



**NYSAC**  
— NEW YORK STATE —  
ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES

# **2026 NYSAC Legislative Conference Resolutions**

**Albany County  
March 16 – March 18, 2026**

**Hon. Philip R. Church, President**

**Stephen J. Acquario, Executive Director**

# NYSAC 2026 Legislative Conference Resolutions

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1 **2026 NYSAC Legislative Conference**  
2 **NYSAC Board of Directors**  
3 **Resolution #1**

4  
5 **Resolution Urging the Governor and State Legislature to Preserve the**  
6 **County Medicaid Cap and Provide Counties with the Financial and**  
7 **Administrative Resources Necessary to Implement Federal Safety Net**  
8 **Changes Under H.R.1**  
9

10 **WHEREAS**, New York counties and New York City are required to contribute \$7.6  
11 billion annually toward the cost of the state’s Medicaid program—more than all other  
12 counties across the country combined are mandated to spend; and

13  
14 **WHEREAS**, this local share has been capped in state law since 2005, and strengthened  
15 in 2015, to protect county taxpayers from unconstrained property tax growth stemming  
16 directly from decisions made by multiple New York Governors, New York State  
17 Legislatures, and approved by federal officials to expand the Medicaid program beyond  
18 fiscally sustainable limits; and

19  
20 **WHEREAS**, since enactment, the State Medicaid cap has protected local taxpayers  
21 from tens of billions of dollars in additional property taxes; and

22  
23 **WHEREAS**, the enactment of H.R.1 has created significant fiscal uncertainty for New  
24 York’s Medicaid program, including the loss of federal funding for the Essential Plan,  
25 changes to enhanced federal matching rates, and a projected \$2.6 billion increase in the  
26 state share of Medicaid spending in SFY 2026-27 alone; and

27  
28 **WHEREAS**, the New York State Constitution affirms that “the aid, care and support of  
29 the needy are public concerns and shall be provided by the state and by such of its  
30 subdivisions,” yet counties are increasingly being asked to absorb costs that are beyond  
31 our fiscal capacity and beyond the scope of locally controlled decision-making; and

32  
33 **WHEREAS**, H.R.1 also implements a significant realignment of fiscal and  
34 administrative responsibilities for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program  
35 (SNAP) and Medicaid, including stricter eligibility parameters, more frequent  
36 verification of continued eligibility, enhanced work requirements, and a reduction in the  
37 federal share of SNAP administrative costs from 50 percent to 25 percent—shifting an  
38 estimated \$168 million in new annual costs onto New York counties beginning October  
39 1, 2026; and

40  
41 **WHEREAS**, New York State’s current SNAP benefit error rate exceeds 10 percent,  
42 which under H.R.1’s error rate penalty structure would subject the state to a 15 percent  
43 cost-sharing requirement on SNAP benefit costs—an estimated \$1.1 billion in additional  
44 annual costs to the state and counties—beginning as early as Fall 2027; and

45  
46 **WHEREAS**, combined, SNAP administrative and benefit cost-sharing impacts are  
47 projected to cost New York’s counties and New York City over \$1.3 billion annually, with

1 the 57 counties outside New York City facing nearly \$460 million in new annual SNAP  
2 costs alone; and

3  
4 **WHEREAS**, expanded SNAP work participation rules take effect March 1, 2026, with  
5 the state estimating \$500 million in new training costs for SNAP staff to comply with  
6 new federal eligibility and administrative changes; and

7  
8 **WHEREAS**, these federally mandated changes are locally administered, requiring  
9 counties to expand their Department of Social Services (DSS) workforce, upgrade  
10 information technology systems, and implement more intensive and ongoing training  
11 programs with little lead time and insufficient state or federal transition support; and

12  
13 **WHEREAS**, counties and local property taxpayers cannot absorb these new  
14 administrative and financial burdens without additional state support, and due to  
15 federal implementation timelines, these funding issues must be addressed starting in  
16 the SFY 2027 Budget and continue thereafter; and

17  
18 **WHEREAS**, any failure to adequately prepare for the new rules risks significant  
19 federally imposed financial penalties and disruption to essential services for vulnerable  
20 residents across the state.

21  
22 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, the New York State Association of  
23 Counties (NYSAC) urges the Governor and State Legislature to preserve the county  
24 Medicaid cap and ensure that any additional Medicaid cost growth resulting from  
25 federal policy changes under H.R.1 is borne by the state, not passed on to county  
26 taxpayers; and

27  
28 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, NYSAC urges the Governor, State Legislature, the  
29 Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance (OTDA), and the Department of Health  
30 (NYSDOH) to provide counties with the financial resources and administrative support  
31 necessary to implement new SNAP and Medicaid eligibility, program integrity, and work  
32 requirement mandates under H.R.1; and

33  
34 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, copies of this resolution be sent to the counties of  
35 New York State encouraging member counties to enact similar resolutions; and

36  
37 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, NYSAC shall forward copies of this resolution to  
38 Governor Kathy Hochul, the New York State Legislature, the Office of Temporary and  
39 Disability Assistance, the Department of Health, and all others deemed necessary and  
40 proper.

1 **2026 NYSAC Legislative Conference**  
2 **NYSAC Board of Directors**  
3 **Resolution #2**

4  
5 **Resolution Urging Governor Hochul and the State Legislature to Exempt**  
6 **Emergency Medical Services from the Real Property Tax Cap, Provide**  
7 **Dedicated State Funding to Support County EMS Plans, and Enact**  
8 **Additional Reforms to Strengthen Emergency Medical Services**  
9

10 **WHEREAS**, the lack of timely and reliable access to Emergency Medical Services  
11 (EMS) poses an emerging and imminent threat to public health by delaying or  
12 preventing hospital care, resulting in preventable loss of life, increased morbidity, and  
13 poorer outcomes for New Yorkers experiencing time sensitive emergencies where  
14 minutes matter, such as cardiac arrest, stroke, trauma, overdose, and sepsis; and  
15

16 **WHEREAS**, EMS is a critical component of public health, supporting emergency  
17 preparedness and response through early situational awareness, serving as trusted  
18 frontline partners in health promotion and prevention, and strengthening coordination  
19 across the emergency care continuum; and  
20

21 **WHEREAS**, the erosion of EMS capacity eliminates key opportunities to improve  
22 access to care and deliver coordinated, innovative frontline interventions; and  
23

24 **WHEREAS**, the EMS crisis disproportionately impacts rural and underserved  
25 communities, where transportation gaps, aging populations, high non-emergent call  
26 volume, workforce shortages, and reliance on volunteer or mixed workforce models  
27 strain limited resources, increase mutual aid and municipal financial burdens, delay  
28 emergency and hospital care, and divert resources from other public health and safety  
29 priorities, further weakening the healthcare, emergency response, and public health and  
30 public safety infrastructures and worsening downstream health outcomes; and  
31

32 **WHEREAS**, rising operational costs, inadequate insurance reimbursement rates, and  
33 acute staffing shortages are pushing local EMS systems to the brink of collapse, forcing  
34 counties and municipalities to make increasingly difficult fiscal decisions between  
35 sustaining life-saving services and remaining within the constraints of the real property  
36 tax cap; and  
37

38 **WHEREAS**, the real property tax cap, as currently structured, prevents counties and  
39 municipalities from raising the revenue necessary to adequately fund EMS operations,  
40 effectively imposing an artificial ceiling on communities' ability to respond to a genuine  
41 public health emergency; and  
42

43 **WHEREAS**, Governor Hochul vetoed legislation in 2025 that would have exempted  
44 EMS from the real property tax cap, leaving counties and municipalities without the  
45 fiscal tools needed to stabilize their EMS systems; and

1 **WHEREAS**, the State has enacted a new requirement directing counties to convene a  
2 comprehensive EMS planning process with cities, towns, and villages within their  
3 jurisdictions—a mandate that counties will undertake in good faith as committed  
4 partners in improving EMS delivery, but one that imposes significant new  
5 administrative and financial responsibilities on county governments that are already  
6 stretched thin by growing federal and state mandates in social services, public safety,  
7 and other areas where the State relies on counties as its primary implementation  
8 partners; and

9  
10 **WHEREAS**, the success of any county-level EMS planning framework depends on the  
11 State making parallel commitments to provide meaningful fiscal relief, dedicated  
12 funding, and the legislative reforms necessary for counties and municipalities to act on  
13 the plans they develop; and

14  
15 **WHEREAS**, EMS vehicles transporting patients across the New York State Thruway  
16 are currently required to pay tolls, creating an inequitable and operationally  
17 burdensome distinction between EMS and fire vehicles, which are already exempt  
18 through emergency services permits issued by the Thruway Authority; and

19  
20 **WHEREAS**, Governor Hochul vetoed legislation in 2025 that would have required the  
21 Thruway Authority to issue emergency services permits to EMS vehicles, exempting  
22 them from tolls while transporting patients—a commonsense reform that would reduce  
23 costs and remove an unnecessary obstacle to timely emergency care.

24  
25 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the New York State Association of  
26 Counties (NYSAC) urges Governor Kathy Hochul and the New York State Legislature to  
27 enact legislation exempting Emergency Medical Services from the real property tax cap,  
28 providing counties and municipalities with the fiscal flexibility needed to fund reliable,  
29 sustainable EMS systems; and

30  
31 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that NYSAC urges the Governor and the Legislature  
32 to provide dedicated state funding to support counties in developing, implementing, and  
33 sustaining the comprehensive county EMS plans required under state law, recognizing  
34 that a planning mandate without commensurate state resources and fiscal relief  
35 constitutes yet another unfunded burden on county governments that already bear the  
36 cost of delivering a wide range of state-mandated programs and services; and

37  
38 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that NYSAC urges the Governor and the Legislature  
39 to enact legislation requiring the Thruway Authority to issue emergency services permits  
40 to EMS vehicles, exempting them from tolls while transporting patients on the New  
41 York State Thruway, consistent with the treatment already afforded to fire vehicles; and

42  
43 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that copies of this resolution be sent to the counties  
44 of New York State encouraging member counties to enact similar resolutions.

45  
46 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, NYSAC shall forward copies of this resolution to  
47 Governor Kathy Hochul, the New York State Legislature, the Office of Temporary and

- 1 Disability Assistance, the Department of Health, and all others deemed necessary and
- 2 proper.

1 **2026 NYSAC Legislative Conference**  
2 **NYSAC Board of Directors**  
3 **Resolution #3**

4  
5 **Resolution Urging Reform of Raise the Age Funding to Align with**  
6 **Mandatory County Responsibilities**

7  
8 **WHEREAS**, New York State’s Raise the Age (RTA) legislation shifted significant youth  
9 justice responsibilities from the State to counties, requiring counties to assume  
10 mandatory obligations related to staffing, supervision, placement, and service provision;  
11 and

12  
13 **WHEREAS**, although counties are legally required to fulfill these responsibilities, the  
14 current funding structure requires counties to advance substantial local funds and then  
15 seek reimbursement through a complex and time-consuming approval process; and

16  
17 **WHEREAS**, counties must often wait months for reimbursement of RTA-related  
18 expenses, creating budget uncertainty and significant cash-flow strain; and

19  
20 **WHEREAS**, reimbursement eligibility is currently tied to compliance with the 2  
21 percent property tax cap, exposing counties to additional financial risk and potential  
22 reimbursement losses unrelated to youth justice performance; and

23  
24 **WHEREAS**, this funding structure places counties in the untenable position of  
25 managing a state mandate without reliable, predictable, or timely funding; and

26  
27 **WHEREAS**, the current reimbursement-based system reduces counties’ flexibility to  
28 respond to evolving youth justice needs and creates administrative burdens that detract  
29 from effective implementation of reform; and

30  
31 **WHEREAS**, converting Raise the Age funding to a predictable, upfront grant-based  
32 model would better align state policy decisions with state fiscal responsibility.

33  
34 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, the New York State Association of  
35 Counties (NYSAC) calls upon the State of New York to reform the Raise the Age funding  
36 to ensure counties are not required to front costs for mandatory state-imposed  
37 responsibilities; and

38  
39 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the State should convert Raise the Age funding  
40 from a reimbursement-based system to a grant-based model that provides predictable,  
41 upfront funding to counties; and

42  
43 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that such reforms would improve budget stability,  
44 reduce administrative burdens, protect local taxpayers, and strengthen the effective  
45 implementation of youth justice reforms; and

1 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that copies of this resolution shall be transmitted to  
2 Governor Kathy Hochul, the New York State Legislature, and all other parties deemed  
3 necessary and proper.

