



# Legislative Update



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## SOCIETY ACTION

**Albany is now OPEN for Legislation:** Between the [inauguration of our statewide elected officials](#), the opening of the 2023-24 legislative session in both chambers, and the governor's State of the State address, Albany is absolutely open for business!

Gov. Kathy Hochul, Lt. Gov. Antonio Delgado, Comptroller Tom DiNapoli and Attorney General Letitia James were all sworn in to their respective statewide offices on Jan. 1. While vowing to protect the United States and New York Constitutions, they also promised to serve every New Yorker to the best of their ability.



On Jan. 9, the state [Senate](#) and [Assembly](#) swore in new and returning members for the 2023-24 legislative session. Both chambers got right to work, where each presented a number of bills surrounding election law, which has already passed in the Senate.

On Jan. 10, [the governor delivered her second State of the State address](#) to a joint session of the Legislature. The governor highlighted her administration's key programs such as the New York Housing Compact, where she presented a groundbreaking strategy to address New York's housing crisis and build 800,000 new homes over the decade; major public safety initiatives and investments, which would sharpen the state's response to guns and violent crime, provide opportunities for second chances, and prevent new crimes; New York's Continuum of Mental Health Care, which highlights a comprehensive plan to drastically reduce the number of individuals with mental health needs within the state; raising the minimum wage annually, which is a plan to help low-wage New Yorkers meet the rising cost of living by indexing New York's minimum wage to inflation; the Cap-and-Invest Program to combat climate change, which will fund a sustainable and affordable future for all New Yorkers; a sweeping plan to make the state's child care system fairer, more affordable and easier to access; and, finally, no raises in state taxes.

**NYSSCPA at the Gov.'s Inaugural Ball:** President Lynne M. Fuentes and CEO Calvin Harris Jr. attended the governor's Post-Inauguration Celebration in Manhattan on Jan. 18. While attending the event, they were able to talk to senior members of the governor's staff and the governor, herself, about the needs of the accounting profession.

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## HOW IT WORKS

**How Do We Elect a Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives:** Since 1839, the House has elected speakers by roll call vote, which allows each representative-elect to orally cast his or her vote after being called on by the House Clerk. In theory, each party's caucus or conference selects a candidate for speakership from among its senior leaders prior to the roll call. To be elected speaker, a candidate must receive a majority of votes from members present and voting. If no candidate wins a majority, the roll call is repeated until a speaker is elected. For example, during the 2023 speaker's election, for the first time in over a century, a speaker was not elected on the first ballot. It took Speaker Kevin McCarthy of California 14 ballot attempts before securing enough votes to become speaker on ballot 15.

Representatives-elect are free to vote for someone other than the candidates nominated by their party. Representatives-elect who choose to vote for someone other than their party's nominee usually vote for someone else in their party or vote "present," in which case their vote does not count in tallying the vote as affirmative or negative. Historically, representatives-elect would only vote for the candidate their party has nominated, but that wasn't the case with the late Rep. James Traficant, a Democrat from Ohio, who, in the 107th Congress in 2001, voted for the Republican candidate Rep. Dennis Hastert. In response, Democrats stripped Traficant of his seniority and his committee position, which led him later to become an Independent.

Upon electing a new speaker, that representative will be sworn in by the Dean of the United States House of Representatives, the chamber's longest-serving member. Ceremonially, the Minority Leader, as an act to bipartisanship, presents the speaker's gavel to the newly elected speaker. Once the speaker is sworn in, the rest of the House will be sworn in by the speaker. At this point, the House is prepared to begin business.

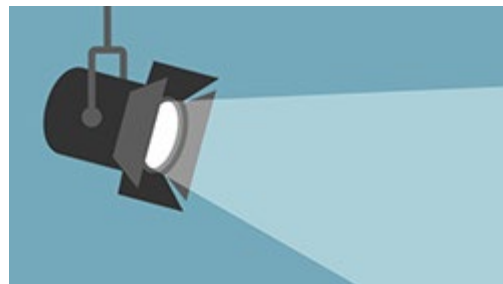
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## LEGISLATIVE AGENDA SPOTLIGHT

### Power of Attorney E-Signature Expansion

**Background:** Although New York state recently passed its historic e-signature bill, the NYSSCPA is looking for an expansion that would allow documents to be signed electronically by someone holding Power of Attorney.

**Update:** **A.7955 (Magnarelli)/S.6851 (Liu)** was introduced late in the 2020 legislative session. Legislation is currently in committee for the 2022 legislative session.



The 2023 Legislative Agenda is currently being developed and will go through Board of Directors approval. The 2023 Agenda should be released in the February edition of the *Legislative Update*.

