



New York State Comptroller THOMAS P. DiNAPOLI



Year in Review 2022

Dear Friends:

The past year certainly presented its share of challenges—an unpredictable economy, rising inflation and geopolitical tensions. However, through it all, New Yorkers have remained resilient, as our economy continues to recover from the effects of the pandemic.

The focus of my Office this year has been helping New York get back up and running after the pandemic. We accomplished this by regularly reporting on the State's economic outlook, identifying pandemic-related operational problems at State agencies and tracking how federal relief aid is being disbursed.

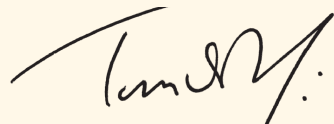
As you'll see in this annual report, our auditors uncovered widespread fraud in the Unemployment Insurance program and revealed ineffective COVID-19 infection control and reporting at nursing homes. We issued important policy reports on pandemic-related issues such as taxpayer migration and examined the pandemic's effects industry by industry.

We have also kept our State pension fund strong and steady through volatile times and returned approximately \$1.5 million a day in unclaimed funds to rightful owners. We also continued working with local governments and school districts to help them improve their finances and operations.

It is a great privilege to begin a new term as your State Comptroller. Looking back on 2022, I'm proud of what my Office has accomplished. In the coming year, I'll continue to help State government serve you and your family more effectively and efficiently.

Best wishes for a peaceful and joyful New Year.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tom DiNapoli". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a prominent initial "T" and "D".

Thomas P. DiNapoli
State Comptroller

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A Strong State Pension Fund

Under Comptroller DiNapoli's leadership, the State Pension Fund continues to be one of the best-funded and best-managed public pension plans in the nation. Long-term, sustainable investments provide stability and security to current and future retirees. The New York State and Local Retirement System has been providing public employees with a secure retirement for over 100 years and is well-positioned to meet the challenges of the future.

A Steady Course in Turbulent Times

The Fund's long-term, diversified investment strategy helped it weather persistent market volatility in 2022. Despite a worldwide economic downturn and other fiscal concerns, the estimated value of the Fund for the 3-month period ending September 30, 2022 was \$233.2 billion.

NYS Pension Fund

One of the Best-Funded

in the U.S. at

102.9%

(As of 3/31/22)

The State Pension Fund



...continues to be a leader amongst its peers for management and operational transparency.”

— Independent Fiduciary and Conflict of Interest Review

Retirees Contribute \$15B to NY Economy

79% of NYSLRS retirees live in New York State. Their purchases of goods and services provide opportunities for new businesses in New York, help grow existing companies and create jobs. In fact, last year retirees were responsible for more than \$15 billion in economic activity in New York State.

Modernizing the Retirement System

Comptroller DiNapoli is modernizing the State Retirement System. The multiyear project to upgrade the computer systems used to calculate benefits and administer accounts continues. “Retirement Online,” with its expanding features and functionality, provides an efficient, secure way for members and retirees to access benefit information and conduct business with the System.

Fighting Pension Fraud

Comptroller DiNapoli is committed to preventing pension fraud and protecting the Retirement System. Over the past several years, his investigations of pension fraud have led to over 30 arrests and the recovery of over \$3 million. For more details on the Comptroller's pension fraud efforts, see page 10.

The State Pension Fund: Doing Well by Doing Good

Comptroller DiNapoli and the NYS Common Retirement Fund (Fund) focus on addressing key environmental, social and governance (ESG) factors because they can impact the value and returns of the Fund's portfolio companies. In 2022, Comptroller DiNapoli focused his efforts on climate change, labor and workforce management, diversity, equity and inclusion, and fundamental governance and accountability.



Corporate Accountability

- Sued **Boeing's** board and recovered [an historic \\$237.5 million settlement](#) and much-needed safety and oversight reforms after Boeing's 737 MAX crashes and board failure to protect against catastrophic safety risks.
- Wrote to **Twitter** and **Meta** after the [racially-motivated mass shooting in Buffalo](#) on their failure to enforce content management standards and encouraged shareholders to not re-elect company directors because of these failures.
- Directed the Pension Fund to divest its limited investments in [Russian companies](#) and wrote to major U.S. companies urging them to pause or end Russian business operations. Many have since taken action.
- Secured agreements from **Royal Caribbean, Las Vegas Sands, VeriSign, Hanes, Progressive,** and **Ulta Beauty** to publicly [disclose political spending](#) and a similar shareholder proposal at **Twitter** received 53% support from shareholders.



Boeing directors agree to \$237.5 million settlement over 737 MAX safety oversight.

November 5, 2021

CBS NEWS BAY AREA

Meta, Twitter boards face backlash from NY pension fund.

May 23, 2022



McDonald's, Coca-Cola, other US brands under pressure to stop doing business in Russia.

March 8, 2022

Diversity, Equity and Inclusion

Reached agreements with 11 companies, including **Amazon, Dollar General, Dollar Tree, and Match Group**, to review and report on their civil rights, equity, diversity, and inclusion policies, practices and impacts.



