



2015

**Opportunity
Agenda**



**New York State is
back... *and leading*
*the way forward.***



Protecting Taxpayer Dollars

State of Progress

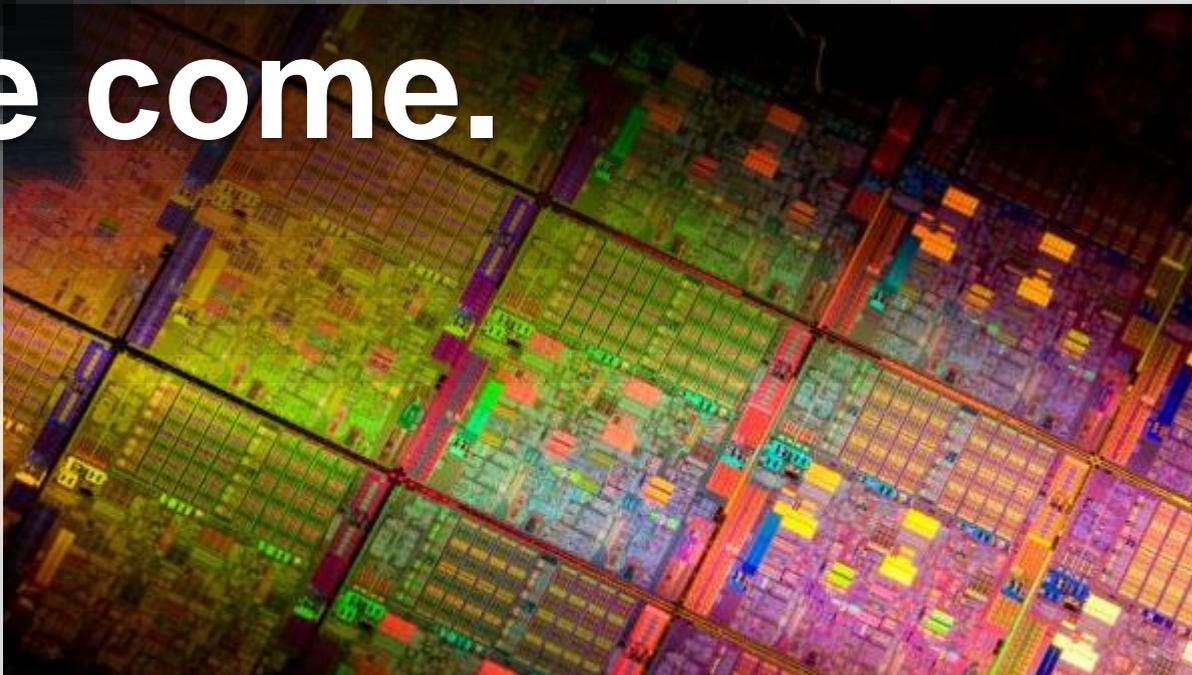
2015 Opportunity Agenda



Look at how far
we have come.



Protecting Taxpayer Dollars



2010

8.9% unemployment



2015



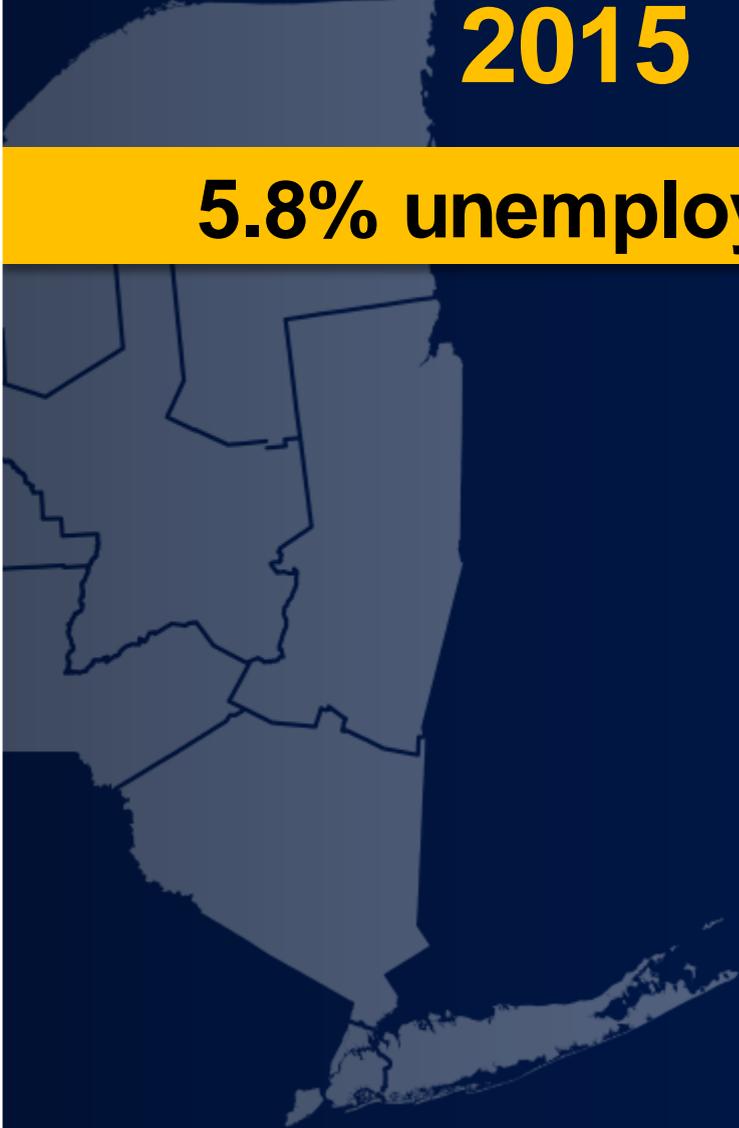
2010

8.9% unemployment



2015

5.8% unemployment



2010

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Low credit ratings

2015

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Highest credit ratings in 40 years by all 3 agencies

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Taxes and spending
going up

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Highest credit ratings in 40
years by all 3 agencies

Upstate rebuilding

Taxes and spending cut to
lowest rate in 50 years

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Low credit ratings

Upstate decay

Taxes and spending
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Property taxes growing at
6% a year

2015

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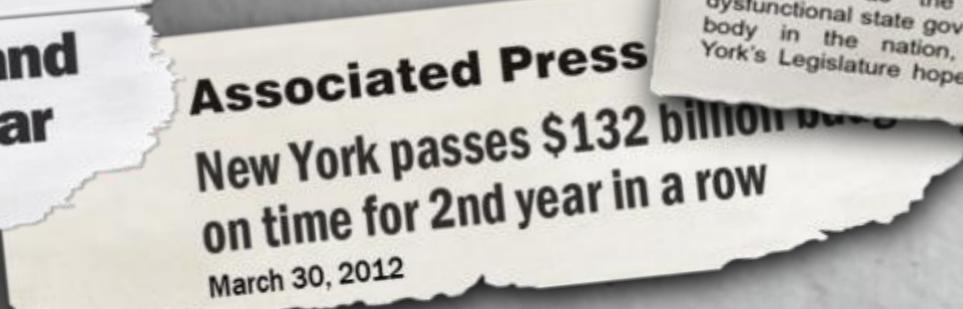
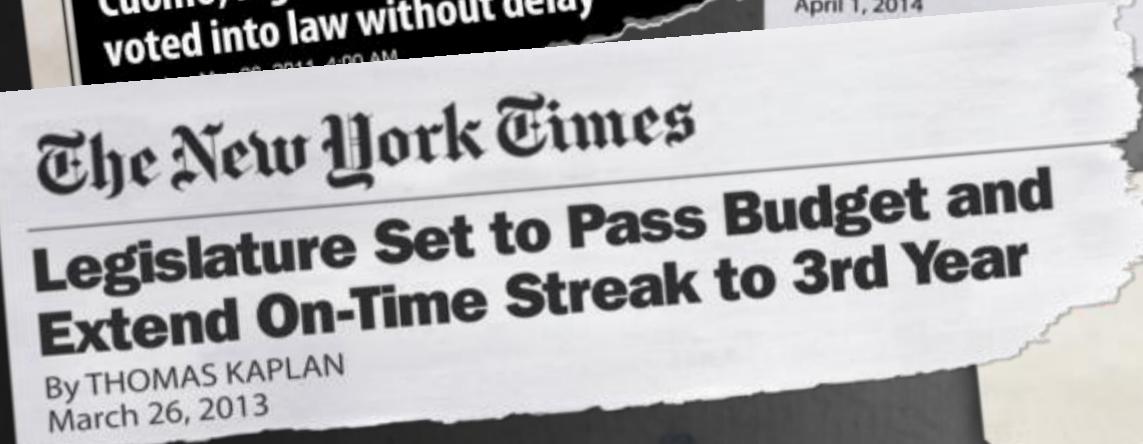
Highest credit ratings in 40
years by all 3 agencies

Upstate rebuilding

Taxes and spending cut to
lowest rate in 50 years

Property taxes capped at
2%, then frozen

It was historic progress – it made our state a better state.





**New York is now a
State of Opportunity.**



And this year we will
reach even higher.

Opportunity Agenda

1. Economic Opportunity
2. Education Reform
3. Public Safety
4. Ethics Reform



Opportunity
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Part I:

Economic Opportunity

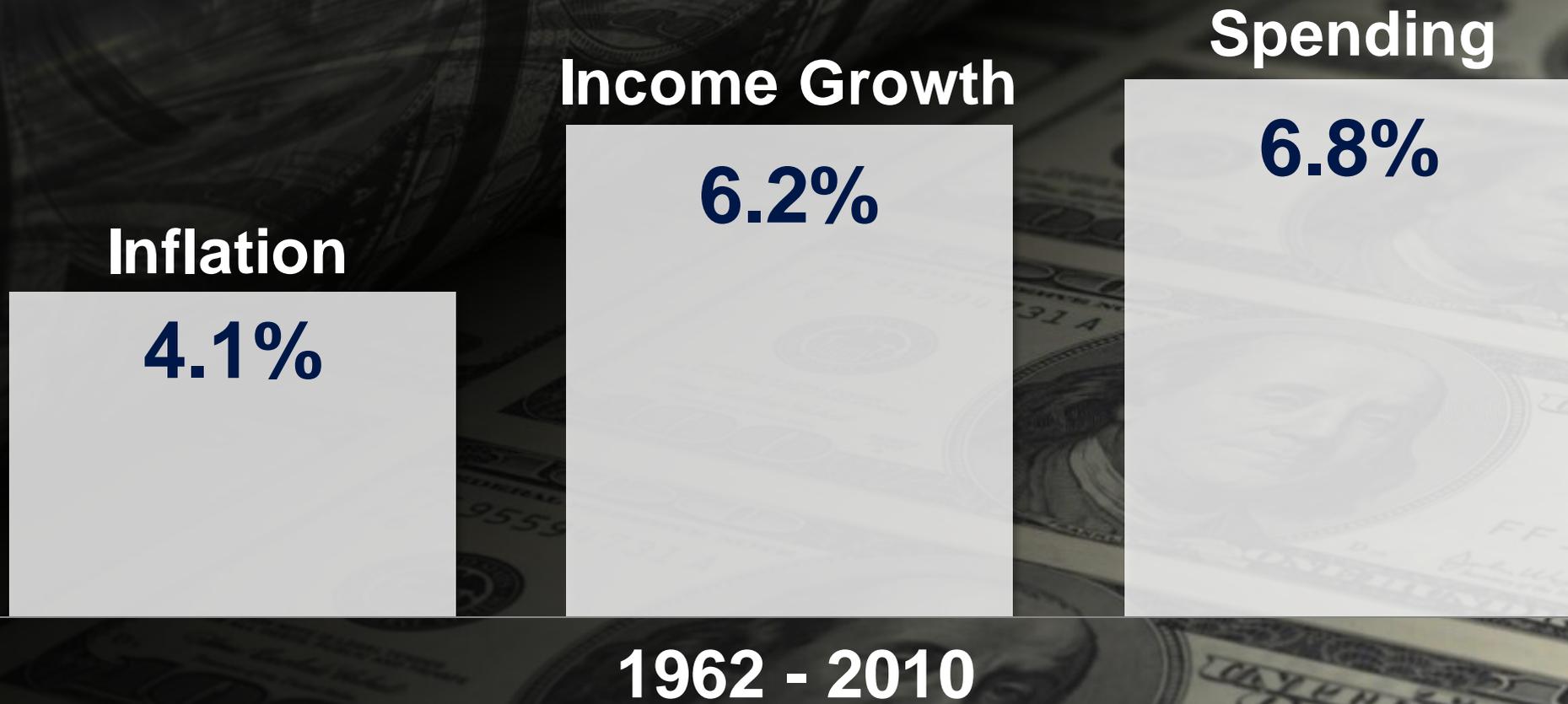
To keep the economy growing, we must continue our strategies that are working.



First, we must maintain our fiscal discipline.



For the past 50 years, the State spent more than people earned.



We reversed that trend – and held spending below 2% for 4 years.

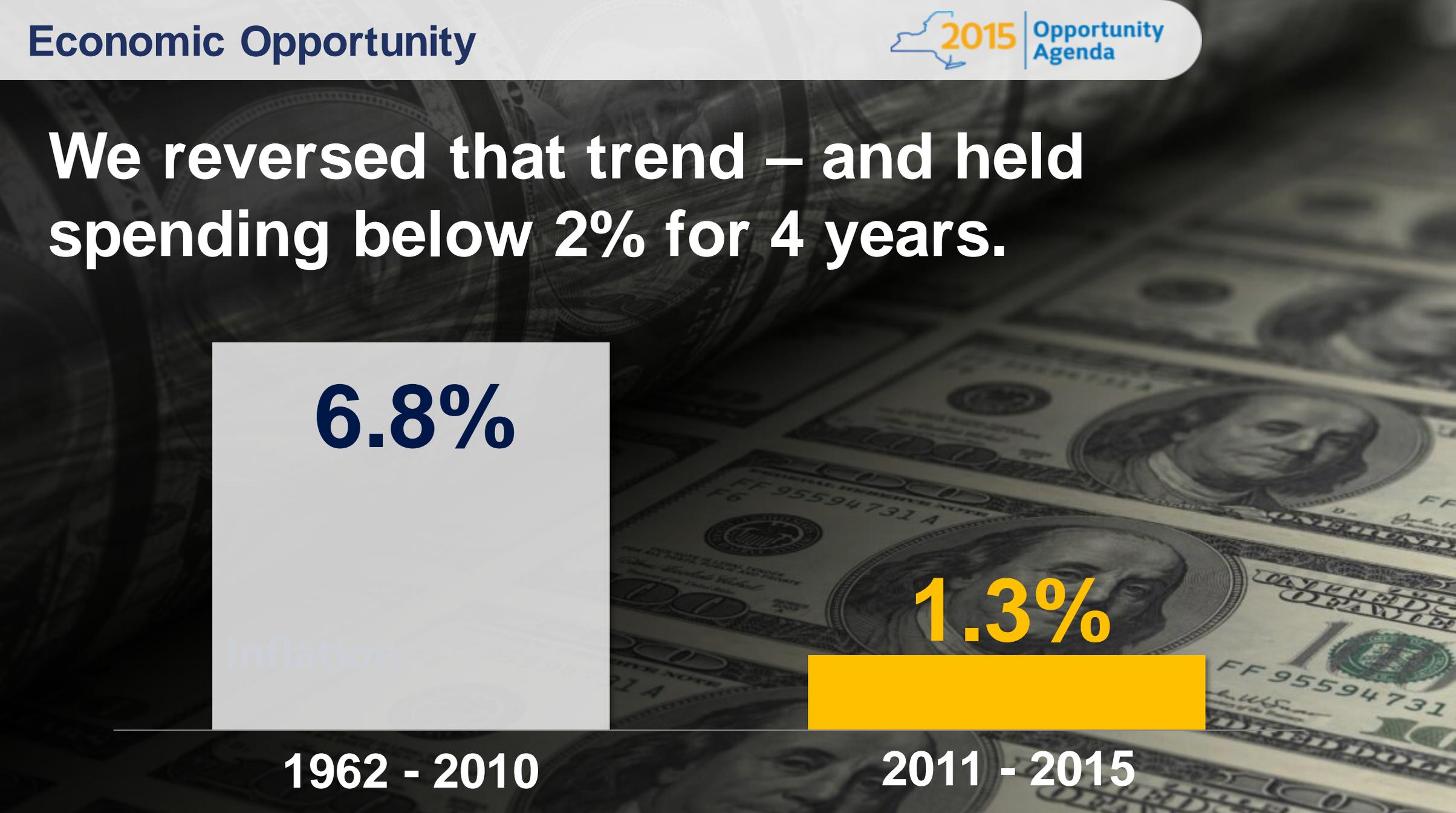
6.8%

Inflation

1962 - 2010

1.3%

2011 - 2015



**Because we spend less,
we can tax less.**



And we have made historic progress.



**Lowest middle class
tax rate since 1953**



**Lowest corporate income
tax rate since 1968**



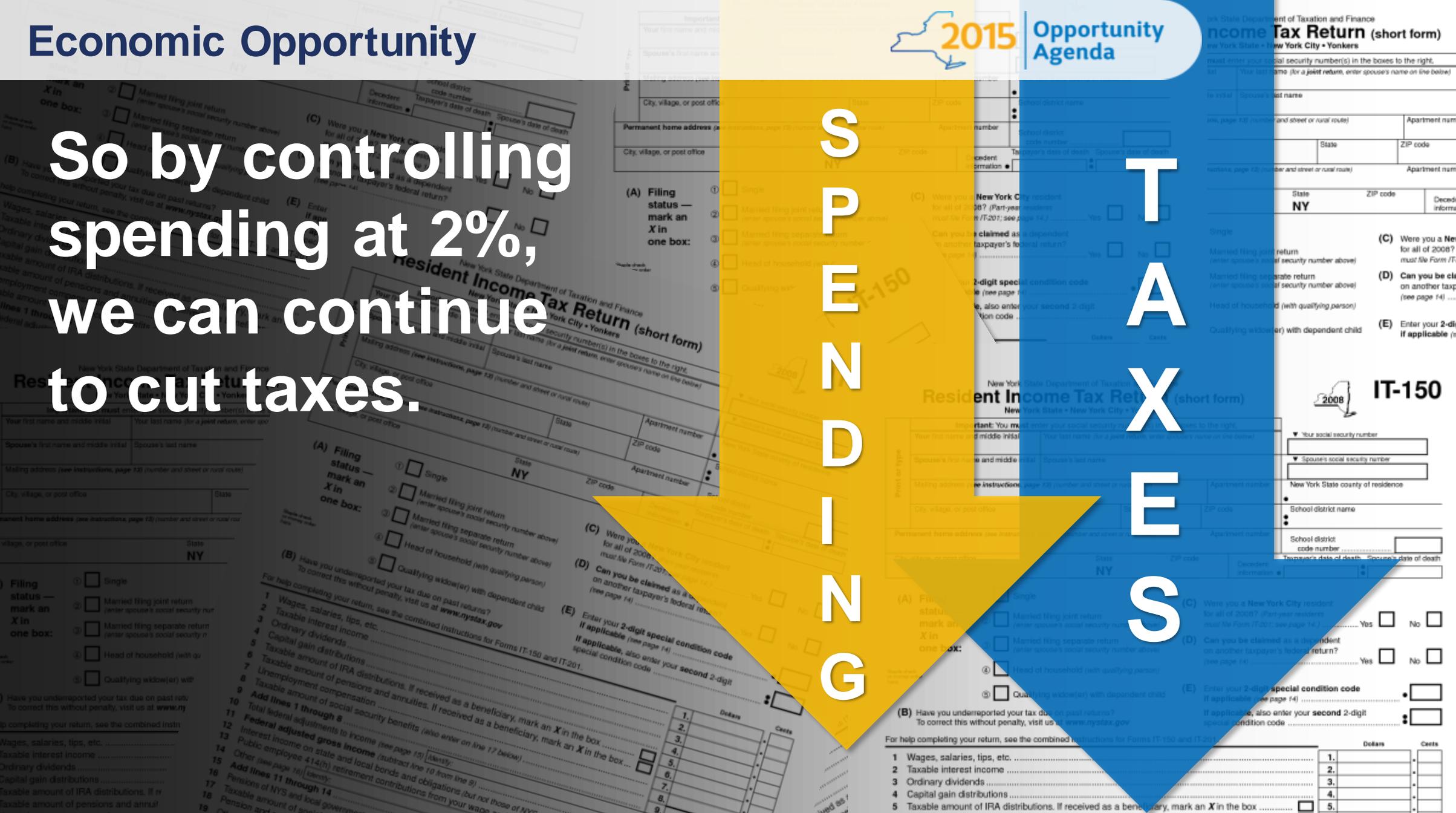
**Lowest manufacturers
tax rate since 1917**

Economic Opportunity



So by controlling spending at 2%, we can continue to cut taxes.

SPENDING TAXES



Let's help small businesses grow by dramatically cutting their taxes from 6.5% to 2.5%, the lowest in 100 years.



Our approach to property taxes:

- 2011 **First, we capped**
- 2014 **Then, we froze**
- 2015 **Now... we will cut**

We propose cutting property taxes a total \$1.7 billion.



