



Week 1 winners & losers: Clemson hits rock bottom, Kiffin soars in LSU debut

SPORTS, 1B

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SURVIVAL & SACRIFICE



Retired FDNY firefighters James Efthimiades, Jeffrey Coniglio, Robert Bacon, Jim McGlynn and John Drumm, have lunch at O'Hara's Pub near the World Trade Center on Aug 5. On Sept. 11, 2001, after going back into the North Tower to search for Drumm, the other four firefighters became trapped in a stairwell when the tower collapsed on them. They were rescued five hours later, and discovered that Drumm had escaped the building before it collapsed.

SETH HARRISON/THE JOURNAL NEWS

After many years, FDNY firefighter shares his story

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

Over the years, the firefighters of Manhattan's Engine Company 39 have gotten together to share their story of surviving the collapse of the World Trade Center on Sept. 11, 2001. At memorial services, for media interviews, a documentary.

Absent was John Drumm, the fellow firefighter they went back into the north tower to save that day.

Drumm didn't want to stand in the way of what he considered their story — going back in the north tower to save a brother firefighter only to have the 110-story building collapse on top of them. Had they died, Drumm isn't sure he could have coped. And there are the 343 other FDNY firefighters who died that day while he lived. Survivor's guilt.

But after 25 years, it was time. When James "Jim" McGlynn, who led the Engine 39 team on 9/11, reached

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"I don't talk about it unless I'm with really dear friends. I appreciate that there are people who are willing to ask, instead of not ask, but for me to talk about it isn't easy."

John Drumm

FAMILY TRAGEDY

As one man aided a 9/11 victim, his sister and niece lost their lives aboard flight 175. Page 2A

Midterm battles loom for governor, U.S. House

Chris McKenna

New York State Team
USA TODAY NETWORK

New Yorkers have had five years to get to know Gov. Kathy Hochul since her sudden ascent after Andrew Cuomo's resignation in 2021 and her election to a full term the following year.

Now voters are set to weigh in on her leadership as that term winds down and she seeks another. Will they return the Buffalo native and moderate Democrat to the state's top office for another four years? Or will they go with Bruce Blakeman, the Long Island Republican and staunch ally of President Donald Trump who leads one of the state's largest counties?

The Hochul-Blakeman contest will top ballots across New York on Nov. 3, when all four statewide offices are up for election. So are all 213 state Legislature seats and New York's 26 U.S. House seats. Among the highlights: a battleground congressional race in the Hudson Valley that will help decide the balance of power in Washington for the next two years.

Here's a guide to the key races and what's at stake in New York elections this year:

Hochul and Blakeman battle for governor

Opponents were eager to pounce after Hochul won by a relatively modest 6 points in 2022 and then Trump made inroads in New York in 2024, suggesting a right-ward shift in the electorate. But one by one starting in July 2025, four would-be challengers from both parties melted away after testing the waters, sparing Hochul a primary and leaving Blakeman as the only Republican willing to make a go of it.

It's a tough slog for the GOP. Democratic voters outnumber Republicans by more than 2 to 1 in New York, and no Republican has prevailed statewide since George Pataki won a third term as governor in 2002.

Add Trump's unpopularity to the equation this time. Hochul's campaign has relentlessly tethered Blakeman to Trump at every turn, saddling him with Trump's Iran war, his tariffs and

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Trump DOJ backs Micron in challenge to \$100B NY project

Thomas C. Zambito

New York State Team
USA TODAY NETWORK

The Trump administration is backing Micron in a New York court challenge to the tech giant's plans for a \$100 billion semiconductor manufacturing hub near Syracuse, claiming stalling the project would pose national security risks.

In a 30-page "statement of interest" sent to a state judge in Albany, Justice Department lawyers attacked a lawsuit

filed by local residents who say the project should have undergone a more rigorous environmental review before receiving state and county approval.

The Justice Department says the cutting-edge semiconductor memory chips that will be made at four manufacturing hubs in the Syracuse suburbs of Clay and Cicero will be essential components in wireless communications networks, weapon systems and artificial intelligence. And without them, the U.S. will remain dependent on foreign manufac-

turers and supply chain disruptions.

"Use of largely procedural state environmental law to halt such a project would thwart the will of Congress and signal to funding recipients that even the most consequential federally backed strategic investments face unnecessary litigation risks," the lawyers write.

The U.S. Department of Commerce has invested \$6.4 billion in CHIPS (Creating helpful incentives to produce semiconductors) Act funding to expand

Micron facilities in New York, Idaho and Virginia. The company plans to invest \$250 billion through 2035 in semiconductor production and technologies as the U.S. tries to challenge China's market dominance.

The lawsuit was filed in state Supreme Court in Albany in January by residents living near the Micron project who call themselves Neighbors for a Better Micron. They're backed by the

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