1 **2026 NYSAC Legislative Conference**  
2 **NYSAC Board of Directors**  
3 **Resolution #4**

4  
5 **Resolution Affirming Local Control Over County Sales Tax Amid Growing**  
6 **State and Federal Cost Shifts**

7  
8 **WHEREAS**, the State of New York first imposed a temporary sales tax nearly 100 years  
9 ago to address public service needs during the Great Depression; and

10  
11 **WHEREAS**, in 1947, the state granted authority to cities and counties to impose locally  
12 administered sales tax for related purposes; and

13  
14 **WHEREAS**, in 1965, upon the enactment of the federal Medicaid program, the State of  
15 New York reconfigured its sales tax system by establishing a three percent state sales  
16 tax, which replaced existing locally administered sales tax with an additional local  
17 option sales tax for counties and New York City to be administered by the state; and

18  
19 **WHEREAS**, the local sales tax option was intended to help counties pay for the share  
20 of Medicaid costs the state placed on counties, amounting to about half of the non-  
21 federal share at that time; and

22  
23 **WHEREAS**, over the ensuing 60 years, the state greatly expanded the county role in  
24 administering and financing a variety of federal and state health and human services  
25 programs; and

26  
27 **WHEREAS**, counties have two primary sources of revenue: property tax and sales tax;  
28 and

29  
30 **WHEREAS**, as time passed and state mandated costs on counties increased, sales tax  
31 grew in importance for counties and has become the largest revenue source for many  
32 counties due to a variety of factors including the imposition of a property tax growth cap  
33 on localities over a decade ago; and

34  
35 **WHEREAS**, in addition to addressing local quality of life services demanded and  
36 expected by taxpayers, counties are now required under state law to administer and pay  
37 for dozens of state and federal programs, while also satisfying state and federal laws and  
38 regulations to enforce a wide variety of environmental, labor, public safety, and criminal  
39 justice standards; and

40  
41 **WHEREAS**, in 2025, the estimated annual cost to counties and New York City for the  
42 primary state-mandated programs—including Medicaid, Safety Net, Preschool Special  
43 Education, Early Intervention, Youth Detention, Probation, Indigent Defense, Child  
44 Welfare, and Pensions (outside NYC)—is \$14 billion; and

1 **WHEREAS**, since 2005, the cumulative costs of these state-mandated expenses have  
2 exceeded \$200 billion—costs that most counties across the country are not required to  
3 bear; and

4  
5 **WHEREAS**, new federal reforms as enacted in 2025 under H.R.1 include direct cost  
6 shifts to counties to support federal administrative and program expenses for the  
7 Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), as well as expanded Medicaid  
8 eligibility and program integrity responsibilities imposed on counties with no federal  
9 funding support; and

10  
11 **WHEREAS**, under current state law, counties will be required to provide financial  
12 support for eligible enrollees that lose federal benefits for state and federally designed  
13 and controlled health and social services programs, which are expected to impose  
14 hundreds of millions of dollars in new costs on counties each year; and

15  
16 **WHEREAS**, most counties broadly share sales tax with their cities, towns, villages and  
17 some school districts to help pay for services delivered by these municipalities, or to  
18 directly lower the amount of property taxes levied in these jurisdictions, and this  
19 decision to share sales tax revenues reflects each county’s local priorities and fiscal  
20 circumstances, not a state-imposed obligation; and

21  
22 **WHEREAS**, the pass-through of county sales tax to cities, towns, villages, and school  
23 districts exceeded \$2.5 billion in 2025; and

24  
25 **WHEREAS**, some have suggested statutory amendments to require counties to share  
26 sales tax revenues with towns and villages as a matter of state law, threatening county  
27 fiscal autonomy; and

28  
29 **WHEREAS**, without sales tax revenues, counties would be faced with cutting local  
30 services or raising property taxes to support the state-mandated costs and other  
31 essential services.

32  
33 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, the New York State Association of  
34 Counties (NYSAC) calls upon Governor Kathy Hochul and the State Legislature to limit  
35 the imposition of new federal costs on county taxpayers, recognizing that county sales  
36 tax revenues are already fully committed to funding existing mandated programs and  
37 cannot absorb additional cost shifts without harm to county taxpayers and the services  
38 they depend on; and

39  
40 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that NYSAC calls upon the Governor and Legislature  
41 to oppose any legislation that would mandate the sharing or redistribution of county  
42 sales tax revenues with cities, towns, villages, or other municipalities, as such decisions  
43 must remain within the local control of each county and its municipalities; and

44  
45 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that NYSAC calls upon the Governor and Legislature  
46 to ensure county sales tax is not diverted or encumbered in the future; and

1 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that NYSAC urges the Governor and Legislature to  
2 ensure county sales tax extensions move quickly through the renewal process so that  
3 counties are not subject to unnecessary uncertainty in their revenue planning; and

4  
5 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that copies of this resolution be sent to the counties  
6 of New York State encouraging member counties to enact similar resolutions; and

7  
8 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, NYSAC shall forward copies of this resolution to  
9 Governor Kathy Hochul, the New York State Legislature, and all others deemed  
10 necessary and proper.

1 **2026 NYSAC Legislative Conference**  
2 **NYSAC Board of Directors**  
3 **Resolution #5**

4  
5 **Resolution in Support of Enabling Volunteer Fire Districts and Companies**  
6 **to Provide Stipends to Volunteer Firefighters and EMS Personnel from**  
7 **Existing Fire District Tax Funds**  
8

9 **WHEREAS**, volunteer firefighter and EMS staffing levels in New York State have  
10 reached an all-time low, with many fire districts struggling to maintain adequate  
11 response capabilities due to declining recruitment and retention; and

12  
13 **WHEREAS**, under current provisions of the New York State Volunteer Firefighters'  
14 Benefit Law § 30, volunteer fire districts and companies are prohibited from providing  
15 stipends to volunteer firefighters and EMS personnel; and

16  
17 **WHEREAS**, these volunteer firefighters and EMS personnel provide invaluable service  
18 to their communities, risking their lives daily to protect lives, property, and public safety  
19 across urban, suburban, and rural areas; and

20  
21 **WHEREAS**, nominal stipend drawn funds from already collected or small increases in  
22 existing fire district taxes or fire department contracts, can meaningfully aid workforce  
23 recruitment and retention, while preserving the fundamentally volunteer nature of these  
24 essential services, which stands apart from the paid, career-staffed models of larger city  
25 fire departments; and

26  
27 **WHEREAS**, maintaining the volunteer character of fire districts, fire protection  
28 districts (contract fire departments) and village fire departments is vital to their  
29 sustainability, affordability, and community-rooted effectiveness, ensuring broad access  
30 to emergency services without shifting to costlier professionalized structures; and

31  
32 **WHEREAS**, the Association of Fire Districts of the State of New York, the New York  
33 State Association of Fire Chiefs, and the Fire Coordinators Association of the State of  
34 New York are in full support of authorizing such nominal stipends.

35  
36 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Board of Directors of the New  
37 York State Association of Counties strongly urges the Governor and the New York State  
38 Legislature to enact legislation within the 2026-27 State Budget amending Volunteer  
39 Firefighters' Benefit Law § 30 to authorize volunteer fire districts and companies to  
40 provide nominal stipends to volunteer firefighters and EMS personnel from existing and  
41 future fire tax revenues; and

42  
43 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the New York State Association of Counties shall  
44 communicate this position to Governor Kathy Hochul, legislative leaders, and relevant  
45 committees, and advocate actively for its inclusion in the 2026-27 State Budget process.

1 **2026 NYSAC Legislative Conference**  
2 **NYSAC Board of Directors**  
3 **Resolution #6**

4  
5 **Resolution Urging the Governor and State Legislature to Address Rising**  
6 **Mandated Costs by Ensuring County Parity with Increased Municipal Aid**

7  
8 **WHEREAS**, New York’s 57 counties serve as the primary administrators of state and  
9 federally mandated programs—including Medicaid, child welfare, public safety, public  
10 health, election administration, and indigent legal defense—delivering services that  
11 reach every resident of the State; and

12  
13 **WHEREAS**, counties fund these essential services in partnership with the state and  
14 federal government, yet exercise little control over the policies that drive their costs,  
15 leaving county property taxpayers as the payers of last resort when state or federal aid is  
16 reduced or fails to keep pace with program demands; and

17  
18 **WHEREAS**, the Aid and Incentives for Municipalities (AIM) program provides  
19 unrestricted general purpose aid to New York State’s cities (excluding New York City),  
20 towns, and villages—currently funded at \$715.2 million annually—and has not included  
21 county governments as eligible recipients since 1990; and

22  
23 **WHEREAS**, the Governor’s SFY 2026-27 Executive Budget proposed to maintain AIM  
24 at \$715.2 million and continue \$50 million in Temporary Municipal Assistance—both  
25 programs available exclusively to cities, towns, and villages—with no new unrestricted  
26 aid for counties; and

27  
28 **WHEREAS**, the Governor’s 30-day amendments to the SFY 2026-27 Executive Budget  
29 proposed an increase of \$100 million in Temporary Municipal Assistance for cities,  
30 towns, and villages, and additional unrestricted aid to New York City—representing a  
31 significant new investment in other local government partners—while providing no  
32 equivalent relief for counties; and

33  
34 **WHEREAS**, the Senate one-house budget proposes \$302 million per year in additional  
35 AIM funding for New York City over two fiscal years—a total of \$604 million in new  
36 municipal assistance—without a corresponding increase in direct aid to counties; and

37  
38 **WHEREAS**, the Senate one-house budget further proposes \$250,000 to establish an  
39 AIM Redesign Task Force charged with making recommendations on the expansion of  
40 AIM to New York City, with no comparable directive to examine or expand aid to county  
41 governments; and

1 **WHEREAS**, the Assembly one-house budget proposes \$1.5 billion in additional  
2 Temporary Municipal Assistance over three years—including \$1 billion for New York  
3 City and \$500 million for cities, towns, and villages—again with no parallel investment  
4 in county fiscal relief; and

5  
6 **WHEREAS**, increasing state investment in AIM and Temporary Municipal Assistance  
7 while counties receive no analogous unrestricted aid creates a growing disparity in the  
8 State’s partnership with its local government units; and

9  
10 **WHEREAS**, counties are simultaneously absorbing significant and growing cost  
11 pressures that are largely outside their control, including: rising assigned counsel costs  
12 under County Law Article 18-B; escalating preschool special education expenditures;  
13 costs associated with CPL § 730 competency restoration confinements, which have  
14 increased by more than 6,000 percent in some counties between 2019 and 2024; and  
15 anticipated cost shifts resulting from federal policy changes to Medicaid and the  
16 Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), which will increase county  
17 administrative costs beginning in October 2026; and

18  
19 **WHEREAS**, the number of local governments in fiscal stress, as identified by the Office  
20 of the State Comptroller (OSC)’s Fiscal Stress Monitoring System, is rising, and a dozen  
21 counties exceeded the property tax cap in their 2026 budgets—the most in a decade; and

22  
23 **WHEREAS**, counties are constrained by the state-imposed property tax cap, limiting  
24 their ability to independently raise revenues to offset growing costs; and

25  
26 **WHEREAS**, NYSAC has called upon the Governor and Legislature to provide \$100  
27 million in targeted county fiscal relief in the enacted SFY 2026-27 budget, which could  
28 be structured through the County Infrastructure Grant Program, relief from assigned  
29 counsel costs, relief from preschool special education costs, or support for competency  
30 restoration expenses—representing a fraction of the new investment proposed for  
31 municipalities and New York City in the current budget cycle.

32  
33 **WHEREAS**, such relief can be structured in a manner that addresses the most pressing  
34 cost drivers facing counties, including but not limited to assigned counsel under Article  
35 18-B, preschool special education, Safety Net, and CPL § 730 competency restoration, or  
36 through direct unrestricted aid; and

37  
38 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the New York State Association of  
39 Counties urges the Governor and the Legislature to provide parity with the proposed  
40 increases for other municipalities through direct fiscal relief for county governments in  
41 the enacted SFY 2026-27 State Budget, commensurate with the significant new

1 investments in municipalities proposed through the 30-day amendments and one-house  
2 budget resolutions; and

3

4 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that copies of this resolution be sent to the counties  
5 of New York State encouraging member counties to enact similar resolutions; and

6

7 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, NYSAC shall forward copies of this resolution to  
8 Governor Kathy Hochul, the New York State Legislature, and all others deemed  
9 necessary and proper.

1 **2026 NYSAC Legislative Conference**  
2 **NYSAC Board of Directors**  
3 **Resolution #7**

4  
5 **Resolution Affirming Local Authority Over Data Center Siting**  
6

7 **WHEREAS**, the rapid expansion of artificial intelligence infrastructure has accelerated  
8 the construction of large-scale data centers across the United States, with New York  
9 State increasingly identified as a target market for such development; and  
10

11 **WHEREAS**, according to the New York Independent System Operator (NYISO), large  
12 load projects—many of which are associated with data centers and other energy-  
13 intensive industries—grew from approximately 6,800 megawatts in the interconnection  
14 queue in September 2025 to approximately 12,000 megawatts by January 2026,  
15 representing a near-doubling in just four months; and  
16

17 **WHEREAS**, modern hyperscale data centers are among the most energy-intensive  
18 land uses in existence, capable of consuming electricity comparable to mid-sized cities,  
19 and data centers already account for an estimated 4.4 percent of annual U.S. electricity  
20 consumption—a figure projected to rise substantially by 2030; and  
21

22 **WHEREAS**, the addition of large data center loads to the electrical grid has been found  
23 to increase electricity costs for all ratepayers, including residential customers, small  
24 businesses, and local governments; and  
25

26 **WHEREAS**, data centers are also significant consumers of water, with large facilities in  
27 some cases using millions of gallons per day for cooling; and  
28

29 **WHEREAS**, many New York counties include agricultural lands, rural communities,  
30 and watersheds where the land use, water, and energy impacts of large-scale data center  
31 development would be particularly consequential; and  
32

33 **WHEREAS**, data centers have also generated significant community opposition in  
34 localities across the political spectrum, with residents raising concerns about noise from  
35 cooling systems, visual impacts, impacts to agricultural and rural landscapes, rising  
36 utility costs, impacts on local taxes, and the pace and opacity of approval processes; and  
37

38 **WHEREAS**, the U.S. Department of Energy has directed the Federal Energy  
39 Regulatory Commission to finalize a rule—with a deadline of April 30, 2026—that would  
40 assert federal jurisdiction over the interconnection of large electrical loads greater than  
41 20 megawatts, an area traditionally regulated by states and localities; and

1 **WHEREAS**, the Trump Administration has taken an increasingly aggressive posture  
2 toward state and local regulatory authority, including through an Executive Order  
3 directing the establishment of a federal AI Litigation Task Force to challenge state AI  
4 laws deemed inconsistent with federal policy and directing agencies to consider  
5 conditioning certain discretionary funding on states' regulatory approaches to artificial  
6 intelligence; and

7  
8 **WHEREAS**, county governments are best positioned to evaluate how data center  
9 development interacts with local land use plans, community priorities, infrastructure  
10 capacity, long-term economic goals, and must retain meaningful authority to approve,  
11 condition, or decline such proposals; and

12  
13 **WHEREAS**, local governments must retain meaningful authority over land use  
14 decisions affecting data center siting, and counties must have a meaningful role in any  
15 state review process affecting county infrastructure, water systems, tax base, and public  
16 services.