**1.3 million homeowners
will save an average of
nearly \$1,000 a year.**



**And we will extend relief
to 1 million renters.**

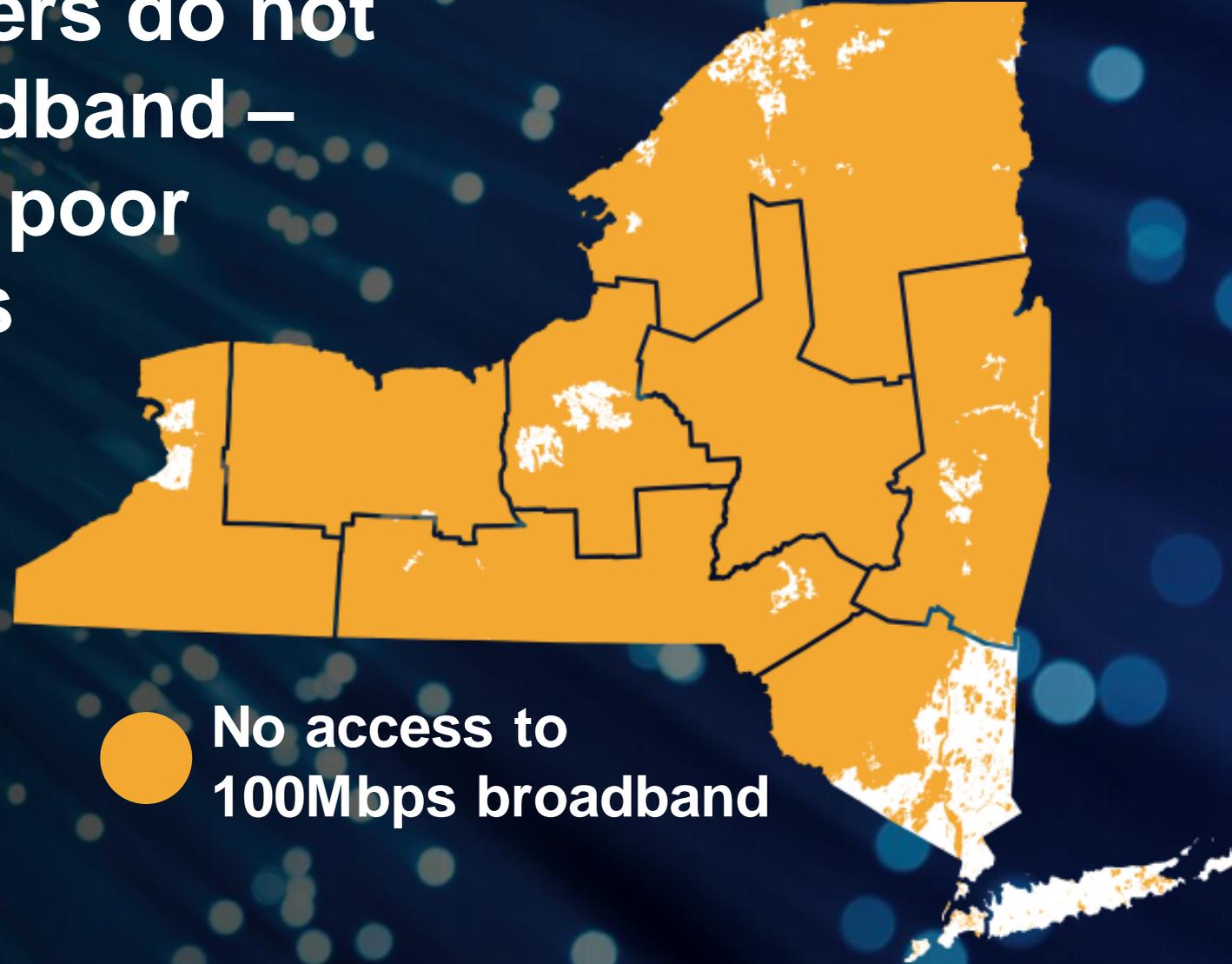


**A growing economy
also needs to invest
in its infrastructure.**



Too many New Yorkers do not have adequate broadband – hurting Upstate and poor Downstate residents the most.

- **500,000 homes and 4,000 businesses have no access at all.**

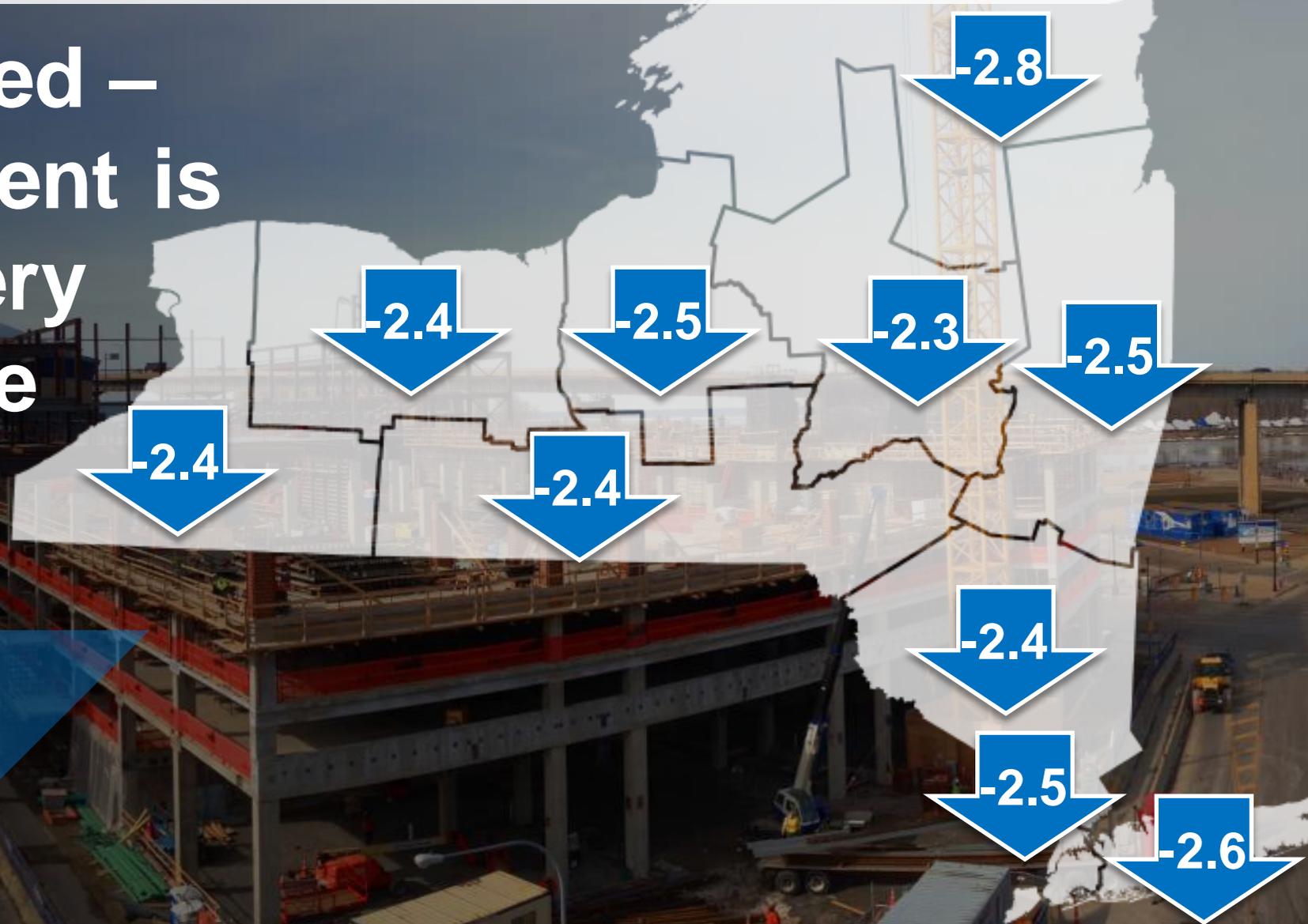


We will partner with the private sector and invest \$1 billion to expand broadband to every corner of the state by 2018.

**We have focused on
Upstate New York's
economy like
never before.**



And it worked – unemployment is down in every region of the state.



**The REDCs are
reviving the
Upstate economy,
and we must keep
them going.**



We embarked on an ambitious enterprise to turn around Western New York – and we did.



**We have turned the tide
and we're sailing toward
a new Buffalo.**

FIRST NIAGARA CENTER

Tourism continues to be a successful jobs generator – especially Upstate.



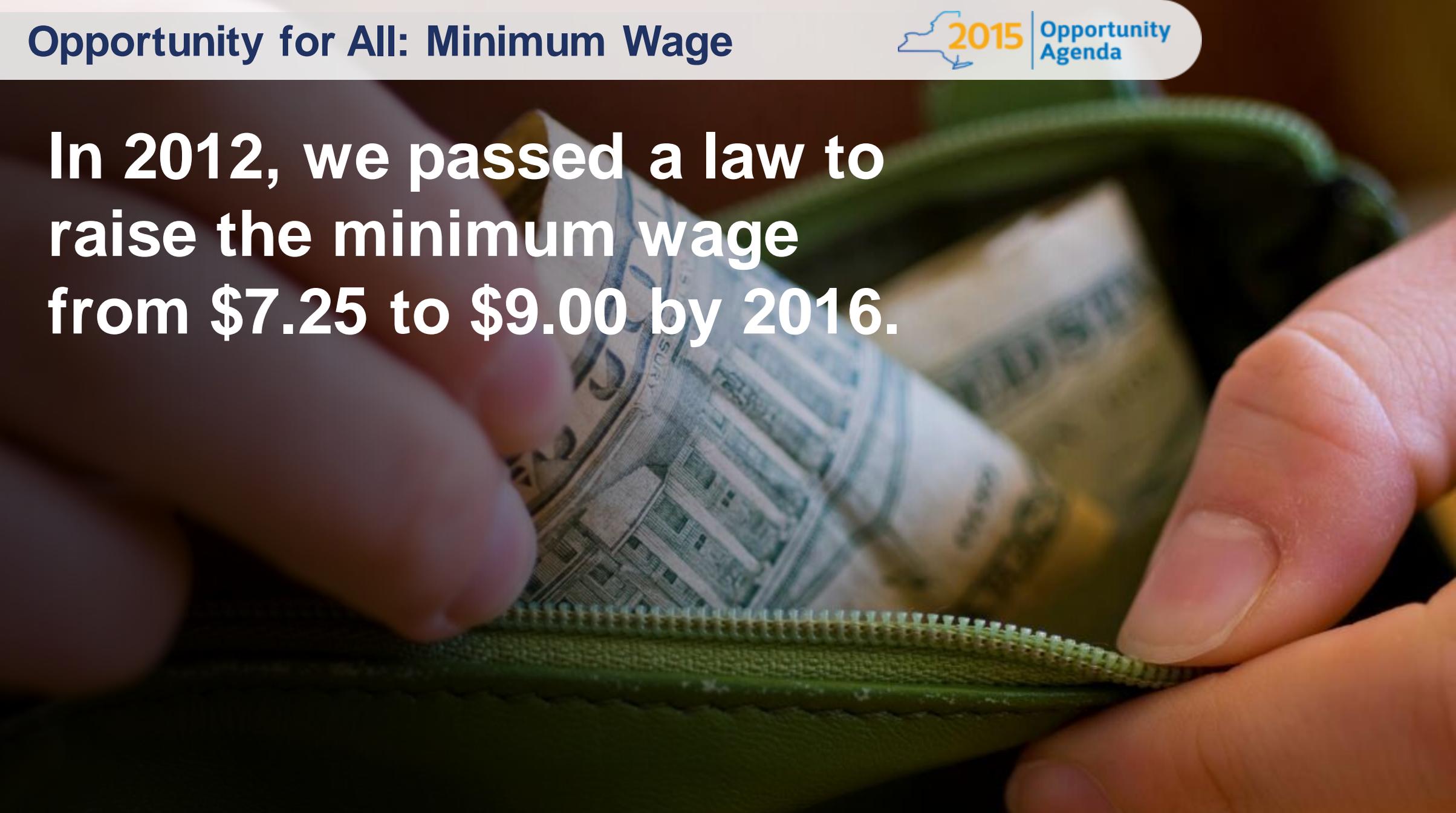
We will continue to bring international attention to Upstate with our challenges and a \$25 million investment in our I♥NY campaign.



