



Legislative Program

COUNTY PRIORITIES

DO NO HARM

The State should avoid cost shifts and cuts, while providing tools that will reduce costs for taxpayers.

RAISE THE AGE (RTA)

Delink the state property tax cap with reimbursement for costs to implement the new RTA state mandate.

LOCAL GOV'T FINANCE

Ensure a fair and level playing field for all retailers by addressing shortcomings in Internet sales tax collection practices.

SHARED SERVICES

Allow for the expansion of shared municipal health insurance consortiums and expand options for workers comp pools.



Agriculture and Rural Affairs

- Support funding for local agricultural assistance and education programs.
- Increase state reimbursement for school lunches from .0599 cents per meal to at least .0799 per meal.



Children with Special Needs

- Reform the Early Intervention Program to ensure provider capacity and hold counties harmless for delays that occur due to a lack of availability of providers.
- Ensure third party insurance collections are maximized in the Early Intervention Program.
- Reimburse counties for 69.5% of preschool special education costs as statutorily required, increase administrative reimbursements, and increase state transportation caps.
- Expand Universal Prekindergarten Program (UPK) to include children with special needs.



Community Colleges

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



Economic Development

- Continue to prioritize and expand broadband coverage to unserved and underserved communities.



Elections

- Consolidate federal and state primary elections, or provide state funding for cost of duplicative primaries.
- Provide state funding for early voting, if it is enacted.
- Provide state funding for strengthening cyber security.



Energy and the Environment

- Create an industry-backed paint stewardship program.



Gaming

- Resolve the dispute with the Seneca Nation over gaming compact payments to state and local governments and allow payments to localities until the dispute is resolved.



Human Services

- Reverse state foster care funding reductions enacted in last year's budget and repeal the foster care cap.
- Clarify homelessness prevention goals and develop a less burdensome emergency shelter model.



Indigent Legal Defense Services

- Maintain commitment to prefund expansion of indigent defense services to all counties.



Judiciary

- Restore full state funding support for state-mandated salary increases for county district attorneys.
- Support lowering judgement interest rates.



Local Finance and Tax Relief

- Enact legislation that levels the retailer playing field by collecting sales taxes for online purchases.
- Increase county retention of revenues derived from county Department of Motor Vehicle operations.
- Ease state rules related to how local governments transmit local laws/documents to the State.
- Allocate resources to counties participating in the Local Update of Census Addresses (LUCA) program.
- Provide permanent and meaningful property tax relief by reforming mandates, especially the cost of Medicaid, human services and indigent defense.

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Local Shared Services

- Amend state insurance law to allow for the expansion of shared municipal health insurance consortiums.
- Adjust property tax cap provisions that work against local shared services and functional consolidations.
- Ease court consolidation procedures.



Public Employee Relations

- Repeal the NYS Scaffold Law, or reform it to include a pure standard of comparative negligence.
- Allow counties to add professional EMTs to their workers compensation risk pools



Public Health and Mental Health

- Maintain the carveout from Medicaid managed care for school-based health centers.
- Restore funding for counties investigating unattended deaths, which are increasing due to opioid and heroin epidemic.
- Provide support and resources for statewide awareness on the threat of Lyme and other tick-borne diseases.
- Support Article 6 programs by raising the base grant and increasing state reimbursement to local health departments.
- Fund treatment of county inmates with substance abuse disorders, mental health needs, HIV, and Hep C.
- Ensure that high-risk children have access to services and supports needed as the State implements Medicaid Redesign.
- Provide resources for the Local Governmental Units to implement the Assisted Outpatient Treatment (AOT) program.



Public Infrastructure and Transportation

- Continue state and federal commitments to counties for maintaining local roads, bridges, and culverts.
- Consider alternative funding mechanisms for more adequate and consistent investments in local infrastructure projects.
- Authorize use of design-build contracts for localities.



Public Safety

- Reimburse counties for costs of detaining state parole violators at local correctional facilities if they are not transferred to a state facility within 10 days.
- Enhance counties' share of statewide 9-1-1 surcharge to support 9-1-1 public safety answering points and prepare for NextGen 9-1-1 services.
- Promote the use of video conferencing for court appearances for inmates held in county jails.
- Allow counties the option to detain persons being held for arraignment in their county jail.
- Prohibit civilian drone use within one thousand feet of a correctional facility.
- Support a Statewide Law Enforcement Records Management System that provides real-time data sharing with federal, state and local agencies.
- Ensure that the NYS Civil Service provides timely eligibility lists for County Correction Officers, Deputy Sheriffs, Probation Officers and Dispatchers.
- Allow for the release of DNA database information when there is a familial connection between a recorded offender and a sample collected from the scene of a violent crime.
- Strengthen boating while intoxicated laws.



Raise the Age (RTA)

- Delink the state property tax cap and county eligibility for full reimbursement for state-mandated RTA costs.
- Remove fiscal caps for foster care and youth detention.
- Restore the 65 percent state match for child welfare.
- Provide a clear service needs plan and capital investment strategy to ensure counties have sufficient provider capacity and detention space.
- Prefund county capital costs for building specialized juvenile detention facilities.
- Bolster outreach and require engagement of the K-12 school system as a partner in these systemic reforms.
- Provide waivers to counties that do not have adolescent placement facilities ready by October 1, 2018.



Veteran Services

- Restore fiscal support for State Veteran Benefit Advisors and expand Veteran Treatment/Diversion Courts throughout the state.