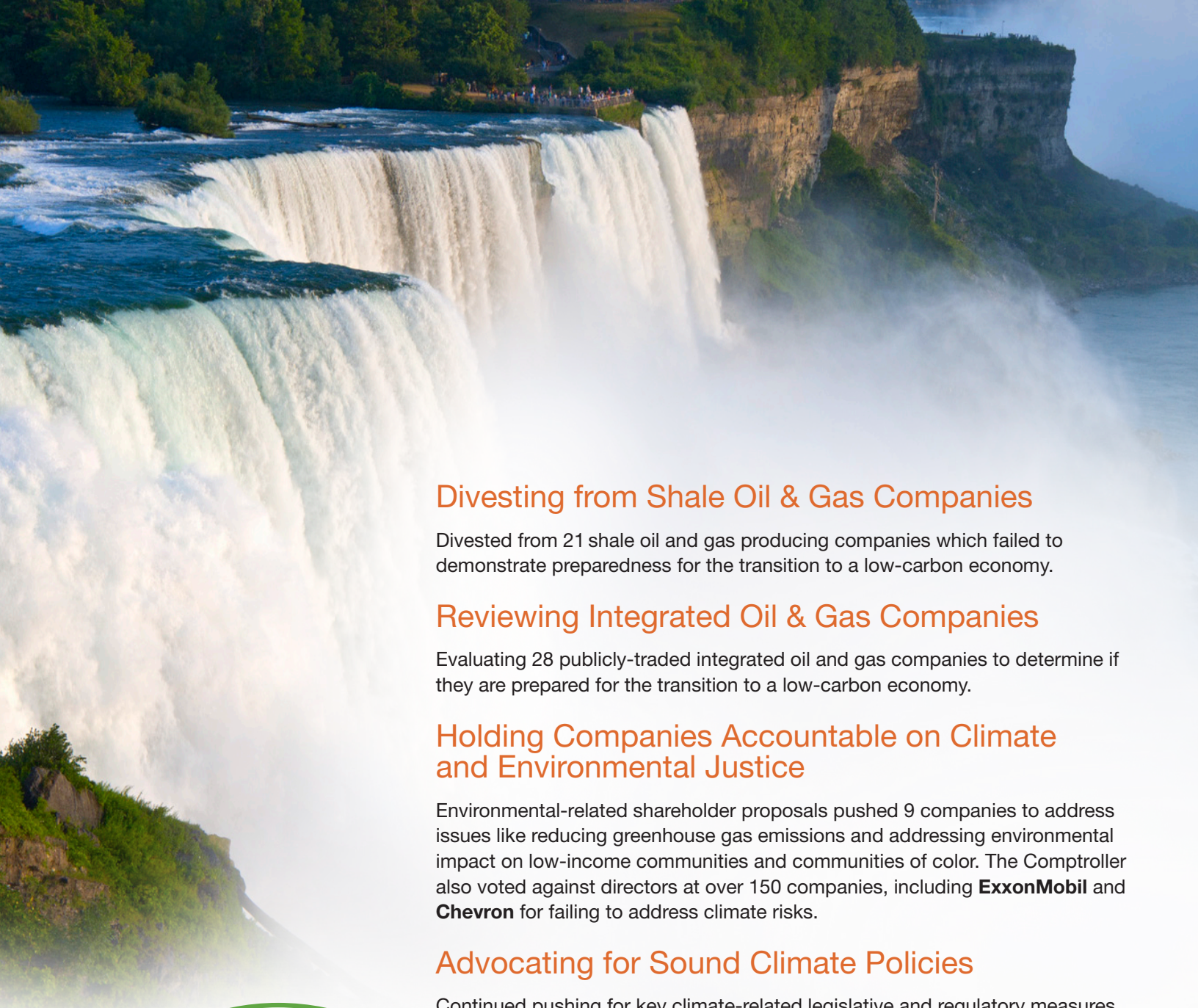
Labor and Workforce Management

- Pushed numerous companies to address labor-related disputes, strikes, or questionable labor practices, including companies like **Starbucks, Gannett**, and railroad companies **CSX, Union Pacific, and Norfolk Southern**. Also joined the NYC Pension Fund in a campaign against re-electing two Amazon board directors responsible for overseeing working conditions at the company.
- Pushed corporate America to address [discrimination and sexual harassment in the workplace](#) by filing shareholder proposals that urged corporations like **Tesla, Starbucks, and Activision Blizzard** to make sure employees are protected.

Investing in Climate Change Solutions

Comptroller DiNapoli is taking bold steps to protect the State Pension Fund from the risks posed by climate change and to invest in solutions. The Fund is working to position portfolio companies for a low-carbon future and committing **\$20 billion to sustainable investments**. This year, building on the recent \$2 billion investment in a climate transition index, the Comptroller approved additional climate solutions investments, including:

- a **\$750M commitment** to a global transition infrastructure fund for strategic investments that reduce greenhouse gas emissions and energy consumption and increase low-carbon energy capacity; and
- more than **\$1B in solar-related asset-backed securities** that fund solar panels and installation services, as well as green bonds that fund renewable energy and green buildings.



Divesting from Shale Oil & Gas Companies

Divested from 21 shale oil and gas producing companies which failed to demonstrate preparedness for the transition to a low-carbon economy.

Reviewing Integrated Oil & Gas Companies

Evaluating 28 publicly-traded integrated oil and gas companies to determine if they are prepared for the transition to a low-carbon economy.

Holding Companies Accountable on Climate and Environmental Justice

Environmental-related shareholder proposals pushed 9 companies to address issues like reducing greenhouse gas emissions and addressing environmental impact on low-income communities and communities of color. The Comptroller also voted against directors at over 150 companies, including **ExxonMobil** and **Chevron** for failing to address climate risks.

Advocating for Sound Climate Policies

Continued pushing for key climate-related legislative and regulatory measures including corporate climate disclosures, emissions standards, meaningful carbon pricing, clean energy infrastructure funding, and tax incentives that drive climate solution investments.

Supported the Securities and Exchange Commission's (SEC's) proposed [climate disclosure rule](#), which will greatly improve the Fund's ability to assess and address climate change-related investment risks and opportunities.

Pushing Ambitious Climate Action Agenda

Signed the [2022 Global Investor Statement to Governments on the Climate Crisis](#) urging all governments to adopt an ambitious Climate Action agenda.

In 2022
Comptroller DiNapoli
released the **FUND'S**
[second progress report](#)
on the **IMPLEMENTATION**
of the
Climate Action Plan.



Investing in New York Businesses

The New York State Common Retirement Fund has a positive impact on the economy of New York. Under Comptroller DiNapoli's guidance, the Fund's innovative programs directly invest in New York-based companies, small businesses and housing, while generating solid returns.

In 2022, the Fund continued its track record of supporting New York State businesses by committing another \$350 million in investments, as well as offering small business loans through the Pursuit program.

Comptroller DiNapoli and Dan Wise, CEO of RealEats, at the company's new food production plant in Geneva.



Fund Invests \$7.8M in Healthy Food Delivery Company

Fund investments through the In-State Private Equity Investment Program helped support the expansion of RealEats in Geneva into a new, larger food production facility. The company employs 120 people at its Finger Lakes-based headquarters, creating and delivering healthy, chef-prepared meals across the U.S.



Grand opening of RealEats' 80,000 square-foot production facility. The State Pension Fund invested nearly \$8M in this healthy meal delivery company.

