

2024 Who's Who in Government Relations:

Dan Lowenstein



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Elected officials play a leading role in writing the laws that govern the lives of New Yorkers, but it's not done in a vacuum. Behind the scenes, coalitions, trade associations and other stakeholder groups advocate for members' interests in the policymaking process. Hospitals, labor unions, real estate developers, nonprofits and other organizations dispatch government relations staffers – or hire experienced lobbyists – to persuade public officials of the importance of an outcome they're seeking. Even within government, different levels and branches negotiate with each other on high-stakes matters. Indeed, a lot of how government works is through government relations.

That's why City & State is bringing back the Who's Who in Government Relations for a second straight year. This list features the key people you need to know who are shaping policies that affect New Yorkers in so many ways – from the expansion of health care coverage to the creation of more affordable housing. It includes individuals who are winning funding for clean water infrastructure and STEAM education, securing land use approvals in high-profile projects and grappling with pressing issues, such as combating hate crimes, navigating the migrant crisis and adapting to the advent of AI.

What unites these notable New Yorkers is a record of shaping policies all across the state.

Dan Lowenstein - Senior Vice President of Government Affairs, VNS Health

Leading government affairs for VNS Health, New York's largest and most established home- and community-based health care organization, Dan Lowenstein advocates for solutions to support the growing number of

New Yorkers aging in place or living with disabilities. He has advocated for equitable, cost-effective health policy solutions for most of his career. Fun fact: Lowenstein got his start as a reporter for City & State Publisher Tom Allon. He met his wife, Wendi Paster – former chief of staff to retired Assembly Health Committee Chair Richard Gottfried – when Lowenstein worked for Gottfried and Paster worked for Ruth Messinger in the early 1990s.

Recent accomplishments:

Lowenstein and the VNS Health government affairs team (working with many others) played key roles in recent New York state initiatives to support seniors and people with disabilities. These include restoring quality incentive funding for managed long term care plans, ensuring adequate funding for MLTCs serving people with the most complex needs, securing funds to raise home care worker wages, and making it easier to integrate services for people enrolled in both Medicaid and Medicare.

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