



NYSAC
— NEW YORK STATE —
ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES

2025 NYSAC Fall Seminar Resolutions

**Niagara County
September 8-11, 2025**

Philip R. Church, President

Stephen J. Acquario, Executive Director

NYSAC 2025 Fall Seminar Resolutions

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NYSAC
— NEW YORK STATE —
ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES

**2025 NYSAC Fall Seminar
Niagara County**

NYSAC Board of Directors

Philip R. Church, President

1 **2025 NYSAC Fall Seminar**
2 **NYSAC Board of Directors**
3 **Resolution #1**

4
5 **Resolution Recognizing Niagara County for Hosting the NYSAC Delegation**
6 **at the Annual Fall Seminar in Niagara County**

7
8 **WHEREAS**, the New York State Association of Counties (NYSAC) is convening their
9 2025 annual meeting in Niagara County; and

10
11 **WHEREAS**, hundreds of elected and appointed county officials from across this state
12 are meeting for the purpose of receiving education and information critical to the
13 operation of county government in New York State; and

14
15 **WHEREAS**, county officials from across the state benefit from the ideas and
16 information exchanged during this important event and, furthermore, will see firsthand
17 the natural beauty and culture of Western New York.

18
19 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the membership of the New York
20 State Association of Counties, its Board of Directors, and staff wish to extend sincere
21 appreciation to the entire Niagara County Legislature for supporting and hosting the
22 NYSAC delegation at its annual Fall Seminar; and

23
24 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that this resolution be sent to the Niagara County
25 Legislature.

1 **2025 NYSAC Fall Seminar**
2 **NYSAC Board of Directors**
3 **Resolution #2**

4
5 **Resolution Urging the Governor, State Legislature, and State Agencies to**
6 **Provide Additional Financial and Administrative Support to Counties to**
7 **Ensure Local Department of Social Services Districts are Fully Prepared to**
8 **Administer Enhanced Eligibility, Program Integrity, and Reporting**
9 **Requirements Enacted Under Federal Law for SNAP and Medicaid**

10
11 **WHEREAS**, the enactment of the One Big Beautiful Bill Act (OBBBA) implements a
12 significant realignment of fiscal and administrative responsibilities in the federal safety
13 net, primarily SNAP and Medicaid; and

14
15 **WHEREAS**, these changes will require states and counties to adhere to much stricter
16 program integrity efforts, including tighter eligibility parameters, more frequent
17 verification of continued eligibility, and enhanced work requirements for able-bodied
18 recipients, among other changes; and

19
20 **WHEREAS**, counties and the state have both struggled with recruiting and
21 maintaining enough highly trained staff to support social services enrollment, eligibility
22 and program integrity efforts; and

23
24 **WHEREAS**, the federal changes to SNAP and Medicaid will require an expanded local
25 workforce, information technology (IT) streamlining and enhancements, and more
26 intense training over much longer timeframes to ensure we build sufficient local
27 capacity and institutional knowledge to maximize efficiency and avoid significant
28 federally imposed financial penalties.

29
30 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** the New York State Association of
31 Counties (NYSAC) urges the Governor, State Legislature, the Office of Temporary and
32 Disability Assistance (OTDA), and the Department of Health (NYSDOH) to provide
33 additional financial assistance and administrative support to comply with new federal
34 eligibility requirements and program integrity reforms under SNAP and Medicaid; and

35
36 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, counties want to work closely with the state on
37 developing more streamlined and centralized IT systems that can reduce the need for
38 additional staff to the degree possible; and

39
40 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, we recognize that the hiring and training of
41 additional staff cannot be avoided, and understand the difficulty we all face in attracting
42 necessary staff and want to partner with the state to evaluate and implement special
43 incentive programs including bonus payments, and leveraging the HELPS program to
44 assist with recruitment and more expansive training; and

45
46 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, copies of this resolution be sent to the counties of
47 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, New York State Legislative Leaders, the Office of Temporary
3 and Disability Assistance, the Department of Health, and all others deemed necessary
4 and proper.

1 **2025 NYSAC Fall Seminar**
2 **NYSAC Board of Directors**
3 **Resolution #3**

4
5 **Resolution Encouraging Governor Kathy Hochul and the New York State**
6 **Legislature to Enact Technical Edits to Components of the Raise the Age**
7 **Law**
8

9 **WHEREAS**, the Raise the Age (RTA) law, enacted in 2017, was a landmark reform that
10 raised the age of criminal responsibility in New York State to 18 and redirected many 16-
11 and 17-year-old defendants to the family court system; and
12

13 **WHEREAS**, this reform aimed to improve outcomes for justice-involved youth while
14 promoting rehabilitation, reducing recidivism, and protecting public safety; and
15

16 **WHEREAS**, since its implementation, counties have identified legal and procedural
17 gaps in the RTA statute that limit its effectiveness and create unintended consequences
18 for the prosecution of serious crimes committed by adolescent offenders, particularly
19 those involving firearms and robbery; and
20

21 **WHEREAS**, district attorneys, judges, and legal counsel have expressed concerns over
22 restricted access to critical family court records that could inform pretrial decisions and
23 sentencing, as well as limitations in judicial discretion regarding case transfers between
24 criminal and family court; and
25

26 **WHEREAS**, counties have also experienced delays in reimbursement for RTA-related
27 costs, including secure detention, legal representation, and supervision services—costs
28 which were originally intended to be fully funded by the state; and
29

30 **WHEREAS**, targeted statutory amendments are necessary to ensure that adolescent
31 offenders who commit violent or firearm-related crimes can be held appropriately
32 accountable while preserving the rehabilitative intent of the law.
33

34 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, the New York State Association of
35 Counties (NYSAC) calls upon Governor Hochul and the New York State Legislature to
36 enact technical edits to the Raise the Age statute, including reforms to improve firearm
37 and robbery prosecutions, enhance judicial access to relevant records, and allow greater
38 flexibility in case handling; and
39

40 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that NYSAC urges the State to ensure timely and
41 consistent reimbursement of all RTA-related county expenditures as originally promised
42 under the law; and
43

44 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, the counties of New York respectfully request the
45 State decouple the Property Tax Cap from RTA funding as it has no rational basis in law;
46 and

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

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

1 **2025 NYSAC Fall Seminar**
2 **NYSAC Board of Directors**
3 **Resolution #4**
4

5 **Resolution Calling on the Governor and State Legislative Leaders to**
6 **Permanently Extend all Existing Local Sales Tax Rates, and Allow All**
7 **Counties to Set Their Local Rate up to Four Percent Under Local Law and to**
8 **Reform the Process for Other Home Rule Revenue Options**
9

10 **WHEREAS**, in many years, counties have faced significant challenges in balancing
11 their budgets and providing local services, while also meeting the goals of the property
12 tax cap, state requirements to pay for and administer a wide variety of state programs,
13 and increasing pressure from the federal government to pay a share of federal program
14 costs as well; and
15

16 **WHEREAS**, numerous state actions have fundamentally altered the home rule
17 authority granted to counties in the state constitution, resulting in county elected
18 leaders losing direct control and authority over the ability to generate and determine the
19 use of locally raised revenues for local purposes; and
20

21 **WHEREAS**, some examples of these state actions include:

- 22 • Expanding existing state programs and creating new ones that counties must pay
23 for and administer with limited or no state resources to support higher costs;
- 24 • Reducing the state's funding to support its own programs and requiring local
25 taxpayers to pay more;
- 26 • Withholding hundreds of millions of dollars of federal Medicaid funds owed to
27 counties under the Affordable Care Act and eventually permanently retaining all
28 federal savings at the state level;
- 29 • Intercepting, and redirecting the use of, local sales tax for state spending
30 purposes; and
- 31 • Authorizing the state to cut hundreds of millions of dollars in state
32 reimbursements to counties when the state finds itself in financial trouble due to
33 overspending, a recession, or federal funding cuts; and
34

35 **WHEREAS**, these actions over many decades now require counties to administer and
36 pay for more than 40 state programs that consume most locally generated revenues; and
37

38 **WHEREAS**, local elected officials rely on their home rule authority to determine what
39 mix of local taxes is the least burdensome in their community; and
40

41 **WHEREAS**, the loss of these revenues causes fiscal stress and budget uncertainty for
42 counties, while increasing pressure on property tax levies; and

1 **WHEREAS**, in the case of sales tax, counties often share the revenues with cities,
2 towns, and villages to help pay for services delivered by these municipalities, or to
3 directly lower the amount of property taxes levied in these jurisdictions; and
4

5 **WHEREAS**, the pass-through of local sales tax revenue from counties to cities, towns,
6 and villages was \$2.5 billion in 2023, equivalent to about 34 percent of the combined
7 real property tax levy for all towns, villages, and cities in New York (not including New
8 York City); and
9

10 **WHEREAS**, New York City was granted permanent local authority over their sales tax
11 rate of 4.5 percent during the Great Recession, while county requests for the same
12 authority have been repeatedly denied; and
13

14 **WHEREAS**, numerous governors have made statutory proposals that would make all
15 existing county sales tax rates permanent and allow all counties to set their local tax rate
16 up to four percent under local law; and
17

18 **WHEREAS**, granting this authority will provide more budget certainty and stability
19 while reducing administrative expense and duplication of effort to process the necessary
20 paperwork, forms, legislative hearings, filings and notices, resulting in improved
21 government operations and fiscal savings at both the state and local levels.
22

23 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, the New York State Association of
24 Counties calls on the Governor and State Legislature to provide parity with New York
25 City by granting permanent home rule sales tax authority to counties at their current
26 rate or up to four percent; and
27

28 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, NYSAC urges legislative leaders to reform the home
29 rule process to ensure the most efficient and stable system for local taxpayers, reduce
30 unnecessary and duplicative legislative activity at the state and local level, while
31 retaining appropriate state legislative review; and
32

