

Key Governor Kathy Hochul Appointments

(Revised 10/25/21)

Office of the Lieutenant Governor:

Brian Benjamin, Lieutenant Governor

- Former State Senator (D-Harlem)

Stacy Lynch, Chief of Staff to the Lieutenant Governor

- Former Deputy Director of Intergovernmental Affairs for Mayor de Blasio

Phil Giltner, Senior Policy Advisor

- Former Director of Operations for Senator Brian Benjamin

Executive Chamber:

Karen Keough, Secretary to the Governor

- Former Head of Philanthropy, JP Morgan Chase, and Sr. Advisor to Hillary for President (2007–2008)
- Replaced Melissa DeRosa

Jeff Lewis, Chief of Staff to the Governor

- Former Chief of Staff to then Lieutenant Governor Hochul (since 2016)
- Replaced Jill DesRosiers
- Replaced Dana Carotenuto Rico

Elizabeth Fine, Counsel to the Governor

- Former Executive Vice-President and General Counsel, Empire State Development
- Former General Counsel, New York City Council
- Former Counsel to U.S. Attorney General Janet Reno
- Replaced Beth Garvey

Jeffrey Pearlman, Special Counsel to the Governor

- Former Special Counsel, State of New York
- Former Director, New York State Authorities, Budget Office
- Former Chief of Staff and Counsel to then Lieutenant Governor Hochul

Robin Chappelle Golston, Executive Deputy Secretary

- Former President and CEO, Planned Parenthood Empire States Acts
- Former Vice President of Corporate Relations and Government Affairs, Emblem Health

Kathryn Garcia, Director of State Operations

- New York City Mayoral Candidate, 2021 Democratic Primary Election
- Former New York City Sanitation Commissioner
- Replaced Kelly Cummings

Shirley Paul, Senior Advisor to the Governor

- Former Assistant Director for Legislative Affairs, SUNY Systems Administration
- Replaced Rich Azzopardi

Bryan Lesswing, Senior Advisor to the Governor

- Former Communications Director to then Lieutenant Governor Hochul
- Former Communications Director for U.S. Senator Tammy Baldwin's re-election campaign

Hazel Crampton-Hays, Press Secretary

- Former Press Secretary to New York City Comptroller Scott Stringer
- Replaced Jennifer Givner

Julie Wood, Communications Director

- Former Senior Director of Communications, Lyft
- Former Vice President of Communications and External Affairs, Motivate
- Former Press Secretary to Bloomberg 2020 presidential campaign

Linda Sun, Deputy Chief of Staff

- Former Deputy Superintendent for Intergovernmental Affairs & Chief Diversity Officer, NYS Department of Financial Services

Melissa Bochenski, Deputy Chief of Staff

- Former Deputy Chief of Staff for then Lieutenant Governor Hochul (since 2014)

Sandra Rivera, Deputy Special Counsel to the Governor

- Former Principal, Rivera Law, PLLC

Neysa Alsina, Special Advisor on Pandemic Relief

- Former Chief Counsel, New York City Comptroller Scott Stringer
- New position

Julissa Gutierrez, Chief of Diversity Officer for the State of New York

- Has worked in this position since being appointed in early 2020
- Replaced Rose Rodriguez

Sinead Doherty, Deputy Secretary for Executive Operations

- Former Director of Operations, Good Tidings Foundation (a children's nonprofit)

Padma Seemangal, Deputy Secretary for Policy Operations

- Former Director of Communications and Public Affairs, Global Strategy Group

Amit Bagga, Deputy Secretary for Intergovernmental Affairs

- Former Deputy Director of the New York City Census Office; served under Mayor de Blasio
- Ran for City Council in June primary for Queens District 26 seat

Jelanie DeShong, Assistant Secretary for Intergovernmental Affairs

- Former Director of Government Relations, SUNY Downstate Health Sciences University

Devan Cayea, Director of Strategic Planning and Scheduling

- Former Senior Advisor and Director of National Strategic Planning for the Amy [Klobuchar] for America presidential campaign

Fohat Aird-Bombo, Director of Advance

- Former Director of Advance and Special Events for then Lieutenant Governor Hochul

Marty Mack, Appointments Secretary

- Former Deputy Secretary for Intergovernmental and Legislative Affairs and Appointments Secretary for Governor Paterson
- Former Executive Deputy Attorney General for Attorneys General Eliot Spitzer, Eric Schneiderman and Barbara Underwood
- Former Mayor of Cortland, NY

Sita Fey, Deputy Appointments Secretary

- Senior Advisor, Executive Transition Team
- Former Director of Policy, NYS Department of Agriculture and Markets
- Former Senior Advisor to then Lieutenant Governor Hochul