17  
18 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the New York State Association of  
19 Counties (NYSAC) calls on the Governor and the State Legislature to ensure that any  
20 state permitting, environmental review, or approval process for new data center  
21 development includes a meaningful and timely role for county governments, and that  
22 counties are not preempted from exercising their land use, taxation, and zoning  
23 authority with respect to such facilities; and

24  
25 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that NYSAC calls on New York's Congressional  
26 delegation to oppose federal rulemaking or legislation that would preempt state and  
27 local authority over the interconnection, siting, or permitting of large electrical load  
28 projects, including data centers, and to ensure that any federal framework preserves  
29 meaningful state and local oversight of energy infrastructure decisions affecting New  
30 York ratepayers and communities; and

31  
32 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that NYSAC supports legislation to require the Office  
33 of the State Comptroller to assess and report the cost impacts of data center electrical  
34 load on all ratepayers in New York State, and to establish standards ensuring that the  
35 costs of grid infrastructure upgrades attributable to data centers are borne by data  
36 center operators rather than shifted to residential and commercial ratepayers; and

37  
38 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that copies of this resolution be sent to the counties  
39 of New York State encouraging member counties to enact similar resolutions; and

1 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, NYSAC shall forward copies of this resolution to  
2 Governor Kathy Hochul, the New York State Legislature, and all others deemed  
3 necessary and proper.



**NYSAC**  
— NEW YORK STATE —  
ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES

**2026 NYSAC Legislative Conference  
Albany County**

**Standing Committee on Agriculture, Economic  
Development & Rural Affairs Resolutions**

Hon. A. Douglas Berwanger (Wyoming County) – Chair  
Hon. Paul Ruszkiewicz (Orange County) – Vice Chair  
Hon. Terry Wilbur (Oswego County) – Vice Chair

1 **2026 NYSAC Legislative Conference**  
2 **Standing Committee on Agriculture, Economic Development & Rural**  
3 **Affairs**  
4 **Resolution #1**

5  
6 **Resolution in Support of Legislation S.8712 (Hinchey) to Protect Prime**  
7 **Farmland and Strengthen Standards for Siting Major Renewable Energy**  
8 **Facilities**  
9

10 **WHEREAS**, New York State has established ambitious clean energy and emissions  
11 reduction goals that require timely deployment of renewable energy generation and  
12 supporting infrastructure; and

13  
14 **WHEREAS**, New York’s counties support the responsible development of renewable  
15 energy projects while also protecting public health, community character, local  
16 economies, and critical natural and working lands; and

17  
18 **WHEREAS**, agriculture is a cornerstone of many county economies, sustaining jobs,  
19 local food systems, and contributing to New York State’s overall food security and  
20 resilience; and

21  
22 **WHEREAS**, farmland conversion can be permanent, and large-scale energy projects  
23 sited on prime agricultural soils may reduce long-term agricultural productivity and  
24 undermine regional farmland protection strategies; and

25  
26 **WHEREAS**, the Office of Renewable Energy Siting and Electric Transmission (ORES)  
27 plays a central role in permitting major renewable energy facilities under Public Service  
28 Law Article 8, and statewide standards should provide clear, enforceable protections for  
29 agricultural lands, including prime farmland and soils; and

30  
31 **WHEREAS**, S.8712 (Hinchey) would strengthen agricultural land protections by (1)  
32 defining “agrivoltaics” as the integrated, simultaneous production of solar energy and  
33 marketable agricultural products, (2) directing ORES to prioritize previously developed  
34 and underutilized sites such as brownfields, landfills, former industrial/commercial  
35 sites, dormant generating sites, and large built sites, (3) requiring enhanced evaluation  
36 of impacts to prime farmland and important soil groups, (4) requiring cumulative  
37 impact review and regional farmland considerations, and (5) strengthening  
38 decommissioning planning and financial assurances to ensure agricultural soils can be  
39 restored for future production; and

40  
41 **WHEREAS**, the bill would further support farmland preservation by establishing a  
42 farmland conservation fee for certain solar development on prime farmland, deposited  
43 into the state Agricultural and Farmland Viability Protection Fund, while exempting  
44 qualifying agrivoltaics projects to encourage dual-use designs that maintain active  
45 agricultural production; and

1 **WHEREAS**, the legislation requires periodic reevaluation of these standards to  
2 incorporate new information and technology and to ensure continued effectiveness in  
3 balancing renewable energy development with the protection of a critical mass of  
4 farmland within each region.

5  
6 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the New York State Association of  
7 Counties (NYSAC) supports legislation to amend the Public Service Law to strengthen  
8 farmland protection and food security considerations in the siting, design, construction,  
9 operation, and decommissioning of major renewable energy facilities, including by  
10 prioritizing previously developed sites and establishing clear standards for agrivoltaics;  
11 and

12  
13 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that NYSAC urges the New York State Legislature and  
14 the Governor to enact this legislation to ensure renewable energy development proceeds  
15 in a manner that minimizes impacts on prime agricultural lands, supports regional  
16 farmland preservation objectives, and protects the long-term viability of New York’s  
17 agricultural economy and local food systems; and

18  
19 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that NYSAC calls for continued partnership among  
20 the State, counties, ORES, the Public Service Commission, and the Department of  
21 Agriculture and Markets to implement siting standards that promote clean energy while  
22 safeguarding critical working lands and ensuring meaningful local engagement and  
23 practical, enforceable decommissioning and restoration requirements; and

24  
25 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that copies of this resolution be sent to the counties  
26 of New York State encouraging member counties to enact similar resolutions; and

27  
28 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that copies of this resolution be transmitted to the  
29 Governor, the Temporary President of the Senate, the Speaker of the Assembly, the bill  
30 sponsors, the chairs of relevant legislative committees, ORES, the Public Service  
31 Commission, and the Department of Agriculture and Markets.



**NYSAC**  
— NEW YORK STATE —  
ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES

**2026 NYSAC Legislative Conference  
Albany County**

**Standing Committee on Children with Special  
Needs Resolutions**

Heidi Bond (Otsego County), Chair  
Sara Boerenko (Montgomery County), Vice Chair  
Rita Wood (Ulster County), Vice Chair

1 **2026 NYSAC Legislative Conference**  
2 **Standing Committee on Children with Special Needs**  
3 **Resolution #1**

4  
5 **Resolution Urging the Governor and State Legislature to Expedite the**  
6 **Release of Covered Lives Implementation Guidance and Funds to Counties**

7  
8 **WHEREAS**, Chapter 820 of the Laws of 2021 established an Early Intervention  
9 Program (EIP) Covered Lives pool funded by an assessment on insurance plans in the  
10 amount of \$40 million annually; and

11  
12 **WHEREAS**, the purpose of this law was to relieve the EIP’s heavy fiscal burden on the  
13 state and counties from high rates of commercial insurance denials for EI service claims,  
14 to improve the EIP for children and families, and to assist providers by relieving some of  
15 their administrative duties during service delivery; and

16  
17 **WHEREAS**, prior to Covered Lives going into effect, Early Intervention (EI) service  
18 claims were paid through three revenue streams—commercial insurance, Medicaid, or  
19 out of escrow, depending on the child receiving the service’s insurance coverage; and

20  
21 **WHEREAS**, counties were responsible for paying 100 percent of the upfront costs of  
22 EIP services, not covered by Medicaid or commercial insurance, out of county escrow,  
23 with State reimbursement for 49 percent of escrow costs provided later; and

24  
25 **WHEREAS**, since Covered Lives went into effect, providers are no longer billing  
26 commercial insurance for services provided; and

27  
28 **WHEREAS**, the SFY 2027 Executive Budget amends the New York State Health Care  
29 Reform Act (HCRA) to make covered lives funding available annually from January 1,  
30 2023, through December 31, 2029; and

31  
32 **WHEREAS**, counties are now responsible for paying upfront costs for all EIP services  
33 not covered by Medicaid out of county escrow, including for services provided to  
34 children with commercial insurance and for children who are dually insured by  
35 Medicaid and private insurance; and

36  
37 **WHEREAS**, the EIP pool funding is intended to offset both the municipal and state  
38 share of EIP services not covered by Medicaid; and

39  
40 **WHEREAS**, since the inception of Covered Lives payments, counties have not received  
41 the full amount expected, with only \$15.4 million of the expected \$20.4 million released  
42 to counties annually since Fiscal Year 2023, and

43  
44 **WHEREAS**, counties have received limited guidance on the methodology by which  
45 Covered Lives funds are distributed; and

1 **WHEREAS**, the delay in distributing Covered Lives funds to counties has caused  
2 increases to their upfront escrow costs; and

3  
4 **WHEREAS**, since the implementation of Covered Lives the amount of Medicaid  
5 reimbursement has significantly decreased; and

6  
7 **WHEREAS**, based on the average percent of total EI costs that counties paid from  
8 2014 to 2021, without any Covered Lives funding to offset the loss of commercial  
9 insurance reimbursement, counties will be paying an estimated two percent more in  
10 total EI costs in 2027; and

11  
12 **WHEREAS**, the New York State Health Care Reform Act (HCRA) designating the Early  
13 Intervention Covered Lives Fund requires renewal.

14  
15 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, New York State continue its commitment  
16 to this critical program being a shared cost between the state and local governments;  
17 and

18  
19 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, the New York State Association of Counties (NYSAC)  
20 calls upon the Governor and the New York State Legislature to specify that the  
21 disbursement methodology of the Covered Lives funding be consistent with the current  
22 reimbursement methodology for Early Intervention services, with counties receiving 49  
23 percent of the total Covered Lives amount and New York State receiving 51 percent;  
24 and

25  
26 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, NYSAC calls upon the Governor and the Legislature  
27 to take measures to expedite the release of the delayed Covered Lives funds owed to  
28 counties and municipalities; and

29  
30 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, the New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH)  
31 Bureau of Early Intervention consider amending county escrow agreements to change  
32 the payment process so the state provides counties with their Covered Lives share at the  
33 beginning of the state fiscal year; and

34  
35 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, the NYSDOH Bureau of Early Intervention provide  
36 information on how insurance, service claim, and cost data will be maintained at the  
37 child level to ensure funds are being applied fairly across municipalities/counties; and

38  
39 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that copies of this resolution be sent to the counties  
40 of New York encouraging member counties to enact similar resolutions; and

41  
42 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that NYSAC shall forward copies of this resolution to  
43 Governor Kathy Hochul, the New York State Legislature, and all others deemed  
44 necessary and proper.



# NYSAC

— NEW YORK STATE —  
ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES

## **2026 NYSAC Legislative Conference Albany County**

### **Standing Committee on Climate Action, Energy & Environment Resolutions**

Hon. Jen Metzger (Ulster County) – Chair  
Bonnie Lange Lawrence (Erie County) – Vice Chair  
Heather Brown (Sullivan County) – Vice Chair  
Peter McCartt (Westchester County) – Vice Chair

1 **2026 NYSAC Legislative Conference**  
2 **Standing Committee on Climate Action, Energy & Environment**  
3 **Resolution #1**

4  
5 **Resolution Opposing the SFY 2027 Executive Budget Proposal to Eliminate**  
6 **the Allocation of Federal HEAP Funding to the Weatherization Assistance**  
7 **Program and Urging Its Restoration**  
8

9 **WHEREAS**, the federal Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP) has served New  
10 York State since 1976, providing low-income households with energy efficiency  
11 improvements that permanently lower utility bills, reduce energy consumption, and  
12 address critical home health and safety hazards; and

13  
14 **WHEREAS**, WAP serves New York's most vulnerable residents, including seniors  
15 aging in place, individuals with disabilities and chronic illness, low-income families with  
16 children, veterans, fixed-income households, and residents facing recurring utility  
17 shutoff risk; and

18  
19 **WHEREAS**, WAP is not merely an energy affordability program but a life-safety  
20 program that prevents carbon monoxide exposure through heating system  
21 checks, identifies combustion and ventilation hazards, reduces fire risks from unsafe  
22 heating equipment, and protects medically fragile residents during severe winter  
23 conditions; and

24  
25 **WHEREAS**, historically, 10 percent of New York State's federal Home Energy  
26 Assistance Program (HEAP) allocation has been directed to WAP, consistent with  
27 longstanding federal policy and the practice of virtually every other state in the nation;  
28 and

29  
30 **WHEREAS**, the State Fiscal Year (SFY) 2026-27 Executive Budget proposes to redirect  
31 those funds away from WAP, resulting in an approximately 60 percent reduction in  
32 WAP funding statewide; and

33  
34 **WHEREAS**, this proposed funding reduction would decimate a program that currently  
35 serves more than 7,240 homes annually across all 62 counties through 48  
36 weatherization agencies, putting thousands of vulnerable households at risk of losing  
37 access to essential services; and

38  
39 **WHEREAS**, unlike direct energy bill subsidies, weatherization produces a permanent  
40 reduction in home energy costs, meaning that every dollar invested in WAP reduces the  
41 ongoing demand for HEAP assistance in future years—making WAP one of the most  
42 cost-effective tools available to the State for addressing energy poverty; and

43  
44 **WHEREAS**, WAP supports over 400 jobs within nonprofit weatherization agencies  
45 across New York State and circulates federal dollars directly into local economies in  
46 rural, suburban, and urban communities alike, sustaining HVAC contractors, insulation  
47 installers, and other small businesses; and

1 **WHEREAS**, if this proposal is enacted, New York State and South Dakota will be the  
2 only two states in the country that do not direct any HEAP funding to weatherization,  
3 placing New York dramatically out of step with national best practices.  
4

5 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, the New York State Association of  
6 Counties (NYSAC) strongly opposes the proposed elimination of the 10 percent HEAP  
7 allocation dedicated to WAP in the SFY 2027 Executive Budget; and  
8

9 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that NYSAC calls on the Governor and New York  
10 State Legislature to restore this funding allocation to WAP, recognizing that  
11 weatherization’s permanent reduction of home energy costs is a far more cost-effective  
12 long-term investment than recurring direct energy assistance alone; and  
13

14 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that copies of this resolution be sent to the counties  
15 of New York State encouraging member counties to enact similar resolutions; and  
16

17 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that NYSAC shall forward copies of this resolution to  
18 Governor Kathy Hochul, the New York State Legislature, the Office of Temporary and  
19 Disability Assistance, and all others deemed necessary and proper.

