

BRUCE BLAKEMAN *for* **GOVERNOR**

Blakeman: Hochul–Mamdani Agenda Is a Direct Attack on Asian American Values



Nassau County Executive and Republican candidate for Governor Bruce Blakeman (center) today stood alongside State Senator Steven Chan (right of center), Assemblyman Lester Chang (left of center), and leaders in the Asian American community to condemn what he called a direct assault on Asian American values being driven by Governor Kathy Hochul and New York City Mayor Zohran Mamdani.

“Let’s be clear about what’s happening,” Blakeman said. “The Hochul–Mamdani agenda is attacking the very values that have defined Asian American success for generations — hard work, sacrifice, respect for education, belief in merit, and the dream of homeownership.” Blakeman said Mayor Mamdani is pushing to eliminate gifted and talented programs and target elite specialized high schools in the name of so-called “equity,” a move that would directly take educational opportunities away from Asian American students. “Instead of expanding opportunity, Mamdani is cutting off access to programs where Asian students succeed — and Asian American families will bear the brunt of that decision,” Blakeman said.

Blakeman said schools like Stuyvesant, Bronx Science, Brooklyn Tech, and Brooklyn Latin are being targeted not because they fail students, but because their success doesn't fit City Hall's equity agenda. "Governor Hochul could stop this," Blakeman said. "Instead, she's partnering with Mamdani on education policy and enabling this attack on our kids."

Blakeman also blasted Governor Hochul for refusing to opt into a new federal K–12 scholarship program launching in 2027 that could bring hundreds of millions of dollars in scholarships to low- and middle-income New York families at no cost to taxpayers.

"Even modest participation could generate between \$244 million and \$488 million in scholarships for New York kids," Blakeman said. "But New York only gets that money if the Governor opts in — and she's dragging her feet."

If Hochul refuses, Blakeman warned, the money will go to students in other states while New York families lose access to help for private school tuition, tutoring, books, uniforms, and transportation. "Governors from both parties across the country are moving forward because they understand this strengthens families," Blakeman said. "Governor Hochul is choosing politics over our kids' future."

Blakeman said the same hostility toward success is now being aimed at homeownership — another cornerstone of Asian American family life. He pointed to policies like the Community Opportunity to Purchase Act (COPA), which allows government-aligned nonprofits to step in when a homeowner tries to sell, delaying or overriding private sales. "COPA sends a dangerous message: you may hold the deed, but your home belongs to the government," Blakeman said.

Blakeman also condemned Mamdani administration rhetoric that rejects property ownership as an individual right, labeling homeownership a "weapon" and pushing so-called "shared equity" schemes.

"In plain English, if you worked hard, saved, and bought a home, government now wants a permanent seat at your kitchen table," Blakeman said. "These policies don't make housing more affordable — they make it harder to buy, harder to build equity, and harder to pass something on to your children."

Blakeman warned these policies should alarm every immigrant family in New York, particularly those who fled communist systems. “Education is under siege. Homeownership is under siege,” Blakeman said. “Asian American families are being told their values no longer matter — and Governor Hochul is allowing it to happen.”

Blakeman pledged that as Governor, he would draw a clear line. “I will defend merit-based education, protect gifted and talented programs, stand up for specialized high schools, defend private property rights, and support homeownership — not undermine it,” Blakeman said. “I will stand unequivocally with the Asian American community and the values we share.”

“On my watch, hard work will matter in New York,” Blakeman added. “Achievement will be celebrated, not punished. New York will be a place where families rise, not a place where government tears them down.”

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