Emerging Manager & MWBE Initiatives

As trustee of the New York State Common Retirement Fund, Comptroller DiNapoli has built one of the strongest, most successful Emerging Manager and Minority- and Women-Owned Business Enterprise (MWBE) programs in the country. The Emerging Manager and MWBE program helps the Fund build relationships with new and diverse investment firms and access fresh talent and new ideas. As the program has grown steadily, it has been extended to all asset classes and it has repeatedly demonstrated its value, forging enduring partnerships and delivering strong performance for the Fund.

2022 Highlights

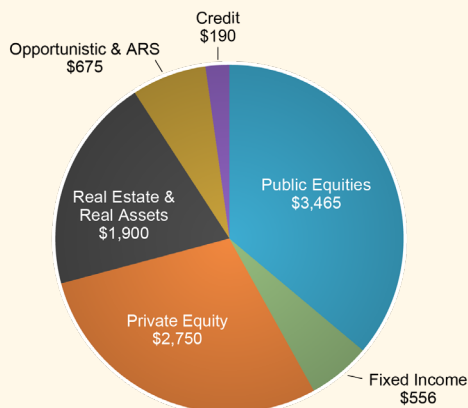
- Total assets managed by MWBE Managers grew to an all-time high of nearly of **\$31 billion** in fiscal year 2022.
- In total, the Fund deployed over **\$1 billion** in capital commitments to Emerging and/or MWBE Managers across asset classes.
- Invested in compelling economic development opportunities focusing on women- and minority-owned firms and entrepreneurs that provide **debt and equity capital to small and mid-sized companies in underserved communities and populations statewide.**
- The Fund's 15th Annual Emerging Manager and MWBE Conference **attracted over 1,000 virtual attendees globally.** The February 17, 2023 Conference will again be an in-person event in Albany.



Comptroller DiNapoli and Tina Byles Williams, Founder, CEO & CIO of Xponance, taking part in the 2022 Emerging Manager and MWBE Conference.

CRF Assets Managed by Emerging Managers

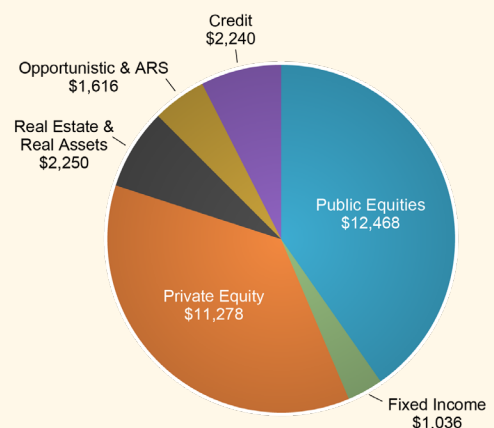
(As of March 2022: Dollars in Millions)



Total Value: \$9.536 Billion

CRF Assets Managed by MWBEs

(As of March 2022: Dollars in Millions)



Total Value: \$30.888 Billion



Fighting Public Corruption and Pension Fraud

Comptroller DiNapoli believes abuse of tax dollars is a betrayal of the public's trust. He is committed to holding accountable those who exploit their positions for personal benefit.

The Comptroller formed the [Division of Investigations](#) within the Office of the State Comptroller to root out corruption within government and combat fraud of public funds.

The Division partners with State, federal and local law enforcement, including County District Attorneys, the New York State Police, the State Attorney General's Office, the Federal Bureau of Investigation and others. Working with these partners, the Division has helped make more than 275 arrests and recovered over \$82 million in taxpayer money.

2022 Investigations

- The [convictions](#) of the former Hempstead Public Schools Director of Food Services and a local restaurant owner for conspiring to steer \$1 million in district food contracts to the restaurateur in exchange for kickbacks. As part of their guilty pleas, the former director will forfeit \$120,000 and the restaurateur will forfeit \$160,000.
- The [arrest](#) of a former retired Westchester County police officer, who worked as an Ulster County BOCES Criminal Justice instructor, for allegedly swindling \$157,341 in unlawful State pension payments.
- The arrest and [conviction](#) of a Tennessee woman for stealing over \$92,000 in State pension checks and social security payments issued to her deceased mother.
- The [arrest](#) of a former Lake Luzerne trustee for allegedly stealing more than \$127,000 from a publicly-funded snowmobile club that maintains trails throughout the county.
- Three [arrests](#) on federal mail fraud and identity theft charges arising from an alleged scheme to fraudulently obtain thousands in unclaimed funds held by the New York State Comptroller's Office of Unclaimed Funds.



Protecting our State's pension fund is my priority. Those who attempt to steal from it will be held accountable."

— State Comptroller DiNapoli

- The [guilty plea](#) of a Middletown woman for stealing more than \$50,000 in State pension checks sent to her deceased mother.
- The [arrest](#) of a former Olean town firefighter for the alleged theft of more than \$116,000 from the town's fire department.
- The [arrest](#) of the former Village of Norwood Clerk/Treasurer for allegedly stealing \$73,725 from the village.
- The arrest and guilty plea of a former Cherry Valley Central School District mechanic for stealing \$52,514 in State pension funds.
- The [arrest](#) of the former Oneida City Chamberlain for allegedly stealing more than \$78,000 from the city over 14 years.
- The [arrest](#) of two former Oramel Fire Department officials for allegedly stealing \$11,276 from the department.



Public Corruption Spotlight

DiNapoli Uncovers \$3.5M Fraud at NYU

The former Director of Finance and Administration for a research center at New York University was indicted in State Court for allegedly orchestrating an approximately \$3.5 million 6-year fraud relating to two NYU programs funded by grants from the NYS Department of Education. The former director used her position to divert approximately \$3.5 million in State grants intended for minority- and women-owned businesses. The director ultimately routed \$3.3 million to bank accounts held by two shell companies she created. While she used some of the funds for legitimate program-related expenses, she kept more than \$660,000 to pay for personal expenses and home renovations, including an \$80,000 swimming pool.

Comptroller DiNapoli's investigative team, working with the New York County District Attorney's Office, reviewed and analyzed tens of thousands of pages of bank records, invoices, vouchers and emails to expose how the director abused her position of control and oversight to completely bypass the competitive bidding process to steer contracts to herself. The director was charged with money laundering, grand larceny, offering a false instrument for filing and falsifying business records.

