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Justice Roadmap





2026 J Justice Roadmap

We are human rights and social justice advocates, directly impacted people, legal service providers, and faith leaders who stand united in the belief that this is a critical moment in our country's history, one that requires our state's leaders to have moral clarity and take unequivocal action.

The Justice Roadmap is a legislative agenda designed to address the deeply interconnected harms caused by the criminal legal and immigration systems. It is a path to decarcerating jails, prisons, and immigration detention centers and ensuring the basic human dignity and core constitutional and human rights of all New Yorkers.

True community safety comes from affordable housing, quality healthcare, and robust educational and economic opportunities. But instead of meeting these basic needs, New York has built and expanded systems of criminalization and incarceration. Harmful and racist notions of criminality are weaponized to fearmonger and justify dehumanizing conditions and treatment, deny basic rights, permanently exile individuals from their communities through incarceration and deportation, and extract resources from economically-distressed communities. These systems are defined by violent policies, structural oppression, and a culture of punishment that criminalizes Black and brown people, families, and communities.

In 2026, we renew the call for bold action to protect communities of color and immigrants by passing the following legislation:

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- Reform Gate Money (S.4078/A.193)

CHOOSE COMMUNITY SAFETY OVER POLICE POWER

New York must address police violence, abuse and misconduct.

To do this, the legislature must pass laws that create real accountability, protect people during police contact, and stop harmful surveillance and collaboration with ICE.

New York must **End Qualified Immunity (S.176/A.1402)** to allow New Yorker's to hold law enforcement accountable. New York's police officers have a well-documented history of extracting false convictions, often by lying to the accused. To strengthen protections for young people the **Youth Interrogation Bill (S.878B/A.2620A)** will enhance protections for young people in custodial interrogations and reduce the risk of coerced or false statements.

To curb invasive surveillance, lawmakers must pass the **Geofence Warrant Ban (S.404/A.407)** to prevent mass location data dragnets.

New York must also pass **New York For All (S.2235A/A.3506)** so state and local resources aren't used to funnel immigrants to ICE and separate families.

The Family **Miranda Rights Act (S.551/A.1234)** would require family policing system workers to inform parents and caretakers of their rights at the start of an investigation.

STOP CRIMINALIZING MENTAL ILLNESS, PEOPLE WHO USE DRUGS, & WORKERS

The criminalization of drug use and mental illness has not been an effective method of prevention and treatment.

Instead, it has created more dangerous conditions, enabling police harassment and subjecting more people to the violence of prisons and jails. For immigrants, a single substance-related arrest can trigger detention and deportation by ICE.

New York can respond to drug use and mental health needs with care, not cages, by expanding pathways to community-based support. The **Treatment Court Expansion Act (S.4547/A.4869)** would expand access to treatment-focused alternatives to incarceration, giving people a real chance to stabilize and recover without being trapped in the criminal legal system.

New York also relies on police as default responders to people in crisis, with devastating results. **Daniel's Law (S.3670/A.4617)** would shift crisis response away from law enforcement and toward health-led, non-police responders, so people experiencing mental health or substance use crises can get support without escalation, punishment, or violence.

Police harassment and violence is also fueled by the criminalization of survival and work. **The Street Vendor Legalization Act (S.4928)** would end the criminalization and intimidation of street vendors and allow vendors—primarily immigrants, women, and people of color—to continue feeding New Yorkers and enriching the culture of our city.

The **Stop Violence in the Sex Trades Act (S.2513/A.3251)** would decriminalize sex work between consenting adults, which would reduce the violence sex workers encounter, including police exploitation, reduce STI transmission, improve services for sex workers, and empower sex workers to use harm reduction tools.

DECARCERATE JAILS & PRISONS & END PERPETUAL PUNISHMENT

Each day in New York State, tens of thousands of people, disproportionately Black, brown and low-income, languish behind bars.

