

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 and 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 our communities.

Clean Slate (S.211/A.1029) is a bill for:

RACIAL JUSTICE



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 because of old conviction records.

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

ECONOMIC JUSTICE



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.

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.

This legislation would generate an estimated annual earnings boost to the state of \$7.1 billion.

PUBLIC SAFETY



By eliminating barriers to jobs, housing, and education, the Clean Slate Act will reduce recidivism as individuals will be better able to support themselves and their families.

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.



**Clean
Slate**



(S.211/A.1029)

is an automatic civil sealing bill.

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

A person is eligible for relief under Clean Slate if:



They have completed a three-year waiting period for misdemeanors or a eight-year waiting period for felonies, not counting time served in prison.



They have completed probation/parole.



They have no pending New York State charges.



The conviction to be cleared is not a sex offense or Class A felony, except for drug-related convictions.

Supporters of the Clean Slate Act recognize that it will boost economic growth, expand the state's workforce, and help businesses hire employees.

A large and diverse coalition is calling for passage of the Clean Slate Act. Supporters include:

- **Major labor unions**, including DC37, 1199 SEIU, Local 338 RWDSU/UFCW, Mason Tenders' District Council, Laborers' Local 79, and New York State Nurses Association;
- **Business leaders**, including three Fortune 500 companies (JP Morgan Chase, Verizon, and Microsoft) and the Business Council of New York State;
- **Chambers of Commerce**, including Rochester, Brooklyn and Harlem;
- **Local legislatures**, including New York City, Westchester, Buffalo, Albany County, City of Albany Ulster County, Newburgh, Poughkeepsie, Ellenville, Beacon, Columbia County, Hudson, and Catskill, who have all passed local resolutions calling for the enactment of Clean Slate.