[Read the 2022 NYSSCPA Legislative & Regulatory Agenda in full.](#)

Get the latest information from the following statewide officials and the federal government:

**Governor Kathy Hochul:**

- [Gov. Hochul Announces State Cancer Prevention Efforts to Protect Firefighters and Their Families During Firefighter Cancer Awareness Month](#)
- [Gov. Hochul Announces \\$38.2 Million Initiative to Address Street Homelessness](#)
- [Gov. Hochul Updates New Yorkers on State's Progress Combating COVID-19](#)
- [Gov. Hochul Announces \\$143 Million Investment in Critical Water Infrastructure Projects Across New York State](#)
- [Gov. Hochul Announces Mobile Sports Wagering Generated \\$909 Million for New York State in First Year of Operation](#)
- [Gov. Hochul Announces \\$672 Million Electric and Gas Utility Bill Relief for New Yorkers](#)
- [Gov. Hochul Announces Opening of First New York Cannabis Dispensary Owned by a Justice Impacted Individual](#)
- [Gov. Hochul Announces More than \\$390 Million in Financing to Build More than 1,600 Affordable and Supportive Home Across New York State](#)

**Comptroller Thomas P. DiNapoli:**

- [State Comptroller DiNapoli Releases Municipal Audits](#)
- [State Comptroller DiNapoli Statement on NYC Preliminary Budget](#)
- [DiNapoli: School District and Big City Tax Levy Cap at 2% for Second Straight Year](#)
- [State Comptroller Thomas P. DiNapoli Statement on 2023 State of the State Address](#)
- [DiNapoli: State Department of AG and Markets Should Improve Pollinator Protection Program](#)
- [DiNapoli: State Tax Receipts Exceed Latest Projection by \\$7.7 Billion](#)

**Attorney General Letitia James:**

- [AG James Secures Relief for Consumers Who Were Tricked into Purchasing Sick Pets](#)
- [CONSUMER ALERT: AG James Provides Tips for New Yorkers to Protect Themselves from Mail Theft](#)
- [AG James and Acting Commissioner Hiller Announce Sentencings in Ponzi Scheme](#)
- [AG James Releases Statement on U.S. Supreme Court Decision Allowing Firearm Dealer and Concealed Carry Gun Law to Remain in Effect](#)
- [AG James and Multistate Coalition Support EPA Finding on Danger of Plane Fuel](#)
- [AG James and Multistate Coalition Secure \\$24 Million from Cryptocurrency Platform Nexo for Operating Illegally](#)

**The New York State Senate:**

- [Senate Opens Legislative Session with Expanded Election Reforms](#)
- [Board of Election Professionalization Package Passes Senate](#)
- [Inflation Reduction and Middle-Class Affordability Measures Pass Senate](#)

**The New York Assembly:**

- [Speaker Heastie Announces Leadership Positions and Committee Chairs for 2023 Legislative Session](#)
- [Statement from Speaker Heastie on the Matter of Lester Chang](#)
- [The Remarks of Speaker Carl E. Heastie](#)

**The White House:**

- [Statement from President Joe Biden on December Producer Price Index](#)
- [FACT SHEET: Biden-Harris Administration Announces Efforts to Support Community Schools](#)
- [Statement by President Joe Biden on the December Jobs Report](#)
- [FACT SHEET: President Biden, VP Harris, Senior Administration Officials Kick Off 2023 Implementing Bipartisan Infrastructure Law](#)

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## ARTICLES ON LEGISLATION & ADVOCACY

To keep you informed of the latest news:

- [National Taxpayer Advocate Reports Continuing IRS Service Issues but Progress in Reducing Backlog](#), *The Trusted Professional*
- [Proposed Rule to Ban Noncompetes Prompts Employers to Think Creatively About Employee Retention](#), *The Trusted Professional*
- [Paul Munter Becomes SEC Chief Accountant](#), *The Trusted Professional*
- [In State of the State, NY Gov. Hochul Announces No Income Tax Increase, Propose Tax Incentives](#), *The Trusted Professional*
- [House GOP Attempts to Repeal Funding to IRS](#), *The Trusted Professional*
- [Hochul's Vision for New York: Fighting Crime and Building Housing](#), *The New York Times*
- [GOP Leader McCarthy Elected House Speaker on 15th Vote in Historic Run](#), *CNBC*
- [Gov. Kathy Hochul's Chief Judge Nominee Grilled, Then Denied, at New York Senate Hearing](#), *Yahoo!*
- [JPMorgan Chase Strategist: Fed Has Won Inflation War, Should Stop Raising Rates](#), *The Trusted Professional*
- [GAO: IRS Must Do More to Prevent Tax Scams](#), *The Trusted Professional*



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## Have a Leg/Reg Issue?

Your issues matter to us! The NYSSCPA Government Relations Team wants to help you be heard in the halls of power. If you have a suggestion for our legislative agenda, if you are having trouble getting through red tape, or would like assistance reaching your local or state officials, please email Media & Government Relations Manager Jovan C. Richards at [jrichards@nysscpa.org](mailto:jrichards@nysscpa.org).



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## THE CPA PAC & LEGISLATIVE TASK FORCE

The [CPA Political Action Committee](#) (PAC) is bipartisan and raises funds to amplify the NYSSCPA's collective voice in Albany. The NYSSCPA distributes PAC donations to New York political candidates who understand the profession's needs and concerns. When you [donate to the PAC](#), you help send a clear message to legislators that issues important to the profession affect the wider business community and the public interest—and that we will be heard.



The [Legislative Task Force](#) (LTF) is responsible for the monitoring and evaluation of New York state laws, legislation, rules and regulations related to the accounting profession, in particular, and business, in general. In conjunction with the Society's legislative staff, the LTF proactively recommends to the NYSSCPA Board various amendments and changes to existing legislation and regulations, on a continual basis.

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