



HOUSING JUSTICE FOR ALL

EMPIRE STATE INDIVISIBLE

WORKING FAMILIES PARTY

2021 SHORT SUMMARY



INVEST IN OUR NEW YORK



After a year of COVID-era campaigning by hundreds of allied organizations, New York state lawmakers enacted a budget with **\$4.3 billion in new, progressive, annual revenue** that taxes the rich and big corporations to invest in communities.

NEW TAXES, NEW INVESTMENTS

These funds will pay for a long-sought multi-year commitment to provide court-ordered funding for Black and Brown public school students; billions in new investments for health care and rental assistance for low-income New Yorkers; and a first-in-the-nation two-billion-dollar excluded workers fund to provide equitable pandemic relief to excluded workers left out of federal COVID aid programs due to immigration status.

A POWERFUL ORGANIZING CAMPAIGN

With your help, we built a strong, effective campaign that brought together over 200 organizations — including Center for Popular Democracy, Make The Road New York, New York Communities for Change, VOCAL-New York, and Communities United for Fair Housing — to fight for an equitable state budget that would meet the needs of all New Yorkers, especially communities of color that suffered decades of disinvestment and a disproportionate impact from the COVID crisis.



FRONT-PAGE HEADLINES

Here are 3 of the many great articles summing up the work:

- [New York Is Taxing the Rich. Here's Who Made That Happen. – The New York Times](#)
- [\\$2.1 Billion for Undocumented Workers Signals New York's Progressive Shift. – The New York Times](#)
- [New York Raises Taxes On The Rich As State Shifts Leftward. – HuffPost](#)

And here are a few videos we put together with your support as part of the [campaign launch](#) and the [excluded workers' hunger strike](#).

BIG POLICY ACHIEVEMENTS

After drafting, introducing and campaigning on a [big new six-bill package](#) to tax high incomes, extreme wealth and big corporations, we achieved two big tax victories:

Progressive Income Tax

- Increase in tax rates (from 8.82% to 9.65%) for those earning more than \$1 million (or \$2 million in joint filings)
- New tax brackets for people who make between \$5 million and \$25 million (10.3%), and those making over \$25 million (10.9%)

Corporate Tax

- Increase to 7.25 percent from 6.5 percent (unchanged for small businesses)
- Reinstate Capital Base Tax at .1875%, exempting coops and manufacturers



And after years of organizing, litigating, advocating and a COVID-era burst of direct action and ferocious campaigning, we won bold new community investments:

- **\$2.1 billion fund for excluded workers.** This is the first fund of its kind in the United States. With this fund, New York will provide between \$3,000 and \$15,000 survival checks to 200,000 excluded workers.
- **\$2.4 billion emergency rental assistance program** that will help tenants across the state, including undocumented people, pay rent debt accrued during the COVID crises.
- **Three-year full phase-in of the \$4.2 billion owed to New York's high-needs public schools** after 15 years of organizing for equity in school funding.
- **\$1 billion fund to support small businesses**, including \$800 million for small business grants and \$200 million in small business tax credits.
- **\$900 million fund for working and middle-class tax relief** including \$440 million in property tax relief for 1.3 million New Yorkers and \$400 million in middle-class personal income tax cuts.
- **Restoration of over \$400 million in Medicaid cuts** to healthcare services
- **\$105 million expansion of universal full-day prekindergarten**, providing pre-K funding to 210 districts that don't receive state-funded pre-k now.

A 90-DAY BURST OF PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

The January-February-March mobilization led by allies included:

- Calls to New Yorkers and to representatives: 952,169
- Texts to New Yorkers: over 260,074
- Thousands of volunteers joined over 100 phone banks and other volunteer activities
- Thousands reached their elected officials through our phone banks
- Over 100 teach-ins across the state
- 19,000 letters to voters



- Over 120,000 door hangers distributed by more than 1,000 volunteers
- +20 press conferences, rallies & marches
- +3,000 posters placed around New York City and New York State

The mobilization peaked with a three-week hunger strike by excluded workers, who were joined by lawmakers, faith leaders and community leaders and advocates as they put their bodies and their health on the line for justice.

IT'S INCREDIBLY POPULAR

A Siena poll showed 72% support for personal income tax increases statewide, including strong majorities in all demographic categories:

- 86% support from Democrats
- 74% NYC support * 74% suburban support * 68% Upstate support
- 68% support from independents
- Republicans supported 47% to 40%
- 72% support from "moderates"
- "Conservatives" supported by 19 points (54% to 35%)

MORE ORGANIZING FOR MORE VICTORIES

This is only just the beginning. After decades of austerity, we're working at the state and federal levels to win economic, social and racial justice in tax policies and public budgets.

We're working on a fuller report on the New York effort and the lessons learned, and we're bringing this experience to other regions across the country as state lawmakers finalize budgets due this summer. Our New York wins are a powerful example of what our communities can and will accomplish with your support.