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Mamdani's plans as mayor

Rent control, universal child care among goals

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Zohran Mamdani's rapid rise from young unknown to New York City's next mayor was fueled partly by his ability to charm and energize much of the electorate with his upbeat campaign to bring change.

But Mamdani also built his Nov. 4 victory on what proved to be a popular menu of ideas to make the city more affordable. For young and working-class people struggling under New York's stifling costs, the 34-year-old state assem-



Mamdani

blyman was vowing to offer free child care to all, freeze rents on rent-stabilized apartments and eliminate fares on city buses.

His 9-point win over former Gov. Andrew Cuomo showed that message's appeal to many of the more than 2 million voters who cast ballots this mayoral election, even as Cuomo and others dismissed his plans as unrealistic and Republicans warned they would spark an exodus of wealthy taxpayers and businesses.

Here are some of the main proposals the incoming mayor, a self-identified "democratic socialist," has vowed to pursue:

Eliminate fares on city buses

Making buses free is an obvious winner with riders, but it comes with a steep price. His campaign estimated it would cost the Metropolitan Transportation Authority \$700 million in lost revenue.

Janno Lieber, the MTA's chairman and CEO, told NY1 last week the loss might run as high as \$1 billion and warned it could jeopardize the authority's ability to sell bonds to fund capital improvements. He didn't dismiss the idea but said it needed a thorough study.

Universal child care

Mamdani wants to remove New Yorkers' second biggest cost burden after rent by offering all parents free care for

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Experienced operators join NYC Mayor-elect Mamdani's staff. **2A**

children from ages 6 weeks to 5 years old. He also proposed raising the low wages care workers now earn to match those of public school teachers.

That goal helped forge common ground with Gov. Kathy Hochul, who has made expanding access to child care a priority. Mamdani's campaign estimates free-care-for-all could cost a hefty \$6 billion, according to the New York Times. Mamdani has suggested raising taxes on the wealthiest New

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Haseem Jenkins, right, with his lawyer Angelo MacDonald as they listen to the verdict in Westchester County Court on Nov. 5. Jenkins was convicted on murder, manslaughter, burglary, robbery and weapon charges in the 2024 death of Maria Coto, a county caseworker who Jenkins attacked when she knocked on the wrong door looking for a client at 900 South Street in Peekskill. POOL PHOTO CBS NEW YORK

Jenkins guilty in beating death of NY caseworker

Jurors reject claim he was unknowingly high, unaware of his actions

Jonathan Bandler
Rockland/Westchester Journal News
USA TODAY NETWORK

A Peekskill man who viciously beat a Westchester County caseworker when she knocked on his uncle's door by mistake was convicted of first-degree manslaughter after jurors rejected his claim that he couldn't have intended any crimes that day because he was unknowingly high on PCP.

The verdict in Westchester County Court on Nov. 5 came on the fourth day of deliberations after a two-week trial in which there was never a doubt that Haseem Jenkins had beaten Maria Coto. The question throughout was whether he had meant to do so.

Jenkins now faces a minimum of 15 years to life in prison and a maximum of 25 years to life. He was returned to the



Maria Coto in an undated photo. PROVIDED BY FAMILY OF MARIA COTO

county jail to await sentencing, which Westchester Judge George Fufidio scheduled for Dec. 11.

What happened the night of the murder

On May 14, 2024, Coto was going to see a client when she knocked on the

wrong apartment door at 900 South Street. Jenkins answered and began attacking her as she fled into another apartment. Jenkins chased her in there despite the tenants yelling at him to stay out.

He snatched Coto's phone after she had managed to call 911 and then repeatedly cursed her as he beat and kicked her in the head, an attack heard on the 911 call that he never disconnected.

By the time police officers arrived from headquarters a block away, Coto lay motionless face down in a pool of blood as Jenkins defiantly cursed her and the officers. He was tased and taken into custody.

Coto, 56, suffered what doctors called catastrophic brain injuries and remained in an irreversible vegetative state until her death on June 19.

Jurors weighed two second-degree murder charges — one that he intentionally killed Coto, and the other that she died as he was committing the

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NY to get partial SNAP benefits

Court orders mandate some November funding

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Nearly 3 million New Yorkers who rely on federal SNAP food aid can expect partial payments for November under the Trump administration's response to court rulings that forced it to fund the program.

The Department of Agriculture said in court papers on Nov. 3, that it will empty a contingency fund to continue giving out food aid in the midst of a government shutdown that has now slogged into its second month. But the fund contains only enough money to make 50% of the usual payments through the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, or SNAP, federal officials said.

Whether that means all New Yorkers enrolled in SNAP will get half their expected payments this month was not immediately clear. The state Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance, which administers the SNAP program, did not immediately respond to questions about the amounts or when the funds will be loaded onto the debit-like cards that SNAP recipients use to buy groceries at participating stores and markets.

State officials and food pantries across New York had been bracing for a crisis after the Trump administration declared that SNAP funding would stop on Nov. 1 unless the shutdown ended. Last week, Gov. Kathy Hochul declared a state of emergency and announced a total of \$106 million in state funding to stock food banks and pay for more staffing and equipment for the nonprofit food network.

Hochul, in a statement on Nov. 3 called the Trump administration's partial payments "indefensible," and said the state's added funding for food pantries "can only go so far."

"Three million New Yorkers started

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