

John Mannion Has Been An Ardent Supporter Of The Disastrous Cashless Bail Law That Has Released Violent Criminals Across New York While They Are Awaiting Trial. Even Though Many Of These Criminals Have Gone On To Commit More Crimes Including Murder, Rape, And Robbery, Mannion Doubled Down On This Terrible Policy At The Expense Of Victims And Said Repealing Bail Reform “Would Be A Mistake.”

In 2020, Mannion Supported Bail Reform And Said An Outright Repeal Of The Law “Would Be A Mistake”

In 2020, Mannion Said Poverty Should Not Be Criminalized But Called For Giving Judges More Discretion. “Regarding bail reform, Mannion said poverty shouldn't be criminalized. While he supports ending cash bail, he believes judges should have greater discretion and have the power to set bail if someone poses a threat to others.” (Robert Harding, “Mannion vs. Renna: Candidates ready for special election to fill CNY state Senate seat,” [The Citizen](#), 3/14/21)

Mannion Said Bail Reform Was Necessary But Suffered From A Lack Of A Moderating Voice From The 50th District. “Mannion says bail reform was necessary but suffered for lack of a moderating voice from the vacant 50th Senate District.” (Editorial Board, “Editorial endorsement: Angi Renna in the 50th Senate District,” [The Post-Standard](#), 10/22/20)

In 2020, Mannion Said An Outright Repeal Of The Bail Reform Law “Would Be A Mistake.” “Mannion: He agrees that reform was needed to address the cash bail system, which he says was broken. An outright repeal of the bail reform law ‘would be a mistake,’ he said. He views his role as communicating with both sides of the issue to find ways to get the law right.” (Robert Harding, “John Mannion and Angi Renna, on the issues: NY Senate candidates on taxes, bail and more,” [The Citizen](#), 11/29/20)

In 2020, Mannion Said “The Criminal Justice System, And We’re Trying To Make It Better, Treats Rich Guilty People Better Than It Does Poor Innocent People”

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QUESTION: “I definitely want to make sure we get the cash bail because that's been a big issue for the state legislature and the new law that went into effect at the start of the year eliminating cash bail for most crimes and and after concerns were raised about some dangerous offenders getting released then they amended the law and they they put some additional charges into the bail eligible list. So my question for both candidates is you know given the changes that were made and where we're at now, are you comfortable with where we are in the cash bail law? And and sort of another facet of that, what's your thoughts on the underlying reasoning for doing this in the first place and that some people are saying cash bail was discriminating against poor people who you know don't have the money necessarily to pay the bail even though maybe a wealthier person charged with the same crime would?” MANNION: “Well there's great consensus in my conversations with members of the district attorney's office, judges, law enforcement, community advocates, and and lawyers, and police officers the cash bail was flawed and it negatively impacted the poorer communities. The criminal justice system, and we're trying to make it better, treats rich guilty people better than it does poor innocent people. Somebody that's charged with a crime that they're innocent of and they can't pay bail? They're guilty because they can't get out of jail. There's great consensus that that's flawed. When the reform came and across basically every constituent group there was agreement that we had to eliminate cash bail, like is the case in other states, that we didn't get it right and when a reform occurred and legislation went through the majority conference we had no senator at that time. We had no senator to bring the voices and the values of central New York to make sure that we get this legislation right and we do still have work to do. We have to stay in close communication with members of law enforcement, District Attorney, and social advocates to make sure that these communities are coming together and that our voices and our values of central New York are heard. I believe I can build that bridge because I have great relationships, I have family members, and law enforcement many of my

friends are in law enforcement and I'm closely connected to the community that wants change.” 50th Senate District debate -- Mannion vs. Renna,” [The Citizen Newspaper](#), 10/23/20) @52:37

Mannion Voted For The 2023-2024 Budget Which Gave Judges More Discretion During Pretrial Hearings

Mannion Voted In Favor Of The 2023-2024 Budget. ([A3005](#), Passed Senate, 42-20, Mannion Voted Aye, 5/1/23)

The Budget Removed The “Least Restrictive Means” Clause From Bail Reform, Giving Judges More Discretion. “One of the biggest changes to the law includes rolling back the ‘least restrictive means’ clause, which pushes judges to order whatever means are ‘least restrictive’ pretrial. The clause has now been eliminated in all cases, not just those in which a defendant is bail eligible. ‘It now gives them discretion if they need to hold violent criminals accountable, and upholds our fundamental belief in a criminal justice system that is fair and accessible to all and also ensures that poverty is never treated as a crime,’ said Hochul.” (Ryan Schwach, “Hochul signs bail changes into law,” [Queens Daily Eagle](#), 5/5/23)

The Least Restrictive Means Clause Required Judges To Use The Least Restrictive Means To Ensure Defendants Will Return To Court. “Tension over further rollbacks to the 2019 bail reform law was one of the most controversial sticking points of budget negotiations between the governor and legislative leaders this year. In the end, Gov. Kathy Hochul succeeded in eliminating the requirement that judges impose the ‘least restrictive means’ to ensure defendants’ return to court when setting bail. From now on, judges will only have to ‘consider the kind and degree of control or restriction necessary to reasonably assure’ a defendant’s return to court.” (Rebecca C. Lewis and Shantel Destra, “Contrary to Hochul’s stated plan, bail reform rollbacks apply to low level offenses,” [City & State](#), 5/2/23)

Mannion Voted For The 2022-2023 Budget Which Expanded The List Of Bail-Eligible Offenses To Include Certain Gun Crimes

Mannion Voted For The 2022-2023 Budget. ([S8006C](#), Passed Senate 37-25, Mannion Voted Aye, 4/8/22)

The Budget Expanded Bail-Eligible Offenses To Include Certain Gun Crimes. “For one, it will add a line to the law asserting that theft is included in crimes ‘involving harm to an identifiable person or property’ (unless a judge determines that the theft was ‘negligible’ and not ‘in furtherance of other criminal activity’). Currently, the phrase is undefined, and it is up to judges’ interpretation whether theft is included. With the budget, judges will be explicitly allowed to set bail if one is arrested for petit larceny while waiting for another petit larceny trial. The budget bill also will expand the parameters of bail-eligible repeat offenses to include those that were committed after someone was released by the police prior to their arraignment for an alleged crime. It will also add criminal possession of a firearm to the category of bail-eligible repeat offenses. And aside from repeat offense provisions, it will add two specific gun charges — sale of a gun to a minor and, essentially, possession of a gun with the serial number worn off — to the list of bail-eligible offenses.” (Chris Gelardi, “How New York State Just Rolled Back Criminal Justice Reforms,” [New York Focus](#), 4/9/22)