

# CLEAN SLATE CAN'T WAIT

For the **2.3 million New Yorkers living with a conviction history**, the stigma is inescapable. From employment, to housing, to higher education, people with conviction histories are locked out of opportunities integral to living safe and stable lives. **Far too many experience a conviction history as a civil life sentence, a state of perpetual punishment**, one that – due to decades of discriminatory, unjust over-policing and over-prosecution across the state – Black and brown New Yorkers disproportionately experience. But we can change this. **The Clean Slate Act will automatically seal conviction records so that all New Yorkers can move ahead and fully participate in their communities.**

## Clean Slate is a racial justice bill

Because of racism in policing and prosecution, 80% of people in New York with conviction records are Black or Latinx and face far more discrimination based on a conviction record.

**The Clean Slate Act will reduce systemic barriers to full participation in our communities.**

## Clean Slate is an economic justice bill

People who have been to prison lose an average of \$484,400 in earnings over their lifetime, which entrenches poverty and worsens the racial wealth gap.

Nationally, excluding individuals with conviction histories from the workforce costs the economy as much as \$87 billion annually in lost GDP.

**Clean Slate can help. A recent study found that within two years of clearing their records under Michigan law, people were 11% more likely to have a job and were earning 25% more.**

## Clean Slate is a public safety bill

Approximately 95% of incarcerated people serve their sentences and come home.

**By eliminating barriers to jobs, housing, and education, the Clean Slate Act will allow individuals to support themselves and their families, reducing recidivism.** Research shows that five years after benefitting from records clearance, individuals were less likely than members of the general public to be convicted of a crime.

**TAKE ACTION**

[www.cleanslateny.org/take-action](http://www.cleanslateny.org/take-action)



**Clean  
Slate**



# THE CLEAN SLATE BILL

An amended version of the Clean Slate Act (S.1553B/A.6399A) was introduced on June 7th, 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
- ✓ The conviction to be cleared is not a sex offense
- ✓ They have not accrued subsequent NYS convictions or pending NYS charges during the waiting period

## Automatic SEALING

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

For **felonies** - 7 years from sentencing (excluding any time spent incarcerated)

*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 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)