33 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that counties be authorized to control the
34 establishment, and rate-setting level, for other local home rule revenue options without
35 the need for state legislative action including mortgage recording tax, occupancy taxes,
36 real estate transfer that have such taxes; and
37

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

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



NYSAC
— NEW YORK STATE —
ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES

**2025 NYSAC Fall Seminar
Niagara 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

2025 NYSAC Fall Seminar
Standing Committee on Agriculture, Economic Development & Rural
Affairs
Resolution #1

Resolution Urging the State of New York to Establish a Working Group to
Identify Safe and Sustainable Alternatives to the Land Application of
Biosolids Contaminated with PFAS and Other Emerging Contaminants

WHEREAS, biosolids, the nutrient-rich byproduct of wastewater treatment plants, are currently permitted for land application in New York State as a means of recycling organic material and enhancing soil productivity; and

WHEREAS, recent findings from the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), including the January 2025 *Risk Assessment of Pollutants in Sewage Sludge*, have highlighted serious public health and environmental risks associated with the presence of per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) in biosolids, warning that even at levels as low as one part per billion, PFOA and PFOS can exceed acceptable risk thresholds for food, water, and human health exposure; and

WHEREAS, PFAS chemicals, also known as “forever chemicals,” do not degrade in the environment, bioaccumulate in plants, animals, and humans, and are linked to a wide array of adverse health effects, including cancers, thyroid disease, liver damage, immune dysfunction, and developmental toxicity in infants and children; and

WHEREAS, testing conducted by New York State’s Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC), and later obtained through Freedom of Information Law (FOIL) requests, has revealed the widespread presence of PFAS in biosolids and effluent at wastewater treatment plants across the state, but has not been followed by adequate notification to landowners or evaluation of contamination at land application sites; and

WHEREAS, land application of PFAS-contaminated biosolids threatens the health and viability of farmland, compromises soil health as defined under the Soil Health and Climate Resiliency Act of 2021, and jeopardizes the safety of the state’s food supply, water resources, and long-term agricultural sustainability; and

WHEREAS, some counties, including Albany County, have recognized this threat by instituting moratoriums on biosolids land application to allow for further study, and other jurisdictions are likely to follow suit in light of rising health and environmental concerns; and

WHEREAS, a statewide ban on land application of biosolids without adequate alternative management strategies will place unsustainable burdens on local wastewater resource recovery facilities (WRRFs), which lack the resources and infrastructure to handle increased disposal volumes; and

1 **WHEREAS**, Maine’s 2022 biosolids ban led to a 210 percent increase in biosolids
2 disposal costs and exacerbated wastewater system pressures, and similar consequences
3 are anticipated in New York if alternative solutions are not concurrently developed; and
4

5 **WHEREAS**, banning land application statewide would dramatically increase pressure
6 on already limited landfill capacity and incinerator options; and
7

8 **WHEREAS**, biosolids land application currently contributes to carbon sequestration
9 and supports the goals of the Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act
10 (CLCPA), and banning it without mitigation would increase carbon emissions from
11 hauling, incineration, and methane production in landfills; and
12

13 **WHEREAS**, counties, municipalities, and farmers must not bear the financial,
14 environmental, and logistical burden of biosolids management alone, nor be penalized
15 for adhering to current state-approved practices in the absence of safer, scalable
16 alternatives.
17

18 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, the New York State Association of
19 Counties (NYSAC) calls upon the Governor and New York State Legislature to direct the
20 Department of Environmental Conservation, in collaboration with the Department of
21 Health, and the Department of Agriculture and Markets, and other relevant state
22 agencies, to establish a multi-stakeholder working group to evaluate biosolids
23 management practices in New York; and
24

25 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, this working group shall include representatives from
26 county governments and farmland protection boards, as well as members with expertise
27 in wastewater management, environmental health, and public health to identify science-
28 based and economically feasible alternatives to the land application of biosolids
29 contaminated with PFAS; and
30

31 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the working group shall develop and recommend
32 a statewide strategy that protects the health of New Yorkers, preserves the environment
33 and soil health, complies with climate resiliency goals, and ensures that local
34 governments and farmers are not burdened with unmanageable costs or logistical
35 barriers; and
36

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

40 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, copies of this resolution be sent to Governor Kathy
41 Hochul, the New York State Legislature, the New York State Department of
42 Environmental Conservation, and all others deemed necessary and proper.

2025 NYSAC Fall Seminar
Standing Committee on Agriculture, Economic Development & Rural
Affairs
Resolution #2

Resolution in Opposition to S.6530/A.6928; Which Prohibits the
Department of Environmental Conservation from Issuing New Permits to
New or Expanding Large Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations (CAFOs)

WHEREAS, New York has approximately 3,000 dairy farms that produce over 15 billion pounds of milk per year, making New York State the fifth-largest dairy state in the nation; and

WHEREAS, the dairy industry contributes more than \$2.5 billion annually to the state's economy, supports tens of thousands of jobs, and provides critical economic activity in rural communities throughout the state; and

WHEREAS, dairy production is the cornerstone of New York's agricultural economy, accounting for nearly half of the state's total agricultural receipts; and

WHEREAS, New York's dairy farms range in size and structure, and many rely on the ability to expand and modernize their operations through the CAFO permitting process to remain competitive, sustainable, and compliant with evolving environmental and food safety standards; and

WHEREAS, State legislation, S.6530 (Brisport)/A.6928 (Rosenthal), would prohibit the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation from issuing new permits for large CAFOs or for the expansion of existing operations, severely restricting the ability of dairy farms to grow, transition, or improve their infrastructure and environmental performance; and

WHEREAS, such a prohibition would create significant regulatory uncertainty, threaten the long-term viability of the state's dairy sector, and disproportionately harm multigenerational family farms seeking to adapt to changing market and environmental conditions; and

WHEREAS, New York State has worked closely with federal agencies to ensure that CAFO operations meet and exceed standards established under the federal Clean Water Act, and has enhanced these standards through additional requirements tailored to New York's unique environmental and agricultural landscape; and

WHEREAS, all CAFO farms in New York State are required to have a current Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plan (CNMP) developed by a certified Agricultural Environmental Management (AEM) planner, which is updated annually and governs the timing, quantity, and method of manure and fertilizer application to protect water quality; and

1 **WHEREAS**, the CAFO program, as currently administered, represents a scientifically
2 informed and environmentally responsible framework that enables New York to
3 preserve its agricultural base while upholding high environmental standards; and
4

5 **WHEREAS**, passage of this legislation would undermine decades of successful
6 collaboration between state regulators, agricultural stakeholders, and environmental
7 experts, and would effectively penalize responsible stewards of the land who are
8 proactively managing nutrient runoff and implementing conservation best practices;
9 and
10

11 **WHEREAS**, this legislation would have significant negative economic impacts and
12 result in deep harm to one of New York's largest industries, with ripple effects on food
13 processors, haulers, input suppliers, cooperatives, and rural tax bases statewide.
14

15 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, the New York State Association of
16 Counties (NYSAC) urges the Governor and members of the New York State Legislature
17 to reject S.6530/A.6928; and
18

19 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, copies of this resolution be sent to the counties of
20 New York encouraging member counties to enact similar resolutions; and
21

22 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, the New York State Association of Counties
23 shall forward copies of this resolution to Governor Kathy Hochul, the New York State
24 Legislature, and all others deemed necessary and proper.

2025 NYSAC Fall Seminar
Standing Committee on Agriculture, Economic Development & Rural
Affairs
Resolution #3

Resolution Supporting a Reduced County Match Requirement to Sustain
and Grow County Participation in the County Infrastructure Grants
Program

WHEREAS, the SFY 2025 Enacted Budget, Chapter 54 of the Laws of 2024, included the creation of a new County Partnership Grants Program with an initial appropriation of \$50 million; and

WHEREAS, an additional \$50 million was included for the program in the FY 2026 Enacted Budget; and

WHEREAS, all 57 counties outside the City of New York are eligible to apply for grant funding with eligible expenses to include construction, reconstruction, renovation, site preparedness, demolition, acquisition of real property, preparation of plans, and design and other costs thereto; and

WHEREAS, New York State counties are responsible for maintaining vital infrastructure, including roads, bridges, and public facilities, and have faced growing challenges in funding these projects due to rising costs and increased fiscal constraints; and

WHEREAS, counties want to be at the forefront of helping the state achieve its economic development and housing goals; and

WHEREAS, the program provides for maximum grant awards of \$1 million for projects that result in the creation of 10 or more housing units, with all other grants subject to a maximum award of \$500,000; and

WHEREAS, in July of 2025, Governor Kathy Hochul announced that more than \$36 million has been awarded to 48 projects across New York State, including:

- \$4.65 million for seven projects in the Capital Region;
- \$3.5 million for four projects in Central New York;
- \$4.75 million for eight projects in the Finger Lakes;
- \$1 million for one project on Long Island;
- \$4.8 million for six projects in the Hudson Valley;
- \$3.8 million for five projects in the Mohawk Valley;
- \$4 million for six projects in the North Country, and
- \$4 million for five projects in Western New York; and

1 **WHEREAS**, this transformational investment has the potential to redevelop local
2 communities, unlock economic competitiveness, strengthen local employment
3 opportunities and tax base, and should be continued; and
4

5 **WHEREAS**, the program currently requires a minimum county match of 50 percent
6 for projects to be eligible for funding, placing a significant financial burden on counties
7 facing compounding fiscal pressures due to limited local revenue sources, increased
8 service demands, and federal funding cuts that will further strain their ability to invest
9 in critical infrastructure projects.
10

11 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, the New York State Association of
12 Counties calls upon the Governor and the New York State Legislature to continue
13 funding the County Infrastructure Grants Program at \$50 million and reduce the non-
14 ESD match to 25 percent in the SFY 2027 State Budget; and
15

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

19 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, the New York State Association of Counties
20 shall forward copies of this resolution to Governor Kathy Hochul, the New York State
21 Legislature, and all others deemed necessary and proper.