Nearly 75% are Black and brown. Many are there because of extreme sentencing, barriers to release, and systems that punish people again and again. After a half-century of racist and draconian sentencing laws, New York must pass the **Marvin Mayfield Act (S.1209/A.1297)**, the **Second Look Act (S.158/A.1283)**, and the **Earned Time Act (S.342/A.1085)**, which would eliminate mandatory minimums, address excessive sentences, and create additional opportunities for people to be considered for release.

The **PromPT Stability Act (S.6271A/A.6455)** grants the right to a hearing shortly after a temporary order of protection is issued in criminal court, seeking to reduce the harms of these orders when they are not warranted. People should not lose housing, stability, or their children because a temporary order is issued without a timely chance to be heard.

New York must pass **End Felony Murder (S.8464/A.8929)** to stop imposing life-altering punishment on people who did not intend or directly cause a death.

The **Youth Justice & Opportunities Act (S.4330/A.5293)** would expand alternatives-to-incarceration and provide stronger record-sealing opportunities for young people who are arrested and prosecuted as adults—supporting education, work, and long-term stability instead of lifelong punishment. New York must invest in young people and recognize what research shows about emerging adulthood.

Release decisions must be grounded in who someone is today, not only the past. **Fair and Timely Parole (S.159/A.127)** would require parole decisions to meaningfully consider rehabilitation, accountability, and readiness to return home. **Elder Parole (S.454/A.514)** would create a pathway for older New Yorkers who have served long sentences to be considered for release. Wrongful convictions are a devastating form of state harm.

The **Forensic Science Commission Overhaul (S.1274/A.3969)** would strengthen oversight and scientific integrity in forensic practices so evidence used in court is reliable and accountable. Perpetual punishment also shows up through immigration detention and the lack of transparency in second-chance processes. **Dignity Not Detention (S.316/A.4181)** would end ICE jail contracts and shrink the detention pipeline in New York. **The Clemency Justice Act (S.394/A.403)** would bring transparency and accountability to the clemency process so mercy is not arbitrary or hidden.

PROTECT THE DIGNITY & OPPORTUNITY OF INCARCERATED NEW YORKERS

When faced with the dehumanizing effects of prison, incarcerated people—and their families and friends—can lose hope and purpose.

New York can secure the dignity and opportunity for New Yorkers by passing the [No Slavery in NY Act \(S.225/A.3412\)](#) and the [Fairness and Opportunity for Incarcerated Workers Act \(S.1208\)](#) which would work to address the modern day slavery that currently exists in our prisons and jails by outlawing forced labor, providing fair wages and worker health and safety protections, and ensuring that all prison labor programs provide the skills and training necessary for successful rehabilitation, reentry and reintegration into the community. Together, these bills would move New York away from forced labor and toward fair standards for incarcerated workers, including stronger protections and pathways to skills and training that support reentry and reintegration.

Respecting dignity also means recognizing everyone's right to gender self-determination. [The Gender Identity Respect, Dignity and Safety Act \(S.1049/A.5478\)](#) would ensure people are housed and provided access to items and services in alignment with their self-identified gender, supporting safety and basic respect behind the wall.

Connection is survival.

New York must pass the [Right to In-Person Visits \(S.5037/A.4603\)](#) to protect families' ability to see their loved ones face-to-face. In-person visits support mental health, strengthen family bonds, and help people returning home stay connected to the relationships that make reentry possible.

Protecting the safety of pregnant people, postpartum parents, and babies is a basic human right. [The CARE Act \(S.4583A/A.4879A\)](#) would establish standards for prenatal and postpartum care and support healthy parent-baby bonding, prioritizing safety and well being for families impacted by incarceration.

Finally, New York must stop the erosion of rights inside jails and prisons and create real accountability when conditions become abusive or unlawful. [Rights Behind Bars \(S.3763/A.1261A\)](#) would strengthen protections for incarcerated people and their loved ones by addressing policies and practices that cut people off from family, services, and basic dignity, and by reinforcing limits on abuse and repression in facilities.

END WEALTH EXTRACTION, INVEST IN OUR COMMUNITIES

Every day, New Yorkers are arrested, trapped and imprisoned because they cannot afford to pay fines and fees.

