



NYSAC

NEW YORK STATE
ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES

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Majority Leader Andrea Stewart-Cousins
New York State Senate
LOB 907
Albany, NY 12247

Speaker Carl Heastie
New York State Assembly
LOB 932
Albany, NY 12248

Dear General Budget Conference Committee Members,

On behalf of the New York State Association of Counties (NYSAC), I write to express our support for the proposed increases to Aid and Incentives for Municipalities (AIM) and Temporary Municipal Assistance for cities, towns, and villages. Strengthening the State's investment in local government is the right direction, and we commend the Governor and Legislature for recognizing that need.

We respectfully request that New York City and the 57 counties—all participants in the original state revenue sharing program—be restored to AIM eligibility, ensuring these governments can continue delivering the essential services that more than eight million New Yorkers depend on each day. Counties finance and administer an extensive range of state-mandated functions, including public health protection, social services, public safety, indigent legal services, preschool special education, and child and adult protective services. For just a handful of the largest programs, counties and New York City contribute more than \$14 billion annually in local taxes.

Each year, the cost of these mandated programs continues to grow—as do the many discretionary services local taxpayers rely on and expect their counties to provide.

That pressure is already showing up in local budgets: 12 counties exceeded the property tax cap for 2026—the highest number since 2014—with an average levy increase of 11 percent over the prior year. We believe restoring AIM for counties and New York City can help alleviate these fiscal pressures and ensure counties remain strong partners in delivering the services New Yorkers depend on.

With your support, restoring AIM for counties and New York City will help mitigate pressure on property taxes and strengthen the State's partnership with local governments.

Respectfully submitted,

Stephen J. Acquario
Executive Director

Committed to counties since 1925

Albany, Allegany, Bronx, Broome, Cattaraugus, Cayuga, Chautauqua, Chemung, Chenango, Clinton, Columbia, Cortland, Delaware, Dutchess, Erie, Essex, Franklin, Fulton, Genesee, Greene, Hamilton, Herkimer, Jefferson, Kings, Lewis, Livingston, Madison, Monroe, Montgomery, Nassau, New York, Niagara, Oneida, Onondaga, Ontario, Orange, Orleans, Oswego, Otsego, Putnam, Rensselaer, Queens, Richmond, Rockland, St. Lawrence, Saratoga, Schoenectady, Schoharie, Schuyler, Seneca, Steuben, Suffolk, Sullivan, Tioga, Tompkins, Ulster, Warren, Washington, Wayne, Westchester, Wyoming, Yates