NYSAC
— NEW YORK STATE —
ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES

**2025 NYSAC Fall Seminar
Niagara 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 **2025 NYSAC Fall Seminar**
2 **Standing Committee on Climate Action, Energy & Environment**
3 **Resolution #1**

4
5 **Resolution Calling for Congressional Action to Reverse the Elimination of**
6 **Critical Climate and Clean Energy Incentives in the OBBBA**

7
8 **WHEREAS**, the New York State Association of Counties (NYSAC) has long recognized
9 the critical importance of clean energy development for achieving climate goals,
10 reducing energy costs for residents and businesses, and creating economic opportunities
11 across New York State; and

12
13 **WHEREAS**, the Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act (CLCPA)
14 established ambitious greenhouse gas reduction and renewable energy targets that
15 require significant investment and coordination at all levels of government; and

16
17 **WHEREAS**, counties across New York State have been actively implementing climate
18 action initiatives, investing in renewable energy projects, and working to transition their
19 communities to clean energy sources; and

20
21 **WHEREAS**, the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) of 2022 represented the single largest
22 federal investment in climate action in our nation's history, providing an estimated
23 \$369 billion in tax credits and financing for clean energy and greenhouse gas-emission
24 reduction strategies; and

25
26 **WHEREAS**, the IRA offered significant incentives for homeowners, businesses, and
27 municipalities to invest in solar panels, energy-efficient appliances, electric vehicles, and
28 battery storage systems, which not only reduce greenhouse gas emissions but can also
29 lower utility bills, operational costs, and air pollution; and

30
31 **WHEREAS**, on July 4, 2025, President Trump signed H.R. 1, known as the One Big
32 Beautiful Bill Act (OBBBA), which dramatically accelerated the sunset provisions for
33 critical clean energy tax credits; and

34
35 **WHEREAS**, under the OBBBA, to qualify for the Investment Tax Credit and
36 Production Tax Credit, solar and wind projects must either begin construction no later
37 than July 4, 2026, or be placed in service no later than December 31, 2027, representing
38 a significant acceleration from the previous multi-year phase-out period that was set to
39 begin in 2032; and

40
41 **WHEREAS**, the OBBBA eliminates key tax credits for electric vehicles, residential and
42 commercial solar installations, and battery storage systems between 2025 and 2027,
43 with the residential solar credit ending December 31, 2025, while other clean energy
44 technologies such as nuclear, hydropower, geothermal, and energy storage maintain
45 their credits through 2033; and

1 **WHEREAS**, the OBBBA also eliminates critical building efficiency and infrastructure
2 incentives after June 30, 2026, including the Energy Efficient Commercial Buildings
3 Deduction, the Alternative Fuel Vehicle Refueling Property Credit, and the New Energy
4 Efficient Home Credit, further undermining comprehensive climate action efforts; and

5
6 **WHEREAS**, the elimination of these federal incentives will significantly impair New
7 York’s ability to achieve the goals established under the Climate Act and will create
8 substantial financial hardships for counties, businesses, and residents who have been
9 planning clean energy investments; and

10
11 **WHEREAS**, counties have invested significant time, resources, and planning efforts in
12 climate action initiatives that relied upon the stability and long-term availability of
13 federal clean energy incentives; and

14
15 **WHEREAS**, the abrupt elimination of these incentives undermines the clean energy
16 sector, threatens jobs in renewable energy industries, and will likely result in increased
17 energy costs for local governments and taxpayers.

18
19 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, the New York State Association of
20 Counties (NYSAC) expresses grave disappointment and concern about the elimination
21 of clean energy incentives in the One Big Beautiful Bill Act (OBBBA); and

22
23 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that NYSAC supports nuclear, hydropower, and
24 geothermal energy incentives as part of a comprehensive approach to clean energy
25 development but urges that federal policy maintain balanced support for all clean
26 energy technologies, including the restoration of long-term incentives for wind and solar
27 energy, to create a diverse, resilient, and carbon-free energy system; and

28
29 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that NYSAC urges the United States Congress to
30 reconsider the accelerated sunset provisions for wind and solar tax credits and to restore
31 long-term stability to federal renewable energy incentive programs; and

32
33 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that NYSAC calls upon New York’s Congressional
34 delegation to actively advocate for the restoration of wind and solar energy incentives
35 and to work toward federal legislation that supports rather than undermines renewable
36 energy development and climate action goals; and

37
38 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that NYSAC urges the New York State government to
39 develop alternative state-level incentives and programs to help mitigate the harmful
40 impacts of the OBBBA on renewable energy development and to ensure continued
41 progress toward Climate Act goals; and

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

45
46 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that NYSAC shall forward copies of this resolution to
47 the New York State Congressional Delegation, Governor Kathy Hochul, the New York

- 1 State Legislature, the National Association of Counties, and all others deemed necessary
- 2 and proper.

2025 NYSAC Fall Seminar
Standing Committee on Climate Action, Energy & Environment
Resolution #2

Resolution Opposing Funding Cuts to EmPower+ and Urging New York State to Maintain and Expand this Critical Energy Affordability Program

WHEREAS, the EmPower+ program is a critical energy affordability initiative designed to help low- and moderate-income households save energy and money through comprehensive energy efficiency upgrades, including air sealing, insulation, heat pumps, and electrical service upgrades; and

WHEREAS, EmPower+ has served tens of thousands of New Yorkers, providing up to \$24,000 worth of upgrades per household, and directly supports the Climate Act by ensuring that low- and moderate-income communities can participate in the clean energy transition while reducing their energy burdens; and

WHEREAS, EmPower+ also helps address the housing affordability crisis by reducing utility bills, a major contributor to the housing cost burden faced by many homeowners and renters; and

WHEREAS, the Governor and Legislature have demonstrated their commitment to EmPower+ by investing \$200 million in 2023 and providing an additional \$50 million in 2025 as part of the \$1 billion Sustainable Future Program; and

WHEREAS, the program draws funding from multiple sources including state appropriations, Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI) proceeds, Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) funds, the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP), and ratepayer contributions through the Clean Energy Fund; and

WHEREAS, as part of its review of the Clean Energy Fund, the Public Service Commission (PSC) has proposed leveling out ratepayer contributions to EmPower+ citing affordability concerns; and

WHEREAS, the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA) recently informed contractors that federal and state budget cuts were forcing the agency to scale back the program, with reports indicating potential cuts from roughly \$220 million in 2025 to \$80 million in 2027; and

WHEREAS, NYSERDA has paused new contractor applications and prohibited existing contractors from signing up new customers for EmPower+, changes that industry experts warn will significantly slow program delivery; and

WHEREAS, a significant backlog of EmPower+ applications has developed due to surging demand, demonstrating the critical need for adequate program funding rather than reductions; and

1 **WHEREAS**, these rollbacks will disproportionately impact disadvantaged
2 communities that rely on EmPower+ to access energy efficiency improvements they
3 could not otherwise afford, directly contradicting the environmental justice principles
4 embedded in the Climate Act; and

5
6 **WHEREAS**, reducing funding for energy efficiency programs will slow greenhouse gas
7 reductions from buildings, jeopardizing New York’s ability to meet its climate
8 commitments and legal obligations under the CLCPA.

9
10 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, the New York State Association of
11 Counties (NYSAC) recognizes EmPower+ as essential to achieving the Climate Act’s
12 greenhouse gas reduction targets while advancing environmental justice and equity
13 goals; and

14
15 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that NYSAC calls for the program to be adequately
16 resourced to meet its critical mission of helping low- and moderate-income New Yorkers
17 reduce their energy burdens; and

18
19 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that NYSAC urges NYSERDA to streamline the
20 EmPower+ application and contractor certification processes to reduce administrative
21 burdens, expand the network of participating contractors, and expedite the resolution of
22 the application backlog; and

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

26
27 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that NYSAC shall forward copies of this resolution to
28 Governor Kathy Hochul, the New York State Legislature, NYSERDA, NYS Public Service
29 Commission, and all others deemed necessary and proper.

2025 NYSAC Fall Seminar
Standing Committee on Climate Action, Energy & Environment
Resolution #3

Resolution Supporting S.2626 (Harckham)/A.1373-A (Walker) to Increase Residential Solar Tax Credits and Improve Access for New Yorkers

WHEREAS, the Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act (CLCPA) requires New York State to achieve carbon-free electricity generation by 2040 and an 85 percent reduction in greenhouse gas emissions by 2050; and

WHEREAS, residential solar energy systems reduce demand on the electricity grid and accelerate the deployment of clean energy needed to meet these targets; and

WHEREAS, current New York State law provides a residential solar tax credit capped at the lesser of \$5,000 or 25 percent of system costs; and

WHEREAS, the high upfront cost of installing solar panels, often in the five-figure range, creates a significant financial barrier that prevents many New Yorkers from accessing the long-term energy savings and environmental benefits of solar energy; and

WHEREAS, existing tax credits deliver little to no direct benefit to lower-income households and environmental justice communities that are disproportionately burdened by the impacts of climate change and fossil fuel pollution; and

WHEREAS, S.2626 (Harckham)/A.1373-A (Walker) would increase the residential solar tax credit cap from \$5,000 to \$10,000 for solar energy equipment placed in service on or after January 1, 2026; and

WHEREAS, this legislation would make the solar tax credit refundable for low- to moderate-income taxpayers and households located in disadvantaged communities, ensuring that the credit provides direct financial benefit even when it exceeds a household's tax liability; and

WHEREAS, the CLCPA requires that no less than 35-40 percent of climate and clean energy funds benefit disadvantaged communities, and expanding equitable access to solar tax benefits helps meet this mandate; and

WHEREAS, counties across New York State would benefit from increased residential solar adoption through reduced strain on local electrical infrastructure, economic development opportunities in the clean energy sector, and progress toward local climate goals; and

WHEREAS, making solar more financially accessible will accelerate adoption, delivering greenhouse gas emission reductions and air quality improvements that particularly benefit communities that have been hit hardest by fossil fuel pollution.

