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Andrew Cuomo's Resignation Prompts Reactions in New York, Beyond

New York governor's accusers, prominent elected officials and the White House weighed in on his announcement

By Deanna Paul

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New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo said Tuesday he would resign, a week after the state's attorney general released a report finding he had sexually harassed multiple women and retaliated against at least one employee. Mr. Cuomo's decision to step down came amid an accelerated impeachment probe by the state Assembly and following days of criticism from his attorney about the fairness and accuracy of the report.

Mr. Cuomo's accusers, prominent elected officials and the White House weighed in on the resignation.

- **New York state Lt. Gov. Kathy Hochul**

"I agree with Governor Cuomo's decision to step down. It is the right thing to do and in the best interest of New Yorkers," said Ms. Hochul, who will take over as governor in two weeks. "As someone who has served at all levels of government and is next in the line of succession, I am prepared to lead as New York state's 57th Governor."

- **New York state Attorney General Letitia James**

"Today closes a sad chapter for all of New York, but it's an important step towards justice," Ms. James said. "I thank Governor Cuomo for his contributions to our state. The ascension of our Lieutenant Governor, Kathy Hochul, will help New York enter a new day."

- **White House press secretary Jen Psaki**

“Our view is that this is a story about these courageous women who came forward, told their stories, shared their stories,” Ms. Psaki said Tuesday, adding that the White House wasn’t given prior notice of Mr. Cuomo’s announcement, and that President Biden stood by his position that the governor should step aside.

- **New York City Mayor Bill de Blasio**

“Make no mistake, this is the result of survivors bravely telling their stories,” Mr. de Blasio said. “It was past time for Andrew Cuomo to resign and it’s for the good of all New York.”

- **New York state Democratic Chairman Jay S. Jacobs**

“New York will finally have its first female Governor and we could not be in better hands,” Mr. Jacobs said. “From assisting her mother run a transitional domestic violence shelter to helping make the property tax cap permanent, Kathy Hochul has always and relentlessly fought for the people of New York.”

- **Mariann Wang, a lawyer for Cuomo accusers Alyssa McGrath and Virginia Limmiatis**

“My clients feel both vindicated and relieved that Cuomo will no longer be in a position of power over anyone. His efforts, through his paid attorney, over the last few days, to gaslight and attack the brave women who came forward, apparently served no purpose. Ms. McGrath and Ms. Limmiatis remain grateful that their voices and experiences were heard and substantiated by the AG’s investigators, and feel solidarity with all women who continue to be abused by men in power.”

- **New York State Troopers Police Benevolent Association President Thomas H. Mungeer**

“While the NYSTPBA will not comment on the outgoing governor’s self-serving resignation speech, we commend our Trooper for having the courage to come forward and reveal the sexual harassment that she endured,” he said, referring to a state trooper who made sexual-harassment allegations against Mr. Cuomo that were included in the report.



Andrew Cuomo departed in a helicopter after announcing he would resign Tuesday in New York City.
CAITLIN OCHS/REUTERS

- **New York State Assembly Speaker Carl Heastie**

“Governor Cuomo’s resignation is the right decision,” he said. “The brave women who stepped forward were heard. Everyone deserves to work in a harassment free environment.”

- **Debra Katz, attorney for accuser Charlotte Bennett**

“The Governor’s decision to resign is a testament to the growing power of women’s voices since the beginning of the #MeToo movement. It underscores that sexual harassment is no longer acceptable—no matter what office the harasser holds.”

- **Former Cuomo adviser Lindsey Boylan**

“From the beginning, I simply asked that the Governor stop his abusive behavior. It became abundantly clear he was unable to do that, instead attacking and blaming victims until the end. It is a tragedy that so many stood by and watched these abuses happen.”

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Deanna was a staff writer at The Wall Street Journal, where she reported on New York courts and law enforcement. She previously covered national and breaking news for the Washington Post and was part of the newspaper’s team that was a finalist for the 2019 Pulitzer Prize in Explanatory Reporting,...



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