

# THE NEW YORK RED BOOK

*Ninety-Ninth Edition*

2007–2008



**An Illustrated Yearbook of Authentic  
Information Concerning New York State, Its  
Departments and Political Subdivisions and  
the Officials Who Administer Its Affairs**

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*An Authorized Publication*

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ELIOT SPITZER  
GOVERNOR, NEW YORK STATE



## THE GOVERNOR'S FLAG AND COLOR

The records of the Adjutant General's Office indicate that the first Governor's Flag was authorized about 1900.

State Military Regulation 16, section 2, dated 8 April 1966 provides the following description:

a. The flag of the Governor is of blue wool bunting, 10.2 feet hoist by 16 feet fly. In each of the four corners is a white five-pointed star with one point upwards, and in the center of the flag is the coat of arms of the State.

b. The color of the Governor is of blue silk, 4 feet 4 inches hoist by 5 feet 6 inches fly, of the same design as that of the flag of the Governor and trimmed on three edges with a knotted fringe of blue and gold bullion 2.5 inches wide. The device and stars are embroidered. The staff is of wood, ebony finish, single screw jointed, 10 feet 3 inches in length, including gold-plated head and ferrule. The head is a spear 7.75 inches in height. Attached just below the head of the staff is a cord 8 feet 6 inches in length, with a tassel at each end. Cord and tassel are of blue and gold silk strands.

c. The boat flag of the Governor is of blue wool bunting, 3 feet hoist by 4 feet fly, of the same design as that of the flag of the Governor.

d. The automobile flag of the Governor is of blue silk or other suitable material, 1 foot 6 inches hoist by 2 feet 2 inches fly, of the same design as that of the flag of the Governor, and is trimmed on three edges with a knotted fringe of blue and gold silk strands 1.5 inches wide.



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## SOURCE CREDITS

### General

The Secretary of the Senate, Coordinator of the Speaker's Correspondence Department, public information officers of the State administrative departments, secretaries of the various agencies and commissions and State Board of Elections were invaluable in providing information for this 2007–2008 edition of THE NEW YORK RED BOOK.

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## INTRODUCTION

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**T**HIS is the ninety-ninth edition of THE NEW YORK RED BOOK. It has been published since 1892 and, throughout that time, has had as its objective the informal presentation of pertinent facts concerning New York State, its political subdivisions and the officials who administer its affairs. Its publication is authorized by concurrent resolution of the Senate and Assembly and it is recognized and accepted as a source of reliable information by public officials, news agencies, and the general public.

Through the cooperation of the public relations units of the various State agencies, the material used is both timely and dependable and is prepared and edited by the persons best qualified to furnish authentic information in their respective fields.

Among the regular features appearing in each edition are: Pictures and brief biographies of the Governor, Lieutenant Governor, all members of both houses of the Legislature, the Judges of the Court of Appeals and Court of Claims, department heads and other officials in executive positions in the various departments and divisions, the President and Vice President of the United States, United States Senators and members of Congress from New York. Pictures of accredited legislative correspondents, officers of the Senate and Assembly. Pertinent information concerning the Legislature, State and Federal Courts, Departments and other State agencies. Lists of county officials, officers of recognized political parties. Latest election results for all statewide offices, Justices of the Supreme Court, Congressmen, Senators and Members of Assembly, and vote on proposed constitutional amendments.

All material appearing in this edition has been revised and corrected as of press time, except where copy was not returned to the editor.



## THE GREAT SEAL OF THE STATE

Since the Revolution and the organization of New York as a State, the appointment by the Legislature of various commissions to prepare devices for the Great Seal of the State has resulted in five modifications. The Great Seal of 1777 was devised by a committee consisting of Messrs. Morris, Jay and Hobart, and was to be used for all the purposes for which the Crown Seal was used under the Colony. The second form was the Arms and Seal complete, devised by a committee in 1778 consisting of Governor George Clinton and Chancellor Livingston.



The third Seal was devised pursuant to the provisions of an act passed in 1798, authorizing the Comptroller, Attorney-General and Surveyor-General to repair the old Seal or cause a new one to be made. This commission decided to make a new one and recorded a description of it on January 22, 1799. In 1809 the Legislature passed an act authorizing the Governor to prepare a new Seal, which resulted in the fourth Great Seal, first used on November 28 of that year.

The fifth and last form given to the Arms, on the Seals of the State, was in 1882, following a report by a commission consisting of Governor Alonzo B. Cornell, Secretary of State Joseph B. Carr and Comptroller James W. Wadsworth.

