



## Only markets stand in way of Japan's Takaichi

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# 1964 cold case suspect identified



Elmira Police Chief Kristen Thorne discusses the 1964 murder of 12-year-old Mary Theresa Simpson during a news conference Feb. 10. After six decades, DNA evidence confirmed Elmira resident Alfred Murray Jr., who died in 2004, was Mary's killer. JEFF MURRAY/ELMIRA STAR-GAZETTE

## Murder mystery of 12-year-old Elmira girl comes to closure

**Jeff Murray**  
Elmira Star-Gazette  
USA TODAY NETWORK

For more than 60 years, family members of Mary Theresa Simpson wondered who snatched the 12-year-old Elmira girl off the street and brutally murdered her.

Thanks to new technology and DNA evidence that was carefully preserved, the suspect known for decades simply as John Doe finally has a name — Alfred R. Murray, Jr.

Current and past officials and investigators from the Elmira Police Department and other law enforcement agencies gathered Tuesday, Feb. 10 at

the Chemung County District Attorney's Office to announce closure to a murder mystery that vexed police for years.

"The family finally got an answer. The case was never forgotten," Elmira police investigator Sgt. William Goodwin said.

"The wheels of justice move slowly," District Attorney Weeden Wetmore added. "The Elmira Police Department did a tremendous job."

### What happened to Mary Theresa Simpson?

Mary Theresa Simpson was only 12 years old when she vanished from

her Elmira home in March 1964. Her body was found four days later, but no suspect was ever identified.

After visiting some relatives on March 15, 1964, Mary was last seen heading home at about 6:30 p.m. at the corner of East Market and Harriet streets. Her father reported her missing at 10:30 p.m.

On March 19, 1964, Mary's frozen, fully clothed body was discovered in a wooded section of Southport under twigs, branches, leaves, dirt and four heavy stones — the largest weighing more than 100 pounds — by a man who was hiking with his two sons

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# Solar pushed to solve NY utility rate surge

**Thomas C. Zambito**  
New York State Team  
USA TODAY NETWORK

Gov. Kathy Hochul wants to add more nuclear power to a state energy grid that's increasingly dependent on natural gas as electric bills are surging. Climate goals the state established for renewable energy production also appear out of reach.

The solution? Solar power. A lot more solar power, State Sen. Pete Harckham declared Tuesday, Feb. 10.

"Solar is far cheaper than a kilowatt of natural gas, of oil, of coal, or especially nuclear," Harckham said in Albany, as he rallied support for a measure that would create incentives for the state to tap into more of the sun's energy. "Solar is much more rapidly scalable than any of these technologies...I mean nuclear we're at best talking about 15, 20 years from now."

### How should New York curb soaring electric bills?

Harckham's nothing-but-renewables approach places him at odds with Hochul, a fellow Democrat who's promoting an all-of-the-above approach to solving the state's energy generation issues. That means not only adding nuclear power upstate but wind and solar power and, in the interim, natural gas.

A few years ago Harckham said Westchester County's Indian Point nuclear power plant would restart "when Elvis Presley makes his comeback tour."

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**"Solar is far cheaper than a kilowatt of natural gas, of oil, of coal, or especially nuclear."**

State Sen. Pete Harckham

# Delgado drops Democratic primary run against Hochul

**Chris McKenna**  
New York State Team  
USA TODAY NETWORK

Lt. Gov. Antonio Delgado has dropped his long-shot bid to challenge Gov. Kathy Hochul in a Democratic primary after courting progressive support for months but only falling further behind in polls.

Delgado announced his decision on Tuesday, Feb. 10, four days after Hochul trounced him by 85% to 15% among party delegates at an endorsement convention. It came as a surprise after he had



Delgado

vowed to stay in the race and collect petition signatures to get on the June 23 primary ballot.

"After much consideration, I've concluded that there simply is no viable path forward," Delgado said in a statement. "And though my campaign has come to an end, I fully intend to do all I can in our effort to build a more humane, affordable and equitable state that serves all New Yorkers."

Delgado's exit after eight months of campaigning spares Hochul a primary

and narrows the 2026 governor's race to a head-to-head contest between the incumbent and Nassau County Executive Bruce Blakeman, the sole Republican candidate.

Delgado entered the race last June when it appeared more competitive and would-be rivals were circling, including two Republican House members eager to take on a governor with shaky poll numbers. Hochul had appointed Delgado — then a second-term upstate congressman — as her running mate in 2022, but her lieutenant governor split with her early in 2025 as he prepared to

challenge her.

He never got anywhere close in the polling. Hochul led him by 64%-11% — a 53-point margin — in the latest poll of Democratic voters released by Siena College on Feb. 3. Hochul also had improved her favorability rating with New Yorkers in that poll and held a huge funding advantage, with \$20 million in her campaign war chest in January compared to his \$11 million.

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