1 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, the New York State Association of
2 Counties (NYSAC) supports S.2626 (Harckham)/A.1373-A (Walker) with amendments
3 to increase the residential solar tax credit cap to \$20,000 and make the credit
4 refundable for low- and moderate-income households and those in disadvantaged
5 communities; and
6

7 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, NYSAC recognizes this legislation as an important
8 tool for advancing the state's climate goals while ensuring equitable access to clean
9 energy benefits for all New Yorkers; and
10

11 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that NYSAC calls on the sponsors of this legislation to
12 increase the tax credit for solar energy equipment from \$20,000 to increase the impact
13 of this credit; and
14

15 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that NYSAC calls on the Legislature to pass the
16 amended legislation expeditiously to help remove financial barriers to residential solar
17 adoption and support New York's transition to clean energy; and
18

19 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that NYSAC urges the Public Service Commission
20 (PSC) to require utilities to create additional incentives for residential solar and battery
21 storage; and
22

23 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that NYSAC calls on the New York State Energy
24 Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA) to publish on its website data related
25 to sources and uses of all renewable energy incentives and System Benefit Charge (SBC)
26 funds, including the geographic distribution of charges and benefits; and
27

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

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



NYSAC
— NEW YORK STATE —
ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES

**2025 NYSAC Fall Seminar
Niagara 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

**2025 NYSAC Fall Seminar
Standing Committee on Children with Special Needs
Resolution #1**

**Resolution Requesting State Review of Early Intervention (EI) Age-Out at
Age Three and Its Impact on Provider Capacity**

WHEREAS, New York State has structured the New York State Early Intervention Program to allow a period where children are eligible for both EIP and preschool special education (section 4410); and

WHEREAS, children receiving Early Intervention (EI) services may remain in the early intervention program past their third birthday if they qualify for 4410 preschool services; and

WHEREAS, since 2019, wait times for children to begin needed EI services has increased, resulting in a 20 percent decrease in the New York State Compliance rate for the provision of timely services between 2019 and 2023 and New York State being ranked last in the nation for the timely delivery of services; and

WHEREAS, New York State is the only State that does not have a transition policy that requires program exit at age three; and

WHEREAS, if children exit the EI Program when they are determined eligible for Preschool Special Education by their local School District Committees on Preschool Special Education, counties estimate that over 100,000 service units would become available to the EI Program; and

WHEREAS, counties rely on predictable caseload transitions to plan staffing, manage provider capacity, and control costs; and

WHEREAS, early childhood literature confirms that 80 percent of a child's brain is formed by age three, and the earlier a child can start receiving EI, the greater the impact on lifelong learning and success.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the New York State Association of Counties (NYSAC) respectfully requests that the Governor, the New York State Legislature, and the New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH) fund and direct the Bureau of Early Intervention to conduct a statewide analysis utilizing available administrative data to provide comprehensive data supporting a need for transition policy change; and

1 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that copies of this resolution be sent to the Governor
2 of the State of New York, the New York State Legislature, the New York State
3 Department of Health, the New York State Education Department, and all others
4 deemed necessary and proper.

1 **2025 NYSAC Fall Seminar**
2 **Standing Committee on Children with Special Needs**
3 **Resolution #2**

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**, on December 29, 2021, Governor Kathy Hochul signed A.5339/S.5560A
9 into law, establishing an Early Intervention Program (EIP) Covered Lives Pool funded
10 by an assessment on insurance plans in the amount of \$40 million annually; and
11

12 **WHEREAS**, this legislation, intended to assure a reliable revenue stream for New
13 York's EIP, went into effect on January 1, 2022; and
14

15 **WHEREAS**, the purpose of this legislation was to relieve the EIP's heavy fiscal burden
16 on the state and local governments that resulted from high rates of commercial
17 insurance denials for EI service claims, to improve the EIP for children and families,
18 and to assist providers by relieving some of their administrative duties during service
19 delivery; and
20

21 **WHEREAS**, prior to Covered Lives going into effect, Early Intervention (EI) service
22 claims were paid through three revenue streams: commercial insurance, Medicaid, or
23 out of escrow, depending on the child receiving the service's insurance coverage; and
24

25 **WHEREAS**, counties and municipalities were responsible for paying 100 percent of
26 the upfront costs of EIP services not covered by Medicaid or commercial insurance out
27 of county escrow, with state reimbursement for 49 percent of escrow costs provided at a
28 later date; and
29

30 **WHEREAS**, since Covered Lives went into effect, providers are no longer billing
31 commercial insurance for services provided; and
32

33 **WHEREAS**, the 2024 State Budget amended the New York State Health Care Reform
34 Act (HCRA) to make Covered Lives funding available annually from January 1, 2023
35 through December 31, 2026; and
36

37 **WHEREAS**, counties and municipalities are now responsible for paying upfront costs
38 for all EIP services not covered by Medicaid out of county escrow, including for services
39 provided to children with commercial insurance and for children who are dually insured
40 by Medicaid and private insurance; and
41

42 **WHEREAS**, the EIP pool funding is intended to offset both the state and municipal
43 share of EIP services not covered by Medicaid; and
44

45 **WHEREAS**, since the inception of Covered Lives payments, counties have not received
46 the full amount expected, with only \$15.4 million of the expected \$20.4 million released
47 to counties annually since Fiscal Year 2023; and

1 **WHEREAS**, counties and municipalities have received limited guidance on the
2 methodology by which Covered Lives funds are distributed; and

3
4 **WHEREAS**, the delay in distributing Covered Lives funds to counties and
5 municipalities has caused increases to their upfront escrow costs; and

6
7 **WHEREAS**, since the implementation of Covered Lives, the amount of Medicaid
8 reimbursement has significantly decreased; and

9
10 **WHEREAS**, based on the average percent of total EI costs that counties and
11 municipalities paid from 2014 to 2021, without any Covered Lives funding to offset the
12 loss of commercial insurance reimbursement, counties and municipalities paid an
13 estimated 2 percent more in total EI costs in 2022, equaling nearly \$4 million; and

14
15 **WHEREAS**, the New York State Health Care Reform Act (HCRA), designating the
16 Early Intervention Covered Lives Fund, requires renewal.

17
18 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, the New York State
19 Association of Counties (NYSAC) calls upon the Governor and the Legislature to renew
20 the New York State Health Care Reform Act (HCRA), designating the Early Intervention
21 Covered Lives Fund at \$40 million annually, and continue its commitment to this
22 critical program, which benefits children with developmental delays and disabilities;
23 and

24
25 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that NYSAC calls upon the Governor and Legislature
26 to amend the HCRA to specify that the disbursement methodology of the Covered Lives
27 funding be consistent with the current reimbursement methodology for EI services, as
28 counties and municipalities receive 49 percent of the total Covered Lives amount and
29 New York State receives 51 percent; and

30
31 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that NYSAC calls upon the Governor and Legislature
32 to take measures to expedite the release of the \$20 million Covered Lives funds (\$5
33 million per year since the implementation of Covered Lives) owed to counties and
34 municipalities; and

35
36 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the New York State Department of Health
37 (NYSDOH)'s Bureau of Early Intervention consider amending county escrow
38 agreements to change the payment process so the state provides counties and
39 municipalities with their Covered Lives share at the beginning of the State fiscal year;
40 and

41
42 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Bureau of Early Intervention provide
43 information on how insurance, service claim, and cost data will be maintained at the
44 child level to ensure funds are being applied fairly across counties and municipalities;
45 and

46
47 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that copies of this resolution be sent to the counties
48 of New York encouraging member counties to enact similar resolutions; and

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

1 **2025 NYSAC Fall Seminar**
2 **Standing Committee on Children with Special Needs**
3 **Resolution #3**
4

5 **Resolution Urging NYSDOH, NYSED, SUNY, CUNY, and Other Private and**
6 **Public Institutes of Higher Education in New York to Develop Additional**
7 **Pathways to Expand and Enhance the Early Intervention Workforce**
8

9 **WHEREAS**, provider capacity issues often pose barriers to receiving Early
10 Intervention (EI) services for medically fragile children and/or infants and toddlers with
11 special needs; and
12

13 **WHEREAS**, the current regulations for EI providers in New York State, set by
14 NYSED's Office of Professions, do not require providers to learn about EI core
15 competencies or engage in clinical experience with individuals in the EI program or with
16 infants and toddlers in other community-based settings; and
17

18 **WHEREAS**, a report by the City University of New York (CUNY)'s Brooklyn College
19 and the New York Institute of Technology School of Health Professions makes three
20 core recommendations for expanding and enhancing New York State's Early
21 Intervention workforce; and
22

23 **WHEREAS**, the first of these recommendations is to consider amending NYSED
24 regulations and requirements to align with EI competencies, including:
25

- 26 • Updating regulations to incorporate the NYSDOH's five EI core competencies
27 into programs such as Teaching Students with Disabilities in Early Childhood
28 (Birth to Grade 2);
- 29 • Requiring fieldwork with infants and toddlers as part of training;
- 30 • Embedding EI competencies into New York State regulations for occupational
31 therapists, physical therapists, and speech-language pathologists/audiologists;
32 and
- 33 • Issuing guidance through the Office of Professions to support consistent
34 provision of services for children from birth to age three across disciplines; and
35

36 **WHEREAS**, the second recommendation calls for creating new cross-disciplinary
37 pathways into the EI workforce, including:
38

- 39 • Issuing a statewide "Dear Colleague" memorandum to clarify requirements for
40 becoming an approved EI provider;
- 41 • Establishing an Interdisciplinary Extension in EI, modeled after the Bilingual
42 Extension; and
- 43 • Creating an Annotation for Teaching Infants and Toddlers with Disabilities in EI,
44 modeled after the existing annotation for teaching students with severe or
45 multiple disabilities; and

1 **WHEREAS**, the third recommendation calls for developing individualized pathways
2 for professionals to gain EI competencies, including:

- 3
- 4 • Offering credit-bearing EI/ECSE courses or programs through NYSED;
- 5 • Expanding access to continuing education opportunities (CEUs or CTLEs); and
- 6 • Providing EI-specific training modules through NYSDOH; and
- 7

8 **WHEREAS**, implementing these recommendations would strengthen the EI workforce
9 by drawing on the large pool of licensed and certified professionals not currently
10 practicing in EI and equipping them with training in best practices for working with
11 infants, toddlers, and their families; and

12

13 **WHEREAS**, these recommendations have the potential to increase fieldwork
14 placements and supervisors, which will create additional opportunities for entry-level
15 practitioners to join the EI workforce and to increase the number of early
16 interventionists throughout communities—reducing EI shortages and decreasing wait
17 time for services for children with disabilities and their families.