The Great Seal of the State is in the custody of the Secretary of State.



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## BRIEF FACTS OF GENERAL INTEREST CONCERNING NEW YORK—THE EMPIRE STATE

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**N**EW YORK, third among the states in population, according to 2000 census data (18,976,457 inhabitants), ranks thirtieth in area (over-all 47,214 square miles); greatest length from north to south, 310 miles; greatest breadth, 330 miles . . . bounded on the north and northwest by Lake Ontario and the provinces of Ontario and Quebec, Canada, east by Vermont, Massachusetts, Connecticut and the Atlantic Ocean, south by the Atlantic Ocean, New Jersey and Pennsylvania, and west and southwest by Pennsylvania and Lake Erie . . . has diversified surface with most of its soil very fertile, producing nearly every kind of fruit, vegetable, grain and forage crop grown in the temperate zone . . . ranks high as an agricultural state with dairy products, vegetables and fruit among leading commodities; also produces commercially large quantities of fish, lumber and minerals . . . highest peak—Mt. Marcy with an elevation of 5,344 feet . . . highest recorded temperature (Troy, July 22, 1926) 108; lowest (Stillwater reservoir, February 9, 1934, and Old Forge, February 18, 1979) -52.†

New York State is a great industrial center of the country . . . New York City is the commercial metropolis of the United States and a tourist capital of the world . . . transportation facilities are the best with railroads, bus routes and scheduled air service penetrating everywhere and nearly 800 miles of navigable ocean, lake and river waterways . . . the Barge Canal (mainly the historic Erie Canal) connects the Great Lakes with the Hudson River with branches to Ontario, Champlain, Cayuga and Seneca lakes . . . rapid travel and transportation is provided by a network of superhighways including: the New York Thruway (modern counterpart of the Erie Canal) extending from New York City to the Buffalo-Niagara Falls area and to Ripley at the Pennsylvania border; Interstate 81 connecting with Pennsylvania south of Binghamton and extending to the Canadian border; and the Northway extending from Albany to the Canadian border.

New York offers year-round recreational activities; the largest State park system in the nation; thousands of islands, lakes, streams and ponds; and a wealth of ski resorts and marked hiking trails . . . its natural beauty and scenic grandeur make it one of the world's greatest vacation areas . . . the Adirondack Mountains in the north and the Catskills in the east attract thousands of tourists and campers . . . boating is popular along the shores of Long Island Sound and the ocean beaches attract huge crowds . . . Niagara Falls, Saratoga Springs (with its renowned racetrack, spa and baths and the Performing Arts Center), the State's beautiful valleys, and its resort areas, dotted with small lakes, are world famous.

The State's highly developed and closely integrated system of primary and secondary education is under the control of the Board of Regents of the University of the State of New York . . . included is the State University of New York, one of the largest state universities in the country . . . among other famous educational institutions within the State is the Military Academy of the United States Army at West Point, a location famed for its beauty on the west bank of the Hudson River.

The Division of Military and Naval Affairs awards several state military decorations in recognition of valorous and outstanding service to the State of New York and its people. The newest of these is the New York State Defense of Liberty Medal, established by the Governor in 2002. This medal is awarded in recognition of the heroic and selfless service members of the state's National Guard and militia forces provided to New York State in the aftermath of the World Trade Center attack on September 11, 2001.

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† Information furnished by the Atmospheric Sciences Research Center, State University of New York at Albany.

New York State's highest civilian honor is the Jackie Robinson Empire State Freedom Medal. Authorized by the Governor in 1997, the Jackie Robinson Empire State Freedom Medal honors those who demonstrate determination, dignity, and fairness in the tradition of Robinson, who in the face of death threats broke the color barrier in Major League Baseball. Recognizing his contributions and leadership in the wake of September 11th, the Governor presented this honor to former New York City Mayor Rudolph Giuliani.

New York was settled as a Dutch province under the name of New Netherlands in 1624 . . . conquered by the English and renamed New York in 1664 . . . declared its independence from British rule July 9, 1776, adopted its first Constitution at Kingston April 20, 1777, and elected George Clinton, Governor, July 9, 1777 . . . many important battles of the Revolutionary War were fought within its borders including the Battle of Saratoga which made possible the crowning victory at Yorktown . . . One of the original 13 states, New York ratified the United States Constitution and entered the Union July 26, 1788. New York City became the new nation's first capital, George Washington being inaugurated its first President there April 30, 1789. Albany, the oldest original chartered city in the United States (July 22, 1686), has been the capital city of New York State since 1797.