1 **2026 NYSAC Legislative Conference**  
2 **Standing Committee on Climate Action, Energy & Environment**  
3 **Resolution #2**

4  
5 **Supporting Enactment of Part S of the TED Article VII Legislation to**  
6 **Remove Rebate Limits in the Municipal Zero-Emission Vehicle (ZEV)**  
7 **Program and Urging Additional Funding to Maximize Its Effectiveness**  
8

9 **WHEREAS**, the Municipal Zero-Emission Vehicle (ZEV) Rebate Program provides  
10 rebates to local governments for the purchase of clean vehicles and grants for the  
11 installation of publicly accessible charging infrastructure, helping counties and  
12 municipalities reduce fuel and maintenance costs, modernize fleets, and expand  
13 charging access for residents and visitors; and

14  
15 **WHEREAS**, counties across New York State are actively using this program to electrify  
16 fleet vehicles and develop a charging infrastructure that supports both municipal  
17 operations and public use; and

18  
19 **WHEREAS**, since its inception in 2016, the Municipal ZEV Rebate Program has  
20 supported the deployment of hundreds of zero-emission vehicles and charging stations  
21 across the state, demonstrating strong local government demand for fleet electrification  
22 resources; and

23  
24 **WHEREAS**, under current law, vehicle rebates range from a minimum of \$2,500 to a  
25 maximum of \$7,500 per vehicle based on electric range, and infrastructure grants are  
26 capped at \$250,000 per facility (or \$300,000 for projects maximizing public access),  
27 which represent only a small portion of the total project costs and limit the ability of  
28 counties to undertake comprehensive fleet transitions and charging infrastructure  
29 buildouts; and

30  
31 **WHEREAS**, local governments face significant challenges in fleet electrification,  
32 including the need to coordinate vehicle purchases with infrastructure development,  
33 accommodate diverse vehicle types from light-duty sedans to heavy-duty trucks and  
34 buses, plan for adequate electrical capacity, and ensure their charging infrastructure  
35 serves both municipal operations and public access; and

36  
37 **WHEREAS**, rigid rebate caps prevent counties from tailoring awards to match actual  
38 project costs and local conditions, particularly disadvantaging rural counties with  
39 greater infrastructure installation costs and counties pursuing larger-scale fleet  
40 transition strategies; and

41  
42 **WHEREAS**, program funding has been insufficient relative to statewide demand, with  
43 only \$585,000 allocated for vehicle rebates in the current funding round despite the  
44 scale of fleet electrification needs across hundreds of local governments; and

45  
46 **WHEREAS**, Part S of the Transportation, Economic Development and Environmental  
47 Conservation (TED) Article VII legislation would remove the existing minimum and

1 maximum rebate limits for vehicle purchases and infrastructure projects, allowing the  
2 New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC), in consultation  
3 with the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA), to  
4 determine rebate levels administratively based on program demand, market conditions,  
5 and actual project costs; and  
6

7 **WHEREAS**, removing these limits will support larger and more cost-effective projects,  
8 provide greater certainty for local capital planning, and ensure that counties in all  
9 regions of the state can equitably access funding to transition their fleets and expand  
10 public charging infrastructure.  
11

12 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, the New York State Association of  
13 Counties (NYSAC) supports the enactment of Part S of the TED Article VII legislation to  
14 remove the rebate limits in the Municipal ZEV Rebate Program; and  
15

16 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that NYSAC urges the Governor and Legislature to  
17 significantly increase funding for the Municipal ZEV Rebate Program to match the scale  
18 of local government demand and fleet electrification needs, ensuring that counties and  
19 other local governments can plan for and implement cost-effective fleet transitions and  
20 publicly accessible charging infrastructure that support the state’s climate goals; and  
21

22 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that NYSAC calls upon NYSDEC and NYSERDA to  
23 ensure that administrative flexibility granted under Part S is exercised to support larger-  
24 scale projects, regional coordination among counties, and equitable access to program  
25 funds across all regions of the state, with particular attention to rural counties and  
26 communities with greater infrastructure needs; and  
27

28 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that copies of this resolution be sent to the counties  
29 of New York encouraging member counties to enact similar resolutions; and  
30

31 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that copies of this resolution be transmitted to  
32 Governor Kathy Hochul, the Temporary President of the Senate, the Speaker of the  
33 Assembly, the members of the New York State Legislature, the Commissioner of the  
34 NYSDEC, the President and CEO of NYSERDA, and all others deemed necessary and  
35 proper.

1 **2026 NYSAC Legislative Conference**  
2 **Standing Committee on Climate Action, Energy & Environment**  
3 **Resolution #2**

4  
5 **Supporting State Fiscal Year 2026-27 Housing-Linked Water Infrastructure**  
6 **Funding and Ensuring County Access**

7  
8 **WHEREAS**, New York faces an acute housing affordability crisis, and adequate water  
9 and sewer infrastructure capacity is essential to unlock housing development and  
10 redevelopment across the state; and

11  
12 **WHEREAS**, counties own and operate regional water and wastewater systems, provide  
13 regulatory oversight of drinking water supplies through local health departments,  
14 coordinate intermunicipal infrastructure planning, and finance major infrastructure  
15 investments, making them indispensable partners in addressing the state’s  
16 infrastructure challenges; and

17  
18 **WHEREAS**, state investment in water infrastructure enables local governments to  
19 modernize aging systems, meet evolving federal and state water quality standards,  
20 address emerging contaminants, replace lead service lines, and ensure safe, reliable  
21 water service for current and future generations; and

22  
23 **WHEREAS**, the State Fiscal Year (SFY) 2027 Executive Budget proposes a five-  
24 year, \$3.75 billion commitment to clean water infrastructure, including:

- 25 • \$500 million for projects authorized by the Clean Water Infrastructure Act of  
26 2017 (CWIA), including the Water Infrastructure Improvement Act (WIIA) and  
27 the Intermunicipal Water Infrastructure Grant Program; and
- 28 • \$200 million for water infrastructure projects that promote housing preservation  
29 and development statewide; and
- 30 • \$50 million specifically targeted to water infrastructure projects that promote  
31 housing preservation in rural communities; and

32  
33 **WHEREAS**, these investments will support municipal wastewater treatment,  
34 stormwater management, green infrastructure, nonpoint source abatement, lead service  
35 line replacement, septic system upgrades, emerging contaminant remediation, and  
36 other critical water quality programs; and

37  
38 **WHEREAS**, the \$250 million investment linking water infrastructure to housing  
39 preservation and development recognizes that adequate infrastructure capacity is  
40 essential to addressing the state’s housing challenges; and

41  
42 **WHEREAS**, counties are uniquely positioned to leverage these funds for regional  
43 projects that serve multiple municipalities and maximize housing development  
44 opportunities, yet program eligibility and design details will determine whether counties  
45 can effectively access this funding; and

1 **WHEREAS**, water infrastructure investments directly support statewide housing goals  
2 by removing infrastructure barriers to residential construction, enabling infill  
3 development, facilitating brownfield redevelopment, and supporting both urban  
4 revitalization and rural community growth; and

5  
6 **WHEREAS**, the two percent property tax cap severely constrains the ability of local  
7 governments to self-finance infrastructure improvements, making state investment  
8 critical to enabling housing development without unsustainable increases in local taxes  
9 and user fees; and

10  
11 **WHEREAS**, climate change is intensifying storms and flooding events, requiring  
12 resilient water infrastructure that can support both current populations and future  
13 housing growth; and

14  
15 **WHEREAS**, many rural and fiscally constrained counties face unique challenges in  
16 meeting match requirements and navigating competitive grant processes, yet these  
17 communities have critical housing and infrastructure needs that must be addressed.

18  
19 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, the New York State Association of  
20 Counties (NYSAC) strongly supports the SFY 2027 Executive Budget's \$750 million  
21 annual investment in clean water infrastructure; and

22  
23 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that NYSAC calls on the Governor and New York  
24 State Legislature to explicitly provide that counties are eligible applicants for all water  
25 infrastructure funding programs, including the \$250 million for housing-related water  
26 infrastructure funding; and

27  
28 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that NYSAC strongly supports making the housing-  
29 related water infrastructure investment a permanent annual appropriation and urges  
30 continued multi-year state commitment to water infrastructure investment at levels  
31 sufficient to support the state's housing goals, protect public health, enable economic  
32 growth, and meet environmental obligations; and

33  
34 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that copies of this resolution be sent to the counties  
35 of New York encouraging member counties to enact similar resolutions; and

36  
37 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that copies of this resolution be transmitted to  
38 Governor Kathy Hochul, the Temporary President of the Senate, the Speaker of the  
39 Assembly, the members of the New York State Legislature, the Commissioner of the  
40 Department of Environmental Conservation, the Commissioner of the Department of  
41 Health, the Commissioner of the Division of Housing and Community Renewal, and all  
42 others deemed necessary and proper.



**NYSAC**  
— NEW YORK STATE —  
ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES

**2026 NYSAC Legislative Conference  
Albany County**

**Standing Committee on Intergovernmental  
Relations, General Government & Public  
Employee Relations Resolutions**

Mark Scimone (Madison County) – Chair  
Cheryl Ketchum (Wyoming County) – Vice Chair  
Langdon Chapman (Orange County) – Vice Chair

1 **2026 NYSAC Legislative Conference**  
2 **Standing Committee on Intergovernmental Relations, General Government**  
3 **& Public Employee Relations**  
4 **Resolution #1**

5  
6 **Resolution Calling on the State to Increase the Salary Cap for Retired Public**  
7 **Employees Seeking Public Employment**  
8

9 **WHEREAS**, under current state law, a retired public employee may only earn up to  
10 \$35,000 annually when retained/rehired to a state or local government position without  
11 this salary impacting their retirement benefits; and

12  
13 **WHEREAS**, any retired public employee salary amount over \$35,000 will result in a  
14 decrease in pension payments for the employee; and

15  
16 **WHEREAS**, this \$35,000 earnings cap for retired public employees seeking to return  
17 to government service has become a significant barrier to addressing these staffing  
18 shortages; and

19  
20 **WHEREAS**, local governments across New York State are grappling with significant  
21 workforce challenges across all areas of public service; and

22  
23 **WHEREAS**, the ability to recruit and retain qualified employees for positions ranging  
24 from public health nurses to assessors and municipal finance officers has become  
25 increasingly difficult, particularly in rural areas where specialized expertise is at a  
26 premium; and

27  
28 **WHEREAS**, this salary cap limitation has been adjusted only once since 2007 and has  
29 not kept pace with inflation percentage growth; and

30  
31 **WHEREAS**, S.6956-B (Ryan)/A.8720-A (Stirpe) would increase the earnings  
32 limitation from \$35,000 to \$50,000, providing local governments with the flexibility to  
33 address urgent staffing needs while ensuring that seasoned professionals can afford to  
34 return to public service roles without devastating impacts to their retirement benefits;  
35 and

36  
37 **WHEREAS**, the importance of this reform was demonstrated during the COVID-19  
38 pandemic, when an Executive Order temporarily removed the earnings cap to support  
39 staffing continuity and this temporary measure proved vital to maintaining essential  
40 services; and

41  
42 **WHEREAS**, other public positions have increased this cap for the same reason, such as  
43 the State Legislature suspending the cap for retirees working in schools and BOCES  
44 through 2027—recognizing the urgent need to expand the public workforce.

45  
46 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, S.6956-B (Ryan)/A.8720-A (Stirpe)  
47 represents more than just a salary adjustment—it is an essential step toward addressing

1 local government staffing challenges that will enable counties, cities, towns, and villages  
2 to recruit experienced professionals for hard-to-fill positions in specialized fields like  
3 public health, finance, corrections, and social services; and

4  
5 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, the New York State Association of Counties (NYSAC)  
6 hereby calls on the Governor and the State Legislature to enact legislation supporting an  
7 increase in this earnings rate as part of their SFY 2027 state budget negotiations; and

8  
9 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, copies of this resolution be sent to the counties of  
10 New York encouraging member counties to enact similar resolutions; and

11  
12 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, NYSAC shall forward copies of this resolution to  
13 Governor Kathy Hochul, the New York State Legislature and all others deemed  
14 necessary and proper.