New York must **End Predatory Court Fees (S.318/A.8672)** which are part of a racist system of taxation-by-citation that encourages policing-for-profit, criminalizes poverty, and endangers Black and brown communities. This legislation would eliminate court, parole and probation fees, as well as mandatory minimum fines, and would end the practice of arresting and incarcerating people solely for an inability to pay fines and fees to stop taxing people for being pulled into the system. This would eliminate many of the court-imposed costs that keep people under supervision longer, push families into debt, and criminalize poverty.

Addressing the harms of the criminal and immigration systems also requires investing in stability and protection for people targeted by those systems. The **Access to Representation Act (S.141/A.270)** would establish a right to counsel for immigrants facing deportation, helping keep families together and ensuring people can defend their rights in life-altering proceedings.

Finally, New York must reform the state's outdated prison release allowance by passing **Reform Gate Money (S.4078/A.193)**. Each year, thousands of people leave prison expected to secure food, transportation, and a safe place to sleep immediately—often with almost nothing. Reforming gate money would provide real, practical support at the moment people are returning home, reducing instability and supporting successful reentry.

ENDORsing ORGANIZATIONS

- ABIERTO - Coalition to Reform Grand Juries
- Academia Arrested
- African Services Committee
- Alliance of Families for Justice
- American Friends Service Committee
- Anti-Racist Catskills
- Appellate Advocates
- Association of Legal Aid Attorneys (UAW 2325)
- Beacon Prison Action
- Bend the Arc: Jewish Action Long Island
- Black Alliance for Just Immigration (BAJI)
- Black Lives Matter - Hudson Valley
- Black Trans Nation
- Brooklyn Defender Services
- Brooklyn Law School Criminal Defense & Advocacy Clinic
- CAAAV: Organizing Asian Communities
- Call BlackLine
- Capital Area Against Mass Incarceration
- Catskill Mutual Aid
- Center for Appellate Litigation
- Center for Community Alternatives
- Center for Disability Rights
- Center for Employment Opportunities
- Center for Law and Justice
- Center on Race, Inequality, and the Law at New York University School of Law
- Chief Defenders Association of New York
- Children's Defense Fund-NY
- Children's Rights
- Chinese-American Planning Council (CPC)
- Citizen Action New York
- Citizen Action WNY
- Columbia County Sanctuary Movement
- Community Service Society
- Concerned Families of Westchester
- Congregation Beit Simchat Torah
- Correctional Association of New York
- Criminal Defense Clinic, Fordham University School of Law
- CUNY Rising Alliance
- Decarcerate the Hudson Valley
- Decarcerate Tompkins County
- Drug Policy Alliance
- DTruth Unlimited
- Dutchess County Progressive Action Alliance
- Emergency Release Fund
- Empire Justice Center
- Empire State Indivisible
- End Jim Crow Action Network (ENJAN)
- End the New Jim Crow Action Network-Poughkeepsie
- Enough Is Enough
- Envision Freedom Fund
- Equitable Future, Inc.
- Exodus Transitional Community
- Families for Freedom
- Fines and Fees Justice Center
- Forefront NYC
- Free The People WNY
- Freedom Agenda
- Friends of Island Academy
- Gender Equality New York, Inc.
- Getting Out and Staying Out
- GMHC
- Granny Peace Brigade
- Greenburger Center for Social and Criminal Justice
- HALT Solitary Campaign
- Hour Children
- Hudson Catskill Housing Coalition
- Hudson Valley Strong Indivisible
- Human Rights Watch
- I Am Citizen