Over
275 arrests
Recovered
\$82 M
in **taxpayer**
money



The director used her high-ranking position at NYU to divert more than \$660,000 in State funds to pay for a lavish lifestyle. I thank my Division of Investigations and the Manhattan District Attorney's Office for their work uncovering her wrongdoing and making her answer in court.”

— State Comptroller Thomas P. DiNapoli



Reuniting Owners with Lost Money

New York State is a national leader in returning lost money to citizens. The State currently oversees \$17.5 billion in unclaimed funds for over 46 million account holders.

State Comptroller DiNapoli acts as custodian of this money until it can be returned to its rightful owners. His Office of Unclaimed Funds (OUF) returns over an average of \$1.5 million to New Yorkers each business day, and regularly travels the State connecting individuals, organizations and local governments with their lost funds.

Claim Yours!

- Visit ouf.osc.state.ny.us/ouf and search by name or organization.
- If we're holding your money, click "Claim" to begin the process or "Share" to notify friends and family of outstanding funds in their name.
- Follow the step-by-step directions and prompts that appear onscreen.

Ongoing Efforts to Return Money

- Returned \$29 million by contacting 160,000 households by mail about their unclaimed funds.
- Participated in 37 events around the State to help more New Yorkers look for lost money.

State Comptroller DiNapoli with Brooklyn Borough President Antonio Reynoso encouraging Brooklynites to check for unclaimed funds.

\$17.5 B

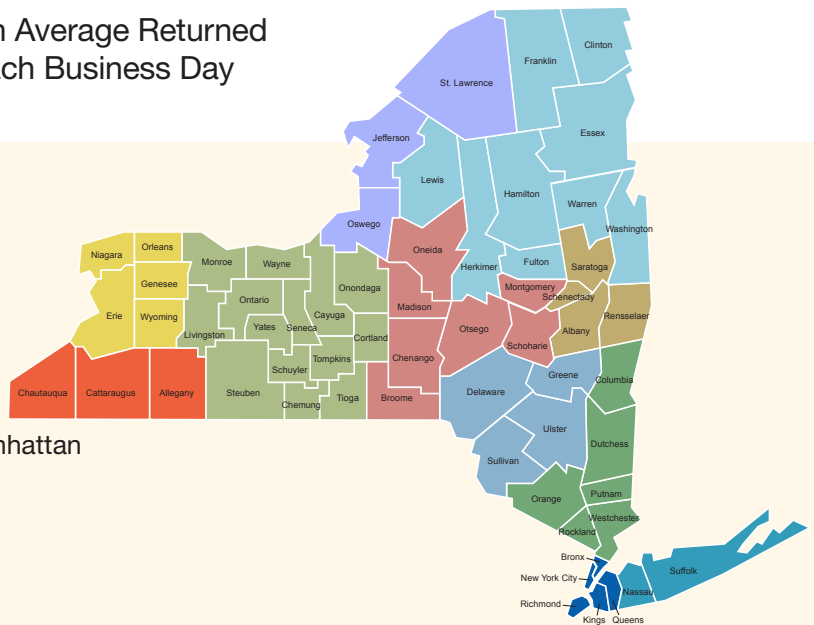
In Unclaimed Funds

\$1.5 M

On Average Returned Each Business Day

In 2022, OUF processed over 425,000 claims and returned over \$400 million, including:

- \$121,016 to ProLiteracy Worldwide, Syracuse
- \$26,832 to Episcopal Health Services, Bronx
- \$20,516 to the Raymond Corporation, Greene
- \$7,597 to CBA Booster Club, Syracuse
- \$7,309 to the Columbus Citizens Foundation, Manhattan
- \$6,001 to Clarkson University, Potsdam
- \$5,832 to SEIU Local 32BJ, Manhattan
- \$4,870 to Teamsters Local 202, Bronx
- \$1,841 to the Peekskill City School District
- \$1,153 to Clinton County



Independent Fiscal Oversight

As the State's chief financial officer, Comptroller DiNapoli is responsible for providing independent and fact-driven analysis of the State's fiscal health. The Comptroller upholds a long-term perspective for the State's economic and fiscal stability, and has urged the State to:

- Bolster rainy day reserves
- Effectively implement pandemic recovery programs
- Reform capital planning and debt practices

Providing Key Insights on New York City and State Economic, Fiscal and Performance Issues

- Assessed COVID-era impacts by analyzing [taxpayer migration](#) trends.
- Revealed economic burden to small business due to massive debt of the [Unemployment Insurance Fund](#).
- Saved nearly \$85 million for taxpayers by improving public authority bond issues.
- Warned of looming [NYC budget risks](#), providing framework for closing budget gaps.
- Analyzed and reported on issues facing the NYC Mayoral administration and City Council including fiscal and operational issues at [agencies](#), the pandemic impact on the municipal [workforce](#) and [fiscal cliffs](#) based on use of one-time federal relief aid.

Ongoing, In-Depth Financial Analysis

- Monthly reports on NYS revenue and spending results.
- Award-winning annual [Financial Condition Report](#).
- Annual report on the Governor's [Executive Budget](#), the final [Enacted Budget](#), and the [NYS Financial Plan](#).
- Regular updates to the [COVID-19 Relief Program Tracker](#).

Holding Public Authorities Accountable

Public authorities use taxpayer funds to provide critical services to New Yorkers. As a result, authorities are required to report major financial information to the Office of the State Comptroller. Comptroller DiNapoli issues an [annual report](#) on the activities and performance of local public authorities and issued an updated [Public Authority by the Numbers](#) report in 2022.

- This year, the Comptroller issued several reports on the largest public authority, the **Metropolitan Transportation Authority**, examining the [financial outlook](#), including its [debt profile](#) and a [comparison of its recovery](#) progress to other large national systems.

Comptroller DiNapoli also reviews **Public Authorities Control Board (PACB)** applications. He provided comment on several PACB applications, including two with significant cost implications:

- Caution on restructuring **LIPA bonds**, calling for more details and a commitment to minimizing Long Island ratepayer charges.
- Postponing the vote on a payments-in-lieu-of-taxes (PILOTs) financing agreement related to **Penn Station redevelopment**, citing lack of critical financing details for a project of such considerable scale, complexity and regional economic significance.