1 **2026 NYSAC Legislative Conference**  
2 **Standing Committee on Intergovernmental Relations, General Government**  
3 **& Public Employee Relations**  
4 **Resolution #2**

5  
6 **Resolution Urging Full State Funding for Community Colleges and County**  
7 **Reimbursement for SUNY Reconnect**  
8

9 **WHEREAS**, New York State is home to thirty community colleges, sponsored by a host  
10 county, that serve unique and critical education and training needs in their  
11 communities; and

12  
13 **WHEREAS**, among their various missions, community colleges are critical workforce  
14 development centers; and

15  
16 **WHEREAS**, under state law, funding for community colleges is to be provided through  
17 state aid, a county sponsor contribution, and student tuition and fees; and

18  
19 **WHEREAS**, the establishment and continued operation of a statewide community  
20 college system was based on an ongoing state aid funding commitment of at least one-  
21 third, and up to 40 percent, of community college operating costs; and

22  
23 **WHEREAS**, the state funding amount has declined over the years and is now  
24 estimated by advocates to be nearly \$100 million below the one-third historic  
25 commitment, and far short of 40 percent; and

26  
27 **WHEREAS**, the SFY 2027 Executive State Budget proposes to maintain a funding floor  
28 for community colleges at 100 percent of prior year funding; and

29  
30 **WHEREAS**, without a funding floor, community colleges would face an almost \$150  
31 million loss in formula aid due to enrollment declines; and

32  
33 **WHEREAS**, the SFY 2026 enacted budget provided \$441 million in operating aid for  
34 community colleges; and

35  
36 **WHEREAS**, despite enrollment declines, community college operational costs have  
37 not decreased; and

38  
39 **WHEREAS**, many community colleges are facing volatile enrollment numbers and are  
40 asking county sponsors and students to pay more, with county chargebacks also  
41 increasing this academic year; and

42  
43 **WHEREAS**, at the same time as these fiscal pressures are occurring, county colleges  
44 are needed more than ever as our businesses, hospitals, health care providers, and  
45 manufacturers need more skilled workers; and  
46

1 **WHEREAS**, in response to the understanding that skilled labor is needed throughout  
2 New York State, Governor Kathy Hochul and the New York State Legislature enacted  
3 legislation as part of the SFY 2026 enacted budget enabling certain students to attend  
4 community college for no, or very little cost; and

5  
6 **WHEREAS**, the SUNY Reconnect program covers tuition, fees, books, and supplies for  
7 community college students ages 25-55 pursuing select associate degrees in high-  
8 demand occupations, such as advanced manufacturing, cybersecurity, green/renewable  
9 energy, and nursing/allied health fields; and

10  
11 **WHEREAS**, there are estimates of over 40,000 new students per year that will be  
12 eligible for and use this program; and

13  
14 **WHEREAS**, counties support the spirit of the SUNY Reconnect program,  
15 understanding how vital this is for our local students, local business, and the future of  
16 New York's economy; however, this program needs more funding, including  
17 reimbursement to counties for the added costs of this influx of students and the need to  
18 expand staffing at community colleges.

19  
20 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, the New York State Association of  
21 Counties (NYSAC) applauds Governor Hochul for proposing to implement a funding  
22 floor for community colleges in the SFY 2026-27 Executive Budget; and

23  
24 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, NYSAC calls on the Governor and State Legislature to  
25 provide an additional \$97 million in operating support for community colleges  
26 specifically devoted to expanding teaching workforce, lab, and classroom upgrades to  
27 meet demand and/or to offset county chargeback expenses resulting from SUNY  
28 Reconnect; and

29  
30 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, copies of this resolution be sent to the counties of  
31 New York State encouraging member counties to enact similar resolutions; and

32  
33 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, NYSAC shall forward copies of this resolution to  
34 Governor Kathy Hochul, the New York State Legislature, the SUNY Chancellor, and all  
35 others deemed necessary and proper.



**NYSAC**  
— NEW YORK STATE —  
ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES

**2026 NYSAC Legislative Conference  
Albany County**

**Standing Committee on Medicaid and Human  
Services Resolutions**

Kira Pospesal (Greene County) – Chair  
Amy Cunningham (Onondaga County) – Vice Chair  
Kenneth Knappe (Suffolk County) – Vice Chair

1 **NYSAC 2026 Legislative Conference**  
2 **Standing Committee on Medicaid and Human Services**  
3 **Resolution #1**

4  
5 **Resolution Urging Governor Hochul and the Department of Health to**  
6 **Continue to Pursue a Federal 1115 Waiver to Allow Justice Involved Adults**  
7 **and Youth to Be Enrolled in Medicaid/CHIP 90 Days Before an Eligible**  
8 **Person’s Expected Release from Incarceration for Both State and County**  
9 **Correctional Facilities**

10  
11 **WHEREAS**, in recent years New York state included provisions in a 1115 Medicaid  
12 demonstration waiver that would allow justice involved adults and youth to be enrolled  
13 in Medicaid/CHIP up to 90 days prior to their release from incarceration; and

14  
15 **WHEREAS**, many components of the broader 1115 waiver were approved by the  
16 federal government, but the component for incarcerated individuals was not approved;  
17 and

18  
19 **WHEREAS**, incarcerated individuals often live with higher rates of substance use  
20 disorders (SUDs), chronic physical health conditions, poor health care coordination,  
21 and other health concerns can realize improved treatment outcomes if formal treatment  
22 and coordination occur prior to their release; and

23  
24 **WHEREAS**, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) has approved 19  
25 state Medicaid waivers as of January 15, 2025 to support prisoner re-entry, and another  
26 seven states have waivers pending; and

27  
28 **WHEREAS**, access to these services in advance of release can help:

- 29 • transitions into the community;
- 30 • coordination and communication among correctional facilities, Medicaid  
31 programs and CHIPs, as well as managed care plans, and community-based  
32 providers;
- 33 • enhance connections between carceral settings and community services to  
34 address physical health, behavioral health, and health-related social needs;
- 35 • improve interventions for certain behavioral health conditions and increased use  
36 of stabilizing medications like long-acting, injectable anti-psychotics and  
37 medications targeting SUDs, with the goal of reducing decompensation, suicide-  
38 related deaths, overdoses, and overdose-related deaths in the near-term post-  
39 release; and
- 40 • reduce unnecessary emergency department visits, inpatient hospitalizations, and  
41 all-cause deaths among recently incarcerated people with Medicaid and  
42 individuals otherwise eligible for CHIP if not for their incarceration status; and

43  
44 **WHEREAS**, the New York State Association of Counties (NYSAC)’s understanding is  
45 that the State’s current work on the 1115 Medicaid waiver application does not include  
46 individuals incarcerated in county facilities; and

1 **WHEREAS**, for many counties, a significant share of their incarcerated population is  
2 Medicaid eligible, but current rules require the suspension of this coverage upon  
3 incarceration, which adds millions of dollars in health care costs to county jail  
4 operations while diminishing health outcomes for individuals upon their release from  
5 custody; and  
6

7 **WHEREAS**, approval of an 1115 Medicaid waiver that assists high-risk incarcerated  
8 individuals, including those held in county jails, to be enrolled in Medicaid/CHIP prior  
9 to their release is a necessary step to improve health outcomes for these individuals, will  
10 save lives by preventing overdose deaths, reduce recidivism, and improve public safety.  
11

12 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that NYSAC urges Governor Hochul and  
13 the New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH) to continue negotiations on the  
14 1115 Medicaid demonstration waiver allowing Medicaid/CHIP coverage for incarcerated  
15 individuals prior to their release, including those held in county jails; and  
16

17 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, NYSAC strongly encourages members of the New  
18 York State Legislature to show their support for including those incarcerated in county  
19 facilities to be part of the waiver application by contacting NYSDOH and the Governor's  
20 Office; and  
21

22 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, copies of this resolution be sent to the counties of  
23 New York State encouraging member counties to enact similar resolutions; and  
24

25 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, NYSAC shall forward copies of this resolution to  
26 Governor Kathy Hochul, the New York State Department of Health, the New York State  
27 Legislature, and all others deemed necessary and proper.

1 **NYSAC 2026 Legislative Conference**  
2 **Standing Committee on Medicaid and Human Services**  
3 **Resolution #2**

4  
5 **Resolution Urging Governor Hochul and the New York State Legislature to**  
6 **Increase the Flexible Fund for Family Services and Code Blue and Provide**  
7 **Necessary Reforms to the Code Blue Program and Expanding Supports to**  
8 **Cross System Care Children Including the Lack of Treatment and Placement**  
9 **Options for these Children**

10  
11 **WHEREAS**, over the last two decades, the state has accelerated its move away from its  
12 historic and constitutional responsibilities of providing social services and support for  
13 low-income families and children, as demonstrated through significant reductions in  
14 state financial support for these programs, thereby shifting state costs and  
15 responsibilities to counties and New York City; and

16  
17 **WHEREAS**, the adopted SFY 2026 budget continued this trend of shifting social  
18 services costs to counties and New York City by requiring additional local spending of  
19 \$75 million for child welfare services within the capped Flexible Fund for Family  
20 Services (FFFS), which is already underfunded; and

21  
22 **WHEREAS**, while a partial offset of these higher costs was provided, that assistance  
23 has ended, placing the entire state costs shift on county taxpayers on a recurring basis;  
24 and

25  
26 **WHEREAS**, counties are pleased with prior increases to support Code Blue up to \$20  
27 million; however, that funding falls far short of actual needs; and

28  
29 **WHEREAS**, Code Blue funding allocations to individual counties have remained  
30 effectively flat for years, with county-level allocations calculated based on historical  
31 costs from prior years rather than current program needs, leaving counties with  
32 insufficient resources to build, renovate, or adapt shelter facilities and no capacity to  
33 expand or innovate service delivery models; and

34  
35 **WHEREAS**, the State must assist counties with Code Blue clients that continue to  
36 break shelter rules, destroy property, and endanger other clients; and

37  
38 **WHEREAS**, counties are unable to adequately address care and placements for  
39 families with children that require intensive cross-system care; and

40  
41 **WHEREAS**, these children often end up in hospital emergency rooms for weeks or  
42 months, local social services departments have limited options for services and/or  
43 placement of the children and at times are forced to house these youth in social services  
44 offices, hotels for extended periods of time, or seek out of state placements that are  
45 costly and separate the child from their family that makes visitation nearly impossible;  
46 and

1 **WHEREAS**, counties are in dire need of additional state support to not only cover the  
2 brick-and-mortar side of Code Blue and other emergency shelter care but also to  
3 support robust service delivery and placement options for children in need of cross-  
4 system care.

5  
6 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, the New York State Association of  
7 Counties (NYSAC) opposes continued state cost shifts to counties and New York City in  
8 a wide array of critical social services and requests the Governor and New York State  
9 Legislature agree to increase funding for FFFS to \$1.014 billion; and

10  
11 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, NYSAC encourages the New York State Legislature  
12 and Governor to increase funding for Code Blue to \$40 million, while also working with  
13 counties to address placements for clients that are a danger to themselves and other  
14 clients in the shelter system; and

15  
16 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, the state must work with counties to find placements  
17 and service options for families with children in need of intensive cross-system care; and

18  
19 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, copies of this resolution be sent to the counties of  
20 New York State encouraging member counties to enact similar resolutions; and

21  
22 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, NYSAC shall forward copies of this resolution to  
23 Governor Kathy Hochul, the New York State Legislature, the Office of Temporary and  
24 Disability Assistance, the Office of Children and Family Services, and all others deemed  
25 necessary and proper.



**NYSAC**  
— NEW YORK STATE —  
ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES

**2026 NYSAC Legislative Conference  
Albany County**

**Standing Committee on Native American Affairs &  
Gaming Resolutions**

Tina Wayland-Smith (Madison County) – Chair  
Steve Button (St. Lawrence County) – Vice Chair

1 **2026 NYSAC Legislative Conference**  
2 **Standing Committee on Native American Affairs & Gaming**  
3 **Resolution # 1**

4  
5 **Resolution Urging the State Of New York and the Seneca Nation to**  
6 **Expediently Reach an Equitable Gaming Compact Agreement for All**  
7 **Parties That Protects Local Governments and Preserves Longstanding**  
8 **Partnerships**  
9

10 **WHEREAS**, the New York State Association of Counties (NYSAC) represents the  
11 interests of New York’s counties and their residents before the State and federal  
12 governments; and

13  
14 **WHEREAS**, the counties of Western New York and their municipalities have  
15 developed strong, respectful, and mutually beneficial relationships with the Seneca  
16 Nation of Indians based upon shared history, geographic proximity, economic  
17 interdependence, and ongoing cooperation; and

18  
19 **WHEREAS**, pursuant to the Gaming Compact originally executed in 2002 between the  
20 Seneca Nation and the State of New York under the federal Indian Gaming Regulatory  
21 Act, the Seneca Nation has shared a portion of Class III gaming revenues with the State,  
22 a significant share of which has been distributed to affected local governments; and

23  
24 **WHEREAS**, the partnership between local governments and the Seneca Nation, and  
25 the funding provided to the State through gaming revenue, has fostered support and  
26 growth in county-provided services in areas such as public safety, public health,  
27 emergency response services, infrastructure development, transportation planning,  
28 environmental stewardship, tourism promotion, and regional economic growth; and

29  
30 **WHEREAS**, such shared revenues have supported vital capital improvements and  
31 infrastructure investments that directly benefit residents, businesses, and visitors  
32 throughout the region; and

33  
34 **WHEREAS**, to the best of our knowledge, relevant counties were not paid for revenue  
35 in 2025; and

36  
37 **WHEREAS**, during prior impasses in compact negotiations between the State and the  
38 Seneca Nation, revenue-sharing payments were withheld to the state, resulting in  
39 significant fiscal uncertainty and hardship for host counties and municipalities that  
40 depend on these funds to balance budgets and maintain essential services; and

41  
42 **WHEREAS**, local governments are not parties to the Gaming Compact negotiations,  
43 yet they are directly and materially impacted by any delay or disruption in revenue-  
44 sharing payments; and

1 **WHEREAS**, the stability and predictability of gaming revenue distributions are  
2 essential to sound fiscal planning, multi-year capital programming, labor agreements,  
3 and the continued provision of high-quality public services; and  
4  
5 **WHEREAS**, NYSAC recognizes and deeply values the longstanding relationship with  
6 the Seneca Nation and appreciates the Nation’s substantial contributions to overall  
7 community well-being; and  
8  
9 **WHEREAS**, NYSAC further recognizes the sovereignty of the Seneca Nation and the  
10 importance of maintaining respectful relations among the Nation, the State, and local  
11 governments; and  
12  
13 **WHEREAS**, it is in the best interest of the residents of Western New York and the  
14 State that compact negotiations be concluded in a timely, equitable, and mutually  
15 beneficial manner that provides certainty and stability for all affected parties.  
16  
17 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, the New York State Association of  
18 Counties (NYSAC) urges the State of New York to continue good-faith negotiations with  
19 the Seneca Nation of Indians and to expeditiously reach a fair and equitable agreement  
20 regarding the Gaming Compact; and  
21  
22 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that NYSAC calls upon the State to ensure that any  
23 negotiated agreement provides for the uninterrupted, predictable, and timely  
24 distribution of local government revenue-sharing payments; and  
25  
26 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that NYSAC strongly encourages both parties to  
27 avoid any lapse, withholding, or delay in payments to local governments during the  
28 course of negotiations to prevent fiscal instability and service disruption in host  
29 communities; and  
30  
31 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, if any negotiations result in reduction of gross  
32 gaming revenue to the state, the State shall make the counties whole to the highest-ever  
33 annual revenue received; and  
34  
35 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that NYSAC reaffirms its appreciation for the strong  
36 partnership between local governments and the Seneca Nation and supports continued  
37 collaboration that advances economic opportunity, public safety, infrastructure  
38 investment, and community prosperity throughout the region; and  
39  
40 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, copies of this resolution be sent to the counties of  
41 New York State encouraging member counties to enact similar resolutions; and  
42  
43 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that copies of this resolution be transmitted to the  
44 Governor of the State of New York, and the leadership of the New York State  
45 Legislature.



