



BLAKEMAN MEETS THE ROCKLAND COUNTY PRESS

BY: Keith S. Shikowitz, Editor in Chief/Investigative Reporter



The race for NY governor is a hotly contested one. Incumbent Kathy Hochul is facing a fierce challenge from Nassau County Executive Bruce Blakeman. On Friday July 17, 2026, Blakeman came to Rockland to meet the press and explain why he is the best candidate for the governor's position.



"So, good afternoon, everybody. I'm Bruce Blakeman, Republican and Conservative Party candidate for governor, also running on the vote Affordability Party line, and I'm here in Rockland County today because we are traveling throughout the state talking about how we can make the state more livable, more affordable, safer, and this is part of our process of going to every community in New York State. Not only just to tell them what I'm going to do, but to hear from them as what they want from their governor."

<https://youtu.be/xna3fDXnBsc>

"I know how to run a big organization. My county is larger than 8 states in population. I know how to win in an area that is predominantly Democrat. There are 110,000 more Democrats in Nassau County than Republicans and I won re-election in a midterm in a terrible night for Republicans all across America by 12 points in a landslide by 36,000 votes. That's exactly the common-sense theme that I'm going to bring to the state of New York, and I believe that we will be victorious, and I expect fully to be governor on January 1st and save New York from Kathy Hochul and Zohran Mamdani. With that, any questions that's on your mind." Chris McKenna from the Journal News got the first question. The enrollment advantage for Democrats statewide is quite a bit wider, than it is in Nassau County. It's a 2 to 1 enrollment advantage. How do you or any other...

Blakeman interjected, "So I'm only gonna win by 10 points, not 12. Is that what you're trying to say?"

McKenna continued, how does any Republican overcome that disadvantage to win a statewide election?

"Well, you know, Chris, that's a very good question and believe me, it's something that I thought about very seriously before I got into this race. There had to be a pathway to victory. Lee Zeldin ran a great race and he came very close. He came with in, I believe, 5.5 points, and we took a look at what the difference was between his campaign and what my campaign would look like. There's a couple of things that are striking. First of all, Kathy Hochul didn't have a report card when Lee was running against her. So, Lee would go out and say, Kathy Hochul is going to do all these bad things and people had to take it on faith. Well, now I have a report card and it's straight Fs. The highest taxed state. Electric bills, 70% higher than the national average. Lawlessness in our communities. The lack of economic development."

He pointed out that NY is 50th out of 50 states in economic outlook and is in a death spiral and he is the pilot that can take us out of that death spiral. "When you look at various areas, Long Island, I believe we're going to do very well. That's my home base. That's where we're going to launch this rocket from. But in New York City, every time I go to New York City, especially in the outer boroughs, people are fed up with the policies of Kathy Hochul. They don't like her unholy alliance with Zohran Mandami."

"They feel that he's betrayed the middle class. He talked about affordability. He's done nothing to make it more affordable to live in New York City. He is a socialist. He is certainly not somebody who's going to grow our economy and create the kind of jobs that our young people want in order to be able to stay here. I've got that going in my favor."

With the USSC overturning Roe -v- Wade in June of 2022, the controversy over abortion and the decision as to whether or not to allow it was turned over to the states. Now, Blakeman says that abortion's off the table now because he's a pro-choice Republican. He said that Kathy Hochul spent probably 80% of her resources 4 years ago attacking Lee Zeldin on abortion. He has taken that off the table.

He's a pro-choice Republican and has been for the last 30 years, so that's not going to be an issue.

"What we found out is there was a lot of people that didn't want to vote for Kathy Hochul, that wouldn't vote for a pro-life candidate, and now since that's off the table, I think that those people are going to come to our side. If you look at every race, religion, every ethnic group, every community in New York State, everybody feels the same way. They feel miserable under Kathy Hochul and they want to change. Whether it's in the Hudson Valley, whether it's in Western New York, Central New York, the Southern Tier, the North Country, Long Island, or New York City or any place in between, people are fed up."

