

1 **2023 NYSAC Fall Seminar**
2 **NYSAC Board of Directors**
3 **Resolution #1**

4 **Resolution Demanding New York State Reduce the Cost of State-Mandated**
5 **Programs on Local Taxpayers**

6 **WHEREAS**, despite the state capping the local share of Medicaid — and assuming the
7 growth — New York State continues to rely on county taxpayers to balance its books;
8 and

9
10 **WHEREAS**, even with this Medicaid growth cap in place the 57 counties and New York
11 City have provided \$139 billion in local taxes to pay for the state designed and controlled
12 program since 2005. Each year going forward counties will need to raise \$7.6 billion in
13 local taxes to pay a share of the costs of the state’s Medicaid program that is growing at
14 an unsustainable rate and has been for many years; and

15
16 **WHEREAS**, this state mandated local share is unprecedented nationwide and more
17 than all counties in the country combined are forced to pay for general Medicaid
18 program costs; and

19
20 **WHEREAS**, New York State is one of only a few that require counties to pay the bulk of
21 the costs of the state general assistance program (Safety Net). Since 2005, counties and
22 New York City have provided \$25.2 billion in local tax revenues to support the state’s
23 Safety Net Program; and

24
25 **WHEREAS**, since 2005 counties and New York City have provided \$7.5 billion in local
26 taxes to support indigent defense services, a federal and state constitutional
27 requirement the state has shifted to counties and New York City; and

28
29 **WHEREAS**, only 15 states require their counties to pay a significant share of indigent
30 defense costs, and few come close to the share and amount of local funds required of
31 New York counties; and

32
33 **WHEREAS**, since 2005 counties and New York City have provided \$12.6 billion in
34 local tax revenues to support the state’s Preschool special education program. Counties
35 pay just over 40 percent of Preschool Special Education costs for 3–5-year-olds, in
36 addition to 10 percent of summer school special education services for k-12 students.
37 Few counties nationwide pay for or provide educational services; and

38
39 **WHEREAS**, counties and New York City also provide local tax revenues in support of
40 the state budget for dozens of other programs, many of which have seen lower state
41 funding matches since the Great Recession; and

42
43 **WHEREAS**, the state legislature and Governor have shifted a record amount of new
44 costs to county taxpayers in the last few years, forcing local taxpayers to spend \$14

1 billion in locally raised taxes this year to pay for a significant portion of the costs of state
2 designed and controlled programs, a 17 percent increase since SFY 2021; and

3
4 **WHEREAS**, the record amount of locally generated taxes paid by New Yorkers that
5 directly fund state programs each year is more than the entire general fund spending of
6 29 individual states; and

7
8 **WHEREAS**, for the 57 counties outside of New York City the new cost shifts and added
9 spending requirements imposed over the last two years by the state will approach \$600
10 million annually. These recurring costs include the intercept of federal Medicaid funding
11 that for 20 years has been set aside by congress for county fiscal relief, state imposed
12 double digit rate increases for preschool special education and foster care programs, a
13 doubling of rates for criminal indigent defense costs, and higher pension costs; and

14
15 **WHEREAS**, these increases are equal to 11 percent of the entire county property tax
16 levy for SFY 2023 and will have to be supported with higher local taxes or service cuts;
17 and

18
19 **WHEREAS**, as recent as 2021, New York State has shifted the entire cost of Criminal
20 Procedure Law (CPL) 730 exams and placements onto county taxpayers; and

21
22 **WHEREAS**, since 2005, counties and New York City have been required under state
23 law to raise over \$184 billion in local taxes to pay for state programs that most counties
24 across the country do not fund, hindering New York's economic competitiveness,
25 driving significant job and population loss that has been accelerating in recent years,
26 and fueled New York's housing affordability crisis; and

27
28 **WHEREAS**, all of these cost shifts have been used to provide relief to the state
29 financial plan but does so by essentially substituting more regressive local taxes for the
30 more progressive state tax structure which has a direct and negative impact on local
31 taxpayers and affordability in New York State.

32
33 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, the New York State Association of
34 Counties (NYSAC) urges the State Legislature and Governor Hochul, at minimum, to
35 freeze local costs for all state mandated programs, and further, to include significant
36 new funding to reduce or eliminate the \$14 billion in annual payments counties make
37 for state-mandated programs as part of the SFY 2024-25 Budget and beyond; 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 State Legislature and all others deemed
44 necessary and proper.