

# END PERPETUAL PUNISHMENT

Today, **2.3 million New Yorkers** are prevented by current law from accessing employment, housing, education, and other basic life essentials that would allow them to thrive. Despite having served their sentences and returned to their communities, they live in a state of perpetual punishment. These injustices tear families apart, and perpetuate inequity through intergenerational trauma and economic instability.

**The Clean Slate Act will automatically seal conviction records so that all New Yorkers can move ahead and fully participate in their communities as thriving citizens.**

## Clean Slate is an antipoverty bill

**Children that grow up in poverty are far more likely to remain living in poverty throughout their lives.** By lifting the barriers to full participation, individuals can obtain the jobs and housing they need to lift their children up and break the cycle of poverty for millions of young New Yorkers.

**Clean Slate will help to end the cycle of intergenerational poverty.**

## Clean Slate is an economic justice bill

**1 in 7 New Yorkers has a conviction history**, and despite wanting to work and contribute to their communities, many of them are shut out from participating in New York's economy and helping it grow. Barring justice-involved individuals from entering the workforce years and sometimes decades after their convictions costs New York nearly \$2 billion in lost wages annually.

**Other states that have passed laws like Clean Slate have seen significant economic benefits.**

## Clean Slate is a labor equity bill

**Approximately 95% of incarcerated people serve their sentences and come home.** Major companies and unions support Clean Slate: not only do they believe in second chances, but they know it will help businesses find skilled labor. At a time when companies across the state are facing unprecedented labor shortages, the Clean Slate Act can work to increase the eligible pool of workers.

**Every New Yorker can contribute to their communities when given an equitable chance.**

**CLEAN SLATE CAN'T WAIT!**  
[www.cleanslateny.org/take-action](http://www.cleanslateny.org/take-action)



# THE CLEAN SLATE BILL

An amended version of the Clean Slate Act (S.1553C/A.6399) was introduced on November 15th, 2021. Here's what the bill does:

## A person is eligible for relief under Clean Slate if:

- ✓ They have completed their jail/prison time
- ✓ They have completed their probation/parole
- ✓ They have no subsequent NYS convictions during the waiting period or pending charges upon sealing date

## Automatic SEALING

For **misdemeanors** - 3 years from sentencing (excluding any time spent incarcerated)

For **felonies** - 7 years from sentencing (excluding any time spent incarcerated)  
Note: sex offenses are not eligible for sealing under Clean Slate.

*Once records are sealed, they can't be seen in most situations, including when applying for housing and most jobs, but records can still be seen by law enforcement, criminal courts, and some licensing and clearance agencies.*

## SUPPORT FOR CLEAN SLATE

The Clean Slate Act has a powerful and diverse array of support throughout the state, including from **faith leaders, survivor and civil rights advocates, labor unions and business leaders** like JP Morgan Chase.

**Polling** also shows that an overwhelming majority of New Yorkers support the Clean Slate Act.

- By a 26-point margin, registered voters in New York State say they support the Clean Slate Act.
- Support rises further as voters better understand the Clean Slate bill. When voters hear more about the specific requirements for eligibility under the Clean Slate Act, 66% support the proposed legislation.
- When voters learn that Clean Slate would allow New Yorkers to obtain employment, find housing, provide for their families, and contribute more to their communities, support rises to 71%.
- Overwhelmingly, voters see the importance of the Clean Slate Act: **nine in ten voters (91%) feel it is important to "give those with criminal records a fair chance to get a job, provide for their families, and become productive members of society."**

Learn more at [www.cleanslateny.org](http://www.cleanslateny.org)