18

19 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the New York State Association of
20 Counties (NYSAC) calls upon the Governor and the Legislature to make investments in
21 the structural development of the EI workforce by providing incentives for academic
22 programs to integrate early intervention core competencies into existing graduate and
23 undergraduate curricula; and

24

25 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that NYSAC calls upon the New York State
26 Department of Health (NYSDOH)’s Bureau of Early Intervention and the New York
27 State Education Department (NYSED) to examine the licensure and credentialing
28 requirements for early childhood special education, speech language pathology,
29 occupational therapy, and physical therapy to build the EI workforce by addressing
30 structural barriers in licensure and credentialing requirements; and

31

32 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that NYSAC calls upon NYSED to amend or clarify
33 licensure and credentialing requirements to ensure that the competency areas issued by
34 the NYSDOH for the delivery of EI evaluations and services are integrated into the
35 curricula for early childhood special education, speech-language pathology,
36 occupational therapy, and physical therapy; and

37

38 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that NYSAC calls upon NYSED to amend, or clarify
39 the applicability of, licensure and credentialing requirements so that fieldwork hours
40 completed under the supervision of EI providers in facility, group, home, and
41 community settings may count toward licensure in early childhood special education,
42 speech-language pathology, occupational therapy, and physical therapy; and

1 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that NYSAC calls upon NYSED to amend Articles 156,
2 159, and 77 of the Education Law to incorporate EI competency language into
3 continuing education requirements for occupational therapists, physical therapists, and
4 speech language pathologists; and

5
6 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that NYSAC urges NYSDOH, NYSED, SUNY, CUNY,
7 and other public and private institutions of higher education, as well as any relevant
8 agencies or organizations, to support the development of pathways for demonstrating
9 competency for EI provider eligibility in order to expand and strengthen New York
10 State's EI workforce; and

11
12 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that NYSAC shall forward copies of this resolution to
13 the New York State Department of Health, the New York State Education Department,
14 and all others deemed necessary and proper.

1 **2025 NYSAC Fall Seminar**
2 **Standing Committee on Children with Special Needs**
3 **Resolution #4**

4
5 **Resolution Urging the New York State Department of Budget to Release**
6 **Early Intervention Medicaid Retroactive Payments Owed to Counties**

7
8 **WHEREAS**, the New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH)'s Bureau of Early
9 Intervention enacted regulations that allow County Early Intervention (EI) Officials to
10 authorize waivers to established Medicaid billing rules; and

11
12 **WHEREAS**, the Bureau of Early Intervention recommends that, based on clinical
13 need, children be authorized for services that exceed Medicaid billing rules, including
14 children who have complex behavioral diagnoses such as autism spectrum disorder; and

15
16 **WHEREAS**, NYSDOH's Office of Health Insurance Programs has not made the
17 necessary modifications in the Medicaid billing system, E-MEDNY, to pay for such
18 waived claims on an ongoing basis, and Medicaid has denied covered EI claims for
19 payment, resulting in a county paying out of its escrow account for what should be
20 covered by Medicaid; and

21
22 **WHEREAS**, the Bureau of Early Intervention and the Office of Health Insurance
23 Programs periodically pull all EI claims that were denied due to this Medicaid billing
24 limitation, resulting in counties receiving regular 'retroactive' payments to reimburse
25 escrow for overpayment; and

26
27 **WHEREAS**, since 2018, the Bureau of Early Intervention and the Office of Health
28 Insurance Programs have not disbursed Medicaid retroactive payments owed to
29 counties through this process; and

30
31 **WHEREAS**, counties estimate that approximately \$170 million is owed to counties for
32 the period from 2013 to 2018; and

33
34 **WHEREAS**, counties estimate that approximately \$230 million is owed to counties for
35 the time period spanning 2019 to 2025, resulting in ongoing disproportionate payment
36 by counties for EI services delivered to children with the most complex disabilities in
37 New York State; and

38
39 **WHEREAS**, the Medicaid retroactive process is significantly behind the expected two-
40 year payment cycle; and

41
42 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the New York State Association of
43 Counties (NYSAC) calls upon the New York State Division of Budget (DOB) to take
44 measures to expedite the release of these Medicaid retroactive funds to counties and
45 municipalities; and

1 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that NYSAC calls upon NYSDOH's Bureau of Early
2 Intervention and Office of Health Insurance Programs to resume their regular flagging
3 of claims and scheduled payment of Medicaid retroactive claims to counties; and
4

5 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that NYSDOH and DOB provide counties and
6 municipalities with guidance on how the state plans to issue overdue payments and the
7 schedule at which new payments will be made; and
8

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



NYSAC
— NEW YORK STATE —
ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES

2025 NYSAC Fall Seminar Niagara 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 **2025 NYSAC Fall Seminar**

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,
11 without 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; and
30

31 **WHEREAS**, in 2025 a bill was introduced to help increase staffing shortages, S.6956-B
32 (Ryan)/A.8720-A (Stirpe) would increase the earnings limitation from \$35,000 to
33 \$50,000, providing local governments with the flexibility to address urgent staffing
34 needs while ensuring that seasoned professionals can afford to return to public service
35 roles without devastating impacts to their retirement benefits; 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

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

4
5 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, S.6956-B (Ryan)/A.8720-A (Stirpe)
6 represents more than just a salary adjustment—it is an essential step toward addressing
7 local government staffing challenges that will enable counties, cities, towns, and villages
8 to recruit experienced professionals for hard-to-fill positions in specialized fields like
9 public health, finance, corrections, and social services; and

10
11 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, the New York State Association of Counties (NYSAC)
12 hereby calls on the Governor and the State Legislature to enact legislation supporting an
13 increase in this earnings rate as part of their 2026 state budget negotiations; 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 to
19 Governor Kathy Hochul, the New York State Legislature and all others deemed
20 necessary and proper.

**2025 NYSAC Fall Seminar
Standing Committee on Intergovernmental Relations, General Government
& Public Employee Relations
Resolution #2**

**Resolution Thanking the New York State Department of Civil Service for
Granting Authorization of the HELPS Program to All Local Governments
and Calling for Further Expansion of the Program**

WHEREAS, in 2023 New York State Department of Civil Service created the New York Hiring for Emergency Limited Placement Statewide (NY HELPS) to allow all New York State agencies to waive most Civil Service examinations and make appointments to any position typically filled on an open competitive basis; and

WHEREAS, NY HELPS was created in response to an unprecedented hiring and retention crisis within New York, as public service levels reached critically low levels; and

WHEREAS, in 2024 this authority was granted to local governments by the NYS Department of Civil Service; and

WHEREAS, the local HELP Program is now available to local governments, and this has been beneficial to hire needed public service workers; and

WHEREAS, unfortunately compared to the State's HELPS program, the local government program requires municipalities and counties to submit and receive specific title approval from State Civil Service; and

WHEREAS, this requirement causes unnecessary hiring delays and confusion as a job title may be approved in one county and not another; and

WHEREAS, in 2025 county governments across the State continue to face unprecedented recruitment challenges that began during COVID; and

WHEREAS, providing local public services at a high level, while maintaining reasonable tax rates, has always been a challenge for local governments to staff, but in recent years, it has become more difficult; and

WHEREAS, new challenges, including inflation, working from home, and large-scale retirement, have forced county governments into a situation where they cannot adapt fast enough to compete with the private sector to hire quality candidates promptly.

