



Blakeman: Hochul Flip-Flops on Taxing Tips While Workers Pay the Price

From Congestion Pricing to Tips, Hochul Delays, Reverses — Then Still Sticks Taxpayers With the Bill

Nassau County Executive and Republican candidate for Governor Bruce Blakeman today blasted Governor Kathy Hochul for playing political games with New Yorkers' paychecks — flip-flopping on taxing tips and congestion pricing when it suits her politically, while workers and commuters are left paying the price.

Blakeman pointed to Hochul's sudden shift on taxing tips. After refusing to provide tax relief for tipped workers and blocking efforts to stop the practice, Hochul is now signaling a possible reversal — but has taken no action to actually eliminate the tax.

"I see Kathy Hochul is doing a U-'Turn' on taxing tips," Blakeman said. "I was told she changed her mind after I said I would never tax tips. Kathy, if you want more of my 'tips' on how to govern, just continue to follow my lead."

Under President Trump's tax cuts, federal taxes on tips and overtime pay were eliminated, saving service workers thousands of dollars a year. But because Hochul has failed to act at the state level, tipped workers in New York continue to pay state and local taxes. Blakeman pledged to take the action Hochul wouldn't and eliminate these taxes as Governor.

Blakeman said Hochul used the same playbook with congestion pricing. After facing intense political scrutiny, she delayed the \$1 billion tax on drivers entering New York City — only to turn around and implement it anyway, sticking commuters, small businesses, and working families with the cost.

"Whether it's congestion pricing or taxing tips, Hochul only changes course when the political heat is on — and even then, New Yorkers still end up paying more and getting less. No wonder people are leaving our state in droves," Blakeman added.

Blakeman pledged that as Governor, he will keep his promises — and his record as Nassau County Executive proves that he sticks to his word. He's cut taxes, protected affordability, and made Nassau the safest county in the nation. "New Yorkers don't need flip-flops, delays, or more empty signals from Kathy Hochul," Blakeman said. "They need a governor who delivers results and lets them keep more of what they earn."

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