

Hon. William E. Cherry
President

Stephen J. Acquario
Executive Director



NYSAC
The Voice for
County Government



NYSAC
NEW YORK STATE
ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES

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Delivering for Counties Since 1925

NYSAC: Your county voice in Albany and Washington.

NYSAC's mission is to represent, educate, advocate for, and serve member counties and their county officials.

The New York State Association of Counties (NYSAC) is a nonprofit bipartisan association serving the counties of New York State including the City of New York.

Organized in 1925, we are the only statewide municipal association representing the interests of thousands of county leaders, including legislators, supervisors, county executives, administrators, commissioners and other of county officials who deliver essential services to New Yorkers.

We represent New York counties before federal, state and local officials and we inform our membership and the public at large on issues of importance to counties. We educate, train and provide research on critical public policy, and we advocate for counties to the legislative and executive branches of government at the state and federal levels.

NYSAC offers counties a variety of services and programs in the interest of better, more cost effective and efficient government. We maintain close ties with officials in Albany and Washington in an effort to ensure New York's counties are adequately represented as state and federal policies and spending plans are determined.

Our staff has more than 100 years of collective legislative experience, which we have leveraged for substantial victories in the past few years, including:

- capping county Medicaid costs,
- reducing Medicaid fraud,
- reforming the early intervention program,
- increasing home rule authority, and
- curbing the number of unfunded mandates on New York's counties and local property taxpayers.

We provide timely and pertinent information and solutions to our member counties through conferences, policy briefs, research, survey reports, newsletters, magazines, alerts, and daily news clips.

Legislative Advocacy

NYSAC amplifies the voices of county officials in Albany, Washington D.C. and throughout the state. Our legislative advocacy focuses on policy, legislation and regulatory issues, and also extends to broader government policy development and implementation through participation on statewide advisory boards and committees.

Recent Legislative Highlights

In 2016, NYSAC Legislative Staff:

- Attended more than 1,000 meetings;
- Reviewed, monitored and/or commented on more than 700 bills;
- Provided written or oral testimony to numerous state legislative committees;
- Provided comments on proposed state and federal regulations;
- Attended meetings in 41 counties, New York City and Washington DC;
- Hosted 4 webinars;
- Filed 2 amicus briefs in support of county litigation;
- Strengthened partnerships designed to improve local government service delivery and reduce costs;
- Assisted counties with local law development and interpretation, charter revisions, and employee related matters;
- Represented counties on several statewide advisory panels including the Medicaid waiver DSRIP panel, Advisory Council for the Retirement System, Raise the Age and other juvenile justice reform panels, Invasive Species Advisory Committee, and special education fiscal advisory workgroup.

2015 Policy and Research Reports

- A Primer on NY's Heroin and Opioid Epidemic
- County Case Studies in Battling New York's Heroin and Opioid Epidemic
- Organ Donation in NYS
- Broadband Connections
- Funding 911 Services in NYS
- Indigent Legal Defense Services, Balanced Justice and Mandate Relief
- Preserving Local Departments of Motor Vehicles
- New York State's Bottle Bill
- Power Plus Opportunities for the Appalachian Regions of NYS
- Raising the Minimum Wage in New York State
- Counties Promoting Public Health: A Special Report
- Drinking Water Safety

Education and Training

NYSAC strives to provide training and education to county leaders on issues vital to public policy and county services. The following is a comprehensive overview of NYSAC's training and educational programs that have been offered to our county members over the past two years.

Webinars

Purchasing Cards and Streamlining Procurement
Solar Energy and Renewable Incentives
The Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA)
The \$500 million New New York Broadband Program
NY's Property Tax Freeze Rebate Program
Budget Updates/Summary

Regional Trainings

Ethics in Government
Intercounty Briefings/Adirondack-Western
Leadership Meetings with State Government
Presentations at affiliate meetings and conferences
Southern Tier Leadership Conference

Major Conferences

Legislative Conference / Every February in Albany
Fall Seminar — Every September
County Finance School — Every May in Onondaga County

The NYSA County Government Institute

The County Government Institute is a non-profit organization jointly developed by NYSAC and Cornell University that offers a comprehensive educational program for county officials. The Institute is designed to enhance the knowledge, skills, and abilities of county officials.

Orientation for Newly Elected & Appointed County Officials

These sessions are developed to provide newly elected and appointed county officials with a firm foundation as they begin their public service as a county official. The orientation covers county budgets and finance, ethics laws, county organization, legal requirements and other issues that have an impact on them as they take their new office.

