**Legislative Update- ANA - New York Nurse- October 2022**

**By Amy Kellogg and Caiti Anderson**

In the last newsletter, we outlined what had happened during the 2022 legislative session. As a reminder, the Legislature concluded their official business for the year on June 3, 2022. Since the end of the legislative session, the focus has been on the 2022 Primary Elections. As a reminder, 2022 is a redistricting year in New York. This meant that all the current legislative districts were redrawn to reflect the population shifts in New York, as accounted by the 2020 Census. An independent redistricting commission drew proposed lines for the State Assembly, State Senate and U.S. Congressional lines. A lawsuit challenged the lines for the State Senate and the U.S. Congressional seats, which led to a judge ruling the lines were invalid and ordering a second Primary Election for the New York State Senate races and the U.S. Congressional races on Tuesday, August 23. The June 29th Primary remained in place for the New York State Assembly and Statewide office races. legislative update The June primary saw Governor Kathy Hochul easily win the Democratic primary, defeating Congressman Tom Suozzi and New York City Public Advocate Jumaane Williams, thereby becoming the first ever New York woman to be a Gubernatorial candidate in the General Election. On the Republican side, Congressman Lee Zeldin prevailed over former Westchester County Executive Rob Astorino, businessman Harry Wilson, and former Special Advisor to President Trump Andrew Giuliani. The statewide June primary also saw a challenge on the Democratic line for Lieutenant Governor. Governor Hochul’s appointed Lieutenant Governor, former Congressman Antonio Delgado, won a spirited primary challenge from Ana Maria Archila, who ran as Jumaane William’s running mate. For the New York State Assembly, there were unprecedented primary challenges in well over two dozen Assembly seats. For the most part, these challenges saw long term incumbents being challenged by a wave of younger, more progressive candidates. Ultimately, the incumbents fended off their progressive challengers. During the second Primary Election in August, there were two Congressional races that captured national attention. The first race was a primary for the 12th Congressional District, which saw two long-time incumbents facing off as the result of the redistricting map drawn by a Special Master appointed by the judge who threw out the initial lines. Representatives Carolyn B. Maloney and Jerrold Nadler, both senior members of Congress who had served together for the past three decades, faced off in a heated race, and in the end, Representative Nadler defeated Representative Maloney by a significant margin. The second race that captured national attention was for the 10th Congressional District, which was an entirely new district created in New York City without an incumbent. As a result, there were more than a dozen candidates running for the seat. Daniel Goldman, the heir to the Levi Strauss fortune who prosecuted President Trump’s first impeachment case, won by a slim margin. Assemblymember Yuh-Line Niou was close behind in second place. On the New York State Senate side of the August Primary election, there were many primary challenges as a result of the newly drawn maps. In the end, though, there were no real surprises. All eyes will now turn to the General Election which will occur on Tuesday, November 8. The statewide races for the General Election will be as follows: • For Governor: Governor Kathy Hochul (D) and Lieutenant Governor Antonio Delgado (D) v. Lee Zeldin (R) and Alison Esposito (R) • For Attorney General: Attorney General Letitia James (D) v. Michael Henry (R) • For Comptroller: Comptroller Tom DiNapoli (D) v. Paul Rodriguez (R) • For U.S. Senate: U.S. Senator Chuck Schumer (D) v. Joe Pinion (R) The New York State Assembly and Senate candidates will also be on the ballot. To determine which candidates will be on your ballot in November, you can visit the New York State Board of Elections website. Please note, however, that this information is not yet published. When the legislative session adjourned on June 3, most assumed that the Legislature would not return until 2023. This quickly changed at the end of June, when the Supreme Court struck down portions of New York’s statute related to possession of firearms. As a result, the Governor convened a special legislative session on June 30, where the Legislature and her reached an agreement on the Concealed Carry Improvement Act. While the special session was initially called for the gun control issues, the Supreme Court also released the Dobbs vs. Jackson Women’s Health Organization decision that same week. This increased the pressure on New York elected officials to enshrine the right to abortion access in the state Constitution. As a result, in addition to the gun legislation agreement, the Governor and the Senate and Assembly also reached an agreement on the Equality Amendment. The Equality Amendment will add equal protection of the laws for ethnicity, national origin, age, disability, sex, including sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, pregnancy, pregnancy outcomes, and reproductive healthcare and autonomy. For full ratification of the Equality Amendment, changes to the state Constitution must pass in two consecutive legislative sessions and then appear on the ballot in the November following that second session. If all proceeds as expected, the Equality Amendment will appear on the ballot for final approval in November 2023. Although a lot of focus has been on the political side, we have continued to advocate for the Governor to sign the surgical smoke bill, A9974/S8869, sponsored by Assemblymember Richard Gottfried and Senator Gustavo Rivera. This bill would require general hospitals and ambulatory surgery facilities to adopt and implement policies to prevent exposure to surgical smoke. There are currently 451 bills awaiting the Governor’s signature, so we will continue to push for this important legislation to be signed. As we continue to up our legislative work from the 2022 legislative session, we are also turning our attention to the 2023 legislative session and our priorities for next year. The Legislative Committee met over the summer to update the legislative priorities list that will be presented to the membership at the annual meeting in October. The legislative priority list shapes the work we do for the upcoming legislative session. Last year, we added a new focus to the legislative priorities on public health and health equity prioritization. This item is again on the priority list and has been expanded. We know that registered nurses are the single most important influence in the delivery and management of care for patients. Ensuring a robust patient experience means that registered and advanced practice nurses must play a pivotal role in public health. If you have any questions about the legislative process or the priorities of ANA-NY, please contact a member of the Legislative Committee. As always, we welcome your questions, thoughts, ideas or comments on legislation or the bill track.