

## **Toward a People-Centered Governance Model for New York State: Universal Basic Income, Universal Healthcare, and the Framework of Sociological Immortality**

Hongbao Ma, PhD

Candidate for Governor of New York State, 2026

Queens, New York, USA

Ma for New York 2026

Phone: 718-404-5362; Email: [maofornewyork@gmail.com](mailto:maofornewyork@gmail.com); Website: <http://www.maforny.com>

**Abstract:** New York State stands among the most prosperous and globally influential regions in the world, yet it simultaneously faces persistent structural challenges, including poverty, income instability, gaps in healthcare access, housing insecurity, public safety concerns, and declining social trust. This paper presents a comprehensive governance framework proposed for the 2026 New York gubernatorial election. Centered on a “People First” philosophy, the framework advances two foundational policies—Universal Basic Income (UBI) and Universal Free Basic Healthcare—supplemented by institutional reforms and economic development strategies. The paper introduces the concept of “Sociological Immortality” as the ultimate objective of governance, defined as the sustained capacity of a society to ensure dignity, security, opportunity, and continuity for all individuals. Through systemic analysis, this study argues that New York possesses the economic, institutional, and fiscal capacity to implement these reforms and transition toward a more equitable, stable, and resilient social order.

**Keywords:** Universal Basic Income; Universal Healthcare; Public Governance; Social Policy; Poverty Elimination; Sociological Immortality; New York State

### **1. Introduction**

Modern advanced economies increasingly confront a paradox: unprecedented aggregate wealth coexists with persistent poverty, social fragmentation, and institutional inefficiency. **New York State**, and particularly **New York City**, exemplifies this contradiction. While serving as a global financial, cultural, and technological center, the state continues to struggle with income insecurity, public safety challenges, healthcare gaps, housing pressure, and declining social cohesion.

This paper proposes a comprehensive governance framework designed for New York State that prioritizes human survival, dignity, and opportunity as the foundational objectives of public institutions. The framework is presented in the context of the 2026 gubernatorial election and is grounded in economic feasibility, systemic governance, and long-term social sustainability.

### **2. Author Background and Governance Perspective**

The author, **Hongbao Ma**, earned a doctoral degree from **Peking University** and completed postdoctoral research at **Harvard University**. With sustained engagement in civic affairs and public governance, his perspective emphasizes empirical reasoning, systemic design, and human-centered policy evaluation.

The central premise guiding this framework is that the fundamental purpose of government is not control, but service; not dependency creation, but the provision of basic survival guarantees, social order, and equal opportunity for development.

### **3. Structural Challenges Facing New York State**

Despite its economic scale and institutional capacity, New York faces several interrelated structural problems:

1. Persistent poverty and income volatility
2. Public safety concerns and crime
3. Incomplete healthcare coverage
4. Housing pressure and social disorder
5. Employment instability and underutilization of labor
6. Social polarization and erosion of public trust

These challenges are not intrinsic to urbanization or economic growth. Rather, they emerge from long-term policy misalignment, fragmented welfare systems, and deviations from people-centered governance models.

### **4. Governing Philosophy: A People-First Institutional Framework**

The “People First” governance philosophy advanced in this paper treats human survival and dignity as the primary

constraints in institutional design. A people-centered system must ensure:

- Universal basic income security
- Universal access to essential healthcare
- Protection of law-abiding citizens
- Reward for labor and contribution
- Social order and legal clarity
- Economic dynamism
- Long-term societal stability

This philosophy reframes social policy not as charity, but as foundational infrastructure.

## 5. Primary Policy Instruments

### 5.1 Universal Basic Income (UBI)

This framework proposes a Universal Basic Income of **USD \$1,000 per person per month** (approximately **USD \$33 per day**), with the following characteristics:

- Unconditional
- Universal (all New Yorkers)
- Guaranteed from birth throughout life

The proposed amount reflects the practical poverty threshold in contemporary society. By definition, the implementation of UBI would eliminate poverty statewide.

Fiscal analysis indicates that the total cost of UBI represents approximately **16% of New York State's current per-capita income** (average  $\approx$  USD \$6,250 per month). This level is fiscally feasible and allows for substantial consolidation of fragmented, inefficient, and high-administrative-cost welfare programs.

### 5.2 Universal Free Basic Healthcare

Healthcare access is treated as a survival necessity rather than a market privilege. Currently, approximately **5% of New York State residents lack health insurance**, generating individual hardship, uncompensated care costs, fiscal burdens, and systemic inefficiencies.

Universal free basic healthcare would:

- Eliminate cost-driven avoidance of medical treatment
- Reduce inefficiencies associated with fragmented insurance coverage
- Improve public health outcomes and long-term social stability

## 6. The “Six Zeros” Social Objectives

Building upon universal income and healthcare security, the framework establishes six systemic objectives:

1. **Zero Poverty** — Achieved through UBI
2. **Zero Crime** — Zero tolerance for crime; elimination of poverty-driven crime
3. **Zero Homelessness** — Universal housing affordability
4. **Zero Unemployment** — UBI ensures survival while preserving labor participation
5. **Zero Discrimination** — Institutional elimination of all discriminatory practices
6. **Zero Rent Abuse** — Enforcement of contracts and protection of property rights

## 7. Economic Development and State Capacity Building

Sustainable social policy requires parallel economic strengthening. The framework emphasizes:

- Revitalization of manufacturing as the backbone of the real economy
- Large-scale infrastructure investment (housing, transportation, public space)
- Expansion of GDP and per-capita assets
- Long-term productivity growth through education, technology, and industrial integration

Wealth alone is insufficient; resilience and sustainability are essential.

## 8. Social Governance and Institutional Reform

Key institutional reforms include:

- Elimination of minimum wage mandates, with UBI guaranteeing basic living standards
- Abolition of unreasonable property taxation
- Implementation of a unified tax rate system

- Integration and rationalization of welfare programs
- Strengthening of policing and the justice system
- Enforcement of gun and drug prohibitions
- Construction of 6,000 free, 24-hour public restrooms statewide
- Government responsibility for public sanitation
- Expansion of free-market and real-economy activity
- Comprehensive review and correction of unreasonable laws and regulations

### 9. The Concept of Sociological Immortality

The ultimate objective of this governance framework is **Sociological Immortality**, defined as a social condition in which no individual:

- Loses dignity due to poverty
- Loses life due to lack of healthcare
- Loses opportunity due to identity
- Loses the future due to institutional failure

Sociological immortality represents the continuity of civilization, institutional stability, and dignified human survival across generations.

### 10. Conclusion

This paper argues that New York State possesses the economic scale, administrative capacity, and institutional maturity required to implement a people-centered governance model anchored in Universal Basic Income and Universal Free Basic Healthcare. By integrating social security, economic development, and institutional reform, New York can transition toward a society free from poverty fear, systemic insecurity, and dignity loss.

Such a transformation would mark not merely a policy shift, but the beginning of a new era in public governance.

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Dr. Ma, Hongbao

New York gubernatorial candidates

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