

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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## **First It Was Our Jobs, Then Our Families, and Now Critical Infrastructure Jobs Are Fleeing, Too**

***Blakeman Invites U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to Nassau County as Hochul Fails to Keep Vital Infrastructure Jobs in New York***

“Millions of families and businesses have already packed up and left to escape the soaring taxes, skyrocketing utility bills, and pro-criminal policies of the Hochul administration. Chasing out the people who fund this state is bad enough, but now Kathy Hochul is letting critical federal infrastructure lines flee too. Her silence as the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) New York District plans to leave the state gives a green light to an exodus that will stall vital flood protection and force remaining taxpayers to pay millions for empty, idle contractor time. If you want to know why everyone is leaving Kathy Hochul’s New York, look no further than this total lack of leadership,” Nassau County Executive and candidate for Governor Bruce Blakeman said.

The USACE New York District has been based in New York City since 1775. This looming relocation will pull its specialized workforce—represented by IFPTE Local 98—out of the state, threatening massive storm resilience projects across Long Island, Staten Island, and the five boroughs. On Long Island, critical shoreline protection and dredging rely entirely on this specific team. In Staten Island, a single construction bid for the South Shore flood protection project alone was valued at \$133 million.

“If Albany is too broken to keep this vital agency in our state, Nassau County stands ready to step up. We officially welcome the specialized workforce of Local 98 and the entire district leadership to make Nassau County their new home. Here, your mission to protect our shorelines will be met with open arms, robust local support, and a government that actually values infrastructure and hard work,” Blakeman concluded.

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