ENDORsing ORGANIZATIONS

- Immigrant Defense Project
- Incarcerated Nation Network, Inc.
- Innocence Project
- Interfaith Peace Network of WNY
- It Could Happen To You
- Jews for Racial & Economic Justice
- Jim Owles Liberal Democratic Club
- John Jay College Institute for Justice and Opportunity
- Judson Memorial Church
- Justice 4 Women Task Force
- Justice and Unity for the Southern Tier
- Justice For Families
- Laloon
- LatinoJustice PRLDEF
- Legal Action Center
- Legal Aid Bureau of Buffalo
- Legal Aid Society
- Legal Aid Society of Nassau County
- Legal Aid Society of Suffolk County
- Legal Services Staff Association, NOLSW/ UAW 2320
- LIFE Progressive Services Group Inc.
- Long Island Activists
- Long Island Black Alliance
- Long Island Network for Change (LINC)
- Long Island Progressive Coalition
- Long Island Social Justice Action Network
- Make the Road NY
- Marsha P. Johnson Institute
- Memorial United Methodist Church
- Met Council Action
- Met Council on Housing
- Mid Hudson Valley Democratic Socialists of America
- Monroe County Public Defender's Office
- Mott Haven Families
- Nassau County Jail Advocates
- National Action Network NYC Chapter

- Second Chance Committee
- National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) - Huntington
- National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) -NYS Criminal Justice
- National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) - Queens
- National Lawyers Guild Rochester
- National Solidarity Movement
- Neighborhood Defender Service of Harlem
- Neighbors Together
- New Hour
- New Hour for Women & Children - Long Island
- NEW Pride Agenda
- New Sanctuary Coalition
- New York City Jericho Movement
- New York Civil Liberties Union
- New York Civil Liberties Union - Nassau Chapter
- New York Communities for Change
- New York County Defender Services
- New York Immigration Coalition
- New York Social Action
- New York State Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers (NYSACDL)
- New York State Coalition Against Sexual Assault
- New York State Prisoner Justice Network
- New York State Youth Leadership Council
- NNLB
- Nobody Leaves Mid-Hudson
- Nonprofit Finance Fund
- NY02 Indivisible
- NYC Metro Raging Grannies
- Office of the Appellate Defender
- Onondaga County Bar Assoc. Assigned Counsel Program

ENDORsing ORGANIZATIONS

- Open Arms
- Parole Preparation Project
- Partnership for the Public Good
- Peaceprints of WNY
- PEER: Progressive East End Reformers
- Prison Families Anonymous
- Prison Writes
- Prisoners Are People Too
- Public Interest Resource Center, Fordham Law School
- Quakers-Religious Society of Friends, NY Yearly Meeting
- Queens Defenders
- Release Aging People in Prison Campaign
- Resource Generation NYC
- Rise And Resist NYC
- Rise Up Kingston
- Robert F. Kennedy Human Rights
- Rockland Citizens Action Network
- Rockland Coalition to End the New Jim Crow
- S.T.O.P. - The Surveillance Technology Oversight Project, Inc.
- S.T.R.O.N.G. Youth, Inc.
- Shape Consulting Inc
- Showing Up for Racial Justice (SURJ) - NYC
- Showing Up for Racial Justice (SURJ) - ROC
- Showing Up for Racial Justice (SURJ) - Westchester
- Silent Cry Inc.
- Sister of St. Joseph, Brentwood NY Office of Justice, Peace, Integrity of Creation
- Spoke and Feather
- TakeRoot Justice Tenants Political Action Committee
- The Bronx Defenders
- The Fortune Society
- The Gathering for Justice
- The Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual & Transgender Community Center
- The Newburgh LGBTQIA+ Center
- The Osborne Association
- The Safe Center LI
- The Women's Community Justice Association
- Trellis
- Turning Points Resource Center
- United Auto Workers Region 9A
- United Christian Leadership Ministry
- United Voices of Cortland
- UnLocal
- Upstate Downstate Housing Alliance
- Uptown Progressive Action Village
- Independent Democrats Violence Intervention Program
- Visionary V
- VOCAL-NY
- Wayne County Public Defender
- WE GOT US NOW
- WESPAC Foundation, Inc.
- Westchester Coalition for Police Reform
- Westchester for Change
- Witness to Mass Incarceration Inc.
- WNY Peace Center
- Women & Justice Project
- Women's Diversity Network
- Worker Justice Center of New York
- Worth Rises
- Yonkers Sanctuary Movement
- Young Adult Perspective Project
- Young Invincibles
- Young Long Island for Justice
- Youth Represent

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