



2019 Legislative Program

KEY COUNTY PRIORITIES

PROPERTY TAX REDUCTION

Fully take over county Medicaid costs and provide mandate relief.

RAISE THE AGE (RTA)

Maintain 100% reimbursement for implementation costs and delink from the property tax cap.

SHARED SERVICES

Use a portion of the \$225 million appropriation for plan development & implementation

INTERNET SALES TAX

Ensure a fair and level playing field for all main street businesses and retailers.



Agriculture & Rural Affairs

- Support a statewide dairy supplemental price system, promote consumption of milk in schools, and fund local agricultural assistance.
- Increase state support for Cornell Cooperative Extensions.



Cannabis Legalization

- Provide counties with resources for public education and and technical assistance to manage the societal impact to public health, public safety, criminal justice, consumer protection, and economic development, among others.



Children with Special Needs

- Improve the Early Intervention Program by addressing the lack of providers in many areas
- Require providers to maximize third party reimbursement prior to seeking payment from counties and the state.
- Expand Universal Prekindergarten (UPK) to include children with special needs.



Community Colleges

- Increase state FTE support to community colleges.
- Provide full reimbursement for community college chargebacks for 4 and 6 year degrees at the Fashion Institute of Technology (FIT).



Economic Development

- Support investments in shovel ready/market ready sites.
- Authorize Industrial Development Agencies (IDAs) to provide loans and grants.
- Prioritize and expand broadband and cellular coverage to unserved and underserved communities.



Elections

- Consolidate federal and state primary elections or provide state funding for duplicative primaries.
- Fully fund counties for early voting if implemented.



Environment

- Support educational initiatives related to recycling.
- Provide state assistance for localities affected by increases in recycling costs.
- Invest in testing and treating for emerging contaminants: PFOA/PFAS, 1-4 dioxane, and HABs.
- Create an industry supported paint stewardship program.
- Support a statewide solution to mitigate the environmental impact of single-use plastic bags
- Expand the NYS Returnable Container Act (“Bottle Bill”) to include more glass containers, such as liquor, wine, and iced tea bottles.
- Continue to relieve taxpayers from costs of e-waste disposal.



Gaming

- Resolve the gaming compact dispute with the Seneca Nation and hold counties harmless through state payments in the interim.
- If sports gaming is permitted in NYS, equitably share some of this revenue to all New York counties.



Human Services

- Make permanent housing the central focus of preventing homelessness, while developing a more effective emergency shelter model.
- Provide temporary training locations closer to home for county child welfare workers.



Judiciary

- Fund state-mandated salary increases for district attorneys.
- Lower judgement interest rates.



Local Finance & Tax Relief

- Increase county retention of revenues derived from county DMV operations.
- Reimburse counties 100% of all costs of a cashless bail system.
- Provide permanent and meaningful mandate relief.
- Ensure local home rule bills—like sales tax—are acted on quickly, provide longer extension periods, and eventually make them permanent.
- Eliminate the sales tax exemption for energy service companies.
- Ensure a level playing field between existing taxi and livery companies and TNCs like Uber and Lyft
- Eliminate the use of “dark store theory” as a way to lower property tax assessments.



Shared Services

- Make it easier for local governments to create health insurance consortiums.
- Continue state matching funds for savings generated through the countywide shared services initiative.
- Adjust property tax cap provisions that work against local shared services and functional consolidations.
- Ease court consolidation procedures.
- Use a portion of \$225 million appropriation for plan development and implementation.



Medicaid

- Ensure no new costs are shifted to counties as the state continues to realign Medicaid administrative functions.
- Provide more incentives and assistance to counties to supply personal care aides and related workers to eligible recipients.



Property Tax Reduction

- Enact “No New Unfunded Mandates” legislation and cap current state mandated costs at a rate that does not exceed the state-imposed property tax cap.



Public Employee Relations

- Repeal the NYS Scaffold Law, or reform it to include a pure standard of comparative negligence.
- Grant county home rule authority to allow for the establishment of countywide EMS related districts.



Public Health & Mental Health

- Provide for a 50-50 state and local share for counties investigating unattended deaths.
- Support Article 6 programs by raising the base grant and increasing state reimbursement to local health departments.
- Establish permanent jail-based substance use disorder treatments and transition services programs in all county correctional facilities.



Public Infrastructure & Transportation

- Authorize use of successful wildlife management at airports.
- Reauthorize a new round of funding for the Competition to Revitalize Upstate Airports.
- Increase CHIPS funding and continue to fully fund PAVE NY and a new round of BRIDGE NY.
- Increase the CHIPS bidding threshold to give municipalities flexibility to bid out or perform in-house projects.
- Authorize use of design-build contracts for localities.



Public Safety

- Reimburse counties detaining state parole violators at local correctional facilities for over 10 days.
- Enhance counties’ share of statewide 9-1-1 surcharge to support public safety answering points.
- Release the interoperable emergency communication funds in a more timely manner.
- Increase the State income tax credits for volunteer firefighters and EMS workers.
- Allocate funding for a school resource officer in every school district throughout NYS.



Veteran Services

- Restore support for State Veteran Benefit Advisors.
- Expand Veteran Treatment/Diversion Courts.