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POLITICO NEW YORK

**POLITICO New York Education**

A morning email about key developments affecting policy, institutions and leadership in New York education. sent at 10 a.m. every weekday. Pro subscribers receive an enhanced version of this newsletter at 5:45 a.m. Contact us here for more information.

POLITICO New York Education: What to watch on Election Day; De Blasio calls out Cuomo on CUNY

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by Eliza Shapiro, Keshia Clukey and Conor Skelding

EDUCATION AT THE POLLS—From the presidential to statewide races, education has by and large remained out of the spotlight this year, being eclipsed by issues such as taxes and jobs. The issue of education finance in terms of funding and the state’s property tax cap still remains a topic of discussion, but, Gerald Benjamin, a professor of political science at SUNY New Paltz, told POLITICO New York, the level of school aid given last session “took down the temperature a lot.”

And most of the major education issues facing New York State are too complex for campaign fodder, though they will undoubtedly be key next year in the New York City mayoral race as well as in the 2018 state gubernatorial race. “Unfortunately issues like Foundation Aid are too technical for the general electorate, but continuing opposition to the Common Core and standardized testing continue to ripe for mobilization,” said David Bloomfield, a professor of education leadership at Brooklyn College and at the City University of New York Graduate Center.

The topics have rallied some test refusal advocates, particularly those on Long Island, where the parents and teachers are not only helping with campaigns, but also organizing social media efforts for their preferred candidates.

A key state education-related race to watch today is the 5th Senate District, which includes portions of Nassau and Suffolk County, where opt out groups have lead a push to oust longtime incumbent Republican Sen. Carl Marcellino, who chairs the Senate Education Committee. Marcellino, however, has the advantage over Democrat and Suffolk County Water Authority chairman Jim Gaughran, having won several high profile endorsements.

—**View a guide to the state elections** via POLITICO New York's Bill Mahoney here: <http://politi.co/2exrOqT>.

—**See the NYSUT 2016 voter guide**, which includes its list of key races to watch, here: <http://bit.ly/2fM7JTk>, and its list of endorsements here: <http://bit.ly/2fM4Pyh>.

—**View ads from New Yorkers for a Balanced Albany**, the pro-charter school group, here: <http://bit.ly/2fMf4IW>.

HAPPY ELECTION DAY! Carmen Fariña will visit a professional development session for pre-K teachers in Manhattan. **MaryEllen Elia** and **Betty Rosa** did not release public schedules.

This newsletter is for you, so tell us how we can make it better. Send feedback, tips and education-related events to eshapiro@politico.com, kclukey@politico.com and cskelding@politico.com. Follow us on Twitter: [@elizashapiro](https://twitter.com/elizashapiro), [@keshiacclukey](https://twitter.com/keshiacclukey), and [@conorskelding](https://twitter.com/conorskelding).

COMING UP: After weeks of delays, the Department of Education will unveil its final school rezoning proposal for the Upper West Side on Wednesday evening.

DE BLASIO TAKES SHOT AT CUOMO ON CUNY BUDGET—POLITICO New York's Conor Skelding: "Speaking at an event organized by his re-election campaign on Monday, Mayor Bill de Blasio took a shot at Gov. Andrew Cuomo for, he said, trying to cut resources at the City University of New York. De Blasio introduced Assemblyman Richard Gottfried at the event, held at Baruch College, by saying that 'when the governor talked about cutting back resources for CUNY, [Gottfried] was one of the people who stopped it.'" [PRO] <http://politico.pro/2fxtBPb>

—**Pic of the day:** "Scene as Mayor de Blasio attended a GOTV rally at Medgar Evers College. ~150 ppl, brief speech, nice reception," via [@jjk607](https://twitter.com/jjk607): <http://bit.ly/2fV2j7U>

QUOTE OF THE DAY: "I can't think of a more perfect outfit for Columbia than a mattress and a fake rape claim. See you soon!"—alt-right provocateur Milo Yiannopoulos on his plans to dress up as Emma Sulkowicz, the alumna who carried her mattress around campus to protest the Columbia University's sexual assault policies, when he speaks at the school next week, via POLITICO New York's Conor Skelding: <http://politi.co/2exCPIt>

