

# 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**



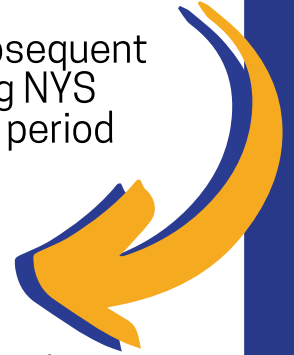
# THE CLEAN SLATE BILL

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)