**Our economic recovery
must reach all New
Yorkers including those
left in the shadow of
opportunity.**



In 2012, we passed a law to raise the minimum wage from \$7.25 to \$9.00 by 2016.



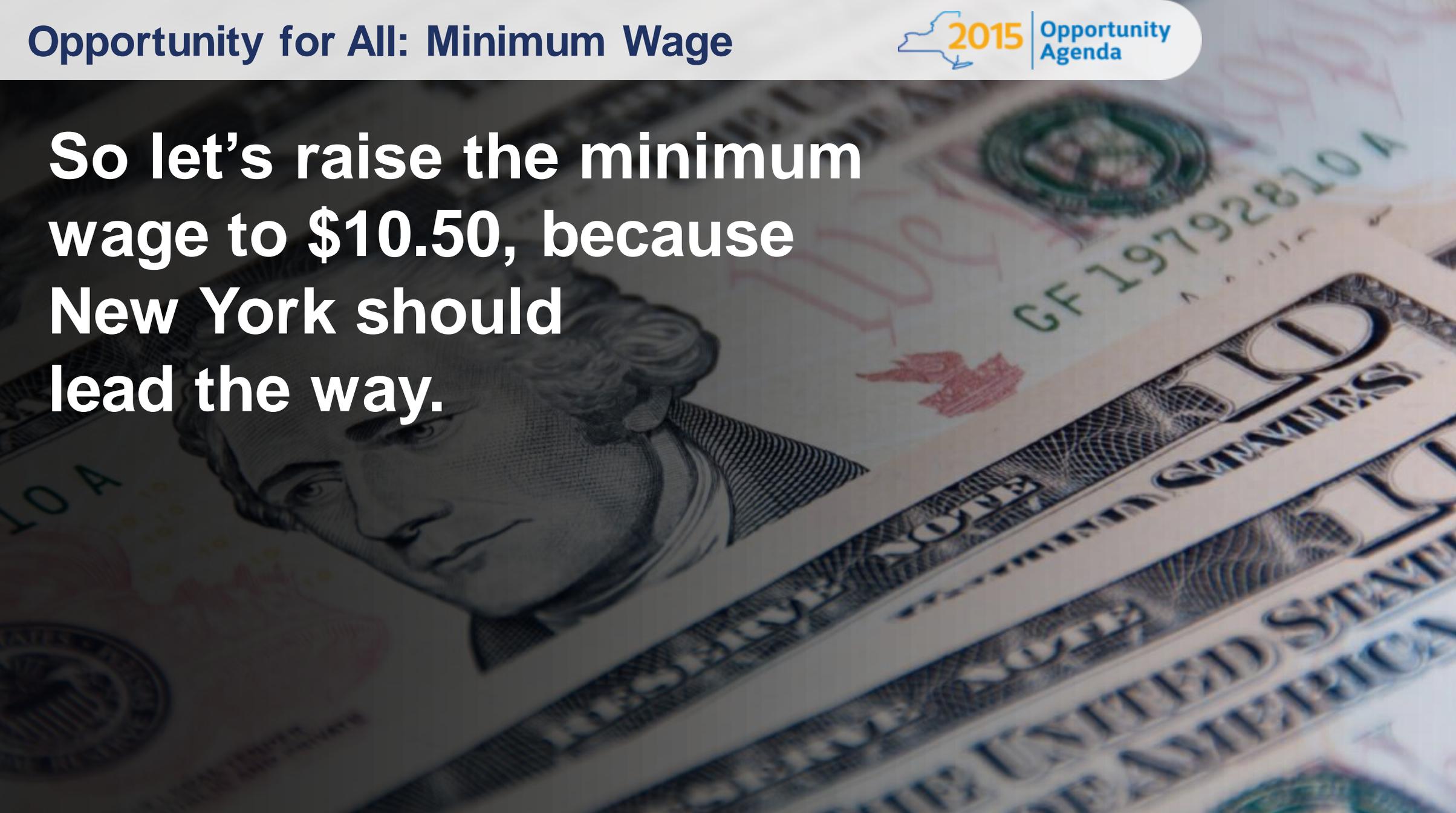
It helped, but the wage gap continues to get worse.



Because the minimum wage should pay for food and rent and lead one out of poverty.



So let's raise the minimum wage to \$10.50, because New York should lead the way.





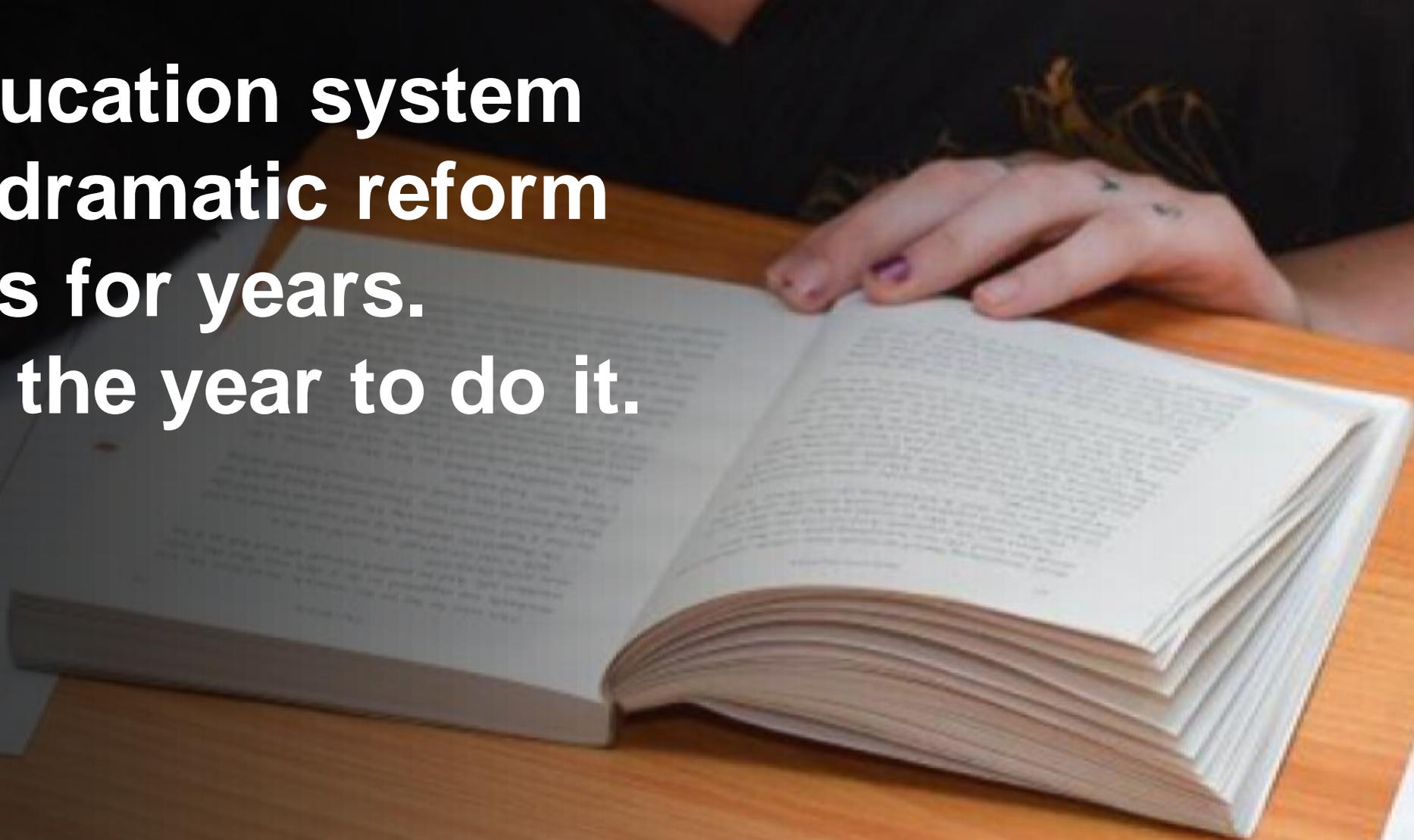
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Part II:

Education Reform

**Our education system
needs dramatic reform
and has for years.
This is the year to do it.**



We want to:

- 1. Recruit the best teachers**
- 2. Close failing schools**
- 3. Invest in early education**

1. Recruit the best teachers:
**We all want the best teachers
in our classrooms.**



To help recruit the best and brightest, we propose paying full tuition to SUNY or CUNY for the top graduate program candidates who commit to teaching in New York for at least 5 years.

For existing teachers, we need real teacher evaluations:

- **Incentivize high performing teachers**
- **Help the struggling teachers**
- **Remove bad teachers from classrooms**



The current teacher evaluation system is not accurate.