**NYSAC**  
— NEW YORK STATE —  
ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES

**2026 NYSAC Legislative Conference  
Albany County**

**Standing Committee on Public Health and Mental  
Health Resolutions**

Linda Beers (Essex County) – Chair  
Hon. Michael Amo (Orange County) – Vice Chair  
Laura Kelemen (Niagara County) – Vice Chair

1 **2026 NYSAC Legislative Conference**  
2 **Standing Committee on Public Health/Mental Health**  
3 **Resolution #1**

4  
5 **Resolution Calling on the New York State Legislature to Amend Section**  
6 **201(15) of the New York State Workers’ Compensation Law to Extend Paid**  
7 **Family Leave Benefits to Postpartum Mothers in the Event of Stillbirth or**  
8 **Infant Death**  
9

10 **WHEREAS**, New York State’s Paid Family Leave (PFL) policy, enacted to support  
11 families during some of life’s most vulnerable moments, currently provides job-  
12 protected, paid time off for workers to bond with a new child, care for a seriously ill  
13 family member, or assist when a family member is deployed abroad on active military  
14 service; and

15  
16 **WHEREAS**, while the law’s intent was centered on strengthening the family unit by  
17 allowing one family member to care for another, this framework unintentionally  
18 overlooks a vital and vulnerable population: mothers who have experienced childbirth  
19 followed by the devastating loss of their newborn or stillbirth; and

20  
21 **WHEREAS**, the current interpretation of Paid Family Leave benefits disqualifies  
22 mothers from bonding leave when the child has died, despite the mother having  
23 undergone the full physical process of pregnancy and labor, which requires the same  
24 medical recovery period whether the child survives or not; and

25  
26 **WHEREAS**, this exclusion has a particularly cruel consequence: a mother who  
27 experiences a stillbirth or infant death must either return to work while physically  
28 recovering and emotionally shattered or navigate a complicated patchwork of disability  
29 insurance, unpaid leave, or employer discretion—with no guaranteed protections or  
30 time for grief and healing; and

31  
32 **WHEREAS**, critics may argue that the law was never designed to provide leave for self-  
33 care or personal medical recovery—but rather for a family member to take time off to  
34 care for another; however, this argument fails to acknowledge the unique duality of  
35 childbirth: it is both a physically taxing medical event and a deeply family-centered  
36 milestone, one which irrevocably alters the life of the parent, whether the child lives or  
37 dies; and

38  
39 **WHEREAS**, in cases of live birth, the law already acknowledges that bonding leave is  
40 not merely about the care of the infant—it is about the recovery and adjustment of the  
41 entire family unit, particularly the birth parent; and

42  
43 **WHEREAS**, the law also extends leave to individuals caring for aging parents or  
44 seriously ill relatives, many of whom are adults capable of expressing needs—yet a  
45 postpartum woman who has just lost her child is expected to return to work without  
46 time to process grief or allow her body to heal from pregnancy and delivery; and

1 **WHEREAS**, postpartum physical recovery is medically necessary in all cases of  
2 childbirth—including stillbirth and early neonatal loss—often involving surgery,  
3 hormonal shifts, lactation suppression, and risk of complications such as hemorrhage or  
4 infection; and

5  
6 **WHEREAS**, the absence of clear legal provisions for postpartum leave following child  
7 loss contributes to mental health crises, increased maternal depression, and long-term  
8 trauma for families already suffering the most unthinkable loss; and

9  
10 **WHEREAS**, requiring the issuance of a fetal death certificate or other official  
11 documentation of stillbirth or infant loss can provide a standardized and fair threshold  
12 for qualification, ensuring the benefit is neither misused nor difficult to administer; and

13  
14 **WHEREAS**, a growing number of health advocates, maternal mental health experts,  
15 and bipartisan policymakers now recognize the need for parental grief leave as a matter  
16 of basic dignity and health equity, especially for Black and brown women, who face  
17 higher rates of pregnancy complications and stillbirth but often lack access to employer-  
18 based supports; and

19  
20 **WHEREAS**, local governments, including counties, often serve as both major  
21 employers and frontline service providers, and we have seen firsthand how denying  
22 adequate leave in these situations leads to poor health outcomes, employee turnover,  
23 and increased strain on public health and social services; and

24  
25 **WHEREAS**, amending the law to include postpartum parental grief leave in the event  
26 of stillbirth or infant death would not only align with the broader intent of Paid Family  
27 Leave—to uphold families in times of need—but would also correct a painful gap in  
28 compassion and coverage that currently punishes women for the tragic outcome of a  
29 biological process they had no control over.

30  
31 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the New York State Association of  
32 Counties (NYSAC) calls on the Governor and the New York State Legislature to amend  
33 Workers’ Compensation Law § 201(15) by adding a definition to extend Paid Family  
34 Leave protections to postpartum mothers in the event of stillbirth or early infant death,  
35 treating the issuance of a fetal death certificate, medical certification of neonatal loss, or  
36 related documentation as sufficient for eligibility; and

37  
38 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that such leave be explicitly recognized as both  
39 necessary medical recovery and emotional restoration, honoring the humanity of  
40 grieving parents and aligning New York’s labor protections with modern standards of  
41 maternal and family health; and

42  
43 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that copies of this resolution be sent to the counties  
44 of New York encouraging member counties to enact similar resolutions; and

45  
46 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that copies of this resolution be forwarded to the  
47 Governor of the State of New York, the Temporary President and Majority Leader of the

- 1 State Senate, the Speaker of the Assembly, the Department of Labor, and all others
- 2 deemed necessary and proper.

1 **2026 NYSAC Legislative Conference**  
2 **Standing Committee on Public Health/Mental Health**  
3 **Resolution #2**

4  
5 **Resolution Urging the Governor and State Legislature to Restore Funding**  
6 **for the Healthy Neighborhoods Program**

7  
8 **WHEREAS**, the Healthy Neighborhoods Program (HNP) is a proven, evidence-based  
9 public health program administered by local health departments that provides direct,  
10 no-cost, in-home education, assessments, and safety interventions to reduce  
11 preventable injuries, asthma triggers, lead exposure, and other housing-related health  
12 risks; and

13  
14 **WHEREAS**, access to safe, healthy, and stable housing is a fundamental determinant  
15 of health, and housing-related hazards contribute significantly to preventable injury,  
16 illness, emergency department utilization, and avoidable health care costs; and

17  
18 **WHEREAS**, the Healthy Neighborhoods Program functions as an upstream prevention  
19 and housing stabilization strategy, reducing emergency responses, preventing  
20 displacement, and preserving existing housing stock, particularly for low-income  
21 households, older adults, families with young children, and individuals  
22 disproportionately impacted by social conditions that impact health; and

23  
24 **WHEREAS**, the SFY 2027 Executive Budget proposes eliminating \$1.45 million in  
25 funding for the Healthy Neighborhoods Program, despite documented positive  
26 outcomes related to fire safety, fall prevention, asthma management, lead poisoning  
27 prevention, and aging safely in place; and

28  
29 **WHEREAS**, eighteen localities across New York State, including New York City and  
30 multiple counties, currently rely on Healthy Neighborhoods funding to support trained  
31 public health staff and provide essential injury prevention education and safety  
32 equipment, such as smoke and carbon monoxide detectors, fire extinguishers, radon  
33 detectors, and supplies to reduce lead hazards and asthma triggers; and

34  
35 **WHEREAS**, elimination of Healthy Neighborhoods funding would result in workforce  
36 disruptions within local health departments, undermine local public health capacity,  
37 and increase downstream costs to emergency services, health care systems, and local  
38 governments; and

39  
40 **WHEREAS**, the Executive Budget acknowledges that families and individuals across  
41 New York State are struggling to find and remain in stable, affordable housing, making  
42 continued investment in housing safety and preservation more critical than ever.

43  
44 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the New York State Association of  
45 Counties (NYSAC) calls upon the Governor to restore funding for the Healthy  
46 Neighborhoods Program in the State Fiscal Year 2026–2027 Enacted Budget; and

1 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that NYSAC recognizes and thanks the Senate and  
2 Assembly for including restoration in their one-house budget proposals; and

3  
4 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that NYSAC affirms that restoring Healthy  
5 Neighborhoods funding is essential to protecting vulnerable populations, preserving  
6 local public health workforce capacity, and advancing the goals of the New York State  
7 Prevention Agenda; and

8  
9 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that copies of this resolution be sent to the counties  
10 of New York encouraging member counties to enact similar resolutions; and

11  
12 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that copies of this resolution be forwarded to the  
13 Governor of the State of New York, the New York State Legislature, the New York  
14 Department of Health, and all others deemed necessary and proper.

1 **2026 NYSAC Legislative Conference**  
2 **Standing Committee on Public Health/Mental Health**  
3 **Resolution #3**

4  
5 **Resolution Supporting Governor Hochul’s SFY 2027 Executive Budget**  
6 **Proposals for Mental Health and Substance Use Prevention Initiatives and**  
7 **Priorities for Teens and Young Adults**  
8

9 **WHEREAS**, Local Governmental Units (LGUs)/Directors of Community Services  
10 (DCSs) have statutory responsibilities under the Local Services provisions of Article 41  
11 of the New York State Mental Hygiene Law for planning, development, implementation,  
12 and oversight of services to adults and children in their counties affected by mental  
13 illness, substance use disorder, and intellectual/developmental disabilities (I/DD); and  
14

15 **WHEREAS**, LGUs/DCSs are experiencing unprecedented demand for youth  
16 behavioral health services, with counties reporting rising rates of anxiety, depression,  
17 suicidal ideation, and substance use among teens and young adults, alongside increased  
18 reliance on crisis services and emergency systems; and  
19

20 **WHEREAS**, research and local experience demonstrate that early identification and  
21 prevention during adolescence, particularly in school-based settings, can significantly  
22 improve long-term mental health outcomes and reduce the need for higher-cost crisis  
23 and inpatient interventions; and  
24

25 **WHEREAS**, county mental hygiene systems rely on strong youth-informed, peer-  
26 based, and prevention-focused approaches that improve engagement, equity, and long-  
27 term outcomes while strengthening local service continuums; and  
28

29 **WHEREAS**, Governor Hochul’s SFY 2027 Executive Budget proposal advances a  
30 comprehensive strategy to address youth mental health and substance use needs  
31 through statewide prevention, culturally responsive crisis services, and youth-driven  
32 engagement; and  
33

34 **WHEREAS**, proposals include a flagship Teen Mental Health First Aid initiative,  
35 offering a universal option for all 10th graders statewide, a developmentally appropriate  
36 age when many serious mental health conditions first emerge; and  
37

38 **WHEREAS**, this initiative would be funded at \$3.5 million in Year One, growing to  
39 \$17.5 million annually by Year Four, and is projected to reach more than 180,000  
40 students per year, equipping youth with skills to recognize warning signs, support peers,  
41 and seek help early, thereby strengthening school and community-based prevention  
42 efforts statewide; and  
43

44 **WHEREAS**, full and effective implementation of this initiative requires that teachers,  
45 administrators, and other participating school personnel be trained in Youth Mental  
46 Health First Aid and/or Teen Mental Health First Aid to reinforce prevention, early  
47 identification, and coordinated response efforts; and

1 **WHEREAS**, LGBTQ+ youth experience disproportionately higher rates of mental  
2 health distress, suicide attempts, and substance use, and rely heavily on specialized,  
3 affirming crisis supports; and  
4

5 **WHEREAS**, the cuts in federal funding to LGBTQ+ 988 specialty crisis lines has  
6 created a critical gap in crisis response capacity for LGBTQ+ youth, increasing the risk  
7 of delayed intervention, emergency department utilization, and adverse outcomes; and  
8

9 **WHEREAS**, the SFY 2027 Executive Budget proposal includes \$1.8 million to ensure  
10 access to behavioral health services for LGBTQ+ youth; and  
11

12 **WHEREAS**, the Executive Budget further advances a youth and young adult substance  
13 use prevention and recovery strategy that recognizes the importance of peer connection,  
14 youth leadership, and developmentally appropriate recovery supports; and  
15

16 **WHEREAS**, investments in up to 15 new Youth Clubhouses will expand access to  
17 voluntary, community-based supports that promote engagement, stability, and recovery  
18 for young people with serious mental health needs; and  
19

20 **WHEREAS**, LGUs/DCSs, in collaboration with the New York State Conference of  
21 Local Mental Hygiene Directors (CLMHD), strongly support these investments as  
22 critical components of a comprehensive, prevention-focused continuum of care for teens  
23 and young adults; and  
24

25 **WHEREAS**, the DCSs hold statutory responsibility for local service planning and  
26 system oversight; therefore, they must thoughtfully plan for, coordinate, and  
27 operationalize these proposals in partnership with the State to ensure these services are  
28 responsive to community needs and are sustainable across counties.  
29

30 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, the New York State Association of  
31 Counties (NYSAC) supports Governor Hochul's SFY 2027 Executive Budget proposals  
32 that expand and strengthen mental health and substance use prevention, crisis  
33 response, and recovery services for teens and young adults; and  
34

35 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that NYSAC urges the Governor, Division of Budget,  
36 and New York State Legislature to include these initiatives in the SFY 2027 Enacted  
37 Budget and to continue partnering with counties and the Directors of Community  
38 Services to ensure effective implementation; and  
39

40 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that copies of this resolution be sent to the counties of  
41 New York encouraging member counties to enact similar resolutions; and  
42

43 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that NYSAC shall forward copies of this resolution to  
44 Governor Kathy Hochul, the Temporary President of the Senate, the Speaker of the  
45 Assembly, members of the New York State Legislature, and all  
46 others deemed necessary.



