

2026 ANNUAL LEGISLATION COMPETITION

PLEASE REVIEW THE INSTRUCTIONS CAREFULLY

Prompt

On February 6, 2026, the JOURNAL OF LEGISLATION & PUBLIC POLICY (“JLPP”) hosted [a symposium](#) examining what it means to govern a “moral city.” The discussion centered on New York City politics and governance, using recent developments in the city’s leadership as a lens for exploring how values—fairness, solidarity, accountability, and dignity—shape legal and institutional design.

These questions take on particular urgency in the context of a new mayoral administration. Following a closely watched election, Zohran Mamdani has assumed office as Mayor of New York City, inheriting a city marked by profound inequality, administrative complexity, and overlapping local, state, and federal constraints. While the campaign foregrounded moral commitments and coalition politics, governing now requires translating those commitments into concrete, durable policies.

The first mayoral term presents a narrow but consequential window to establish institutions and policies that will shape New York City’s trajectory for years to come. Decisions made early—about housing, public safety, transportation, land use, climate resilience, labor standards, democratic governance, and more—can entrench systems that either mitigate or reproduce existing inequities.

Please write an analysis recommending one major policy initiative you believe the Mayor should pursue in his first term in office. Your analysis should include concrete strategies for implementation of your recommendation.

Assignment

For your submission, propose and analyze a specific policy initiative that Mayor Mamdani should pursue during his first term as Mayor of New York City.

Specifically, your paper should:

- Identify a concrete problem or institutional gap in New York City governance that warrants first-term action.
- Articulate the values or moral commitments that justify the proposal (*e.g.*, equity, accountability, democratic legitimacy, public trust).
- Explain how the policy would function in practice, including the role of mayoral authority, city agencies, and—where relevant—state or federal actors.
- Provide a thorough legal and policy analysis by conducting thorough research, including the pros and cons and challenges with implementing your proposal.

Journal of Legislation & Public Policy

You may focus on any area of New York City governance, including but not limited to housing affordability, public safety, transit access, climate adaptation, public health, and democratic reform. Your paper should take the form of a research paper. Accordingly, outside research is encouraged. Depth of analysis is preferred over breadth.

Submission Rules

1. The competition is open to all current NYU Law students.
2. Submissions may not exceed 2,000 words (excluding footnotes).
3. Citations should be Bluebooked where appropriate. Please follow the rules in the Bluebook's Whitepages.
4. Every page should include the page number in the footer.
5. Please do not include any self-identifying information in your submission. The submission will be reviewed anonymously.
6. Submissions are due on **March 29, 2026, at 11:59 PM ET** and should be emailed as a PDF to eic.legis@gmail.com with the subject line: "[Last Name] – Legislation Competition 2026."

Prizes

The winning and runner-up submissions will be published on the *Quorum*. The winner will receive a \$200 prize, and the runner-up will receive \$100. Both the winner and the runner-up will receive offers of admission to JLPP (*i.e.*, if you are a 1L student, you would not need to participate in JLPP's write-on competition to be admitted to JLPP).

For all other entrants, additional publication opportunities and admission to JLPP may be offered at the discretion of JLPP's board.

Please note that only current 1L students are eligible to receive admission offers to JLPP.

Winners will be notified before the end of the Spring semester.