

# 2016 NYSAC Legislative Program

## **County Priorities: The State Must**

- Provide meaningful and permanent property tax relief by taking more fiscal responsibility for state programs designed and controlled by the state.
- Target most of the \$2.4 billion in unappropriated bank settlement funds to rebuilding our upstate transportation infrastructure.
- Restore prior cost sharing arrangements under the Safety Net program, while maintaining the full federalizing of Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) and other related Family Assistance costs.

## **Priorities By Issue Area**

### **Agriculture and Rural Affairs**

- Sustain funding to ensure farmland throughout New York is preserved
- Support funding for agriculture local assistance programs

### **Children and Families**

- Dedicate and expand resources to ensure counties are fully reimbursed for outstanding Early Intervention (EI) claims that predate the Statewide Fiscal Agent
- Require EI provider claims are filed in a timely manner with commercial insurance and Medicaid
- Establish a plan to remove counties from the fiscal responsibility of preschool special education transportation costs
- Implement a new statewide computer system that provides real time, reliable data that improves the ability to monitor the financing, service, and program administration of the preschool special education program

### **Economic Development**

- Deploy broadband grants to unserved and underserved communities across the state
- Allow IDAs to finance civic facilities and provide grants and loans for local projects

### **Energy and the Environment**

- Amend the “Electronics Recycling and Reuse Act” to require manufacturers to collect e-waste and provide fiscal relief to local governments forced to still recycle electronics
- Support programs and policies that curb the spread of invasive species
- Encourage congressional members to repeal federal rules that expand the Clean Water Act by redefining “waters of the US”

### **Gaming**

- Maintain casino revenue shares to counties to cover public safety, social services and infrastructure cost increases associated with state licensed gaming facilities
- Maintain the integrity of the state created gaming exclusivity zones

*This Legislative Program was developed by county delegates, and reflects the need for specific state or federal action. These priority issues have a direct impact on local governments, our businesses, and the New Yorkers who live in our communities. For more details on these items, visit [www.nysac.org](http://www.nysac.org) or contact NYSAC Director of Intergovernmental Affairs Dave Lucas at 518-465-1473.*

**Hon. William Cherry, President**

**Stephen J. Acquario, Executive Director**

## Indigent Legal Defense Services

- Support a fully funded state takeover for county indigent defense service expenses
- Ensure full state funding for increased county costs related to arraignment at first appearance, or any other state-imposed changes to indigent defense services

## Human Services

- Ensure all costs associated with raising the age of criminal responsibility are paid for in full by the state
- Bolster state resources for child welfare services by restoring the 65 percent open ended state reimbursement to counties for preventive and protective services
- Ensure federal changes to child care programs that increase local costs are backfilled with sufficient state resources and assistance to protect child care slots in our communities

## Local Government Finance and Tax Relief

- Support a four year authorization of all local sales tax extenders when renewed in 2017
- Urge voters to approve a constitutional convention so that delegates can consider ending the imposition of unfunded state mandates on counties and other local governments

## Medicaid

- Ensure no costs are shifted to counties as the state continues to take over local Medicaid administration

## Public Employee Relations

- Provide enhanced veteran benefits in a way that does not increase costs for localities

- Amend scaffold laws to be more in line with other states, thereby reducing the cost of new construction in NYS
- Refrain from any new or enhanced mandated local public employee benefits that will increase costs for local taxpayers

## Public Health and Mental Health

- Increase support for Article 6 programs by raising the base grant and increasing state reimbursement to local health departments
- Support statewide awareness of Lyme Disease and other tick borne diseases
- Foster collaboration and information sharing as the State OPWDD transforms the developmental disabilities system

## Public Safety

- Require more frequent updates to driver's license photos to enhance public safety
- Increase state assistance for medical costs in county jails, particularly for HIV and Hepatitis C treatment
- Develop a plan for the next generation of 911 service capability by ensuring the Public Safety Surcharge is collected on all devices that access 911
- Provide an increase in base Public Safety Answering Points (PSAP) grants to counties
- Create a New York State 911 Department that supports county PSAPs and enhances local emergency dispatch services
- Enact legislation that promotes video conferencing for court appearances for county jail inmates

## Public Infrastructure and Transportation

- Provide counties a more equitable share of fees collected at county-operated DMVs
- Increase the registration weight of ATV's to increase tourism and promote safety