Education and Training

2015-16 Workshops & Training Sessions (Partial List)

- Updates in Early Intervention
- Financing 9-1-1 in your county
- Understanding the challenges of our transportation infrastructure
- Dispute resolution and the art of negotiation for elected officials
- Channeling your county to the media
- Helping your local economy take flight: the role of aviation
- Challenging in inmate medical care and mental health treatment
- Casinos in New York State
- Local Court Consolidation through Cooperation
- Renewable energy: Could solar and hydro power meet your needs?
- Pr-k Reforms
- Federal Funding: An untapped resource for economic development in your county
- Tax reform commission update
- County Role in Fighting Heroin
- Advocacy and Funding for Indigent Legal Defense Services
- Ethics in government
- Learning how to get to consensus in the negotiation process
- Defining Government Innovations
- Procurement in a State of Emergency
- Principles of County Budget and Finance
- Jail construction and expansion
- Municipal restructuring overview
- Better fleet management with fewer tax dollars
- Animal Abuse and Impact on Counties
- Medical Marijuana
- Tax Foreclosures on Hazardous Waste Properties
- Federal Policy Matters
- Emerging Leaders: Engaging Women, Minorities and Millennials
- Revitalizing Upstate, Region by Region
- Online Resources for County HR
- NY State Mandates and County Property Taxes
- Internet Sales Tax Decision - Impact on NYS counties

NYSAC Communications

NYSAC Publications

NYSAC publications keep county officials up-to-date on the issues impacting county governments across the state, and on the latest in innovative solutions to the challenges facing counties.

Counties in the News

Daily e-mail of county-related news stories from news outlets across the state.

Weekly Wire

A weekly publication sent every Monday morning during the State Legislative Session to highlight county-related issues, NYSAC actions, and legislative activities taking place in Albany that week.

NYSAC News magazine

The official publication of the association is published three times a year and focuses on issues important to counties, with articles written by experts in the field, NYSAC staff, and state leaders.

County Directory

We collect and publish the only annual and most complete compilation of elected and appointed county employees from each county.

County Communications

- NYSAC Standing Committee Meetings
- Affiliate Association Meetings
- NYSAC Task Force Meetings
- Intercounty Meetings throughout the year (Western/Adirondack)
- Updates to Boards of Supervisors and County Legislatures
- Information Clearinghouse for Member Questions
- Conference calls around major issues

Legal Services

Counsel

Currently the offices of Counsel and Assistant Counsel take phone calls from county officers and outside counsel regarding legal issues affecting our membership. These issues include, but are not limited to, procurement, ethics, indigent defense and Native American Affairs.

AWP Litigation:

NYSAC unified county efforts in recovery of overcharges by drug companies using average wholesale pricing which increased costs to localities and the state.

Tracking of County Local Laws:

Currently NYSAC counsel drafts quarterly updates to counties regarding individual county local laws which have been adopted during the months prior to the release. NYSAC picks four to six laws which we believe would be of interest to other counties statewide. This provides counties with information regarding where the laws have been adopted so, if interest arises, counties will know where to turn to obtain a copy of said law to minimize duplicative efforts.

NYSAC has also worked closely with the Department of State in an attempt to have all municipalities' local laws available on a statewide online database. This process is currently underway.

Amicus Support

St. Lawrence County v. New York State Department of Health: Court of Appeals matter to which counties are seeking reimbursement for decades of overpayment to the State for specific Medicaid expenses. In addition to the reimbursement issue, the Court's decision in this case could impact when county is allowed to challenge the State on future unrelated matters.

In the Matter of Natural Resources Defense Council, Inc. v New York State Department of Environmental Conservation: State Supreme Court case involving a challenge to the DEC's General Storm water system that provides permits to municipalities.

Lieberman v. County of Wayne: (submitted to the U.S. Bankruptcy Court) Federal Case regarding the challenge of the In Rem Tax Foreclosure Process.

Wolinsky v Clinton County: (submitted to the U.S. Bankruptcy Court) Federal Case regarding the challenge of the In Rem Tax Foreclosure Process.

Partnership Programs

NYSAC's Partnership Programs are designed to reduce the cost of county operations, provide added services to residents, offer solutions to the biggest challenges counties face, and underwrite the research, services and support provided by your association.

New York Municipal Insurance Reciprocal (NYMIR)

NYMIR is a non-profit municipal insurance program governed by local government officials for New York's local governments—counties, towns, villages and cities.

Public Employer Risk Management Association (PERMA)

NYSAC and PERMA have established a workers' compensation program designed to assist counties and county pools stabilize costs, manage claims and reduce risks.

ProAct

The ProAct partnership offers counties and employees to lower the cost of their prescription drug plans. ProAct's partnership with NYSAC also provides discount prescription program to lower the cost of drugs for residents.

Municipal Electric and Gas Alliance (MEGA)

MEGA is a county-based organization established to help local governments save taxpayer dollars by buying electric and gas in bulk on the utility market.

Purchasing Card Program

NYSAC's Purchasing Card Program, administered by PFM, is designed to provide counties with rebates on any and all purchases made with the card, streamline the purchasing process, protect against fraud, and provide greater convenience.

U.S. Communities

U.S. Communities is the leading national government purchasing cooperative, providing world class government procurement resources and solutions to counties and local governments in New York and nationwide.

County Dental Network Card Program

The Dental Network Card Program is a partnership that enables county leaders to provide their residents with access to lower cost dental services.

Deferred Compensation Retirement Program

NYSAC, the National Association of Counties (NACo) and Nationwide Retirement Solutions provide county employees with deferred compensation investment options.

NYSAC Tower Management Program

NYSAC worked with Onondaga County and Crown Castle to develop a program that allows interested counties to generate revenue by leasing unused space on county-owned vertical assets.



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