Analyzing the Effects of the Pandemic

The pandemic had a sprawling public health, economic, and social impact that affected all New Yorkers. The effects on New York's economy were particularly sudden and severe, and the State had yet to recover all the jobs lost in March and April 2020 at the end of 2021. State Comptroller DiNapoli issued several reports examining how the pandemic altered or accelerated trends in employment, the workforce, wages and personal finances.

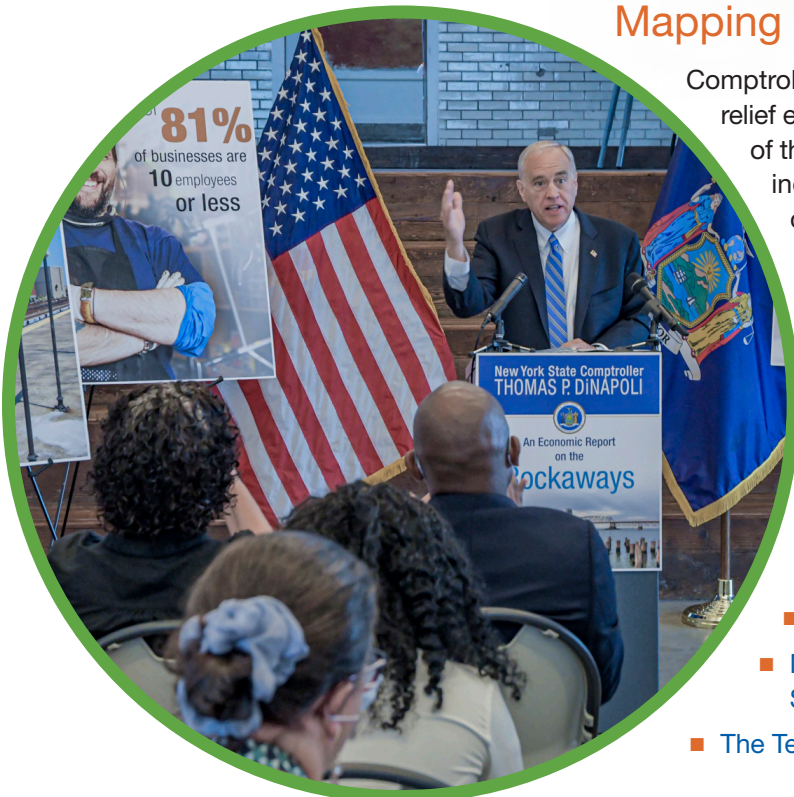
- [Green and Growing: Employment Opportunities in NY's Sustainable Economy](#)
- [New York's Labor Force: Assessing 10-Year Trends and Pandemic Setbacks](#)
- [New Yorkers in Need: A Look at Poverty Trends in New York State for the Last Decade](#)
- [The Economic Impact of the Great Outdoors](#)
- [New York's Agriculture Industry: A Resilient Part of State & Local Economies](#)
- [Despite Progress, Pay Gap for Women Persists](#)
- [Low Homeownership Rates and Racial Gaps](#)
- [Inflation in the NYC Metropolitan Area](#)
- [Distribution of Utility Arrears in NYS](#)
- [Household Debt in NYS](#)



Mapping NYC's Pandemic Recovery

Comptroller DiNapoli continues to report on the status of fiscal relief efforts and the City's economic recovery from the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic and its aftermath, providing industry sector dashboards to track employment and other indicators for the sectors most impacted by the pandemic.

- [New York City's Uneven Recovery: An Analysis of Labor Force Trends](#)
- [The Transportation and Warehousing Sector In New York City](#)
- [Recent Trends and Impact of COVID-19 in Brooklyn](#)
- [An Economic and Demographic Snapshot of the Rockaways](#)
- [2021 Wall Street Bonuses](#)
- [New York City Restaurant, Retail and Recreation Sectors Still Face Uphill Recovery](#)
- [The Technology Sector in New York City](#)



Protecting Taxpayer Funds by Uncovering Waste, Fraud and Abuse

Comptroller DiNapoli's Division of State Government Accountability's audits determine whether State and NYC agencies and public authorities have effective controls in place to prevent waste, fraud and abuse of taxpayer dollars. The audits examine services and programs which touch the everyday lives of millions of New Yorkers. All [audits](#) are available on the OSC website.

86

Reports Issued

36

Reports with
Cost Savings

\$5.4 B

Cost Savings
(Calendar Year Period
01/01/2022 - 12/21/2022)

Uncovering \$5B in Medicaid Savings

The Medicaid program provides critical health care services to millions of New Yorkers but is troubled by oversight problems and payment errors. In 2022, the Comptroller's 15 Medicaid audits uncovered more than \$5 billion in cost savings, improper payments and waste. A sampling of these audits include:

- [Managed Long-Term Care \(MLTC\) Member Eligibility](#)
- [Improper Payments for Services](#)
- [Recovering Managed Care Overpayments for Pharmacy Services](#)

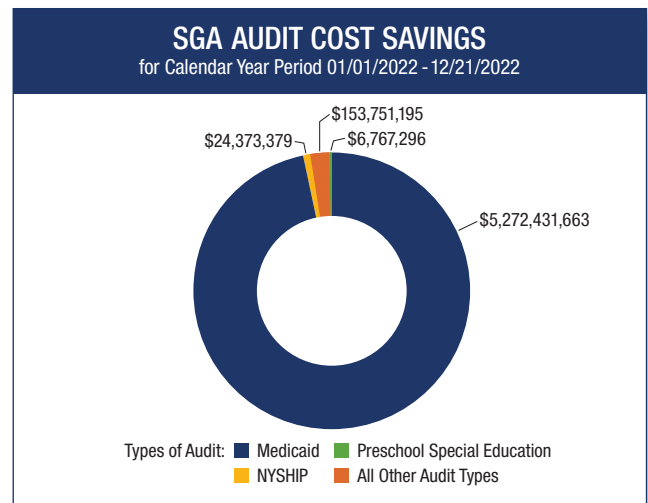
Monitoring State Agency Performance During the Pandemic

The COVID-19 pandemic hit all levels of government hard, revealing weaknesses in services, systems and security.

The Department of Health (DOH) was ill-prepared to respond to any infectious disease outbreak at nursing homes, COVID-19 or otherwise, due in part to a persistent lack of public health funding, leaving DOH operating without the information systems, reliable data, and adequate staff necessary to control its spread at nursing homes.