**NYSAC**  
— NEW YORK STATE —  
ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES

**2026 NYSAC Legislative Conference  
Albany County**

**Standing Committee on Public Safety Resolutions**

Hon. Sheriff Juan Figueroa (Ulster County) – Chair  
Hon. Kathy Stegenga (Orange County) – 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Chair  
Dan Degear (Madison County) – Vice Chair

1 **2026 NYSAC Legislative Conference**  
2 **Standing Committee on Public Safety**  
3 **Resolution #1**

4  
5 **Resolution in Support of Efforts to Improve Probation and Alternatives to**  
6 **Incarceration in New York State in Order to Protect the Public and Reduce**  
7 **Reliance on Prisons, Jails, and Detention**  
8

9 **WHEREAS**, County Probation Departments are an integral component of New York  
10 State’s criminal justice system and operate within the legal framework of the Criminal  
11 Procedure Law, Penal Law, and Family Court Act; and

12  
13 **WHEREAS**, the mission of probation is to protect the community through intervention  
14 in the lives of those under supervision by facilitating compliance with court orders and  
15 serving as a catalyst for positive behavioral change; and

16  
17 **WHEREAS**, state funding for probation has declined significantly over the past three  
18 decades, from a 46.5 percent state share in 1990 to less than 10 percent in 2026, with no  
19 meaningful increase in the past ten years, placing a substantial financial burden on  
20 county governments and local property taxpayers; and

21  
22 **WHEREAS**, during this same period, County Probation Departments have experienced  
23 a significant expansion in mandated duties and programmatic responsibilities beyond  
24 traditional core services of intake, pre-sentence/pre-dispositional investigations, and  
25 supervision; and

26  
27 **WHEREAS**, expanded responsibilities now include, but are not limited to: specialized  
28 caseloads for sex offenders, DWI offenders, individuals with mental health needs,  
29 domestic violence offenders, and gang-involved individuals; participation in specialized  
30 treatment courts (drug, domestic violence, mental health, and veterans courts);  
31 community service programming; school-based probation officers; warrant squads;  
32 DNA collection; ignition interlock device monitoring; expanded pretrial release  
33 programs; electronic monitoring; sex offender verification; administration of cognitive  
34 behavioral interventions; risk assessments; financial obligation collection and  
35 disbursement; and compliance with GIVE and proposed STRIVE protocols; and

36  
37 **WHEREAS**, Raise the Age (RTA) legislation, bail reform, increased juvenile detention  
38 demands, and limited specialized detention bed capacity have further increased the  
39 operational, administrative, and fiscal pressures placed upon county probation  
40 departments; and

41  
42 **WHEREAS**, counties continue to face significant challenges in recruiting and retaining  
43 probation officers due to heightened educational requirements, hazardous and high-risk  
44 work conditions, the absence of enhanced disability benefits under General Municipal  
45 Law § 207-c; and

1 **WHEREAS**, the New York State Council of Probation Administrators, representing  
2 Probation Directors, Administrators, and Commissioners statewide, has worked  
3 collaboratively with NYSAC and state leaders to increase awareness of probation’s  
4 critical public safety role and strongly recommends restoration of the State funding  
5 share to 46.5 percent.  
6

7 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the New York State Association of  
8 Counties (NYSAC) supports proposals to strengthen probation services and alternatives  
9 to incarceration to enhance public safety and reduce reliance on prisons, jails, and  
10 detention; and

11  
12 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that in response to Raise the Age (RTA) legislation,  
13 the State of New York should establish a dedicated RTA Block Grant administered  
14 through DCJS/OPCA, to provide 100 percent state funding for all local probation costs  
15 associated with RTA, including personnel and evidence-based programming, in place of  
16 the current application-based reimbursement structure; and

17  
18 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, the State should provide 100 percent funding for all  
19 pretrial services costs associated with bail reform, including probation personnel  
20 expenses; and

21  
22 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, the State should eliminate the requirement that local  
23 probation departments oversee ignition interlock devices in cases where a term of State  
24 prison has been imposed; and

25  
26 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, the State should explore the reuse of existing state-  
27 owned facilities to create secure, specialized youth detention or rehabilitative treatment  
28 centers in collaboration with local governments; and

29  
30 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, the Division of Budget should expeditiously  
31 reimburse counties for expanded or newly established specialized secure detention  
32 facilities, as statewide capacity remains insufficient to meet youth detention needs; and

33  
34 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that copies of this resolution be sent to the counties  
35 of New York encouraging member counties to enact similar resolutions; and

36  
37 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that NYSAC shall forward copies of this Resolution to  
38 Governor Kathy Hochul, the New York State Legislature, and all others deemed  
39 necessary and proper.

1 **2026 NYSAC Legislative Conference**  
2 **Standing Committee on Public Safety**  
3 **Resolution #2**

4  
5 **Resolution Supporting Senate Bill S.1563 (Tedisco) Establishing a Statewide**  
6 **Animal Cruelty Registry for Individuals Convicted Under “Buster’s Law”**

7  
8 **WHEREAS**, animal cruelty is a serious criminal offense under New York State  
9 Agriculture and Markets Law § 351 and § 353-a, commonly known as “Buster’s Law”,  
10 and such offenses have long been recognized as indicators of broader patterns of violent  
11 behavior; and

12  
13 **WHEREAS**, Senate Bill 1563 (Tedisco) would amend the Agriculture and Markets Law  
14 to establish a statewide animal cruelty registry maintained by the Division of Criminal  
15 Justice Services (DCJS) for individuals convicted of violating Buster’s Law; and

16  
17 **WHEREAS**, the proposed legislation would require individuals convicted under these  
18 provisions to register their name and address annually, and upon any change of address,  
19 until a court determines—based on psychiatric or psychological evaluation—that  
20 registration may cease; and

21  
22 **WHEREAS**, the registry would be made available in print and electronic form to law  
23 enforcement entities, district attorneys, humane societies, societies for the prevention of  
24 cruelty to animals, animal control officers, dog or cat protective associations, breeders,  
25 animal rescues, and pet stores conducting business in New York State; and

26  
27 **WHEREAS**, the bill would prohibit individuals required to register from owning  
28 companion animals or working in facilities where companion animals are present,  
29 including shelters, pounds, pet stores, and zoos; and

30  
31 **WHEREAS**, counties are responsible for supporting animal control services, public  
32 safety functions, district attorney offices, and coordination with local humane societies  
33 and SPCA organizations, and would benefit from improved access to accurate,  
34 centralized information regarding individuals convicted of animal cruelty offenses; and

35  
36 **WHEREAS**, the establishment of a uniform statewide registry would supersede  
37 inconsistent local laws and provide clear, standardized enforcement across all  
38 municipalities, including cities with populations over one million; and

39  
40 **WHEREAS**, S.1563 includes a mandatory \$50 surcharge upon conviction to offset the  
41 costs associated with establishing and maintaining the registry, thereby minimizing  
42 fiscal impact on local governments.

43  
44 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the New York State Association of  
45 Counties (NYSAC) supports S.1563 (Tedisco) establishing a statewide animal cruelty  
46 registry for persons convicted under Buster’s Law; and

1 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that NYSAC urges the Governor and the New York  
2 State Legislature to enact this legislation to strengthen animal welfare protections,  
3 enhance public safety, and provide counties and local enforcement agencies with a  
4 centralized tool to prevent repeat offenses; and

5  
6 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that copies of this resolution be sent to the counties  
7 of New York encouraging member counties to enact similar resolutions; and

8  
9 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that NYSAC shall forward copies of this resolution to  
10 Governor Kathy Hochul, New York State Legislative Leaders, and all others deemed  
11 necessary and proper.



**NYSAC**  
— NEW YORK STATE —  
ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES

**2026 NYSAC Legislative Conference  
Albany County**

**Standing Committee on Taxation and Finance  
Resolutions**

Kelly J. Reed (Cattaraugus County) - Chair  
Kerry Gallagher (Orange County) – Vice Chair  
Mitch Alger (Steuben County) - Vice Chair

1 **2026 NYSAC Legislative Conference**  
2 **Standing Committee on Taxation and Finance**  
3 **Resolution #1**

4  
5 **Resolution Urging the Governor and Relevant State Agencies to Work with**  
6 **Counties to Improve the Process for Distribution of Adult-Use Cannabis**  
7 **Sales Tax Proceeds**  
8

9 **WHEREAS**, in 2021, Governor Cuomo signed into law the Marihuana Regulation and  
10 Taxation Act (MRTA), which legalized adult-use recreational cannabis sales with the  
11 stated goal of generating significant new revenue; and

12  
13 **WHEREAS**, the legislation imposes several taxes including a nine percent tax on retail  
14 sales that goes to the State; and

15  
16 **WHEREAS**, there is also an additional four percent sales tax that goes to the localities  
17 where the dispensary is located (one percent is retained by the county and three percent  
18 goes to the town, city, or village that hosts the dispensary); and

19  
20 **WHEREAS**, the county is responsible for distributing the three percent portion to  
21 cities, towns, and villages based on the proportionate share of sales by dispensaries in  
22 each jurisdiction on a quarterly basis; and

23  
24 **WHEREAS**, the county is also required to distribute these funds to localities within 30  
25 days of receipt; and

26  
27 **WHEREAS**, the revenue receipt, distribution, and tracking of the local adult-use  
28 cannabis sales tax is shared by multiple state agencies, including the Office of the State  
29 Comptroller (OSC), Department of Taxation and Finance (DTF), and the Office of  
30 Cannabis Management (OCM); and

31  
32 **WHEREAS**, the initial rollout of the MRTA was slowed by litigation, complex and  
33 unclear statutory language, and the need to build a new state cannabis office with  
34 significantly expanded responsibilities; and

35  
36 **WHEREAS**, many of the implementation challenges for approving licenses to  
37 dispensary owners have been resolved, with 593 legal dispensaries now licensed as of  
38 February 2026, an increase of 157 (+36%) in the last seven months, according to OCM;  
39 and

40  
41 **WHEREAS**, total retail sales of adult use cannabis exceeded \$1.5 billion in 2025 and  
42 have surpassed \$2.5 billion in total since sales began in 2023; and

43  
44 **WHEREAS**, according to the NYS Comptroller, local sales tax generated by these sales  
45 exceeded \$87 million since 2023; and  
46

1 **WHEREAS**, as more dispensaries are approved, counties continue to fall behind state  
2 law requirements for timely disbursement of funds to host localities primarily due to  
3 barriers erected by statutory language and administrative shortfalls that fail to  
4 accurately attribute to each dispensary the sales tax they paid, their volume of sales, and  
5 to which tax quarter the sales tax should be applied; and  
6

7 **WHEREAS**, according to OCM, 61 counties have at least one licensed adult-use  
8 cannabis dispensary, with 58 counties having more than one.  
9

10 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, the New York State Association of  
11 Counties (NYSAC) calls upon the Governor, New York State Legislature, and  
12 appropriate state agencies to streamline the process for dispersing cannabis sales tax  
13 receipts to counties so they can timely and accurately distribute funds to localities,  
14 including making adjustments to existing law if necessary; and  
15

16 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, state agencies should ensure that sales tax  
17 disbursements to counties are consistent with the state sales tax quarter in which they  
18 were generated to minimize confusion regarding payments that sometimes come  
19 monthly, bimonthly, or quarterly and cannot be easily matched to the communities that  
20 are hosting the dispensaries; and  
21

22 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, copies of this resolution be sent to the counties of  
23 New York encouraging member counties to enact similar resolutions; and  
24

25 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, NYSAC shall forward copies of this resolution to  
26 Governor Kathy Hochul, the New York State Legislature, the New York Department of  
27 State, and Department of Taxation and Finance, and all others deemed necessary and  
28 proper.