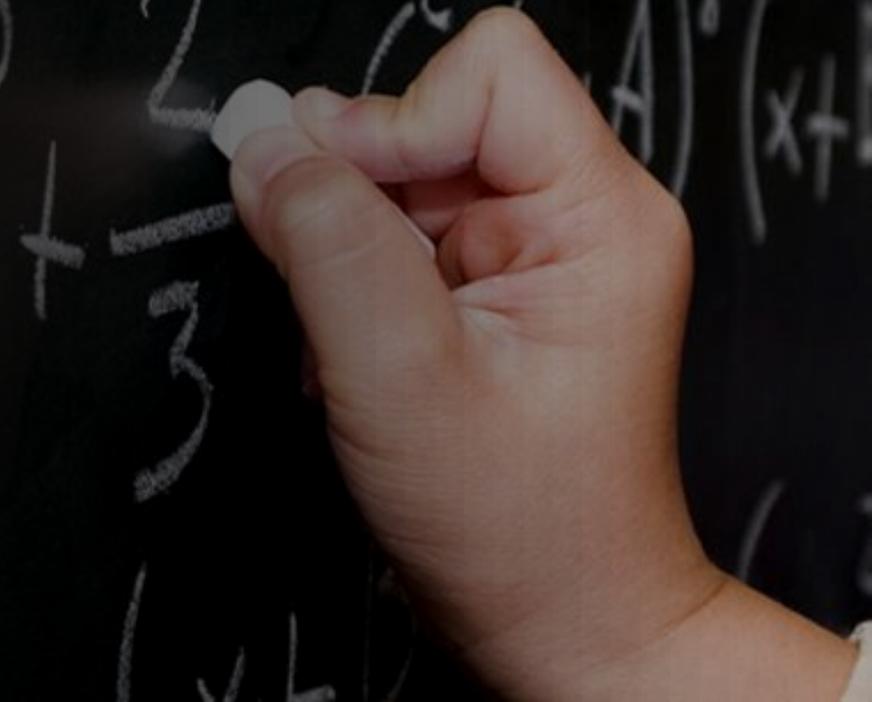


Why?

38.1% HS students are college-ready

98.7% of high school teachers rated effective

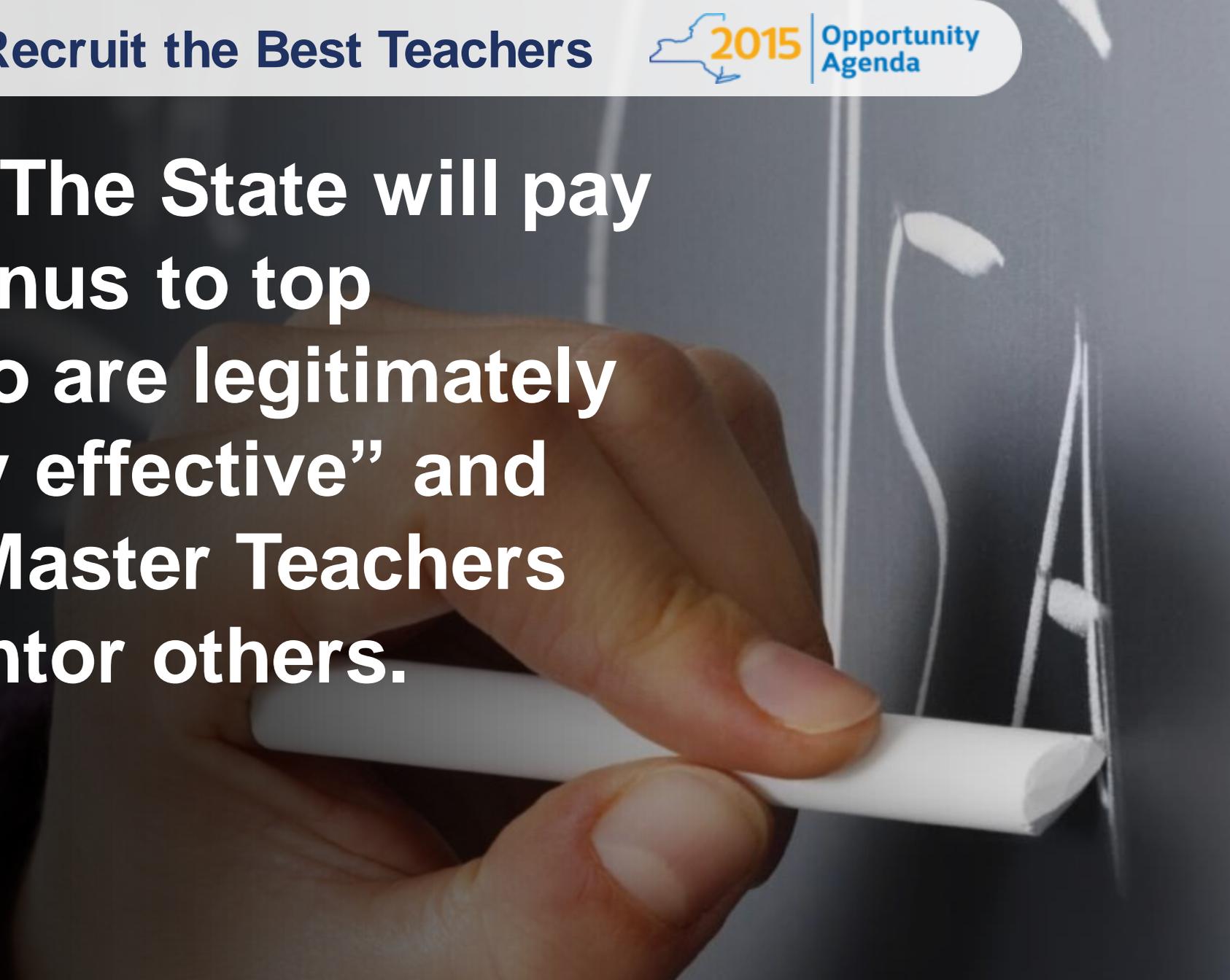
The problem is clear. And the solution is clear: We need real, accurate, fair teacher evaluations.



**Once we have a fair
evaluation system we can
incentivize performance.**



And we will. The State will pay a \$20,000 bonus to top teachers who are legitimately rated “highly effective” and make them Master Teachers who can mentor others.



For teachers who need support, we will offer a Teacher Improvement Plan to increase their performance.



In the unfortunate case when a chronically ineffective teacher – despite our help – does not improve, we must protect our students by removing the chronically ineffective teacher from the classroom.

**2. We must fix
chronically failing
public schools.**



Graduation Rates

State
Average

76.4%

Failing
Schools

47%

Worse, more than 9 out of 10 students in failing schools are minority or poor.



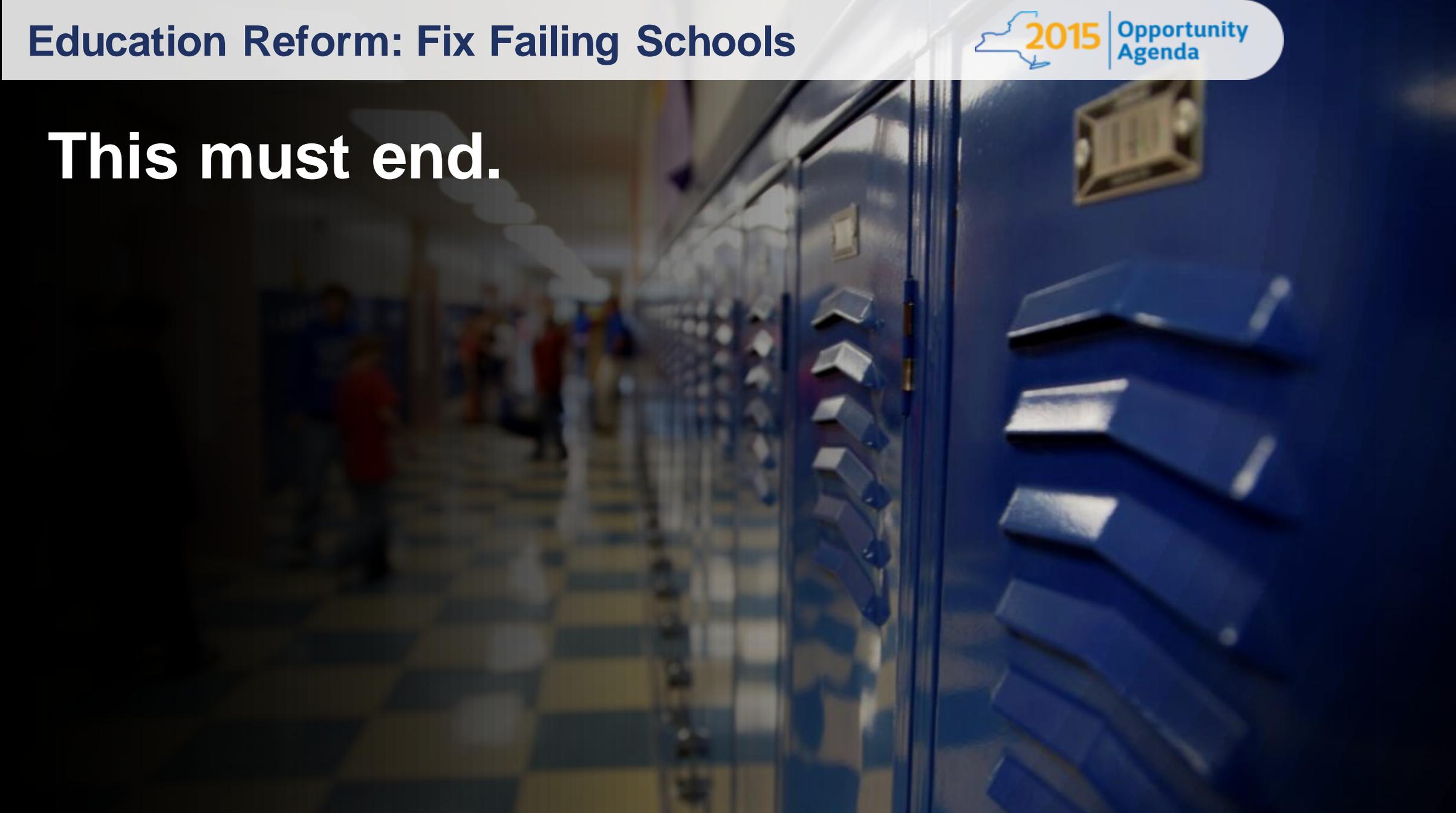
There are a shocking 178 failing schools in New York State – 77 have been failing for an entire decade.



Over the last ten years, 250,000 children went through these failing schools while New York State government did nothing.



This must end.



When a school fails for 3 years, a nonprofit, another school district, or a turnaround expert must take over the school.



We will turn each school into a community school – with wrap-around services – and develop a management overhaul plan.