Additionally, the Department of Labor's (DOL) deficient oversight and management of the Unemployment Insurance system compromised its ability to mitigate claims processing risks, most notably, the surge of applications and uptick in fraudulent claims.

- [Nursing Homes: Use, Collection, and Reporting of Infection Control Data](#)
- [DOL Security Over the State's Unemployment System](#)



Addressing the Youth Mental Health Crisis

Comptroller DiNapoli's audits have focused on the effectiveness and availability of mental health programs and services in public schools to help ensure that students have access to the care and support they need.

NYC DOE Mental Health Education Supports and Services
SED Oversight of Mental Health Education in Schools

Other Significant 2022 Audits



Education

NYC DOE: Improve Student College Readiness
State Should Improve Financial Literacy Efforts



Environment

Oversight of New York State Forest Tax Programs
Oversight and Enforcement of the Rechargeable Battery Law



New Economy Infrastructure and the Digital Divide

NYPA Misses the Mark Installing EV Chargers
Empire State Development's Broadband Program Falls Short



Vulnerable Populations

NYC DSS Oversight of Shelter Placements
NYS Office for the Aging Falling Short Funding Programs for Seniors
HCR: State is Slow in Disbursing Some Federal Relief Funds for Housing



Wasteful Spending

MTA-Long Island Rail Road: Rolling Stock Programs Department
New York Racing Association (NYRA): Purchasing and Procurement Practices



Workforce Development and Support

DOL Workforce Development Programs in Disarray
OMH: Maximizing Incentives for Individuals with Disabilities

THE DAILY GAZETTE
WHEN CREDIBILITY MATTERS

**Comptroller blasts state
DOH over nursing home
COVID response**

March 15, 2022

TIMES UNION

**Comptroller: 'Stop-gap'
measures led to widespread
unemployment fraud**

November 15, 2022

Connecting with Local Governments and School Districts

Reporting on Relevant Topics

Comptroller DiNapoli's Division of Local Government and School Accountability issues reports on a wide range of topics relevant to New Yorkers. Among the Division's many [2022 research products](#) were an examination and history of the State's local revenue sharing program, [Aid and Incentives for Municipalities](#), and a report and [interactive map](#) on spending and aid for [locally-owned roads](#). Additional annual reports coupled with interactive data visualizations include one on [local government finances](#) and another on [Industrial Development Agencies](#).

Early Warning Fiscal Stress Monitoring System

In 2022, the Comptroller's [Fiscal Stress Monitoring System](#) (FSMS) provided an early warning to identify areas of fiscal weakness to 20 local governments and 23 school districts. The alert allows officials and taxpayers to be more proactive and address problems earlier. It also allows policymakers and the public to monitor statewide trends over time.

Modernizing Financial Reporting

In 2022, work continued on modernizing the system local governments use to file annual financial reports (AFRs) with the State Comptroller's Office. The [new AFR application](#) will provide an improved user experience and ensure data quality. Local governments will start using the new AFR application in 2023.



The Continuing Challenges of Cybersecurity

Comptroller DiNapoli and his team work to help avoid cyber disasters by auditing and uncovering fundamental weaknesses in local government and school district cyber-defenses.

Through early December 2022, the Comptroller's Office released 48 IT-related audit reports and confidential IT letters, reporting on 521 IT findings, largely related to breakdowns or gaps in the most basic cybersecurity components. These assessments offered targeted, corrective action recommendations, many at no-or-low cost to the local government or school district. Additionally, these findings may help protect against more sophisticated cyberattacks.

Trainings
reached
an audience of
11,331
local officials
& stakeholders



Protecting Taxpayers with Local Audits

Comptroller DiNapoli's local government and school district audits help local officials improve program and performance operations and reduce costs. These audits can also uncover mismanagement of taxpayer funding.

To foster transparency, all Office of the State Comptroller [audits](#) are easily searchable online. The public can [alert](#) Comptroller DiNapoli to suspected fraud, waste or abuse through this tip line at 1-888-672-4555.

290 audits

uncovering millions of dollars in cost savings.

83

Towns & Villages

153

School Districts

23

Fire Departments

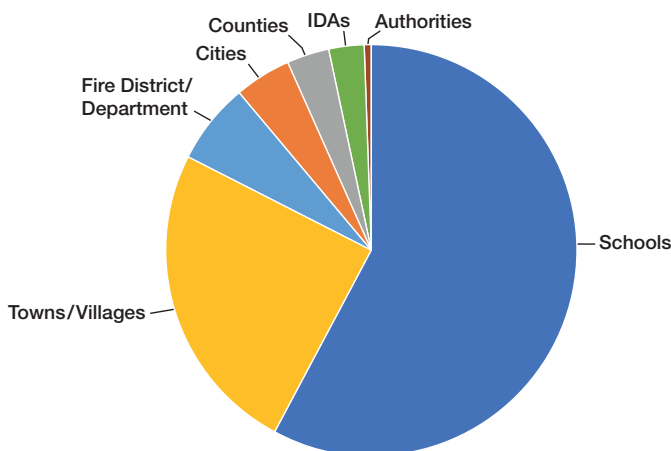
13

Cities

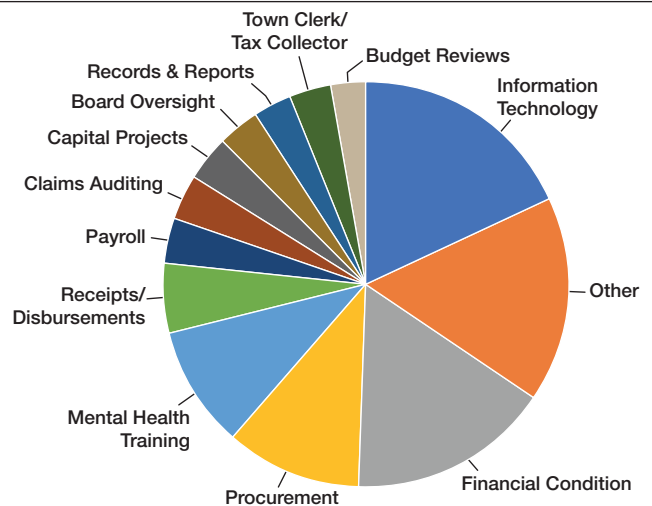
Subjects covered in the audits ranged from Information Technology to Budget Review to Financial Condition and more.

