



ON YOUR BEHALF

Albany Is Back: Between the opening of the 2024 legislative session in both chambers, and the governor's State of the State address, Albany is back and raring to go!

On Jan. 8, 2025, the [Senate](#) and [Assembly](#) held their respective opening sessions to mark the beginning of the 2025 legislative calendar. Both chambers were eager to begin working, as lawmakers started to debate and vote on bills involving election law, housing and the migration crisis in and around New York City.



Days later, on Jan. 14, Gov. Kathy Hochul convened a joint legislative session with both chambers and delivered her annual [State of the State](#) address. It included more than 200 initiatives that will put money back in people's pockets, keep New Yorkers safe and ensure the state is a place where all families can thrive. She highlighted her commitment to ensure public safety on the streets and in the subways. Her focus is on students and the state's youth, securing record-breaking housing initiatives, offering access to free higher education, providing viable transportation and introducing groundbreaking proposals that will help make New York more affordable, more livable and safer.

The NYCPA Government Relations Team was able to participate in every proceeding.

PAC's Night of Impact: The NYCPA's Political Action Committee held its inaugural Night of Impact fundraising dinner. Guests were invited to a three-course meal at the famed Serafina restaurant in midtown Manhattan. During the dinner, the Government Relations Team, including CEO Calvin Harris Jr. and Government Relations Associate Director Jovan C. Richards, gave an exclusive and detailed presentation on the proposed 2025 Legislative & Regulatory Agenda and discussed the strategy on how they are expecting to convince the state Legislature and Executive Chamber to pass the vital legislation that matters most to the profession.

If you were unable to attend the event, but still wish to donate to the PAC, click [here](#).



Meeting the New Higher Education Assembly

Chair: Members of the NYCPA's Government Relations Team met with Assembly Member Alicia Hyndman (D-Queens), who will now serve as the new Assembly Committee on Higher Education. Hyndman has a long and respected history as a former employee of the State Education Department before joining the legislature. This is why he has a clear understanding of the inner workings of the committee. This committee handles a large portion of the legislative bills the NYCPA advocates for since it serves as an oversight for the State Education Department's Office of Professionals. Pat Fahy (D-Albany), the immediate past chair, has now been elected to serve in the New York State Senate, where she will sit on the Senate's Higher Education committee as a freshman senator.



Meeting with Business Leaders and Legislators:

The NYCPA's President Kevin O'Leary, President-elect Kevin Matz, Board Members Orume Hays, Michael Durant and Phil London, CEO Calvin Harris Jr. and Government Relations Associate Director Jovan C. Richards attended the Business Council of New York State's annual Government Affairs Roundtable, as well as its Annual Legislators' Reception. During these events, the Society's representatives were able to talk to other business leaders from across the state, members of the New York State Assembly and Senate, Lt. Governor Antonio Delgado and Gov. Kathy Hochul. They expressed the importance of the accounting profession to business leaders and the NYCPA's legislative agenda priorities to the Albany lawmakers, while also urging them to pass legislation that the Society is actively advocating for.



HOW IT WORKS

How Presidential Executive Orders Work: As head of the executive branch of the federal government, presidents typically use executive orders to manage operations, according to the Office of the Federal Register, where such orders are numbered and filed after being signed into effect.

Executive orders don't need any congressional action. They can be things like tasks for federal agencies to carry out or calls for reports and are typically used for things that wouldn't make it through Congress.



These orders can be stopped in some cases by Congress or the court system. They date back to the days of President George Washington. Governors are able to implement executive orders on the state level, as the heads of their respective state executive branches.

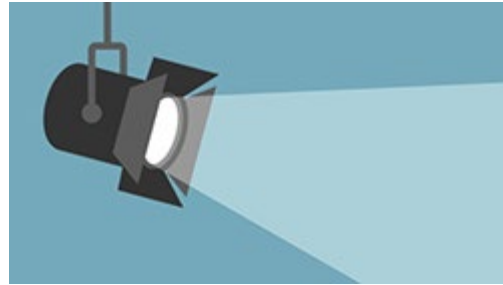
During his first term, President Trump signed 220 executive orders. President Joe Biden signed 160 during his term. President Barack Obama signed 277 executive orders between 2009 and 2017. President George W. Bush signed 291 executive orders between 2001 and 2009 and President Bill Clinton signed 364 executive orders between 1993 and 2001.

2025 LEGISLATIVE SPOTLIGHT

Power of Attorney E-Signature Expansion

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

UPDATE: A.249 (Magnarelli) / S.52 (Liu) was reintroduced in the 2025 legislative session.



