



Blakeman: MTA Fare Hikes Prove Hochul's "Affordability" Talk is All Smoke and Mirrors

Commuters Face Up to 4.5% Fare Hikes as Fare Evasion Bleeds MTA of Millions

Nassau County Executive Bruce Blakeman, the Republican candidate for Governor, today blasted Governor Kathy Hochul as new MTA fare hikes take effect – calling them the latest slap in the face to New Yorkers drowning in her affordability crisis.

As of January 4, LIRR and Metro-North riders get hammered with up to 4.5% jumps on monthly, weekly, and peak one-way tickets, while subway and bus fares spike to \$3 a ride. That's real money out of pockets already squeezed by sky-high costs.

"Enough is enough with Kathy Hochul's empty promises on affordability," Blakeman fired back. "Hochul rammed through congestion pricing – a new tax on drivers – bragging it would fund the MTA and ease burdens. So much for that fairy tale! Now, with congestion cash rolling in, fares are skyrocketing for the very commuters who can't afford another hit."

Blakeman said the fare hikes expose a deeper problem with Hochul's MTA: Hochul's refusal to get serious about fare evasion, which is bleeding the MTA of hundreds of millions of dollars every year. Instead of enforcing the law and collecting revenue from fare beaters, Hochul is once again squeezing the very commuters who play by the rules. "If the MTA needs money, start by going after the people who don't pay," Blakeman said. Law-abiding riders shouldn't be treated like an ATM while fare beaters walk through the turnstiles for free."

Blakeman said that as governor, he would take a fundamentally different approach and finally restore accountability at the MTA. He pledged to crack down on fare evasion and collect the revenue already owed before asking commuters to pay a penny more. Blakeman also vowed to audit the MTA, rein in waste and mismanagement, and stop using working New Yorkers as a piggy bank to cover Albany's failures. "New Yorkers deserve a transit system that is safe,

affordable, and fair,” Blakeman said. “As governor, I’ll make sure the rules are enforced, the money is spent responsibly, and law-abiding riders are respected—not punished.”

####