

Give Lee Zeldin a Chance to Bail Out New York

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Democrats have run the New York state assembly since 1975, every statewide executive office since 2007, a majority of the state's highest court since 2015, and the state senate since 2019. New Yorkers have a great many reasons to be dissatisfied with how their state has been governed under one-party Democratic rule. Governor Kathy Hochul, who took over from Andrew Cuomo in August 2021, has done nothing to deserve their votes in her bid for reelection. Judging by the fact that her campaign is almost entirely negative and avoids discussion of her record, we suspect that she knows this. To start with, the perennial ethical morass in Albany has only gotten worse as the Democrats have consolidated their power. "Resigned in disgrace" has become such a common ending for careers in state politics that one could be forgiven for thinking that disgrace was actually a suburb of the capital. Two of Hochul's three predecessors (Cuomo and Eliot Spitzer) had to step down mid-term, and Spitzer's successor, David Paterson, abandoned his bid for an elected term and paid a \$62,000 ethics fine to avoid prosecution for perjury. State attorney general Eric Schneiderman preceded Cuomo in resigning in 2018 due to his abuse of women. State comptroller Alan Hevesi quit a month after his 2006 reelection and went to prison. So did Sheldon Silver, who was speaker of the state assembly for 21 years until he was arrested in 2015.