1 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, the New York State Association of
2 Counties (NYSAC) calls on the New York State Department of Civil Service to continue
3 the NY HELPS program throughout 2026; and
4

5 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, NYSAC calls on the State of New York to, in a manner
6 the Commission deems consistent with Civil Service Law, allow a title approved by the
7 State Civil Service Commission for any civil service jurisdiction for the HELP program to
8 be used by any other jurisdiction for the HELP program, so long as at the time of the
9 appointment there is not a mandatory civil service list for that jurisdiction for that title;
10 and

11 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, copies of this resolution be sent to the counties of
12 New York State, encouraging member counties to enact similar resolutions; and
13

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

**2025 NYSAC Fall Seminar
Standing Committee on Intergovernmental Relations, General Government
& Public Employee Relations
Resolution #3**

**Resolution Urging Governor Kathy Hochul and the New York State
Legislature to Fully Fund, with State Resources, the SUNY Reconnect
Program**

WHEREAS, Governor Kathy Hochul’s SFY 2026 Budget proposed, and the Legislature adopted, the NYS Opportunity Promise Scholarship that is intended to expand the pool of certified and trained workers in targeted industries experiencing staff shortages; and

WHEREAS, this initiative provides free tuition, books, supplies and imposes no fees for adult students between the ages of 25-55 that attend any New York community college and pursue an associate degree in identified high-demand fields; and

WHEREAS, upon release of the Governor’s Budget counties were told that the free tuition and related costs noted would be fully borne by the state with no chargeback related costs for counties; and

WHEREAS, county officials acted upon this information in good faith and planned accordingly; and

WHEREAS, the New York State Association of Counties (NYSAC) was informed in August that counties are financially responsible for tuition costs for these adult students participating in the NYS Opportunity Promise, contradicting prior statements from State officials.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, NYSAC urges Governor Hochul and state legislative leaders to clarify that this new state-launched initiative will not impose new tuition-related costs on county taxpayers as initially indicated by state officials to counties; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, NYSAC encourages statutory clarifications, if needed, be included in the SFY 2027 Budget and made retroactive to the beginning of the SUNY Reconnect program; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, NYSAC encourages the State to expand the program to include BOCES certifications in high-demand trades such as plumbing, electrical, and automotive technology, as well as in fields like healthcare, early childhood education, and information technology; and

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

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

1 **2025 NYSAC Fall Seminar**
2 **Standing Committee on Intergovernmental Relations, General Government**
3 **& Public Employee Relations**
4 **Resolution #4**

5
6 **Resolution Calling on the State of New York to Increase Thresholds for**
7 **Public Construction Projects**
8

9 **WHEREAS**, under Section 101 of the General Municipal Code, known as Wicks Law,
10 separate contractors are required for major trades in public construction projects; and
11

12 **WHEREAS**, New York is one of the few states that still mandate separate prime
13 contracts for multiple trades when public construction projects exceed certain monetary
14 thresholds; and
15

16 **WHEREAS**, the thresholds of \$3 million in Bronx, Kings, New York, Queens, and
17 Richmond counties, \$1.5 million in Nassau, Suffolk and Westchester counties, and
18 \$500,000 for the remaining counties have not kept pace with inflation or rising
19 construction costs; and
20

21 **WHEREAS**, these thresholds force even moderate projects to be subject to Wicks Law
22 requirements, leading to increased administrative complexity, delays in project
23 coordination, limited flexibility in contractors, and diminished accountability; and
24

25 **WHEREAS**, these issues drive up construction costs, diverting scarce taxpayer
26 resources away from critical public services and infrastructure needs.
27

28 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, the New York State Association of
29 Counties (NYSAC) calls upon the Governor and the State Legislature to enact legislation
30 raising the Wicks Law thresholds for public construction projects; and
31

32 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, NYSAC recommends that Wicks Law thresholds be
33 increased to \$5 million in Bronx, Kings, New York, Queens and Richmond counties,
34 \$3.5 million in Nassau, Suffolk, and Westchester Counties, and \$2.5 million in
35 remaining counties; and
36

37 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, NYSAC recommends that the above threshold
38 amounts be raised by \$100,000 each year following the passage of the legislation; and
39

40 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, a copy of this resolution shall be provided to the
41 counties of New York State; and

1 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, a copy of this resolution shall be submitted 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

**2025 NYSAC Fall Seminar
Niagara County**

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

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

1 **NYSAC 2025 Fall Seminar**
2 **Standing Committee on Medicaid and Human Services**
3 **Resolution #1**

4
5 **Resolution Urging the Governor and Legislature to Fully Fund the Child**
6 **Care Assistance Program and Work with Counties to Limit Disruptions for**
7 **Children and Families Enrolled in the Program**
8

9 **WHEREAS**, New York State has made a historic \$2.2 billion investment in childcare,
10 increasing the eligibility threshold, lowering parents' fees, and increasing payments for
11 absences to childcare providers; and
12

13 **WHEREAS**, historically, the goal of the Child Care Assistance Program was to help
14 Temporary Assistance (TA) and low-income families pay for childcare so they could
15 become self-sufficient by getting a job, paying household bills, and not having to worry
16 that all their earnings from work go to pay for childcare; and
17

18 **WHEREAS**, the State has pursued expansions in eligibility and provided state and
19 federal funding necessary to support this program with a goal of universal childcare;
20 and
21

22 **WHEREAS**, with these expansions the state has encouraged local districts to expand
23 outreach efforts to identify and enroll eligible families and children; and
24

25 **WHEREAS**, in 2025 the Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP) reached a tipping
26 point where participation has begun to exceed state funding allocations to districts; and
27

28 **WHEREAS**, a social service district must guarantee childcare services to a family who
29 meets the criteria set forth in 18 NYCRR 415.2; and
30

31 **WHEREAS**, counties and New York City do not have the financial resources to backfill
32 growing state funding shortfalls in this program considering the \$14 billion we are
33 required to spend each year in support of a variety of health, human services, and public
34 safety state mandated programs; and
35

36 **WHEREAS**, as of this writing, 16 social services districts have either gone to waitlists
37 for their childcare programs or are denying cases for eligibility due to a lack of funding
38 and we expect this number to grow through the remainder of 2025 and into 2026; and
39

40 **WHEREAS**, looking ahead to the next federal fiscal year (October 1, 2025 - September
41 30, 2026), the period covered by the child care funds included in the SFY 2026 Budget,
42 it is anticipated that nearly every county in the state will run short of CCAP funds at
43 some point during that period if there is not a significant influx of funding to support
44 the expanding eligible population; and

1 **WHEREAS**, counties fully support increased participation in the childcare program for
2 the positive child and family development impacts, as well as the economic stability that
3 childcare can bring to a working family.

4
5 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, the New York State Association of
6 Counties (NYSAC) calls on the Governor and State Legislature to prioritize full funding
7 levels for the Child Care Assistance Program and workforce support; and
8

9 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, counties strongly urge State Agencies and the
10 Legislature to engage with local social service districts to ensure:

- 11 • Funding predictability at the local level to prevent disruptions for children
12 and families when funding runs out;
- 13 • That a funding methodology for providers is secure and predictable to
14 induce expansion in childcare slots, making it easier for parents to locate
15 needed childcare and ameliorate existing childcare deserts;
- 16 • The reconsideration of a new maintenance of effort provisions that require
17 local matching funds to draw down CCAP funds, which increased New York
18 City's MOE by more than 500 percent from \$52 million to \$328 million; and
19 • The restoration of administrative flexibility to local districts in terms of
20 how childcare dollars are administered and ensure that decisions regarding
21 waitlists and denials of new applications are reflective of the budget and
22 community realities occurring at the local level; and
23

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

27 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, NYSAC shall forward copies of this resolution to
28 Governor Kathy Hochul, New York State Legislature, Office of Children and Family
29 Services, and all others deemed necessary and proper.



NYSAC
— NEW YORK STATE —
ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES

2025 NYSAC Fall Seminar Niagara County

Standing Committee on Native American Affairs & Gaming Resolutions

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

1 **2025 NYSAC Fall Seminar**
2 **Standing Committee on Native American Affairs & Gaming**
3 **Resolution # 1**

4
5 **Resolution Calling on the State of New York to Make All Municipalities**
6 **Whole in the Saint Regis Mohawk Tribal Gaming Region that Have Been**
7 **Impacted by the State's Lack of Payment**
8

9 **WHEREAS**, On October 15, 1993, the St. Regis Mohawk Tribe and the State of New
10 York signed a compact paving the way for casino gaming in the North Country, and the
11 Akwesasne Mohawk Casino opened on April 12, 1999; and
12

13 **WHEREAS**, under agreement and codification in New York law, the St. Regis Mohawk
14 Tribe pays 25 percent of all gaming revenue to the State of New York in return for, in
15 part, exclusivity in regional gaming rights; and
16

17 **WHEREAS**, under the agreement, the State of New York shares with local
18 governments, including counties and numerous towns in Northern New York, a portion
19 of revenue they receive from the St. Regis Mohawk Tribe; and
20

21 **WHEREAS**, the counties and local governments rely on that revenue to maintain
22 infrastructure and provide public safety for all residents, as well as provide services
23 needed to help support this growing gaming industry; and
24

25 **WHEREAS**, in March 2020, the State of New York, under a State of Emergency, closed
26 many businesses, especially ones where crowds gathered, including casinos, resulting in
27 revenue losses for the Akwesasne Mohawk Casino; and
28

29 **WHEREAS**, in August 2020, casinos reopened with a limited capacity and began
30 making revenue once again, and those revenues should have been shared with the State
31 and local governments; and
32

33 **WHEREAS**, in 2023 and 2024, the State made partial payments of gaming revenue to
34 the seven counties in this region; however, these payments did not continue; and
35

36 **WHEREAS**, this funding is needed by the counties to fix roads, support social services,
37 and provide for public health and safety; and
38

39 **WHEREAS**, the St. Regis Mohawk Tribe and the counties of New York have a long
40 history of productive partnerships and respect; and

1 **WHEREAS**, the State of New York has created a system by which vital local services
2 are dependent on continued revenue being received and distributed to local
3 governments through casino gaming, yet the State has not made a contingency plan
4 and/or ignored the needs of local governments when this revenue is lowered or
5 withheld.

6
7 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, the New York State Association of
8 Counties (NYSAC) calls on the State of New York to immediately make all municipalities
9 whole for the funding being withheld, including interest, by the State by either lack of
10 collection from the St. Regis Mohawk Tribe or collected and not passed through in a
11 timely manner; and

12
13 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, copies of this resolution be sent to the counties of
14 New York State encouraging member counties to enact similar resolutions; and

15
16 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that NYSAC shall forward copies of this resolution to
17 Governor Kathy Hochul, the New York State Legislature, the St. Regis Mohawk Tribe,
18 and all others deemed necessary and proper.