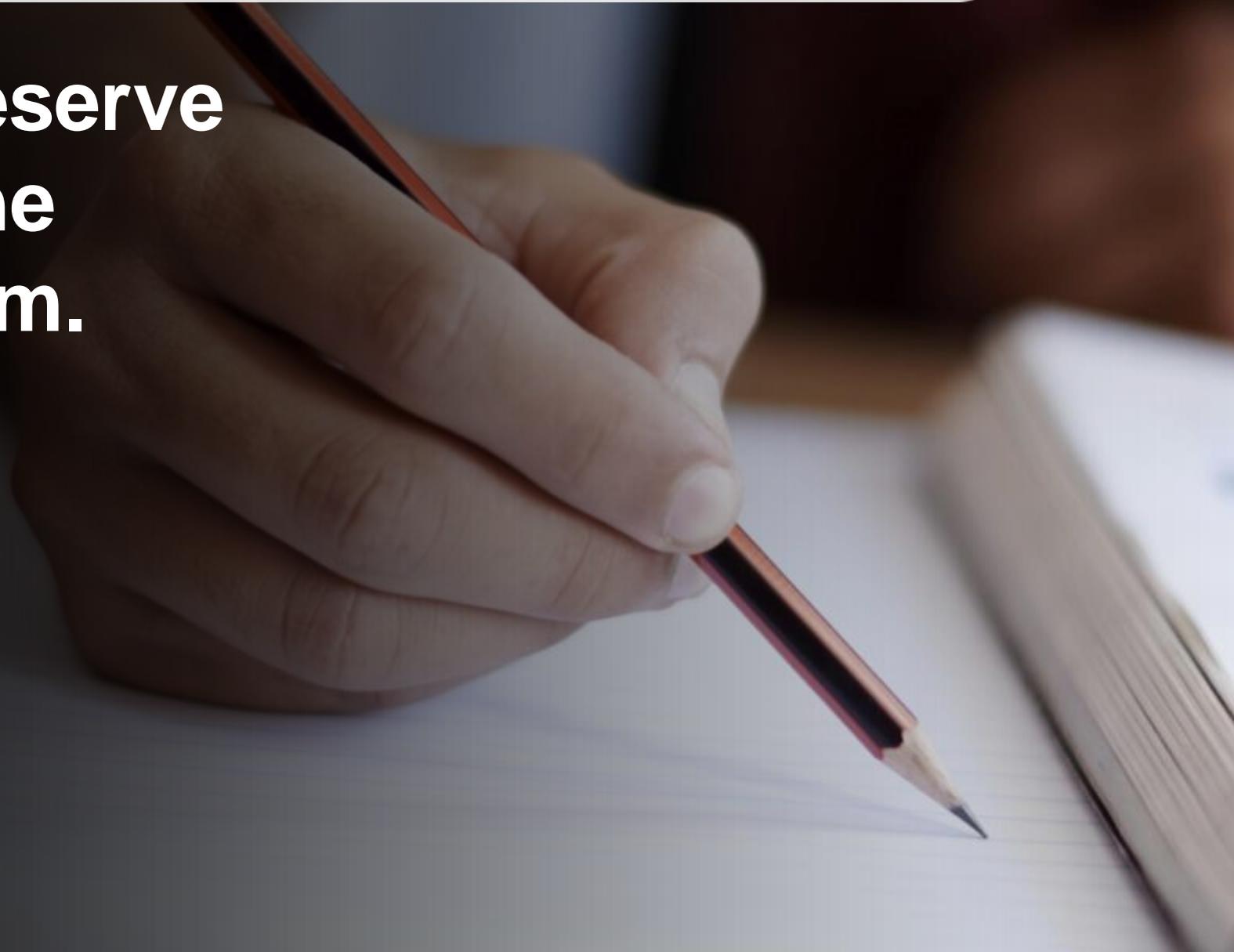
**Charter schools provide
a viable option for many
of our students.**



We propose giving students in failing schools a preference in charter school lotteries.

To ensure that charter schools are serving all of the public, we will also propose “anti-creaming” legislation to ensure charters are teaching their fair share of high-needs populations (ELL, learning disabled and free lunch).

**All students deserve
a fair shot at the
American dream.**





Let's pass the \$100 million Education Tax Credit for public and private scholarships.



Let's pass the DREAM Act – with \$27 million in this year's budget to make it a reality.

3. Invest in Early Education: We know that the earlier students enter a classroom, the more opportunity and success they have later in life.



Therefore, we have committed \$1.5 billion to phase in full day Statewide Universal Pre-K for 4-year olds.



**Let's keep high-quality
Pre-K for 4-year olds
going by investing
\$365 million this year.**



**And lets take the next step
in state-of-the-art early
education and begin
designing programs to
help 3-year olds.**



3-year olds enrolled in high-quality programs make some of the largest gains in cognitive and behavioral skills.



This is a bold reform agenda.



We propose an increase of 4.8%, or \$1.1 billion if the Legislature stands up for the students.

1.7%

\$377 million

4.8%

\$1.1 billion



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Part III:
Public Safety

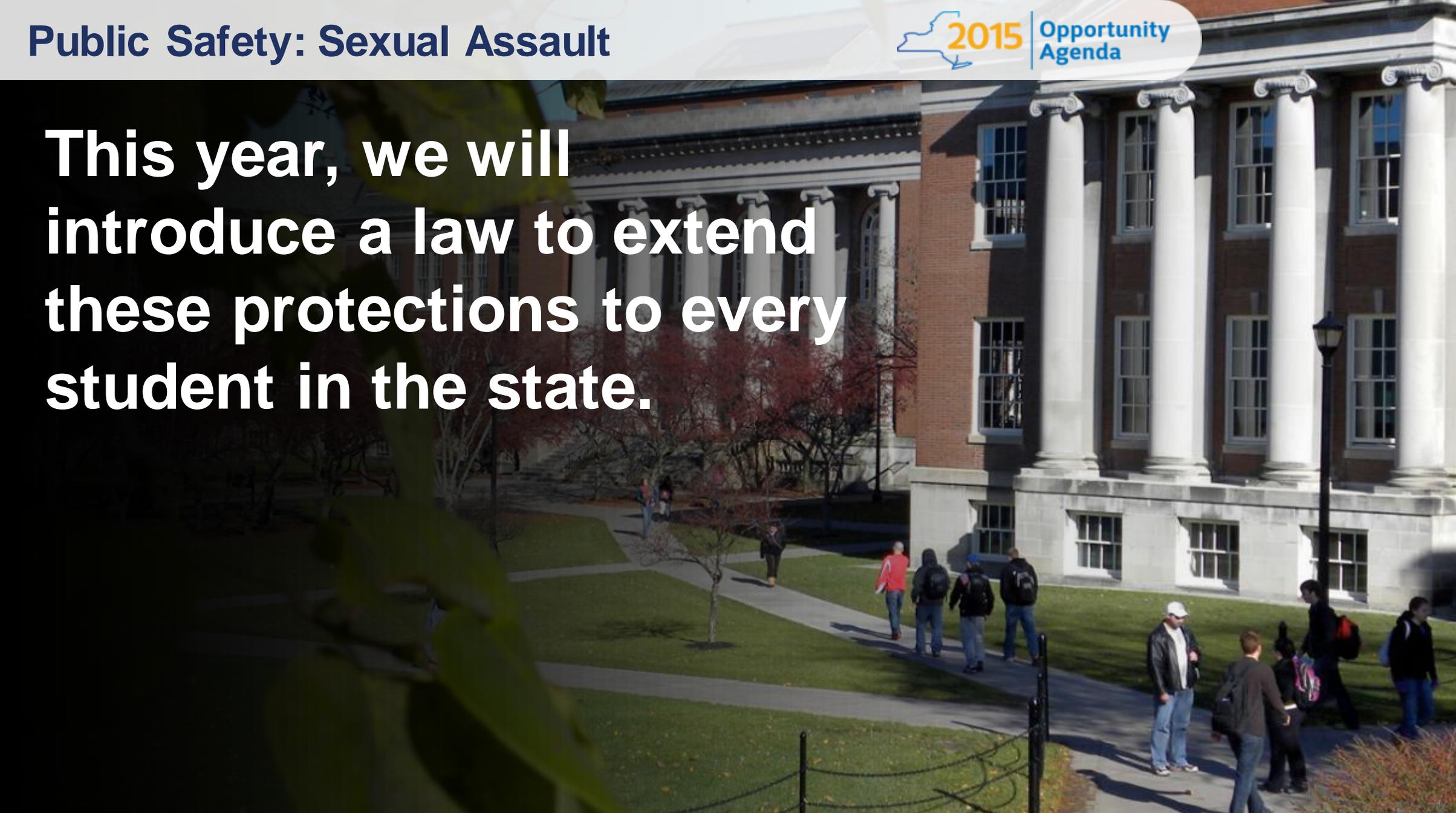
New York now has more schools being investigated for sexual assault than any other state in the nation.



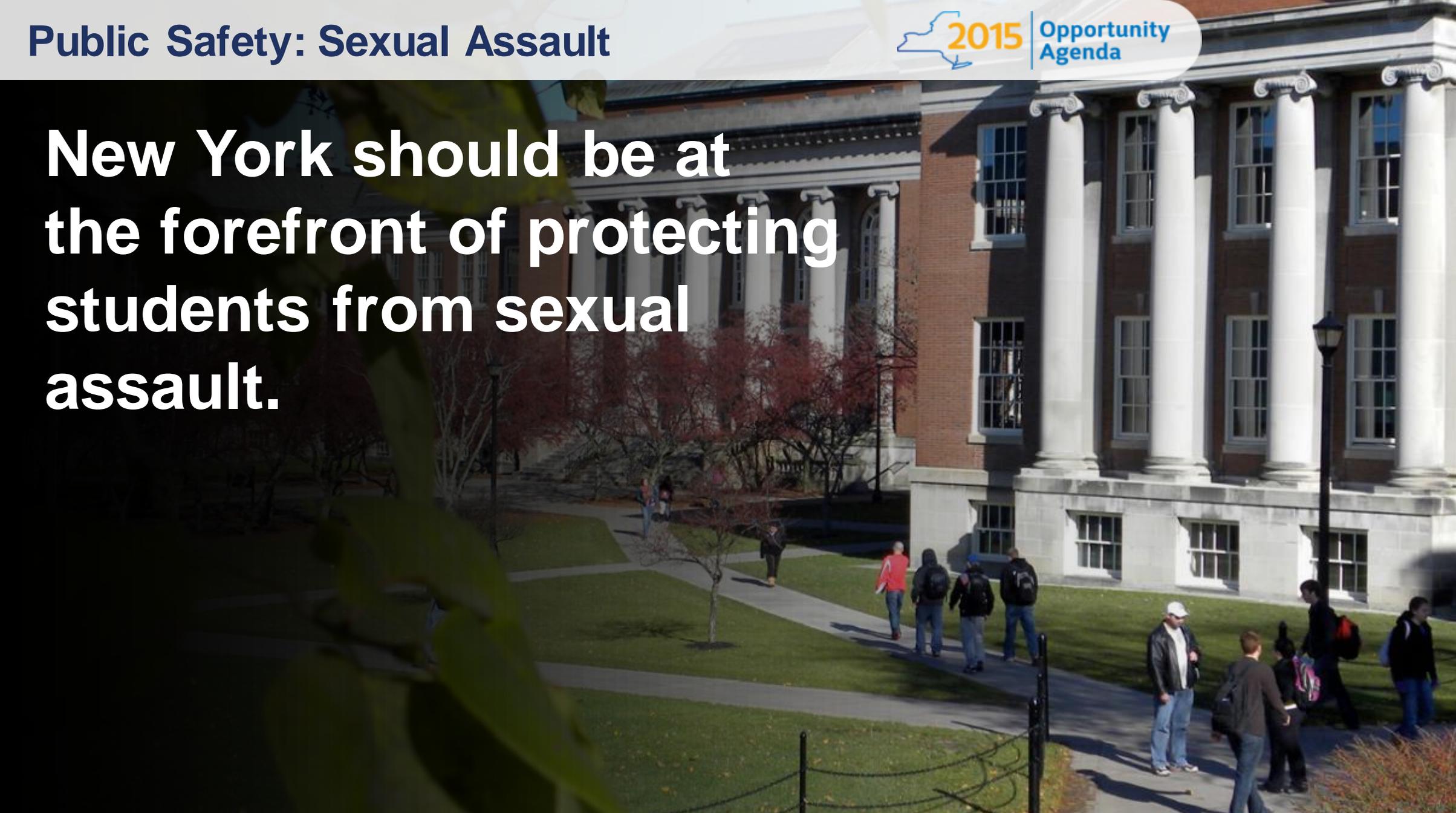
Last fall, SUNY approved our proposal to mandate affirmative consent and ensure a woman's access to law enforcement.