The State's government is divided into three branches—executive, legislative and judicial. The executive branch includes the twenty State departments . . . the Executive, Audit and Control, and Law departments are headed respectively by the Governor, Comptroller and Attorney General, each of whom is elected by the people . . . the Commissioner of Education is chosen by the Regents of the University; the President of the Civil Service Commission by the Governor . . . the Chairman of the Public Service Commission is designated, and all other department heads are appointed, by the Governor, with the advice and consent of the Senate. The Lieutenant Governor, who is elected by the people, is President of the State Senate, acting Governor when the Governor is out of the State, and assumes the duties of the Chief Executive in the event of a vacancy in that office.

On February 5, 1979, at the official opening of the restored Senate Chamber, a project which returned it to the splendor of 100 years ago, New York State received the distinction of being designated the fourteenth State Capitol in the United States to be named a National Historic Landmark. Another place of great interest, The Governor Nelson A. Rockefeller Empire State Plaza complex covering an expanse of approximately 98 acres, houses various State agencies, as well as many facilities and sightseeing attractions for the public. The State Library, located in the Cultural Center on the complex, houses over four million magazines, periodicals and books. The State Museum, also in the Cultural Center, draws more than 500,000 visitors annually.

New York's legislative power is vested in a two-house Legislature . . . the Senate, with sixty-two members, is presided over by the Lieutenant Governor who, while not a member, is, by constitutional authority, President of the body and has only a casting vote. The Temporary President, elected from and by the members, is the Majority Leader and presides as President in case of absence from the Chamber or impeachment of the Lieutenant Governor, or when the Lieutenant Governor refuses to act as President or is the Acting Governor. The Temporary President is next in line to the Lieutenant Governor in succession to the governorship, followed by the Speaker of the Assembly . . . the Assembly, with a membership of one hundred fifty, is presided over by the Speaker, elected from and by the members.

The Court of Appeals is the highest court of the State. It consists of the Chief Judge and six Associate Judges. They are appointed by the Governor for 14-year terms, with the advice and consent of the Senate, from among persons found to be well-qualified by the Commission on Judicial Nomination. Administrative supervision of the courts is the responsibility of the Chief Judge of the Court of Appeals, who is the Chief Judge of the State. In New York State the courts of original jurisdiction, or trial courts, hear a case in the first instance, and the appellate courts hear appeals from the decisions of other tribunals. The appellate courts are the Court of Appeals, the Appellate Divisions and the Appellate Terms of the Supreme Court, and the County Courts acting as appellate courts in certain counties. The trial courts of superior jurisdiction are the Supreme Court, the Court of Claims, the Family Court, the Surrogates' Courts and, outside New York City, the County Courts. The trial courts of lesser jurisdiction are the Criminal Court and the Civil Court of the City of New York and, outside

New York City, City Courts, District Courts and Town and Village Justice Courts. The Supreme Court has unlimited, original jurisdiction. Its justices are elected by judicial district for 14-year terms. The County Court is established in each county outside New York City to handle criminal prosecution of offenses committed within the county and certain civil cases. County Court judges are elected for terms of 10 years. The Surrogate's Court is established in every county to hear cases involving the affairs of decedents. Surrogates are elected for terms of 10 years in each county outside New York City and for terms of 14 years in each county in New York City. The Family Court is established in each county and the City of New York to hear matters involving children and families. Family Court judges are elected for 10-year terms in each county outside New York City and are appointed by the Mayor for 10-year terms in New York City. The Court of Claims is a special trial court that hears and determines claims against the State of New York. Court of Claims judges are appointed by the Governor, with the advice and consent of the Senate, for nine-year terms.

The 1955 Legislature passed and the Governor signed a bill designating the rose in any color or combination of colors common to it as the official State Flower thus making official a state-wide vote of school children taken in 1891 in which they named the rose as first choice and goldenrod as second choice for a State Flower. The sugar maple became the official State Tree in 1956 with the passage of a bill by the Legislature and approval by the Governor. The sugar maple had been the unofficial State Tree since Arbor Day, 1889, when it was chosen by the school children of the State in a vote held in the schools of the State. In addition, in 1969, the Legislature designated the garnet as the official gem; in 1970, it designated the bluebird as the official bird; in 1975, it designated the American beaver as the official animal and the brook or speckled trout as the official fish; and, in 1976, it designated the apple as the official fruit of the State. No State song has been designated to date.

New York State's motto is Excelsior (Always Upward) and its nickname is The Empire State.