1 **2025 NYSAC Fall Seminar**
2 **Standing Committee on Native American Affairs & Gaming**
3 **Resolution # 2**

4
5 **Resolution Calling on the State to Equitably Distribute Gaming Revenue to**
6 **all New York Counties and to Make Whole Counties Impacted by the State's**
7 **Gaming Revenue Changes**
8

9 **WHEREAS**, in recent years the State has altered the commercial gaming industry with
10 actions such as legalizing mobile sports betting and reducing the gaming tax on selected
11 commercial casinos; and
12

13 **WHEREAS**, soon more changes will occur that impact the state's gaming revenue
14 system including the license bids for up to three more downstate private casinos, as well
15 as the state negotiating a new compact with the Seneca Nation in Western New York;
16 and
17

18 **WHEREAS**, the license rights to new downstate casinos will likely generate billions,
19 none of which is scheduled at this time to be shared with the local governments; and
20

21 **WHEREAS**, the state's current gaming revenue sharing system brings hundreds of
22 millions of dollars to local governments and has become crucial funding in support of
23 local government services; and
24

25 **WHEREAS**, this needed local government funding support is especially important in
26 areas with recently created private casinos where infrastructure needs, such as road
27 maintenance, public safety and public health services, all increased; and
28

29 **WHEREAS**, the recent and future changes directly impact the current local
30 government revenue-sharing system within certain regions, especially Sullivan County;
31 and
32

33 **WHEREAS**, any gaming revenue disruption to this sharing system directly impacts a
34 local government's ability to provide crucial services.
35

36 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, the New York State Association of
37 Counties (NYSAC) calls on the State to make a permanent annual appropriation to offset
38 any local funding decrease that results from the State's private casino tax reductions;
39 and

1 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED,** NYSAC calls on the State to make a permanent
2 annual appropriation to offset any local funding decrease that results from major
3 gaming statewide changes such as mobile sports betting, private casino expansion, and
4 the resulting compact negotiations with the Seneca Nation; and

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

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



NYSAC
— NEW YORK STATE —
ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES

2025 NYSAC Fall Seminar Niagara 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 **2025 NYSAC Fall Seminar**
2 **Standing Committee on Public Health/Mental Health**
3 **Resolution #1**

4
5 **Resolution Calling for Legislative Protections for Mental Health**
6 **Professionals and Crisis Responders**
7

8 **WHEREAS**, New York State legislation A.6055-A/S.4906-A seeks to permit health
9 care workers who have been assaulted on the job to give their statements to the police at
10 their workplace; and

11
12 **WHEREAS**, S.5449/A.4192 seeks to increase the penalty for criminal acts of assault on
13 law enforcement officers and emergency first responders; and

14
15 **WHEREAS**, current laws do not adequately extend such protections to mental health
16 therapists, psychiatrists, psychiatric nurse practitioners, intensive case managers
17 (ICMs), care managers, credentialed alcoholism and substance abuse counselors
18 (CASACs), mobile crisis team (MCT) staff, 988 crisis call center staff, and other mental
19 health professionals who routinely work with high-risk populations and face elevated
20 risks of both physical and emotional harm; and

21
22 **WHEREAS**, the county Directors of Community Services (DCSs) have statutory
23 authority and responsibility for oversight and cross-system management of the local
24 mental hygiene systems in the 57 counties and the City of New York; and

25
26 **WHEREAS**, the DCSs manage and support community-based services that rely on the
27 dedicated efforts of the mental health workforce; and

28
29 **WHEREAS**, the nature of mental health work often involves high-stress, volatile
30 situations, including de-escalation of individuals in crisis, involuntary interventions,
31 and emotionally charged therapeutic settings, increasing exposure to assault, threats,
32 and intimidation; and

33
34 **WHEREAS**, existing laws and protections largely focus on physical violence, failing to
35 fully account for the impact of emotional abuse, repeated harassment, stalking,
36 intimidation, and verbal threats that can seriously affect the mental health and safety of
37 those in this workforce; and

38
39 **WHEREAS**, mental health professionals who are victims of violence or threats related
40 to their work must often disclose their personal home address when filing police reports,
41 court orders, and other legal documents, placing themselves and their families at further
42 risk of retaliation; and

43
44 **WHEREAS**, these gaps in legal protection contribute to burnout, staff shortages, and
45 unsafe working environments, all of which undermine the stability and effectiveness of
46 New York's mental health system.

1 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, the New York State Association of
2 Counties (NYSAC) urges the New York State Legislature to introduce and enact
3 legislation mirroring and expanding upon the principles of existing legislation focused
4 on protecting New York’s healthcare workforce to include:

- 5 1. **Legal protections** for mental health professionals, including but not limited
6 to, psychiatrists, psychiatric nurse practitioners, intensive case managers
7 (ICMs), care managers, credentialed alcoholism and substance abuse
8 counselors (CASACs), licensed mental health clinicians, crisis responders, and
9 988/Mobile Crisis Team (MCT) personnel that classify both physical assault
10 and repeated emotional abuse or harassment in the course of their duties as
11 serious offenses under the law;
- 12 2. **Authorization for victims** who are employed in these roles to use their
13 employer’s business address instead of their personal home address on all
14 official records, including police reports, court filings, and orders of
15 protection;
- 16 3. **Protocols for enforcement**, training, and interagency communication to
17 ensure that law enforcement and judicial officers are aware of these enhanced
18 protections and procedures; and

19
20 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, we urge state leaders to take prompt action on this
21 critical matter to support the safety, dignity, and retention of the mental health
22 workforce; and

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

26
27 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, copies of this resolution shall be sent to Governor
28 Kathy Hochul, the Speaker of the New York State Assembly, the Temporary President of
29 the Senate, all relevant legislative committees, and all others deemed necessary and
30 proper.

1 **2025 NYSAC Fall Seminar**
2 **Standing Committee on Public Health/Mental Health**
3 **Resolution #2**

4
5 **Resolution Calling on New York State to Protect Core Public Health**
6 **Funding and Enable Flexibility to Maximize Local Health Department**
7 **Capacity**
8

9 **WHEREAS**, Local Health Departments (LHDs) serve as the front line of New York
10 State's public health system, delivering critical services in communicable disease
11 control, environmental health, family health, chronic disease prevention, emergency
12 preparedness, and other essential programs; and

13
14 **WHEREAS**, Article 6 State Aid for General Public Health Work and public health
15 categorical grants provide essential funding to support LHDs in meeting state-mandated
16 services and addressing emerging public health threats; and

17
18 **WHEREAS**, the overdose crisis, rising rates of chronic illness, long waitlists for Early
19 Intervention (EI) services, and increases in communicable disease outbreaks have
20 demonstrated the growing complexity and demand on local public health services; and

21
22 **WHEREAS**, maintaining state public health funding at current levels is essential to
23 sustaining the workforce, infrastructure, and service delivery capacity of LHDs across
24 the state; and

25
26 **WHEREAS**, current funding structures often silo resources into narrowly defined
27 program categories, limiting the ability of LHDs to respond nimbly and
28 comprehensively to community needs; and

29
30 **WHEREAS**, allowing greater flexibility to allow public health funding across
31 categorical programs would enable more efficient use of resources, reduce
32 administrative burden, and improve population health outcomes; and

33
34 **WHEREAS**, changes in federal public health policy, including reductions in the federal
35 public health workforce, reductions in centralized data systems and laboratory support,
36 will reduce access to federal technical expertise and data, that negatively affect state and
37 local capacity to monitor, respond to, and prevent disease; and

38
39 **WHEREAS**, New York State can help mitigate these impacts by investing in statewide
40 programs, like Early Intervention (EI), and Children and Youth with Special Health
41 Care Needs (CYSHCN), modernizing state-operated public health infrastructure such as
42 data systems and laboratory services, and by maintaining funding support to local
43 partners.

44
45 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, the New York State Association of
46 Counties (NYSAC) calls on Governor Kathy Hochul and the New York State Legislature
47 to maintain funding for Article 6 State Aid and public health categorical grants at

1 current levels to ensure a stable foundation for local public health services across the
2 state; and

3
4 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that NYSAC urges New York State to allow for greater
5 flexibility in how local health departments may braid existing state and funding streams
6 to meet locally determined public health needs and priorities in providing core public
7 health services; and

8
9 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that NYSAC calls on New York State to support and
10 invest in state-level infrastructure, including public health laboratory services and
11 shared data systems, to help offset potential losses stemming from changes in federal
12 public health policy; and

13
14 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, this resolution shall be forwarded to the counties of
15 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 Hochul, the New York State Legislature, and all others deemed necessary and
19 proper.
20

1 **2025 NYSAC Fall Seminar**

2 **Standing Committee on Public Health/Mental Health**

3 **Resolution #3**

4
5 **Resolution Supporting S.765/A.453 to Require Reporting of All Adult**
6 **Immunizations**

7
8 **WHEREAS**, vaccines are essential for preventing and controlling infectious diseases in
9 both children and adults, protecting individual and community health; and

10
11 **WHEREAS**, the New York State Immunization Information System (NYSIIS) and the
12 Citywide Immunization Registry (CIR) have proven to be effective tools in monitoring
13 and improving vaccination rates among children, as children's vaccines are required to
14 be entered into both systems; and

15
16 **WHEREAS**, comprehensive data on adult immunization rates is crucial for public
17 health departments to conduct effective disease surveillance, identify gaps in
18 immunization service delivery, and target interventions to improve vaccination
19 coverage; and

20
21 **WHEREAS**, requiring reporting of all adult immunizations would improve adult
22 vaccination coverage, reduce vaccine-preventable disease, and provide public health
23 officials with accurate community-wide data to identify disparities in vaccine access and
24 barriers to address; and

25
26 **WHEREAS**, comprehensive adult immunization reporting is inconsistent, creating
27 gaps in critical public health data collection; and

28
29 **WHEREAS**, permanent legislation requiring reporting of all adult immunizations
30 would ensure consistent, comprehensive data collection regardless of changing federal
31 requirements or emergency declarations; and

32
33 **WHEREAS**, enhanced tracking and reporting of adult vaccines leads to better public
34 health outcomes, prevents duplicate vaccinations, eases the burden of providing proof of
35 vaccination status, and contributes to the prevention of vaccine-preventable diseases;
36 and

37
38 **WHEREAS**, counties rely on accurate immunization data to protect the health of their
39 residents, respond to disease outbreaks, and allocate public health resources effectively;
40 and

41
42 **WHEREAS**, comprehensive adult immunization registries support healthcare
43 providers in making informed clinical decisions and ensure continuity of care across
44 different healthcare settings.