This year, we will introduce a law to extend these protections to every student in the state.



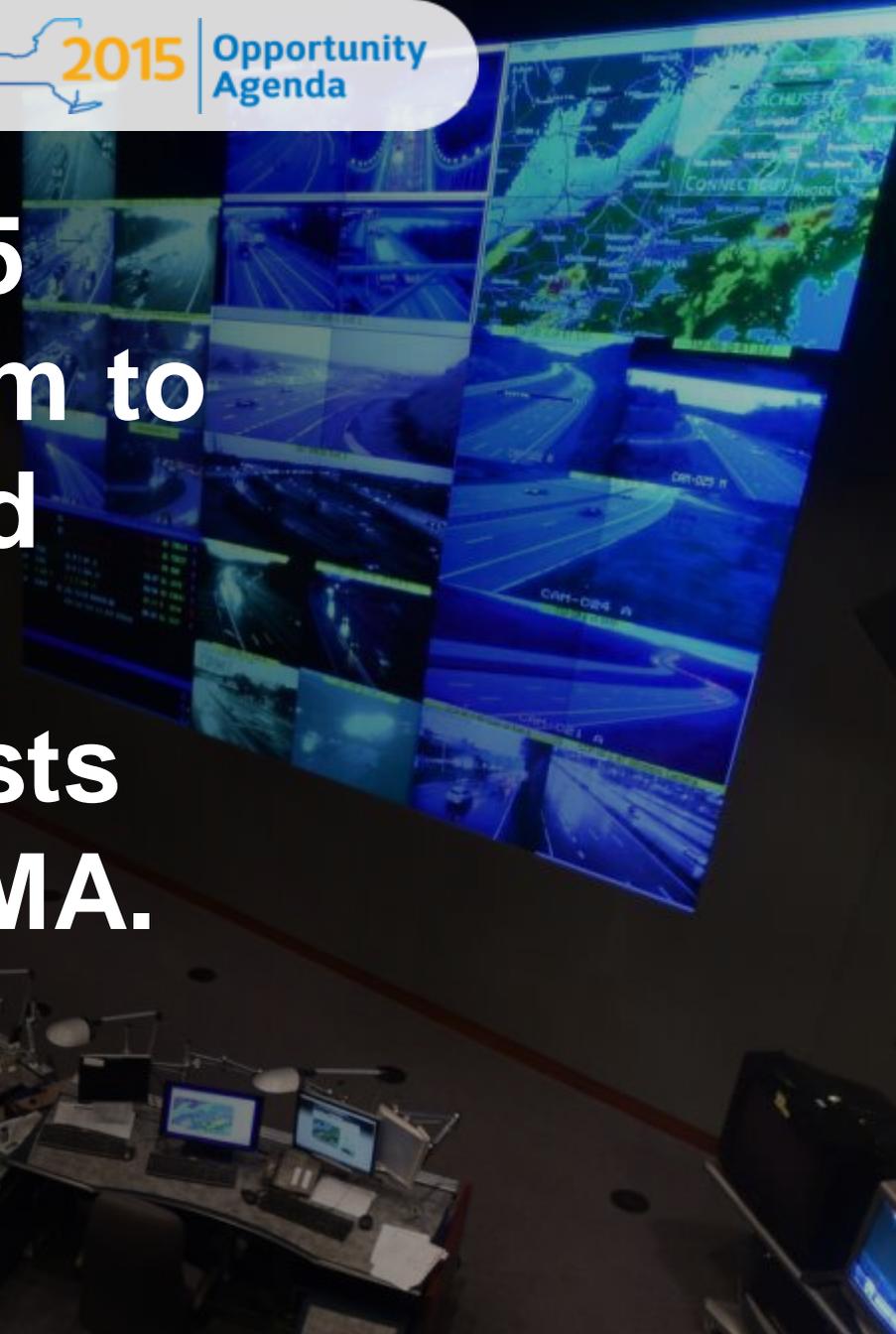
New York should be at the forefront of protecting students from sexual assault.



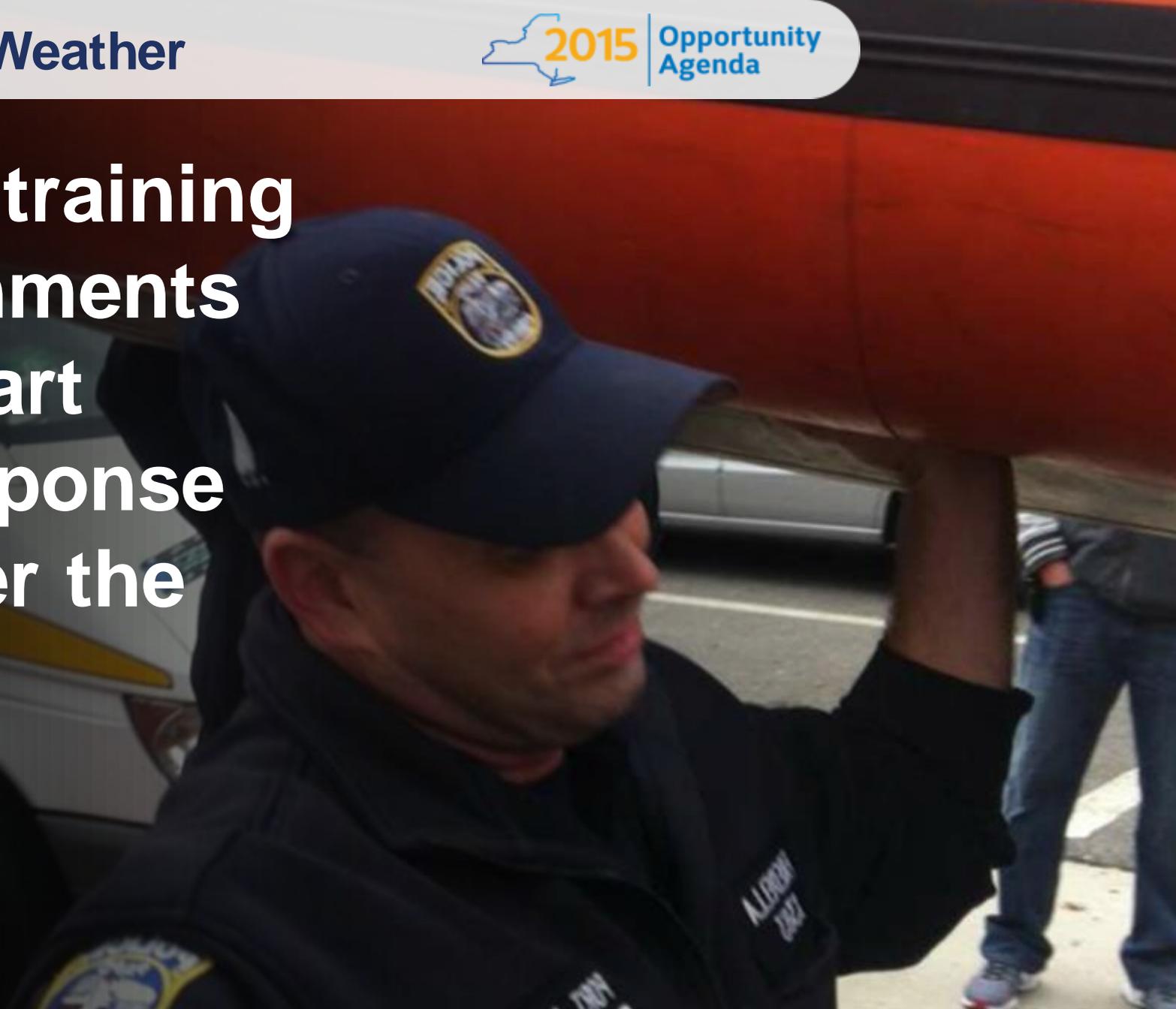
Extreme weather is the new normal.



We propose creating the \$15 million STORM online system to coordinate federal, State and local emergency response efforts and to track local costs and reimbursements for FEMA.



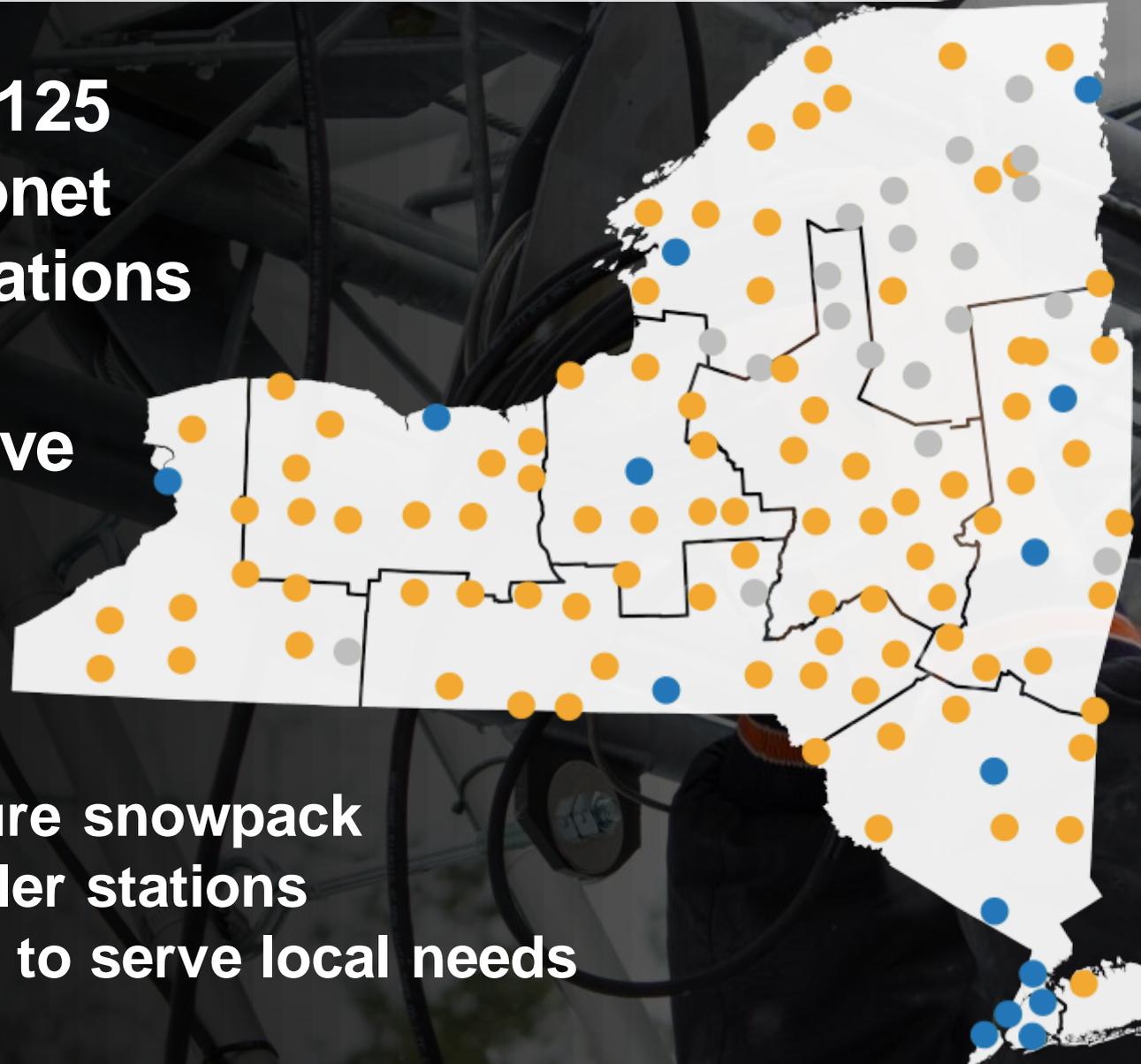
And we will be training all local governments in state-of-the-art emergency response techniques over the next year.