<https://youtu.be/oirUpjKs3hA>

I was the next reporter to question Blakeman. You're talking about energy and the energy costs. One of the problems with energy costs in this area was the closing of Indian Point. I know, Congressman Lawler a few months ago was at Indian Point to go get it restarted. Kathy Hochul is having a nuclear power plant built further upstate but is resisting getting Indian Point up back online. That will help us down here. How are you going to help deal with the Indian Point issue?

"Well, there's a few things that you need to do. First of all, with Indian Point, They are doing a study right now, I believe, through Congressman Lawler, and I applaud him for it on what the cost would be to reopen Indian Point, and I think that nuclear has to be on the table in the future in this state because the energy needs are going to be so great, but we are sitting on one of the largest natural gas reserves in the world right here in New York, and Kathy Hochul won't let us extract that natural gas.

She wants to go all electric, all electric homes. She wants to tell people that they can't have gas stoves in their house.

She's engaged in the green energy scam where on your utility bill, she has a fund that you have to, you have to pay for."

He said that we contribute to that fund every month when we pay our electric bill and we invest in things like solar farms. He added that upstate New York that have been under snow for 4 months out of the year producing no energy, very expensive, or wind turbines 60 stories high in the middle of the ocean. Who builds in the middle of the ocean? You've got to barge everything out there. You've got to be dependent on the weather, dependent on, on, on the wave structure.

"I mean this green energy scam is nothing more than another tax on the ratepayers of our state producing very little energy. Let's open the Marcellus Shale. By the way, Kathy Hochul is very disingenuous because she's buying the gas from Pennsylvania. Why aren't we buying it from our own state, from our own people? On one side of the border in Pennsylvania, they're driving around in brand new Cadillac Escalades. On the New York side of the border, they're driving around in 20-year-old pickup trucks. What I would say is we've got to open up that for exploration and extraction, and We have to look very closely at whether or not it makes financial sense to open Indian Point, and there are new technologies now that we have to take a close look at such as companies now that are doing small nuclear reactors. They are based on the model of aircraft carriers and submarines which have a 100% safety record. That's a new technology that I would certainly be open to."

He said he's not against green energy, but he feels that it can't be the sole source of energy. "It is a pipe dream to think that we could go all green and all electric. It's something that is untenable, would never happen. We don't have the grid to produce that. By the way, how are you going to power those? We go all electric, probably with coal-fired plants from Pennsylvania because she buys gas from there, she'll probably buy coal from there.

<https://youtu.be/Vd6eUEMlhbU>

Businesses. New York has lost \$11 billion in tax revenue because businesses are picking up and packing out heading to red states like Florida, Texas, and Tennessee. What are you going to do to get them back?

"Well, it's very easy to get them back. They left because of the high taxes; they left because of the over-regulation. They left because they have to pay 70% more than the national average for utilities. So, businesses find other places to go. I was with a business leader the other day. They said dealing with this state is like going to a state office and having a sign out front that says, how can we not help you? We don't help business. We don't nurture business. That's why states like Florida, Texas, North Carolina, South Carolina, Arizona, they are getting our businesses."

He feels it is because our state is anti-business and the moratorium on AI centers is just another example. You would have thought that in 4 years she'd be able to figure out how to make it work for everybody. It could be a win, win, win situation.

"First of all, you've got to sit down with local government and get them in as a partner. You can't force it down their throat. Second of all, You've got to get the AI data centers, the developers to come up with a plan to do two things. One, recirculate the water that they need because they do need a tremendous amount of water. For a little more money, they can put recirculation technology into their plants, and you won't use up as much water and it's something that could be environmentally compatible with local communities."

"The next thing it can do is they have to be self-sustaining with respect to utilities and generation of energy. If they do that and they can do that, not only will it not be a burden on the grid in these local areas, but it could lower the electric costs of the surrounding areas as well as provide tax advantages where it'll cut people's property taxes because the data centers will be paying a tremendous amount of the tax revenue. They will increase the tax base, which will allow governments to cut taxes on a local level."

<https://youtu.be/-zDFFgYnIK4>

Blakeman is fighting an uphill battle with the 2 to 1 Democrat majority in the state but he is making headway because of the tough situation the people of NY are in with affordability and the lack of business tax revenue coming into the state due to the fact that businesses are leaving in droves like the citizenry is doing.