



Blueprint for New York: Creating a Roadmap for Change

The Business Council of New York State and
the New York State Economic Development Council

November 2025

Who we are:

- The voice of business and employers in New York State
 - 3,500 business of all sizes, in all sectors
 - Nearly 100 local chambers and business groups
- We advocate for economic growth, creating good jobs and strong communities
 - Our focus is the NYS legislature and regulatory agencies
 - We also lobby at the federal and municipal level



What we do

The New York State Economic Development Council (NYSEDC) is the state's principal organization representing economic development professionals. The purpose of NYSEDC is to promote the economic development of the state and its communities, to encourage sound practices in the conduct of regional and statewide development programs, and to develop education programs that enhance the professional development skills of our members. Our more than 900 members include the leadership of Industrial Development Agencies and Local Development Corporations, commercial and investment banks, underwriters, bond counsels, utilities, chambers of commerce, higher education institutions, and private corporations.

- Advocacy
- Education
- Policy Development
- Strategic Industry Attraction/Marketing
- Research
- Networking



What we do

2025 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Key Legislative Victories

- Unemployment Insurance
- Pay Frequency
- Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR)
- Anti-trust
- Prevailing Wage
- Temporary Disability Insurance



The
Business
Council

Accomplishments in Advocacy and Policy Development

- **\$300 Million** FAST NY Shovel-Ready Investments for High-Growth Sites
- **\$250 Million** Funding for and Expand the “Restore New York Communities”
- **\$250 Billion** with the Federal CHIPS and Science Act
- **\$300 Million** with the new Power Up Program



- **\$25 Million** Digital Gaming Tax Credit
- **\$200 Million** NY Forward and Downtown Revitalization Programs
- **\$350 Million** Workforce Development Funding and re-organization of ESD Offices
- **\$26 Million** in support to small business with the IDA Emergency Loans and Grants Program
- **\$2.5 Billion** Federal Onshore Act

In the past decade, we have seen New York's cost of living go up while its population, job growth and quality have decreased.

The Business Council of New York State (BCNYS) and the New York State Economic Development Council (NYSEDC) sought to find out why.



▼ **9.6%**

prime working age population
lost in New York State since 2005

- i If trend continues, NYS will lose an additional 725K workers while Texas will gain 4.1 million over the next 20 years

▲ **300,095**

regulations in NYS, containing
17 million words in total

- i This is second to only California

▲ **24,195**

pieces of legislation introduced
in 2023-2024

- i This is 5x the average number of bills filled among all states and nearly double the next state (Illinois)

▲ **7.23%**

job growth in NYS vs. 12%
national average during the
same timeframe

- i Florida grew by 24.9% and Texas 20.3%

Economic Status Report for 2025



Direct Feedback from Roundtables



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“This is a painful environment to be functioning in.”

“Slow. Difficult. Challenging. Three words to describe paperwork here.”



Only
2%

of business owners surveyed
**feel lawmakers represented
their interests in Albany.**



Only
3%

of business owners surveyed
**feel lawmakers and state
regulators understand and
support their business.**



Only
8%

of business owners **say
government actively
supports innovation.**



21%

say New York State is
on the right track.



72%

of businesses **do not see the
current economic conditions
of New York as good.**

The consensus was that New York needed to make immediate improvements around:



Prohibitive
regulatory and legal
environment



The high cost of
doing business due
to taxation as well as
antiquated policies



Lack of agency
coordination,
communication and
accessibility



Lack of modernized
digitized public
sector



Dismal outlook on
population loss



Lack of support



Worrisome
energy policy

Changes that need to be made

- Reduce state and local government regulations
- Reduce business taxes
- Take a more active role in business retention and expansion efforts
- Greater emphasis on addressing energy issues
- Better support for businesses

Priority recommendations

Utilize Empire AI to review NYS Laws and regulation for redundancy, duplicity, and/or contradiction of existing laws and statutes. Ohio has undertaken a similar project to streamline its regulatory environment.

Bring back the Governor's Office of Regulatory Reform (GORR) or appoint a regulation czar in the executive chamber to review and conduct economic impact studies on any new regulation introduced by state agencies.

Update SEQR, land use regulations (including zoning), and permitting to support desired "sustainable" development and help meet the state's development priorities, including affordable housing, renewable energy, green manufacturing and others.

Repeal the Scaffold Law.

Additional recommendations

Convene energy providers, regulators, and developers to identify solutions to meeting the energy capacity and affordability needs.

Create opportunities to invest and expand quantum networking infrastructure to connect quantum assets in the state.

Changes in the state's lending and grant programs to accommodate small and medium sized businesses unable to provide upfront capital.

Create more childcare options for working parents, explore new solutions for increasing the number of childcare facilities and trained providers including staff-to-child ratios.

Create an ecosystem map of all workforce development organizations and programs.

Reinforce the importance of a fiscal impact analysis being included (and completed) as part of all new legislative and regulatory proposals.