We propose investing \$50 million in snow plows to keep our roads open, and new emergency vehicles and GPS systems because having the right equipment is a matter of life and death.



And we're installing 125 state-of-the-art mesonet weather detection stations to collect real-time information to improve our response.



- 20 stations to measure snowpack
- 17 3-D regional profiler stations
- 88 standard stations to serve local needs



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Part IV:

Ethics

Reform

Over the past four years, we've proven that the New York State government can work again.



But as recent headlines show, there are still too many scandals in Albany.

AP Associated Press

FBI: Assembly Speaker Sheldon Silver arrested
January 22, 2015

lohud THE A G

Speaker Sheldon Silver's corruption arrest stuns Capitol
Speaker, Jon Campbell Albany Bureau January 22, 2015

The New York Times

Sheldon Silver, New York Assembly Speaker, Faces Arrest on Corruption Charges
By WILLIAM K. RASHBAUM, THOMAS KAPLAN and SUSANNE CRAIG
JAN. 22, 2015

NEW YORK POST

NY Senate leader is US attorney's new target
By Jamie Schram, Carl Campanile and Peter...

DAILY NEWS

Queens Assemblyman William Scarborough hit with double shot of corruption indictments
Dem lawmaker faces 23 state raps, 11 federal charges over use of travel reimbursements.
BY KENNETH LOVETT, GLENN BLAIN Published: Wednesday, October 1, 2014

AP Associated Press

Scarborough charged in corruption probe
OCTOBER 2, 2014

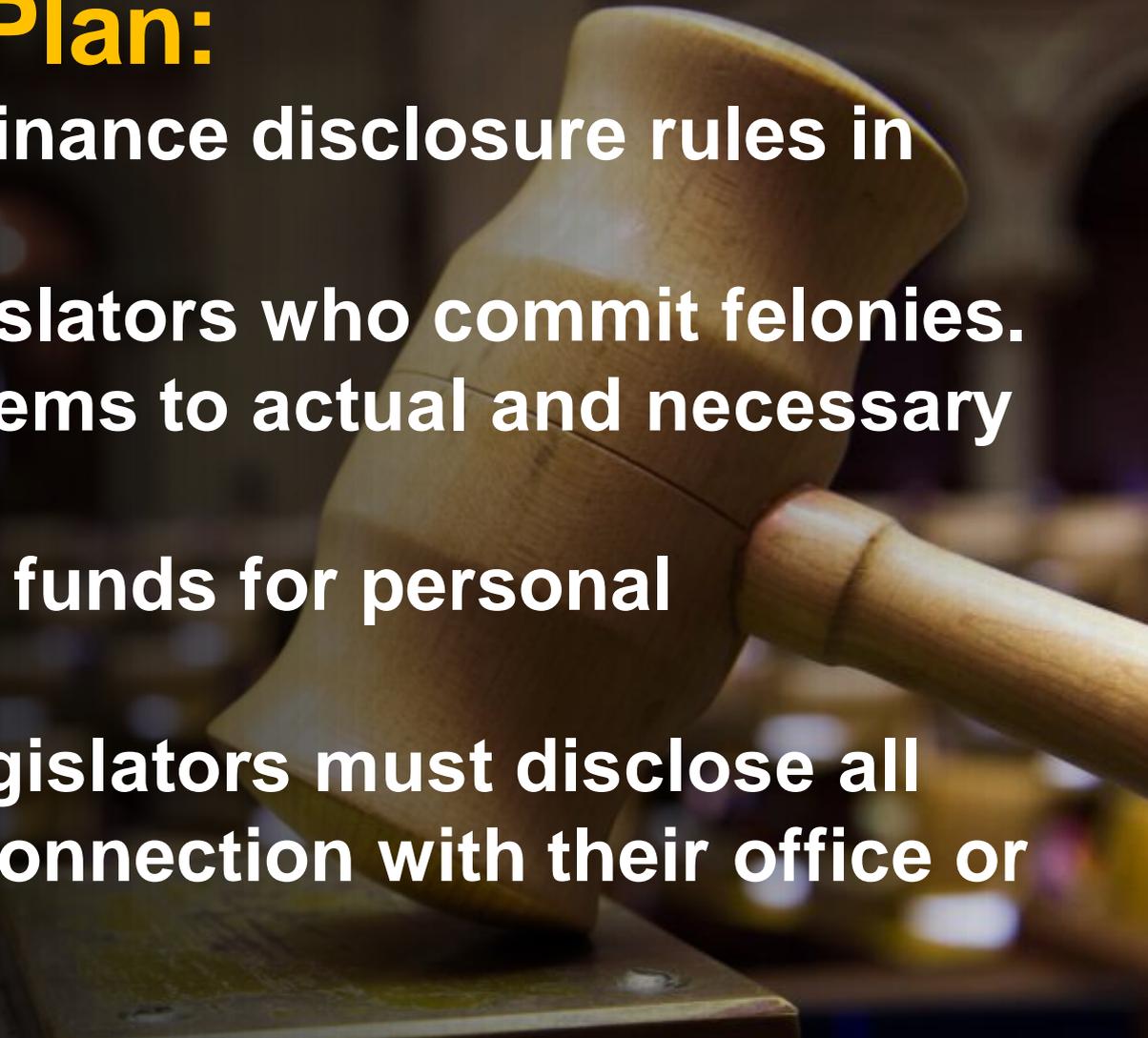
4 NEW YORK

U.S. Attorney Investigating NY Senate Leader Dean Skelos: Sources
Skelos' ties to the real estate industry are among the areas of inquiry, sources said
By Jonathan Dienst, Joe Valiquette and Kevin Nious

This year, the Governor will propose a dramatic ethics reform plan to make New York a national leader.



The Clean Up Albany Plan:

- 1. The strongest campaign finance disclosure rules in the nation.**
 - 2. Pension forfeiture for legislators who commit felonies.**
 - 3. Reduce legislators' per diems to actual and necessary costs.**
 - 4. Stop the use of campaign funds for personal expenses.**
 - 5. "Ultimate disclosure": Legislators must disclose all outside income and any connection with their office or the State government.**
- 
- A close-up photograph of a wooden gavel resting on a wooden block. The gavel is positioned diagonally, with the head of the gavel in the upper right and the handle extending towards the lower left. The background is blurred, showing what appears to be a courtroom setting with other people and lights.

The Governor will not accept a budget from the Legislature unless it has these ethics reforms.



Because enough is enough.

Nelson Castro, Assembly Corruption Informant, Busted for Lying

By ADAM MARTIN
8/28/13

In addition to recording conversations with his colleagues in a federal corruption investigation, members of the...

Guilty Plea by Former N.Y. Assemblyman

By Erica Orden
August 27, 2013

Sen. Malcolm Smith, city Councilman Halloran arrested in 'bribery plot' to rig mayor race

By Josh Margolin
April 2, 2013

Sen. Malcolm Smith and Councilman Halloran...

State Senator From Queens Is Indicted

By SARAH MASLIN NIR
8/27/2012

and an aide steal money that the nonprofit agency was supposed to use to help poor people in the New York City area.

Second Albany Legislator Secretly Taped Colleagues

By THOMAS KAPLAN

A state legislator from Queens was secretly taped by a fellow legislator, a fact that she has shared with her colleagues.

New York legislator Eric Stevenson bought a Jaguar with his payoffs, feds say

DANIEL BEEKMAN
January 2, 2014

Assemblyman Eric Stevenson went on a buying jag, the feds say. The Bronx state assemblyman, whose trial is set for next month, was indicted on charges of bribery and embezzlement and...

Former State Sen. Shirley Huntley sentenced to one year and one day in prison, three years probation

Malcolm Smith and the alleged plot to rig the New York City mayoral race, explained

By RACHEL WEINER
April 2, 2013

Queens State Sen. Huntley Turns Herself In To Face Corruption Charges

By Jen Chung
August 27, 2012

While Huntley said, "I don't know the charges, I have no idea what this is about," today the News reports, "State campaign records show Huntley's campaign wrote..."

Ethics Panel Fines Lopez \$330,000 in Harassment Case

By Max Ehrenfreund
April 2, 2013

Several politicians and elected officials in New York were arrested today on corruption charges, the Associated Press reported. In meetings with a cooperating witness and an undercover FBI agent posing as a wealthy real estate developer, Smith agreed to bribe leaders of the Democratic Party...

And government cannot function at its highest level without the trust of its citizens.



This agenda represents dramatic change. And since change is hard, we need your help.



**We need you to
contact your elected
representatives.
Your legislator will
respond to your
voice.**



An aerial photograph of New York City, showing a dense urban landscape with a mix of brick and modern glass buildings. The Hudson River is visible in the background under a blue sky with scattered clouds. The text "New York is on the move." is overlaid in the center of the image.

**New York is on the
move.**

An aerial photograph of a city, likely Indianapolis, showing a dense urban landscape with various buildings, streets, and a large body of water in the background under a blue sky with scattered clouds. The text 'Let's keep it going.' is overlaid in the center of the image.

Let's keep it going.



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