1 **NYSAC 2026 Legislative Conference**  
2 **Standing Committee on Taxation and Finance**  
3 **Resolution #2**

4  
5 **Resolution In Support of Updating New York State’s In Rem Tax**  
6 **Delinquency Foreclosure Process to Address Rising County Costs Post *Tyler***  
7 ***v Hennepin* Stemming from State Requirements to Hold Other**  
8 **Municipalities Harmless for Unpaid Property Taxes and Prepare for *Pung v***  
9 ***Isabella County* Set to be Decided in 2026**

10  
11 **WHEREAS**, on May 25, 2023, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled in *Tyler v. Hennepin*  
12 *County, MN*, that certain property tax enforcement provisions carried out by some  
13 states will need to change, specifically, returning any surplus (described as “just  
14 compensation” under the *Decision*) to the prior owner after appropriate delinquent  
15 taxes, penalties, fees and administrative expenses are reimbursed to the enforcing  
16 entity; and

17  
18 **WHEREAS**, the counties of New York are primarily responsible for enforcing In Rem  
19 Tax Foreclosures and holding towns and school districts harmless in their immediate  
20 fiscal year for unpaid property taxes, with many counties also carrying out this function  
21 for villages as well; and

22  
23 **WHEREAS**, under this inequitable system (school, town, and village delinquencies are  
24 usually 5-8 times larger in total dollars than the county tax portion in nearly all  
25 counties) yet the county government is required to make each municipality whole for  
26 their unpaid taxes immediately; and

27  
28 **WHEREAS**, counties must carry these fiscal responsibilities on their books for many  
29 years before the tax foreclosure process is completed; and

30  
31 **WHEREAS**, under the *Tyler v Hennepin Decision* counties as enforcing entities, in  
32 conjunction with holding other municipalities harmless, must return any surplus to the  
33 prior owner after taxes, fees, penalties and administrative costs are reimbursed out of  
34 auction sales that many times do not fully cover county expenses during the multi-year  
35 enforcement and carrying process; and

36  
37 **WHEREAS**, another U.S. Supreme Court decision, *Pung v Isabella County*, will be  
38 finalized by Summer 2026 that may require counties to return “surplus” funds beyond  
39 what auction proceeds generate if fair market value of properties becomes the new  
40 standard of measure for determining surplus which will accelerate financial losses for  
41 counties in New York; and

42  
43 **WHEREAS**, the Supreme Court may also rule on issues related to the timing of a tax  
44 foreclosure if it is determined such an action cannot occur until a certain equity  
45 threshold is breached regarding delinquent taxes owed against the fair market value of  
46 the property which could extend the tax foreclosure process far beyond current

1 timeframes, adding more financial pressure to counties for carrying foreclosure  
2 expenses over even longer periods; and

3  
4 **WHEREAS**, most locally levied county taxes are used to pay for state mandated  
5 services and programs, the state currently provides no financial assistance or liability  
6 protections to counties under a foreclosure process that now operates in a vastly  
7 different legal environment as well as a more volatile housing market than what was in  
8 place 35 years ago when the initial state defined, county administered foreclosure  
9 system was created; and

10  
11 **WHEREAS**, in any economic downturn, or unfavorable real estate market, the liability  
12 and expense for county taxpayers will grow immensely in the absence of state financing  
13 and protections; and

14  
15 **WHEREAS**, in subsequent years the increased revenue loss for counties from current  
16 state law and a new U.S. Supreme Court decision will need to be levied again and spread  
17 out among all other property owners that pay their property taxes increasing their costs  
18 and worsening the housing affordability crisis for all; and

19  
20 **WHEREAS**, some counties and other tax enforcement jurisdictions also provide  
21 financial assistance to landbanks by transferring tax foreclosed properties for minimal  
22 cost; and

23  
24 **WHEREAS**, the primary role of landbanks is to stabilize neighborhoods, prevent  
25 blight, provide affordable housing opportunities, and return tax delinquent properties to  
26 the tax rolls.

27  
28 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, the New York State Association of  
29 Counties (NYSAC) supports In Rem tax foreclosure reforms that:

- 30
- 31 • Require the state to become the guarantor of unpaid taxes for all taxing
  - 32 jurisdictions that experience tax delinquencies under the new process,
  - 33 • In lieu of a State guarantee, the State should change state law to no longer require
  - 34 counties to guarantee the delinquent taxes of other municipalities,
  - 35 • Provide liability protections to counties and tax enforcement officials that are
  - 36 carrying out state property tax laws,
  - 37 • Ensure the state provides direct fiscal assistance to landbanks so they can
  - 38 maintain their primary housing goals under state law,
  - 39 • The State should allow for interest free loans to counties and other tax
  - 40 enforcement jurisdictions to offset multiple years of interest costs as they carry
  - 41 costs over many years until all transactions are settled on tax foreclosed
  - 42 properties; and

43 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that copies of this resolution be sent to the counties  
44 of New York State encouraging member counties to enact similar resolutions; and

1 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that NYSAC shall forward copies of this resolution to  
2 Governor Kathy Hochul, the New York State Legislature and all others deemed  
3 necessary and proper.



**NYSAC**  
— NEW YORK STATE —  
ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES

## **2026 NYSAC Legislative Conference Albany County**

### **Standing Committee on Transportation and Public Works Resolutions**

Deborah Donohue (Washington County) – Chair  
Hon. Philip Reed (Jefferson County) – Vice Chair  
James Burpoe (Putnam County) – Vice Chair  
Kevin Hajos (Warren County) – Vice Chair

1 **2026 Legislative Conference**  
2 **Standing Committee on Transportation and Public Works**  
3 **Resolution #1**

4  
5 **Resolution Urging New York State to Adopt and Fund State-Sponsored Air**  
6 **Service Development Programs**

7  
8 **WHEREAS**, the aviation sector is a vital economic engine in New York State,  
9 responsible for \$80 billion in total economic activity each year, serving over 111 million  
10 passengers annually, supporting more than 454,000 aviation related jobs, and  
11 generating over \$6.1 billion annually in state and local tax revenues; and  
12

13 **WHEREAS**, New York is home to eighteen commercial service airports: John F.  
14 Kennedy International Airport and LaGuardia Airport, both located in Queens, New  
15 York; Stewart International Airport; Albany International Airport; Buffalo Niagara  
16 International Airport; Syracuse Hancock International Airport; Frederick Douglass  
17 Greater Rochester International Airport; Long Island MacArthur Airport; Westchester  
18 County Airport; Elmira Corning Regional Airport; Plattsburgh International Airport;  
19 Niagara Falls International Airport; Ithaca Tompkins International Airport; Greater  
20 Binghamton Airport; Watertown International Airport; Ogdensburg International  
21 Airport; Adirondack Regional Airport; and Massena International Airport; and  
22

23 **WHEREAS**, these airports compete regionally and nationally for scheduled airline  
24 service as more flights mean more revenue and economic activity for the airport and the  
25 communities in which it is located; and  
26

27 **WHEREAS**, airlines in turn choose airports based on factors like fees, facilities, and  
28 access, and this competition benefits passengers by potentially lowering fares and  
29 increasing service options to more cities and with more frequency; and  
30

31 **WHEREAS**, the State of New York successfully promotes aviation-related economic  
32 development opportunities at airports through the administration of a variety of federal  
33 and state programs, financing opportunities, and grants for strategic infrastructure  
34 enhancements at airports, which helps the state's airports compete with neighboring  
35 states for air service; and  
36

37 **WHEREAS**, the Essential Air Service program is a U.S. government program that  
38 assists some airports to maintain a minimal level of air service by providing federal  
39 subsidies to connect these airports to the National Air Transportation System when it  
40 might not be profitable for airlines to do so otherwise, but the program is limited to  
41 small communities; and  
42

43 **WHEREAS**, while federal initiatives like the Essential Air Service (EAS) and the Small  
44 Community Air Service Development Program can help, many states have responded to  
45 the competition for air service by enacting their own air service development support  
46 through such strategies as marketing assistance, promotions of existing air service or  
47 new routes, revenue guarantees, direct incentives to airlines to serve specific markets,

1 and financial assistance to communities to support air service deemed essential for  
2 economic development; and

3  
4 **WHEREAS**, while federal initiatives like EAS and the Small Community Air Service  
5 Development Program can help, these programs are national programs and, therefore,  
6 decrease the opportunities for New York State Airports to have any advantage in air  
7 service solicitation over other states nationally; and

8  
9 **WHEREAS**, it is therefore incumbent upon New York to bring more air service options  
10 to a greater number of its citizens throughout the state by emulating and improving  
11 upon other state's actions to enhance opportunities for airlines to desire to locate here;  
12 and

13  
14 **WHEREAS**, a recent study commissioned by the Greater Binghamton Airport for the  
15 New York Aviation Management Association analyzes state-sponsored Air Service  
16 Development (ASD) programs in the U.S., exploring their role in economic growth,  
17 business connectivity, tourism, and resident accessibility, especially in rural areas; and

18  
19 **WHEREAS**, the study demonstrates the success many states are having  
20 in retaining and attracting new air service in comparison with other states and  
21 highlights 21 states that have had, currently have, or are proposing ASD programs; and

22  
23 **WHEREAS**, state-sponsored programs include marketing assistance, promoting  
24 existing air service or new routes, revenue guarantees, incentives to airlines to serve  
25 specific markets, financial assistance, and strategic infrastructure investments at  
26 airports.

27  
28 **NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, the New York State Association of Counties  
29 (NYSAC) hereby urges the State of New York to recognize the veracity of competition for  
30 air service expansion among the states; and

31  
32 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that NYSAC calls on the Governor, the New York  
33 State Department of Transportation (NYSDOT) and Empire State Development (ESD)  
34 to collaborate with the aviation industry to identify effective approaches to ASD,  
35 and other programs and grant opportunities, and to adopt and sufficiently fund  
36 programs, strategies and partnerships that would increase New York's competitive  
37 position for ASD relative to other states; and

38  
39 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that copies of this resolution be sent to the counties  
40 of New York State encouraging member counties to enact similar resolutions; and

41  
42 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that NYSAC shall forward copies of this resolution to  
43 Governor Kathy Hochul, the New York Legislature, NYSDOT Commissioner Marie  
44 Therese Dominguez, CEO and Commissioner of ESD Hope Knight, and all  
45 others deemed necessary and proper.

1 **2026 Legislative Conference**  
2 **Standing Committee on Transportation and Public Works**  
3 **Resolution #2**

4  
5 **Resolution Calling on the State to Increase Certain Local Government**  
6 **Procurement Thresholds**

7  
8 **WHEREAS**, General Municipal Law (GML) Section 103(16), commonly referred to as  
9 the “Piggyback Law,” authorizes local governments to piggyback on competitively  
10 awarded contracts for public works, provided the contract value does not exceed \$1  
11 million; and

12  
13 **WHEREAS**, local governments and schools have used this type of  
14 purchasing option for years in order to streamline the projects, save taxpayer dollars,  
15 and create efficiencies; and

16  
17 **WHEREAS**, GML § 103(16) allows local governments to make purchases and contract  
18 for services related to the installation, maintenance, or repair of apparatus, materials,  
19 equipment, and supplies through cooperative purchasing agreements; however, the  
20 statute is silent on whether public works projects may be procured through  
21 piggybacking; and

22  
23 **WHEREAS**, the Office of the State Comptroller (OSC) has previously indicated  
24 informally that certain public works projects may be able to be piggybacked under GML  
25 § 103(16) on a case-by-case basis, particularly when the project involves a combination  
26 of materials procurement and installation services; and

27  
28 **WHEREAS**, a recent court decision (*Daniel J. Lynch, Inc. v. Maine-Endwell School*  
29 *District*) ruled that GML § 103(16) does not authorize piggybacking for public works,  
30 resulting in the immediate need for legislative clarification; and

31  
32 **WHEREAS**, GML § 103(3) already permits local governments to piggyback on county  
33 awarded public works contracts, provided that the contracts comply with Article 8 of the  
34 NYS Labor Law (prevailing wage requirements); therefore, extending this authority to  
35 GML § 103(16) would align state law with existing procurement practices and provide  
36 local governments with a legally sound, cost-effective alternative for procuring smaller  
37 scale public works projects; and

38  
39 **WHEREAS**, GML § 103 regarding public works projects and commodity purchases  
40 must also be amended to increase the bidding threshold to keep up with inflation; and

41  
42 **WHEREAS**, this threshold is outdated, placed on local governments and schools over  
43 50 years ago at \$20,000 for commodity purchases and at \$35,000 on public works  
44 projects; and

1 **WHEREAS**, this outdated threshold places an undue burden on local government and  
2 is not in keeping with the spirit of the original law when considering inflationary  
3 values.  
4  
5 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, the New York State Association of  
6 Counties (NYSAC) hereby calls on the Governor and the State Legislature to enact  
7 legislation increasing the local government bidding thresholds to \$50,000 for  
8 commodity purchases and \$100,000 on public works projects to adjust to inflationary  
9 values; and  
10  
11 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, NYSAC hereby calls on the Governor and the State  
12 Legislature to enact legislation clarifying that public works projects may be able to be  
13 piggybacked under GML § 103(16); and  
14  
15 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, copies of this resolution be sent to the counties of  
16 New York encouraging member counties to enact similar resolutions; and  
17  
18 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, NYSAC shall forward copies of this resolution  
19 to Governor Kathy Hochul, the New York State Legislature, and all  
20 others deemed necessary and proper.

1 **2026 Legislative Conference**  
2 **Standing Committee on Transportation and Public Works**  
3 **Resolution #3**

4  
5 **Resolution Calling on the State to Enact Enhanced Work Zone Safety**  
6 **Protections**

7  
8 **WHEREAS**, work zone deaths, accidents, and assaults have continued to rise across  
9 New York State in recent years; and

10  
11 **WHEREAS**, a recent death of a Department of Transportation employee  
12 and numerous winter storm accidents have documented the threats to highway workers  
13 across New York; and

14  
15 **WHEREAS**, some successful action has been taken to reduce work zone accidents on  
16 certain roadways in New York through the currently limited Automated Work Zone  
17 Speed Enforcement Program; and

18  
19 **WHEREAS**, the protection of these highway workers for every section of government  
20 is critical to supporting public employees and their efforts to enhance and expand our  
21 state's infrastructure; and

22  
23 **WHEREAS**, the support of efforts to strengthen legal protections for certain  
24 transportation workers to deter assaults and hold offenders accountable is an important  
25 function of government; and

26  
27 **WHEREAS**, the Enhanced Workforce Safety Protections currently mandated only for  
28 certain roadways for highway workers should be extended to cover every roadway that is  
29 maintained by all transportation and highway workers; and

30  
31 **WHEREAS**, the New Yorkers responsible for maintaining our state and local  
32 infrastructure deserve to go home safely at the end of each workday.

33  
34 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, the New York State Association of  
35 Counties (NYSAC) hereby calls on the Governor and the New York State Legislature  
36 to expand the Automated Work Zone Speed Enforcement Program to more roadways  
37 across New York State to enhance work zone safety; and

38  
39 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that these protections be brought to the same  
40 standards afforded to transit workers, including second degree assault for any action  
41 taken against a transportation worker; and

42  
43 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that NYSAC calls on the Governor and the State  
44 Legislature to enact legislation to strengthen legal protections for certain transportation  
45 workers to deter assaults by expanding the categories of transportation workers that  
46 qualify for enhanced assault protections; and

1 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, copies of this resolution be sent to the counties of  
2 New York encouraging member counties to enact similar resolutions; and

3  
4 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, NYSAC shall forward copies of this resolution  
5 to Governor Kathy Hochul, the New York State Legislature, and all  
6 others deemed necessary and proper.