The audits include recommendations on how localities can correct accounting issues, improve oversight, increase transparency and save taxpayer dollars.

MUNICIPAL / SCHOOL AUDIT EFFORT



MUNICIPAL / SCHOOL AUDIT FOCUS



Advocating for New Yorkers with Disabilities



Achieving a Better Life Experience

NY ABLE empowers New Yorkers with disabilities to save money without risking loss of access to other benefits and services. Since its creation, Comptroller DiNapoli has advocated to expand access to the program and raise awareness of its many benefits. In 2022, the Comptroller worked to:

- **Expand Access by Advancing Legislation**, now a new law, to eliminate the State residency requirement, opening the NY ABLE Program to eligible individuals nationwide.
- **Increase Awareness to More Families** by offering the program website, disclosure booklet and enrollment forms in Spanish.
- **Expand the Program to More Citizens Including Veterans** by supporting a federal measure to raise the program eligibility age from 26 to 46.

As of October 2022, there are 2,402 NY ABLE accounts with approximately \$21.7 million in assets. For more information refer to the Disclosure Booklet and Participation Agreement available at mynyable.com.



Comptroller DiNapoli with Christian Ciardiello, a resident of US Autism Homes, a Southampton program providing housing and independence for people with autism.

Audits Find Underutilized Employment Programs and Services

Millions of talented people with disabilities remain underrepresented in the workforce. Two of the Comptroller's audits this year highlighted the underutilized employment programs and services for New Yorkers with disabilities:

- The State Office of Mental Health, which oversees the New York Employment Services System, needs to do much more to make sure State agencies, and their contracted employment service providers, make use of the system and better serve New Yorkers with disabilities. [Read More](#)
- The program run by the State Education Department to help New Yorkers with disabilities gain employment, transition to independent living, and rise out of poverty is not fulfilling its mission, leaving participants with inadequate plans that do not accomplish those goals. [Read More](#)

Prioritizing Disability Inclusion in Corporate America

Comptroller DiNapoli believes equality, diversity and inclusiveness are fundamental values of companies with sustainable and profitable long-term strategies. As trustee of one of the nation's largest pension funds, the Comptroller has made workforce diversity and worker protections a cornerstone of the Fund's environmental,

social and governance philosophy, and evaluates companies based on their commitment to inclusivity. The Comptroller continues calling on the nation's largest companies to participate in the [Disability Equality Index](#), which helps companies achieve greater disability inclusion and equality.



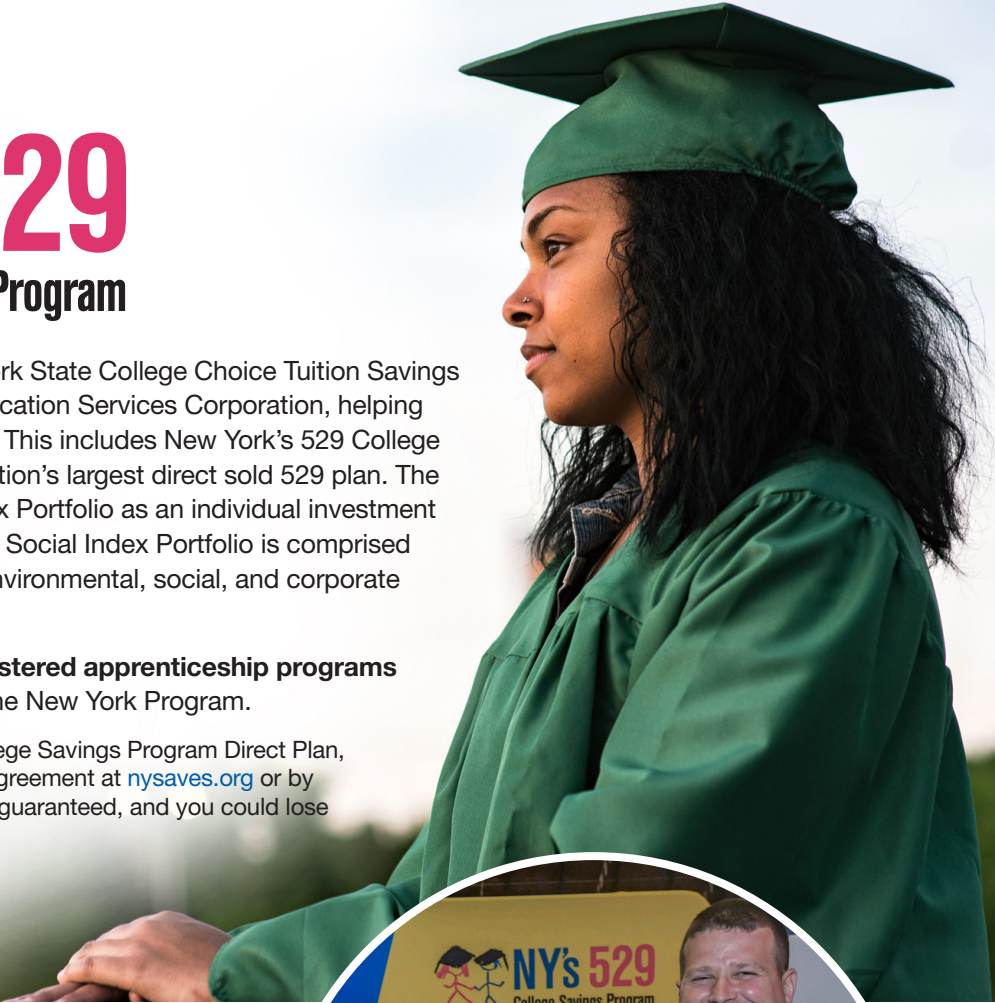
NY's 529

College Savings Program

Comptroller DiNapoli administers the New York State College Choice Tuition Savings Program with the New York State Higher Education Services Corporation, helping individuals save for higher educational goals. This includes New York's 529 College Savings Program Direct Plan, which is the nation's largest direct sold 529 plan. The Direct Plan recently launched the Social Index Portfolio as an individual investment option available to Plan account owners. The Social Index Portfolio is comprised of companies that are screened for certain environmental, social, and corporate governance (ESG) criteria.*

Effective April 2022, expenses related to **registered apprenticeship programs** are considered qualified withdrawals under the New York Program.

