



## Peralta mourned in Queens

Evelyn Peralta, center, the widow of Jose Peralta, the first Dominican-American elected to the State Senate, after his funeral Tuesday. Peralta, 47, who died last Wednesday, was remembered for his passion and service.



New York State Senator Jose Peralta (D-13)

# Governor rules out '20 presidential run

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Gov. Andrew M. Cuomo, in a radio interview Tuesday, said he is ruling out a run for president in 2020.

That said, the governor also went on to describe the ideal Democratic candidate as someone who has the “experience and credibility” to get things done politically, which is how his backers sometimes describe him.

In the interview on WNYC, the New York City public radio station, the governor, who was re-elected to a third term three weeks ago, was pressed about his ambitions days after an Associated Press story named him as one of many potential contenders whose supporters have been in contact with influential Democrats



Gov. Andrew M. Cuomo

in Iowa, home of the first 2020 presidential caucus.

“I am ruling it out,” Cuomo told host Brian Lehrer. “I ran for governor. I

have a full plate. I have many projects. . . . I am governor of New York and I have a lot to do.”

Cuomo made the statement after outlining what he believes the Democrats need in a candidate and Lehrer saying the profile sounded like the governor himself.

Cuomo, in an argument he’s made before, said the party lost the 2016 election because it lost touch with the working class and spent too much time on rhetoric, not results.

“It’s not going to be enough to be anti-Trump,” Cuomo said. “We need a candidate who brings the experience and credibility to the job. . . . You need a positive Democrat, not message, but program that can improve people’s lives.”

## CUOMO-TRUMP AGENDA: RAIL TUNNEL

The Associated Press

ALBANY — New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo will go to Washington Wednesday to press President Donald Trump for federal funding for a new rail tunnel below the Hudson River.

The meeting comes as officials in New Jersey and New York express growing worries about the dilapidated, century-old tunnel owned by Amtrak that connects the two states. Experts have long said a new tunnel is needed to relieve congestion and prevent big problems at one of the most important transportation choke points in the nation.

Cuomo said he will also meet with U.S. Transportation Secretary Elaine Chao during the one-day trip. He made a similar trip in July.

“I’m going to keep hammering away,” Cuomo said about the project during an interview Tuesday on WNYC radio. “This is one of those pressing, practical

issues that we need resolution on for the good of New York and the entire northeast.”

Last month Cuomo toured the existing tunnel and sent video footage to Trump that showed water dripping down the tunnel walls, broken electrical cables and disintegrating concrete.

Under an agreement reached with the Obama administration, New York and New Jersey agreed to pick up \$5.5 billion of the cost, or about half the cost of the tunnel. The total project, known as the Gateway Project, would cost an estimated \$13 billion. But the Trump administration nixed that deal earlier this year, with Chao saying the two states need to pay more.

“They are two of the richest states in the country,” Chao said in March. “If they absorb all these funds, there will be no other funds for the rest of the country.”

In the radio interview,

Cuomo said, “This is a federally owned tunnel” that is critical not only to New York and New Jersey, but the entire Northeast rail corridor. He said funding approval is needed quickly because “even if you started today,” it would take “seven years” to get it built because of the lengthy bidding and environmental review process.

The governor said of the current rail tunnels: “They’re 100 years old. They are structurally damaged and it’s only a matter of time before they become unusable.” The two-tube tunnel suffered saltwater damage from superstorm Sandy in 2012 that is eating away at walls housing copper cables and electrical wires.

Amtrak, which owns the tunnels, has estimated one or both of the tunnel tubes could fail in the next 10 to 15 years. Cuomo estimates the new tunnel would take about seven years to build.

With Yancey Roy

## e-bikes, scooters

would want priority for the pilot to be given to neighborhoods impacted by the L train shutdown next April.

The city has for years asserted that both e-bikes and e-scooters would have to be legalized at the state level. Seth Stein, a mayoral spokesman, says he still believes that to be the case but expressed openness to the legislation — at least as it relates to e-scooters.

“While e-scooters are illegal under State and City law, the Mayor is committed to innovation as part of his all-of-the-above transportation strategy to get New Yorkers moving again,” Stein said in a statement. “We look forward to reviewing the proposals with an eye toward both transportation innovation and safety on our streets and sidewalks.”

Largely in response to community concerns around traffic safety, de Blasio described the motorized e-bikes as a “threat to neighborhood residents” when he announced the targeted enforcement against the bicycles in October 2017. The administration has since clarified its laws to legalize a certain type of e-bike, known as a pedal-assist bicycle, which has a motor that is activated by pedaling.

But the throttle version has remained in legal limbo. The bikes are legal to sell, but illegal to operate on New York streets. Espinal said his legislation worked around the state’s framework, by classifying the vehicles as “devices,” which would be subject to traffic laws but not required to be registered with the Department of Motor Vehicles.