Avi Small, First Deputy Press Secretary

Dana Carotenuto Rico, Deputy Secretary for Legislative Affairs and Policy

Chatodd Floyd, Deputy Secretary for Legislative Affairs and Policy

Executive Branch Agencies:

Adrienne Harris, Superintendent, NYS Department of Financial Services

- Former Special Assistant to the President Obama for Economic Policy
- Replaced Linda Lacewell

Mary T. Bassett, MD, MPH, Commissioner of NYS Department of Health

- Former Director of the François-Xavier Bagnoud (FXB) Center for Health and Human Rights, Harvard University
- Former Commissioner of NYC Department of Health and Mental Hygiene
- Replaced Dr. Howard Zucker

Haley Viccaro, Strategic Communications Director for Climate, NYS Department of Environmental Conservation

- Former Senior Advisor for Communications, Governor Hochul

Justin Driscoll, Interim President and Chief Executive Officer, New York Power Authority

- Former Outside Litigation Counsel, Dormitory Authority of New York
- Former Senior Vice President and General Counsel, New York State Housing Finance Agency

Lucy Lang, Inspector General of the State of New York

- Former Director, Institute for Innovation in Prosecution (IIP)
- Former Assistant DA, Appeals Bureau and Trial Division, Manhattan

Nominations and Recommendations:

Jeanette Moy, Commissioner, Office of General Services

- Former Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer, Public Health Solutions
- Former Chief Operating Officer, Office of the New York Attorney General
- Former Chief Strategy Officer, Brooklyn Public Library
- Former Deputy Chief of Staff and Senior Policy Advisor, NYC Office of the Mayor

Marica Imperial, Commissioner, Division of Human Rights

- Former CEO, YWCA White Plains & Central Westchester

Jackie Bray, Commissioner, NYS Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Services

- Former Deputy Executive Director, NYC Test and Trace Corps
- Former Director, NYC Office of the Mayor
- Former First Deputy Commissioner, New York City Department of Homeless Services

Gaurav Vasisht, Executive Director, NYS Insurance Fund

- Former Advisor, Chairman of the Board of Governors, Federal Reserve System
- Former Lawyer for three Governors of New York
- Former Executive Deputy Superintendent, Department of Financial Services

Announced Departures:

Michael Hein, Commissioner, NYS Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance

Dr. Theodore Kastner, Commissioner, NYS Office for People with Developmental Disabilities

Arlene Gonzalez-Sanchez, Commissioner, NYS Office of Alcoholism and Substance Abuse Services

Licha Nyiendo, Commissioner, NYS Human Rights Division

Molly Reilly, Deputy Secretary for General Government and Technology

Debra Alligood White, Deputy Secretary for Civil Rights and Workforce

Norman Birenbaum, Director, Cannabis Program

Jeremy Shockett, Deputy Secretary for Public Safety

Linda Lacewell, former Superintendent, Department of Financial Services

Letizia Tagliafierro, former Inspector General

Larry Schwartz, Chief Strategy Officer, will resign from the MTA board effective when the Senate confirms his replacement

Michael Green, Commissioner, Division of Criminal Justice Services

RoAnn Destitio, Commissioner, Office of General Services

Patrick Murphy, Commissioner, Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Services

Gil Quiniones, President and CEO, New York Power Authority

Cannabis Management Board:

Governor's Appointees

Reuben R. McDaniel

- President and Chief Executive Officer, Dormitory Authority, State of NY

Jessica Garcia

- Assistant to the President, United Food and Commercial Workers International Union
- Former Deputy Political Director, Retail, Wholesale and Department Store Union

Jason Starr, Chief Equity Officer

Other:

Trey Nix/Meredith Kelly, Declaration Media

- Political consulting firm that will be assisting Governor Hochul in her election effort

Rory M. Christian, Chair, Public Service Commission, and CEO, Department of Public Service

- Former Director, New York Clean Energy, Environmental Defense Fund
- Former Director, Energy Finance and Substantiality, New York City Housing Authority

Jose Nieves, Chair, Joint Commission on Public Ethics

- Founder, Law Offices of Jose L. Nieves & Associates
- Former Deputy Chief in Special Investigations and Prosecutions Unit, New York State Attorney General

Sharon Stern Gerstman, Serve on Joint Commission on Public Ethics

- Counsel, Magavern, Magavern Grimm, LLP
- Former President, New York State Bar Association (2017–2018)

Terryl Brown, Serve on Joint Commission on Public Ethics

- Chief Legal Counsel and Deputy Commissioner for Legal Affairs and Administration, FDNY
- Former Executive Vice President and General Counsel, NYPA

Robert Mujica will stay on as Director of the Budget

Rick Cotton will remain as Port Authority Executive Director

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