



New York News Publishers Association, Inc.

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Legislative Update

September 2026

By Diane Kennedy, President
New York News Publishers Association

Albany—*Times Union*
Auburn—*The Citizen*
Batavia—*The Daily News*
Brooklyn—*Brooklyn Daily Eagle*
Binghamton—*Press & Sun-Bulletin*
Buffalo—*The Buffalo News*
Canandaigua—*The Daily Messenger*
Cold Spring—*Highlands Current*
Dunkirk—*The Observer*
Elmira—*Star-Gazette*
Geneva—*Finger Lakes Times*
Glens Falls—*The Post-Star*
Herkimer—*The Times Telegram*
Hornell—*The Evening Tribune*
Ithaca—*The Ithaca Journal*
Jamestown—*The Post-Journal*
Kingston—*Daily Freeman*
Lockport—*Union-Sun & Journal*
Long Island—*Newsday*
Malone—*The Malone Telegram*
Massena—*Courier-Observer/The Advance News*
Mendon—*Mendon-Honeye Falls-Lima Sentinel*
Middletown—*The Times Herald-Record*
New York City—*The New York Post*
New York City—*The New York Times*
New York City—*The Wall Street Journal*
Niagara Falls—*Niagara Gazette*
Norwich—*The Evening Sun*
Olean—*The Times Herald*
Oneida—*Oneida Daily Dispatch*
Oswego—*The Palladium Times*
Plattsburgh—*Press-Republican*
Poughkeepsie—*Poughkeepsie Journal*
Ravena—*Ravena News-Herald*
Red Hook—*The Daily Catch*
Rochester—*Democrat and Chronicle*
Rochester—*The Daily Record*
Rochester—*Rochester Business Journal*
Salamanca—*Salamanca Press*
Saranac Lake—*Adirondack Daily Enterprise*
Saratoga Springs—*The Saratogian*
Staten Island—*Staten Island Advance*
Syracuse—*The Post-Standard*
Troy—*The Record*
Utica—*Observer-Dispatch*
Watertown—*Watertown Daily Times*
Wellsville—*Wellsville Daily Reporter*
White Plains—*The Journal News*

The state Legislature adjourned in June and is not scheduled to return to session until January for a new two-year session. The Governor has signed a modest portion of the hundreds of bills that passed this session, but we expect the pace to accelerate after Election Day. All bills have to be sent to the Governor for her signature or veto by year-end.

Newspaper and Broadcast Media Jobs Tax Credit

This summer, we continued to work with Empire State Development to facilitate the provision of notices of eligibility to our members under the Newspaper and Broadcast Media Jobs Tax Credit program. Recipients will file the certificates along with their next state tax return and receive the credit as a refund. It is important to note that the list of recipients will be public information.

ESD's top staff met with us recently to determine whether there are ways we can improve the program, and we thanked them for ensuring a smooth rollout. Both of the pools of funding to support current jobs were over-subscribed, resulting in all recipients receiving somewhat less than full funding, so we plan to ask for an increase in funding in the 2027 state budget. We also continue to advocate for a funding stream for not-for-profit news.

Newspapers and Artificial Intelligence

- Our bill (A.11292-A and S.9934) prohibiting the deployment of anonymous bots which burden news website capacity and scrape content without permission is serving as a model for federal and UK legislation. It was drafted by the News Media Alliance in collaboration with legal experts at many of our member companies. Unfortunately, a coalition of groups including Common Crawl, the Internet Archive, the New York Civil Liberties Union and others have come out in opposition to the bill, although their memo revealed that they don't actually understand what the bill does. We have drafted a response.

Press Access to Encrypted Police Radio Communications

Our legislation (S.10079/A.11199-A) to preserve press access to encrypted radio communications will likely face strong opposition from police

agencies. After Gov. Hochul vetoed the bill last year, we significantly amended provisions relating to credentialing of journalists. New York City passed its own law requiring NYPD to provide the press with the ability to monitor police radio communications, but that bill was watered down without notice to the public while it was being voted on by the New York City Council. We are working to pass superseding legislation that would restore its provisions requiring NYPD to provide credentialed journalists with real-time access to most communications.

Regulation of Production of News Content Containing AI

- The FAIR News Act (A.8962/S8451), sponsored by Assm. Nily Rozic of Queens and Sen. Pat Fahy of Albany easily passed both houses of the legislature over the strenuous objections of NYNPA, the NYS Broadcasters Association, booksellers and an array of technology and civil society groups. Our legal experts have drafted a detailed discussion paper, setting forth the significant ways in which the bill conflicts with Constitutional protections of the press. The bill requires news organizations to clearly and conspicuously label any news content that was “substantially” produced using AI, unless the individual item of content itself is copyright eligible. The bill authorizes the state Attorney General to investigate and refer violations to a court for fines of \$1,000 for a first violation and \$5,000 per subsequent violation, as well as to issue an injunction to prevent future non-compliant publication. The bill was supported by a broad coalition of labor unions, and Attorney General Tish James advocated for its passage. We have provided our discussion paper and opposition memo to the Governor’s senior staff.

Public Notice Advertising

We and the New York Press Association have convened a working group of publishers to examine the state’s antiquated public notice laws and begin to craft legislation to protect independent publication of government and court-ordered public notices. We were able to block two major bills that would have taken notices out of newspapers in favor of publication solely on government websites this year, but those bills will be back and we expect them to gain traction.

Subscription Marketing

Legislation sponsored by Sen. Rachel May and Assm. Emilia Torres banning surveillance pricing (A.9349/S8623) would have a negative effect on subscription sales flexibility, passed both houses late at night on June 4. We are requesting the Governor to either veto the bill, or sign it on condition that the legislature amend it next year before allowing it to take effect. We have requested an exemption for the newspaper and magazine industry.

Simultaneously, the New York City Council is in the final stages of passing an equally onerous bill, and we have requested an exemption for newspaper and magazine subscription operations.

Health Data Privacy

- Legislation to shield the health data of New Yorkers (S.9269/A10357), which was vetoed by the Governor last year, also passed both houses easily. It poses risks to news organizations which tailor content to the interests of readers if that content involves health or wellness topics. Last year, we suggested changes to the bill in hopes of enlisting cooperation of the bill sponsors (Sen. Elizabeth Krueger and Assm. Linda Rosenthal). That did not materialize, so we will join the wide array of organizations urging a veto this time.

Kindly let me know if you would like to have a copy of any of our memos and discussion papers on any of these pieces of legislation (dianenynpa@gmail.com).