BONUS QUOTE OF THE DAY: "Instead of Common Core, we need to find a core of common outcomes [while also addressing] the issue of equity and social justice."—Regents Chancellor Betty Rosa speaking Monday at the Roosevelt school district's symposium on ways to educate Long Island's growing immigrant student population, via Newsday's Victor Manuel Ramos: <http://nwsdy.li/2fxPuOa>

STATS OF THE DAY: "New Rochelle High School], which houses about 3,600 students, had an 86 percent graduation rate in 2015-16, up from 78 percent in 2007-08. During that time, enrollment increased among economically disadvantaged teens, students with disabilities, and the Hispanic population became the largest group of students at 46 percent." Journal News' Colleen Wilson: <http://lohud.us/2extAIu>

AROUND NEW YORK:

—**“When the city introduced a universal lottery system in 2004, the idea was to give students access to a wider range of high schools.** There are roughly 150 high schools with a “screened” program that weighs applicants’ academic history, and around 230 schools with a “limited unscreened” program that weighs only students’ interest in attending. After students rank their choices, the unscreened schools receive a list of applicants and mark which ones attended an open house or high school fair. But the system isn’t working.” Chalkbeat’s Monica Disare: <http://bit.ly/2fyNPGb>.

—**“A former University of Rochester business professor has paid \$100 million in fines and could face as much as five years in prison for failure to disclose income and control over his Zurich-based bank accounts.** Daniel Horsky, 71, who retired as a marketing professor at the Simon Business School in December 2015, pleaded guilty on Friday in federal court in Alexandria, Virginia to conspiracy to defraud the United States and submitting a false expatriation statement.” Democrat and Chronicle’s James Goodman: <http://on.rocne.ws/2faM19W>

—**Plans to paint an American Indian head (the mascot) onto the Syosset High School’s parking lot** were pulled after students and alumni signed a petition against the idea, Newsday’s Rachel Uda: <http://nwsdy.li/2exn84c>

—**“Christopher Schraufnagel pleaded guilty on Monday to charges that he sexual abused students** as part of a new plea deal that requires the former Horace Greeley drama teacher to register as a sex offender. Schraufnagel, who had an earlier plea agreement nixed by New Castle Town Justice Douglas Kraus, admitted in court that he abused three students at the high school between 2011 and last year, including two instances that involved ‘sexual contact.’” Journal News’ Jorge Fitz-Gibbon and Peter D. Kramer: <http://lohud.us/2expU9C>

AROUND THE NATION:

—**“Fights over charter schools have become commonplace, but the one being waged right now in Massachusetts — which has long had as fine a public education system as any state in the country — isn’t your ordinary battle. Question 2, an initiative on Tuesday’s ballot to approve the raising of the state’s cap on charter schools, is the most expensive ballot initiative in the country** — with at least \$35 million reportedly raised by both sides — and it’s been as bitter as any.” Washington Post’s Valerie Strauss: <http://wapo.st/2fxYH9b>

—**“ Across the country, educators are reporting a disturbing surge in hate-laced bullying among students of all ages...** While bullying has a long and sordid history in American classrooms, the current surge is notable both for the similarity of its targets—Muslim students, immigrants and children of immigrants, children of color, girls, Jews—and the language used against them. And educators have developed a strong theory as to the cause: Donald Trump and the degraded discourse of this election season.” The Nation’s Katherine Stewart: <http://bit.ly/2fxOmKq>

—**“Jurors awarded a University of Virginia administrator \$3 million Monday for her portrayal in a now-discredited Rolling Stone magazine article** about the school's handling of a brutal gang rape [at] a fraternity house.” Associated Press: <http://nydn.us/2fxTBtF>

BONUS: James Franco has been spotted at Union College shooting scenes for his new film, “The Pretenders.” The actor and filmmaker was at Russell Sage College for the film last week, via the Times Union: <http://bit.ly/2fxYh2R>.