



2020 Legislative Program

KEY COUNTY PRIORITY

PRESERVE COUNTY MEDICAID CAP

Ensure no new costs are shifted to counties as the state addresses major funding shortfalls in the program.



Children with Special Needs

- Improve the Early Intervention Program by addressing the lack of providers in many areas through a state-funded 5% provider rate increase.
- Require school districts to transport preschool children to programs, and reimburse through an equal cost share between the county, state, and school district.
- Require providers to maximize third party payments prior to seeking payment from counties and the state.
- Cap county fiscal liability for preschool special ed.
- Expand Universal Prekindergarten (UPK) to include children with special needs.



Community Colleges

- Set the base state aid formula allocation for each community college to 100% of the prior year or increase \$100 per FTE, whichever is greater.
- Provide full state reimbursement for community college chargebacks for 4-and-6-year degrees at the Fashion Institute of Technology (FIT).
- Increase the state share for community college base aid.



Economic Development

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



Elections

- Maintain the SFY 2019-20 financial commitment for early voting operations.



Environment

- Fund local educational initiatives related to recycling.
- Support battery stewardship legislation.
- Continue support for PFAS and water contamination remediation.
- Renew the \$3 million appropriation for e-waste collection and disposal programs.
- Provide funding for counties to administer Septic System Replacement and release round 2 of funding.

- Expand the Bottle Bill to include more glass containers, such as liquor, wine, and iced tea bottles.
- Enact S.5655/A.7561-A into law, expanding the ZEV rebate for municipalities.



Gaming

- Resolve the gaming compact dispute between the State of New York and the Seneca Nation and hold counties harmless through state payments in the interim.
- Share sports gaming revenue with all New York counties and include off track betting corporations.



Human Services

- Make permanent housing the central focus of preventing homelessness.
- Fully fund the family support service programs to help prevent PINS children from further involvement with the child welfare system.
- Fully fund the costs of any services the state continues to provide when the federal government ends their federal financial support.



Judiciary

- Fully fund parental representation in child welfare proceedings.
- Fund state-mandated salary increases for DAs.
- Lower judgment interest rates.



Local Finance & Tax Relief

- Increase county retention of revenues derived from county DMV operations.
- Partner with counties to lower local government costs.
- Reform the home rule process to grant permanent sales tax authority to counties at existing rates.
- 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.
- Eliminate the use of “dark store theory” as a way to lower property tax assessments and create a task force to find solutions.



Medicaid

- Lower county and New York City statutory Medicaid caps to reflect current payments and savings provided by the Affordable Care Act.
- Expand the scope of special transportation services for children who are eligible for Medicaid reimbursement.
- Preserve county Medicaid cost caps.



Public Employee Relations

- Reform the NYS Scaffold Law to include a pure standard of comparative negligence.
- Grant county home rule authority to allow for county-wide EMS related districts.
- Amend Public Offices Law § 3 to allow for home rule authority to set employee residency rules.



Public & Mental Health

- Fully fund local lead poisoning prevention and other public health initiatives.
- Restore Article 6 funds for NYC to 36%.
- Raise the base grant for Article 6 programs and increase funding to local health departments.
- Provide for a 50-50 state-local share for counties investigating unattended deaths.
- If adult-use cannabis is legalized, provide counties with resources for public education and technical assistance to manage the societal impacts. Counties should be allowed to apply their local sales tax rate on these transactions. In addition, the cannabis cultivation tax should be shared with the county in which the product is grown.
- Establish and fully fund permanent jail-based substance use disorder treatments and transition services programs in all county jails.
- Expand supportive housing beds, including housing for individuals with developmental disabilities.



Public Infrastructure & Transportation

- Reinstate authority to use certain wildlife management technologies 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 for in-house projects.
- Authorize use of design-build contracts for localities.
- Cover county costs for state transportation electrification mandates under the CLCPA.
- Exclude capital costs from property tax cap formula.



Public Safety

- Fully fund county costs related to implementing criminal justice reforms.
- Reimburse counties for detaining state parole violators at local jails for over 10 days.
- Oppose the HALT Act without state funding resources to expand rehabilitative units and fund treatment costs.
- Authorize court consolidation.
- Enhance counties' share of the statewide 9-1-1 surcharge to support public safety answering points.
- Release the interoperable emergency communication funds in a timelier manner.
- Increase the state income tax credits for volunteer EMS and firefighter personnel.
- Prohibit the use of drones near jails.
- Amend the Raise the Age law to allow 16-and 17-year-olds to be housed in special designated areas of the county jail.
- Oppose S.2161/A.833 re: MAT in local jails without state financial resources.
- Allow county jails to have pre-arraignment holding.



Rural Affairs & Agriculture

- 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.
- Support agriculture education and teacher training.



Shared Services

- Make it more efficient for local governments to create health insurance consortia under Article 47.
- Continue state matching funds for savings generated through county-wide shared services (CWSSI) panels.
- Allow a portion of the CWSSI matching funds to be used for plan development and implementation costs.
- Adjust property tax cap provisions that work against local shared services and consolidations.



Veteran Services

- Restore support for State Veteran Benefit Advisors.
- Expand Veteran Treatment/Diversion Courts.
- Share the DD-214 form with counties.

NEW YORK STATE ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES

540 Broadway, 5th Floor Albany, NY 12207

518.465.1473

www.nysac.org