* For more information about New York's 529 College Savings Program Direct Plan, obtain a Disclosure Booklet and Tuition Savings Agreement at nysaves.org or by calling 877-NYSAVES. Investment returns are not guaranteed, and you could lose money by investing in the Direct Plan.



It's never too early
or too late to start
saving for a college
education.”

— New York State
Comptroller DiNapoli

Comptroller DiNapoli and Jeremy Rogers, OSC's Director of the NY 529 College Savings Program, distributing program information at the 2022 State Fair in Syracuse.

There are almost one million
Direct Plan funded accounts
valued at

\$38.3 B

The average of a 529 Direct
Plan account is

\$38,619

Highlights of 2022 Legislative Program

Upholding the Interests of New Yorkers

■ Expanding Access to the NY ABLE Program

Advanced legislation, now a new law, to eliminate the State residency requirement, opening the NY ABLE Program to eligible individuals nationwide.

■ Enhancing Investment Standards for the NY 529 College Savings and ABLE Programs

This new law eliminates restrictive and costly investment limitations in the NY 529 and NY ABLE Programs, which will result in a best in class menu of investment options for account owners.

■ Cutting Costs with Direct Deposit

This new law requires State employees hired in 2023 and beyond to receive paychecks through direct deposit, reducing the State's costs for producing and mailing paper checks.

Delivering Premier Retirement Services & Pension Fund Management

Comptroller DiNapoli is the trustee of the New York State Common Retirement Fund (Fund), which administers the benefits of more than one million members, retirees and beneficiaries.

■ Increasing Investment Opportunities for the Fund

[S.9051](#) would add to the types of conventional mortgages in which a State pension fund may invest to include conventional mortgages guaranteed by New York State Homes and Community Renewal (HCR).

■ Safeguarding Ordinary Death Benefit

This new law increases the length of time during which a New York State and Local Retirement System (NYSLRS) or the New York State Teachers' Retirement System (TRS) member is eligible to receive higher ordinary death benefit. This legislation ensures members and their beneficiaries are not penalized for continuing to work up to the date they are first eligible for retirement.

Ensuring Transparency & Protecting the Public Trust

■ Protecting Virtual Currency Owners

This new law protects the rights of owners of virtual currency and ensures that holders of virtual currency are held to the same due diligence requirements as other holders under the Abandoned Property Law.

Restoring the Comptroller's Contract Review and Approval

Senator Reichlin-Melnick and Assemblyman Zebrowski have introduced legislation, [S.6809-A/A.7925-A](#), to statutorily restore the Comptroller's pre-audit review and approval of certain contracts, which has been eroded over the last decade through Executive and Legislative actions. There is immeasurable value in the restoration of the Comptroller's oversight as this review is critical to help reduce costs; deter fraud, waste, and abuse; ensure good value to the State; and ensure vendors are responsible and eligible for government contracting.

2022 Year in Photos



Comptroller DiNapoli celebrating our State's rich Irish heritage by marching in the St. Patrick's Day Parade in Manhattan.



With Dr. Hazel Dukes, President of the NAACP New York State Conference during the Caucus of Black, Puerto Rican, Hispanic and Asian Legislators in Albany (above).



Visiting ELP Myer Solar in Saugerties with former Ulster County Executive Patrick Ryan, as part of a tour of Ulster County businesses at the forefront of the green economy.



Honoring the memory and sacrifice of police officers from across New York State at the New York State Police Officers Memorial Remembrance Ceremony in Albany.



Learning about the challenges faced by small towns and villages, during a walking tour of the Village of Lake Placid with Brad Hathaway, Lake Placid Public Works Superintendent, (left) and Art Devlin, Mayor of Lake Placid (right).



Discussing the Brooklyn Economic Snapshot Report. The Comptroller has released a series of economic snapshot reports analyzing specific boroughs and neighborhoods, highlighting economic trends, demographic data and the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic.



Marching in the New York City Pride Parade with members of the Pride Center of Staten Island. Comptroller DiNapoli is a longtime supporter of inclusion and equal rights for New Yorkers of all backgrounds and orientations.

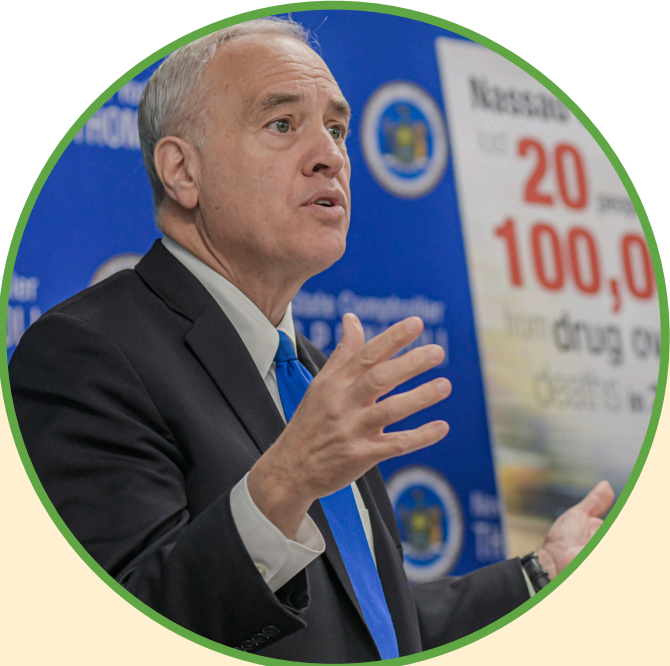
Honoring our nation's fallen soldiers at the 96th Annual Memorial Day Remembrance Ceremony in Great Neck.



Celebrating Puerto Rican culture and heritage at the Puerto Rican Day Parade in New York City.



Speaking to union members at the CSEA Annual Convention in Manhattan. CSEA is one of New York's largest unions, representing roughly 275,000 workers from local and State governments, school districts, health care providers and the private sector.



The Comptroller outlining his Drug Overdose Report at the THRIVE Recovery Community and Outreach Center in Westbury. Many communities in our State have been devastated by the opioid epidemic, which has led to a dramatic increase in overdoses.



Enjoying the New York City Dominican Day Parade with participants including Commissioner of the New York City Department of Transportation, Ydanis Rodriguez (back row, center).

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