



Blakeman: Hochul's State of the State Still Ignores New York's Affordability and Crime Crises

As Governor Kathy Hochul delivers her State of the State address today, New York Republican gubernatorial nominee and Nassau County Executive Bruce Blakeman said New Yorkers are no longer persuaded by promises that fail to translate into real relief.

“Last year, the Governor made affordability the centerpiece of her State of the State,” Blakeman said. “One year later, New York is even less affordable, less safe, and deeper in debt.”

Blakeman said Hochul has had ample time to deliver results on affordability, energy costs, health care, child care, and public safety — and has fallen short on every front.

“She’s had years, multiple budgets, and full control of Albany,” Blakeman said. “If speeches fixed problems, New York would be thriving. Instead, families are struggling and businesses are leaving.”

Spending and Taxes Out of Control

Blakeman criticized Albany’s fiscal mismanagement, noting that state spending has increased by \$81 billion over the last five years, even as New York faces a \$4.2 billion budget shortfall this year and a \$26.8 billion deficit over the next three years.

“Albany keeps repeating the same cycle — spend more, tax more, and promise it will work next time,” Blakeman said. “Programs marketed as ‘free’ are paid for with higher taxes or long-term debt, and working families are left holding the bill.”

Under Hochul, New York ranks #1 in the nation for individual tax burden, #45 for affordability, and #50 for competitiveness. The state also ranks #3 for highest auto insurance costs, #4 for property taxes, #5 for health insurance premiums, and #8 for residential and commercial electricity rates.

Crime Rising, Safety Undermined

Blakeman said Hochul's public safety policies have made communities less safe, pointing to a 22% increase in overall crime, including sharp rises in violent and property crime.

"This didn't happen by chance," Blakeman said. "Cashless bail, early releases, and weaker parole rules have put criminals ahead of victims and police."

Election-Year Rhetoric vs. Real Leadership

Blakeman said the Governor's recent actions reflect political pressure rather than leadership.

"New Yorkers can tell the difference between real reform and election-year scrambling," Blakeman said. "Knee-jerk fixes don't undo years of failed policy. Unlike Kathy Hochul, I truly care about New Yorkers and want to make their lives better."

A Clear Alternative

Blakeman said affordability is not an abstract debate for families.

"It's grocery bills, utility costs, rent, property taxes, and paychecks that don't go far enough," Blakeman said. "Families don't need more rhetoric — they need results."

Blakeman outlined his plan to:

- Cut personal income taxes
- Reduce property taxes
- Create cheaper energy sources
- Stop congestion pricing
- Boost law enforcement and repeal cashless bail
- Rein in spending and eliminate billions spent on illegal migrants

"As Nassau County Executive, we delivered real results," Blakeman concluded. "As Governor, I'll bring that same discipline to Albany and make New York happy again by putting New Yorkers first."

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