



# NYSAC

— NEW YORK STATE —  
ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES



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NYSAC President: Hon. Benjamin Boykin II, Westchester County | NYSCEA President: Hon. Jason T. Garnar, Broome County

Executive Director: Stephen J. Acquario, Esq.

March 18, 2025

Dear Governor Hochul and New York State Legislators:

As elected officials and leaders of New York State, it is incumbent upon us to hold ourselves to the same standards that we profess to others. This is a fundamental principle of fairness that is an inherent element of the social contract that binds our government to its citizens. However, in the New York State budget process, we have seen this principle repeatedly abandoned. The State has mandated that counties and local governments stay within a 2% property tax cap, yet counties are saddled with cost increases substantially beyond this 2% limit. This policy contradiction can only be described as a double standard.

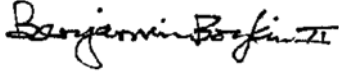
Alarming, up to 80% of a county's total budget is dedicated to paying for state and federal mandates. The growing state budget increases the likelihood of increased costs facing counties. Just one example of these cost shifts is the change to section 730 of the Criminal Procedure Law (CPL) to restore the competency of mentally ill defendants so they can go to trial. Since the 2020 state budget, counties are now forced to pay 100% of the costs of these services, which had previously only been 50%. Over the past few years, counties have experienced increased expenditures as high as 400%, with some now facing annual costs exceeding \$5.3 million.

To complicate matters further, the federal government is currently considering proposals to reduce federal spending by trillions of dollars across multiple agencies and programs, with Medicaid spending being targeted for a cut of up to \$880 billion over a ten-year period. This federal austerity measure will severely impact the state financial plan and inevitably increase pressure to shift even more costs to counties, who are already struggling under existing mandates. During these uncertain financial times, we must, as state and local leaders, practice fiscal responsibility and ease the burden on counties and local taxpayers.

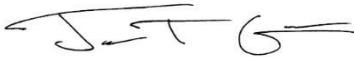
In light of these realities and as detailed in the enclosed resolution adopted by the NYSAC Board of Directors, we urge New York State to embrace fiscal discipline that mirrors what is required of counties. Additionally, we believe the best way to truly make New York a more affordable place to live, work and raise a family is to not increase costs on local governments, to provide resources to counties needed in order to implement any mandates or, at the very least, to limit any increase in state-imposed costs on counties to no more than allowable tax cap growth.

We welcome the opportunity to discuss these critical fiscal issues further and work collaboratively toward a more sustainable solution. Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact our offices at 518-465-1473.

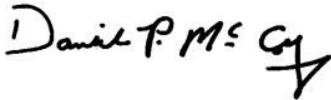
Sincerely,



Hon. Benjamin Boykin II  
NYSAC President



Hon. Jason T. Garnar  
NYSCEA President



Hon. Daniel P. McCoy  
NYSAC Immediate Past President

Attachment

The New York County Executives' Association is an affiliate of the New York State Association of Counties.

*NYSAC has remained 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, Schenectady, Schoharie, Schuyler, Seneca, Steuben, Suffolk, Sullivan, Tioga, Tompkins, Ulster, Warren, Washington, Wayne, Westchester, Wyoming, Yates