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The Journal News

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Abuse trust reaches \$800M

NY Archdiocese continues negotiations with victims

Nancy Cutler

Rockland/Westchester Journal News
USA TODAY NETWORK

The Roman Catholic Archdiocese of New York has announced a settlement for victims of sexual abuse over decades, putting forth an \$800 million trust to pay claims brought under New York's Child Victims Act.

Both the archdiocese and lawyers representing sex abuse victims issued statements on May 1. Negotiations continue and the deal still faces hurdles.

The proposal would be subject to "full survivor agreement" before it can be finalized, according to Jeff Anderson & Associates, a law firm that represents victims of childhood sexual abuse across the nation.

The deal was reached with the Plaintiff Liability Committee, comprising eight law firms that collectively represent close to 70% of the survivor claims against the Archdiocese of New York.

Retired Los Angeles County Superior Court Judge Daniel Buckley has been mediating between the archdiocese and victims. He also mediated a settlement in which the Archdiocese of Los Ange-

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St. Patrick's Cathedral in New York seen on March 9. DANIEL SLIM/AFP VIA GETTY IMAGES



A vacant apartment at 461 Riverdale Ave. in Yonkers Dec. 22, 2025. The landlords have decided to leave the apartment vacant due to the high renovation cost. PHOTOS BY TANIA SAVAYAN/THE JOURNAL NEWS

NY's rent control law leaves units vacant

Some cite rising operating costs

Helu Wang

Rockland/Westchester Journal News
USA TODAY NETWORK

Seven years after New York passed the Housing Stability and Tenant Protection Act, tens of thousands of rent-stabilized units have been reported vacant, exacerbating the state's housing shortage, according to landlords and state data.

Some landlords say limits on rent increases, paired with continuing increases in operating costs, have left them under financial strain with few options, leading some to keep units vacant.

They are urging state lawmakers to

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Landlords George Nukho, left, and his brother Michael Nukho, of GEM Management Partners, inside one of their vacant apartments at 461 Riverdale Ave. in Yonkers on Dec. 22, 2025. They have decided to leave the apartment vacant due to the high renovation cost.

Budget hits 'needy' NY districts the hardest

Emily Barnes

New York State Team
USA TODAY NETWORK

As New York school districts prepare for taxpayers to vote on their budgets for the 2026-2027 school year in a matter of weeks, the increasingly late state budget poses unique challenges for both parties involved.

The state legislature passed their eighth budget extender on April 29, bringing the total amount spent on keeping the government open past the April 1 deadline to \$16.7 billion. New York's state budget process is currently being held up by policy issues Gov. Kathy Hochul wants passed, and it's a process that's been met with heavy

pushback and mounting frustration this budget season, including calls to weaken the governor's power within it.

Albany's budget tardiness is also causing a trickle-down effect on other elements of state government, including how much school districts choose to allocate for their budgets, which then creates uncertainty for the taxpayers voting on those budgets.

Here's what to know.

How a late state budget affects New York school districts' budget process

Most local school districts outside of the biggest districts – New York City, Buffalo, Rochester, Syracuse, Yonkers, Albany, Utica and Mount Vernon – have already had to make budget decisions, even though their votes aren't until Tuesday, May 19. Military ballots for the smaller districts went out on April 24, and those with budget votes needed to submit their "property tax report card" data to the state Department of Education on April 27.

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