



NYS Association of Counties 2021 Legislative Program

POST-BUDGET PRIORITIES



Children with Special Needs

- Enact an Early Intervention covered lives assessment fee on commercial insurance to help fund services for infants with special needs, S.5560-A (Reichlin-Melnick) / A.5339 (Paulin).
- Expand Universal Prekindergarten (UPK) to include children with special needs.
- Require school districts to transport preschool children to programs, and reimburse costs with an equal share between the county, state and school district.



Economic Development

- Prioritize and expand broadband and cellular coverage to unserved and under-served communities.
- Release the Upstate Cellular Coverage Task Force report.
- Reform the DOT fiber right-of-way fee by enacting S.2659 (Helming) / A.4373 (Walczyk).
- Create a uniform statewide process for 3rd party food delivery service fees by enacting S.1554-B (Kavanagh) / A.4127-A (Fahy) to create a uniform statewide process for 3rd party food delivery service fees.



Environment

- Enact the Extended Producer Responsibility Act, S.1185-B (Kaminsky)/A.5801(Englebright).
- Expand the Bottle Bill to include liquor, wine and iced tea bottles.
- Establish a safe water infrastructure program, S.3968-A (Hinchey).



Environment, *cont.*

- Create a more stable and comprehensive electronic waste recycling infrastructure, by enacting S.1095 (Kaminsky)/A.4500 (Hunter).
- Make PFAS data public and support its remediation.



Gaming

- Resolve the gaming compact dispute between the State and the Seneca Nation.



Human Services

- Reform the use of term “handicapping conditions with disabilities,” S.1057 (Mayer) / A.4104 (Benedetto).



Judiciary

- Lower court judgement interest rates, S.3250 (Sanders) / A.5016 (McDonald).



Local Finance & Tax Relief

- Expand investment options for counties as outlined in Part MM, S.2505/A.3005.
- Eliminate the use of “dark store theory” as a way to lower property tax assessments and create a task force to identify solutions.
- Grant counties the authority to be included in the State’s debt set off program for any outstanding debt totaling \$50 or more, and include income from sports betting, on-off track betting and casinos, including VLT’s.
- Pass sales tax permanency and grant all counties the authority to raise sales tax rates to 4% as outlined in Part L, S.2509/A.3009.



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Public Employee Relations

- Reform the NYS Scaffold Law to include a pure standard of comparative negligence.
- Reform the NYS Wicks Law (GML § 101) to raise current thresholds to at least \$10 million for all entities currently subject to limits.
- Amend Public Officers Law § 3 to allow for home rule authority to set employee residency rules.



Shared Services

- Ease the creation of local government health insurance consortia under Article 47 of the Insurance Law, S.712 (Breslin) / A.543 (Steck).
- 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.



Public Infrastructure & Transportation

- Reinstate authority to use certain wildlife management techniques at airports.
- Authorize use of design-build contracts for localities.
- Exclude capital costs from property tax cap formula.



Public Safety

- Reform the raise the age statute for JDs, orders of protection, appearance tickets, and presentence investigations.
- Authorize court consolidation.
- Raise the volunteer firefighters and EMS workers income tax credit, S.4889 (Felder) / A.5206 (Gunther).
- Authorize local governments the flexibility to grant property tax credits for volunteer firefighters and EMS workers, (Gaughran) /A.2326 (Stern).
- Reform the STOP DWI fee collection processes, S.3901 (Kennedy).
- Grant counties the flexibility to create and authorize county-wide EMS taxing districts for underserved communities.



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