be Removed from Rikers Island Until 2023,” *Time Warner Cable News*, March 9, 2017  
<http://www.ny1.com/nyc/all-boroughs/politics/2017/03/9/young-people-may-not-be-removed-from-rikers-island-until-2023.html>

Raise the Age Press Hits Collected:

### Print

[Push is on to raise the age as budget season heats up \(updated X2\)](#)  
Matthew Hamilton, Times Union, 3.7.17

[Gov. Cuomo points to 'the hell that is Rikers Island' in push to raise age of young offenders](#)  
Kenneth Lovett, NY Daily News, 3.7.17

[Raise The Age Proposal Discussed In Albany](#)  
Karen Dewitt, WAMC, 3.7.17  
Also Shared: [WSKG](#), [WXXI](#)

[Raising The Age: Giving Youthful Offenders A Fighting Chance](#)  
Brenna Fuss, TWC News, 3.7.17

[Leaders Make Push to 'Raise the Age' of Teens Being Prosecuted as Adults](#)  
Zack Zink, NY1, 3.7.17

[Rochesterians Rally for 'Raise the Age' Legislation in Albany](#)  
Wendy Mills, TWC News, 3.7.17

[NY one of two states that tries juveniles as adults](#)  
Bretton Keenan, WKBW, 3.7.17

[Advocates push to keep defendants under 18 out of adult justice system](#)  
News 10NBC, 3.7.17

[Raise The Age Lobby In Albany Tomorrow](#)  
Pamela Wong, BKLYNER, 3.6.17

[IDC, mainline Democrats unite to back raise the age](#)  
Nick Niedzwiadek, Politico, 3.7.17

### Broadcast

[Capital Tonight](#)  
TWC News, 3.7.17

News10 at Noon

WTEN (ABC) - Albany, NY, 3.7.17

Morning News

WTEN (ABC) - Albany, NY, 3.7.17

News10 This Morning on FOX23

WXXA (FOX) - Albany, NY, 3.7.17

Locals head to "raise the age" rally

Cole Ellenbogen, WKBW, 3.7.17

Channel 2 News

WGRZ-BUF (NBC) - Buffalo, NY, 3.7.17

News 10NBC @ Five

WHEC-ROC (NBC) - Rochester, NY, 3.7.17

TWC Rochester

3.7.17

Good Day Rochester

WUHF-ROC (FOX) - Rochester, NY, 3.7.17

Time Warner Cable News Buffalo

Time Warner Cable News Buffalo - Buffalo, NY, 3.7.17

Early Daybreak

WGRZ-BUF (NBC) - Buffalo, NY, 3.7.17

Good Day Rochester

WUHF-ROC (FOX) - Rochester, NY, 3.7.17

News 8 at 6am

WROC-ROC (CBS) - Rochester, NY, 3.7.17

Good Day Rochester

WHAM-ROC (ABC) - Rochester, NY, 3.7.17

News 10NBC Early Today

WHEC-ROC (NBC) - Rochester, NY, 3.7.17

7 Eyewitness News at 5

WKBW-BUF (ABC) - Buffalo, NY, 3.7.17

News 8 at 5am

WROC-ROC (CBS) - Rochester, NY, 3.7.17

7 Eyewitness News at 4:30

WKBW-BUF (ABC) - Buffalo, NY, 3.7.17