[Read the Proposed 2025 NYCPA Legislative & Regulatory Agenda in full.](#)

STATE AND FEDERAL UPDATES

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

Governor Kathy Hochul:

- [Gov. Hochul Unveils Plan to Restrict Smartphone Use in Schools Statewide and Ensure Distraction-Free Learning in New York](#)
- [Gov. Hochul Cracks Down on Exploitative Overdraft Fees Targeting Low-Income New Yorkers](#)
- [Gov. Hochul Unveils Highlights of the Fiscal Year 2026 Executive Budget: More Money in Your Pockets](#)
- [Gov. Hochul Launches “Trailblazers in Business Certification Initiative and Business Growth Accelerator to Strengthen New York MWBEs During Black History Month](#)
- [Gov. Hochul Delivers 2025 State of the State: Fighting for Your Family](#)
- [Gov. Hochul Proposes Middle-Class Tax Cuts, Inflation Refunds and Child Tax Credits to Make New York More Affordable](#)

Comptroller Thomas P. DiNapoli:

- [Comp. DiNapoli Statement on Governor's 2025 Executive Budget](#)
- [DiNapoli: State Tax Receipts Outpaced Projections Through December](#)
- [Comp. DiNapoli Urges New Yorkers to Spend Holiday Gift Cards](#)
- [Comp. DiNapoli Releases Report on Nonprofit Industry](#)
- [Comp. DiNapoli Statement on Governor's 2025 State of the State Address](#)

Attorney General Letitia James:

- [AG James Releases Joint State with 10 State AGs: State and Local Law Enforcement Cannot be Commandeered for Federal Immigration Enforcement](#)
- [AG James Announces \\$1 Billion Settlement with Predatory Lender Yellowstone Capital for Harming Small Businesses](#)
- [AG James Announces Court Win Allowing Lawsuit Against Citibank to Continue](#)
- [AG James Challenges Unconstitutional Executive Order on Birthright Citizenship](#)
- [AG James Releases Statement on 2025 State of the State Address](#)

The New York State Legislature:

- [Legislature Announces 2025 Joint Legislative Budget Hearing Schedule](#)
- [New York State Senate Expands Reproductive Protections, Women's Health, and Privacy](#)
- [Senate Advances Reforms to Protect Election Integrity and Support Election Workers](#)
- [Speaker Heastie Announces Leadership Positions and Committee Chairs for 2025 Legislative Session](#)
- [Notice of Public Hearing - The Minority and Women-Owned Business Enterprise \(MWBE\) Program](#)
- [Assembly Passes Legislation to Protect Reproductive Freedoms and Healthcare Providers on Anniversary of Roe v. Wade](#)

The White House:

- [President Trump's America First Priorities](#)
- [Fact Sheet: Pres. Donald J. Trump Takes Action to Enhance America's AI Leadership](#)
- [Fact Sheet: Executive Order to Establish United States Leadership in Digital Financial Technology](#)
- [President Donald J. Trump's Inaugural Address](#)

ARTICLES ON LEGISLATION & ADVOCACY

To keep you informed of the latest news:

- [Supreme Court Lifts CTA Injunction, but Enforcement Remains on Hold, *The Trusted Professional*](#)
- [The 150-Hour Rule, Substantial Equivalency, and Mobility, *The CPA Journal*](#)
- [Gov. Hochul's Tax Plans Aim to Ease Costs for New Yorkers in 2025, *The Trusted Professional*](#)
- [Hochul's \\$252B Budget Extends Millionaire Tax, Lets Corporate Tax Hike Sunset, *Spectrum News*](#)
- [N.Y. Governor's Budget Aims More to Pocketbook Issues Than at Trump, *The New York Times*](#)
- [Hochul's FY 2026 Budget, by the Numbers, *City & State New York*](#)
- [Tax Breaks on Gold Bars and Jets Help Put a '\\$3B Hole' in NY's Pockets, Lawmakers Say, *Gothamist*](#)



HAVE A LEG/REG ISSUE?

Your issues matter to us! The NYCPA's 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 if you would like assistance reaching your local or state officials, please email Media & Government Relations Associate Director Jovan C. Richards at jrichards@nysscpa.org.



THE SOCIETY AFFILIATES & PARTNERS

The **CPA Political Action Committee (PAC)** is bipartisan and raises funds to amplify the NYCPA's collective voice in Albany. The NYCPA 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 monitoring and evaluating 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 NYCPA Board various amendments and changes to existing legislation and regulations on a continual basis.

The **AICPA's State Regulatory and Legislative Affairs Team** supports and advocates for state-level policymaking that promotes the profession while protecting the public interest in the United States. [Catch up on all the current news.](#)

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