

# Who's Who in Government Relations

Notable New Yorkers advocating for policy changes at the city, state and federal levels.



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Every year, City & State puts the spotlight on high-ranking executives leading the state's highest-grossing government relations firms on our Top Lobbyists list. But when it comes to influencing policymakers or securing public funds, these well-known lobbying leaders are just the tip of the iceberg. Our inaugural Who's Who in Government Relations feature highlights a much broader community of professionals who are leveraging their know-how and connections with public officials at City Hall, in the state Capitol and in Congress. This list encompasses key staffers directly employed by a wide range of companies, organizations and trade associations with government business, as well as rising stars making a name for themselves at top lobbying shops, leaders of smaller lobbying operations punching above their weight and even a few government relations officials who are inside government. What unites them all is a record of pushing, shaping or stopping proposed policies in New York.

## **Jonathan Shabshaikhes, Associate Director of Government Affairs, VNS Health**

Last year, Jonathan Shabshaikhes joined VNS Health as associate director of government affairs. He manages city, state and federal relationships that benefit the services and programs of the organization. For the past eight years, he worked in government and politics with roles in the state attorney general's office and the New York City public advocate's office under Letitia James handling intergovernmental relations and Jewish affairs.

Additionally, he worked as a legislative director in the New York City Council and at The Friedlander Group. Shabshaikhes was born and raised in Coney Island, Brooklyn.

**Recent accomplishments:** Entering the health care space during a time of government budget deficits, Shabshaikhes has secured an increase in discretionary funding in the New York City budget allowing VNS Health to increase health care access to more vulnerable New Yorkers. When the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services proposed payment reductions for home health care, Shabshaikhes lobbied Congress and secured the support of every member of the New York congressional delegation to oppose the cuts. Shabshaikhes has also enhanced VNS Health's government stakeholder engagements through community based partnerships and collaborations.

*City & State New York is a weekly news magazine and website covering New York local and state politics and government. It reaches an audience of 211,179 through their magazine, website, and social media.*