45
46 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, the New York State Association of
47 Counties (NYSAC) supports A.765/S.453 to require healthcare providers to report all

1 immunizations administered to adults to the New York State Immunization Information
2 System (NYSIIS) and the Citywide Immunization Registry (CIR); and

3
4 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that NYSAC calls on the Governor and Legislature to
5 enact legislation establishing comprehensive adult immunization reporting
6 requirements that are not dependent on emergency declarations or federal program
7 requirements; and

8
9 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that NYSAC urges the state to establish clear
10 guidelines and procedures for healthcare providers and facilities on reporting adult
11 vaccination data, including the use of standardized codes and data formats; and

12
13 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that NYSAC calls on the state to provide adequate
14 resources and support to healthcare providers and facilities to expedite the integration
15 of adult vaccination data into NYSIIS and CIR, including training on data entry and
16 reporting processes; and

17
18 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that NYSAC emphasizes the importance of
19 maintaining patient privacy and confidentiality in accordance with all applicable laws
20 and regulations while implementing comprehensive adult immunization reporting; and

21
22 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that NYSAC supports regular audits and assessments
23 to monitor compliance with reporting requirements and evaluate the effectiveness of
24 comprehensive adult immunization registries in improving vaccination rates; and

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

28
29 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that NYSAC shall forward copies of this resolution to
30 Governor Kathy Hochul, the New York State Legislature, the New York State
31 Department of Health, and all others deemed necessary and proper.



NYSAC
— NEW YORK STATE —
ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES

2025 NYSAC Fall Seminar Niagara County

Standing Committee on Public Safety Resolutions

Hon. Matthew Veitch (Saratoga County) – Chair
Hon. Sheriff Juan Figueroa (Ulster County) – 1st Vice Chair
Hon. Kathy Stegenga (Orange County) – Vice Chair
Dan Degear (Madison County) – Vice Chair

1 **2025 NYSAC Fall Seminar**
2 **Standing Committee on Public Safety**
3 **Resolution #1**

4
5 **Resolution Urging the Governor and the Legislature to Enact S.1982**
6 **(Harckham)/A.3836 (Jones) to Ensure Sheriffs and Undersheriffs Retain**
7 **Police Officer Powers Without Additional Certification**
8

9 **WHEREAS**, Sheriffs and Undersheriffs have historically exercised full police officer
10 powers in the State of New York, enabling them to effectively carry out the law
11 enforcement responsibilities of their offices; and
12

13 **WHEREAS**, the enactment of the Professional Policing Act in 2021 altered the
14 definition of “police officer” in a way that removed automatic police officer status from
15 certain elected and appointed officials, including Sheriffs and Undersheriffs, unless they
16 completed additional police training requirements; and
17

18 **WHEREAS**, this legislative change has created uncertainty and administrative barriers
19 for duly elected Sheriffs and their appointed Undersheriffs, limiting their ability to fully
20 perform the duties of their office; and
21

22 **WHEREAS**, legislation has been introduced in the New York State Legislature
23 (S.1982/A.3836) to restore police officer status to Sheriffs and Undersheriffs without
24 requiring duplicative or burdensome additional training; and
25

26 **WHEREAS**, restoring this authority is necessary to preserve the operational integrity
27 of sheriff’s offices, protect the legal authority of elected officials, and ensure continued
28 diversity and accessibility in candidates for these roles; and
29

30 **WHEREAS**, counties rely on Sheriffs and Undersheriffs to lead local law enforcement
31 agencies and respond to a wide range of public safety responsibilities in both urban and
32 rural communities.
33

34 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, the New York State Association of
35 Counties (NYSAC) calls upon the Governor and the New York State Legislature to enact
36 (S.1982/A.3836) to restore automatic police officer powers to Sheriffs and Undersheriffs
37 in New York State; 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.

1 **2025 NYSAC Fall Seminar**
2 **Standing Committee on Public Safety**
3 **Resolution #2**

4
5 **Resolution Urging Governor Kathy Hochul and the New York State**
6 **Legislature to Increase the Budget Allocation for Medication-Assisted**
7 **Treatment (MAT) Programs in County Jails**
8

9 **WHEREAS**, the State of New York has mandated that all county correctional facilities
10 provide access to Medication-Assisted Treatment (MAT) for individuals with opioid use
11 disorder, as part of the state's broader effort to combat the opioid epidemic and support
12 public health and safety; and
13

14 **WHEREAS**, MAT programs—which include the administration of FDA-approved
15 medications alongside counseling and behavioral health services—have been proven
16 effective in reducing overdose deaths, improving treatment outcomes, and reducing
17 recidivism among incarcerated individuals; and
18

19 **WHEREAS**, while the MAT mandate is a critical step toward addressing the opioid
20 crisis, the current level of state funding provided for implementation is insufficient to
21 cover the full cost of medications, clinical staff, behavioral health support, peer services,
22 and discharge planning; and
23

24 **WHEREAS**, counties across New York State are now required to absorb the unfunded
25 or underfunded costs associated with MAT programs in their jails, creating a substantial
26 fiscal burden on local taxpayers; and
27

28 **WHEREAS**, an increased and dedicated state budget allocation is essential to ensuring
29 the sustainability, equity, and quality of MAT services in county jails, especially in rural
30 and fiscally strained counties.
31

32 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, the New York State Association of
33 Counties (NYSAC) calls upon Governor Hochul and the New York State Legislature to
34 significantly increase the state budget allocation for Medication-Assisted Treatment
35 (MAT) programs in county jails; and
36

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

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

**2025 NYSAC Fall Seminar
Standing Committee on Public Safety
Resolution #3**

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

WHEREAS, probation and alternative-to-incarceration (ATI) programs are essential components of New York State’s criminal justice system, providing community-based supervision and support services that reduce recidivism, enhance public safety, and lower incarceration costs; and

WHEREAS, in recent years, county probation departments have assumed significantly increased responsibilities due to the enactment of major criminal justice reforms, including Raise the Age, bail reform, and expanded pretrial release programs; and

WHEREAS, these additional duties have been imposed without commensurate increases in state funding, resulting in unfunded mandates that strain county budgets and threaten the long-term sustainability and effectiveness of probation and ATI services; and

WHEREAS, well-supported probation services are essential to ensuring compliance with court orders, facilitating rehabilitation, and promoting successful community reintegration of justice-involved individuals; and

WHEREAS, the State of New York should fully fund probation services associated with recent justice reforms and provide regulatory flexibility to allow counties to implement evidence-based practices tailored to local needs; and

WHEREAS, the State should also explore the reuse of existing state-owned facilities for the purpose of creating secure, specialized youth detention or rehabilitative treatment centers in collaboration with local governments.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the New York State Association of Counties (NYSAC) calls upon Governor Kathy Hochul and the New York State Legislature to increase funding for probation and alternative-to-incarceration services, and to ensure full state reimbursement for costs associated with Raise the Age, bail reform, and pretrial programming; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that NYSAC urges the State to review and revise regulatory barriers that hinder the flexibility and effectiveness of local probation departments; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the State should explore partnerships with counties to repurpose underused state facilities for the development of secure youth detention or treatment centers; and

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

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

1 **2025 NYSAC Fall Seminar**
2 **Standing Committee on Public Safety**
3 **Resolution #4**

4
5 **A Resolution Requesting New York State Provide Structure and Financial**
6 **Support to Implement the 2025 Amendments to the Mental Hygiene Law**

7
8 **WHEREAS**, protecting the health and welfare of residents is a definitional role of
9 government, as it involves the basic function of helping to keep people safe, including
10 interventions in the case of individuals at imminent risk of harming themselves or
11 others; and

12
13 **WHEREAS**, historically, the ability of counties to assist individuals struggling under
14 the weight of serious mental illness, and often co-occurring drug addiction, in the
15 absence of the individual determining to seek voluntary ongoing treatment, has been
16 limited to providing stabilization in the immediate circumstances of a crisis, leading to a
17 small population of decompensated people in our communities unable to provide for
18 their own health and welfare, many unhoused, unable to work, reliant on begging, and
19 exposed to predation; and

20
21 **WHEREAS**, interventions typically have occurred very late in the progression of a
22 mental health crisis, or in the event of an overdose, and often involve law enforcement
23 and application of the criminal law because of illegal behaviors connected to the mental
24 illness, in certain persistent cases leading to cycles of crisis and readmission/rearrest;
25 and

26
27 **WHEREAS**, our jails are not the appropriate location for helping individuals in mental
28 health crisis, but without appropriate alternatives, sometimes a jail is the only available
29 option, particularly for individuals who express their addiction and mental health
30 challenges through criminal behavior; and

31
32 **WHEREAS**, for the foregoing reasons, recent amendments to the New York Mental
33 Hygiene Law expands the ability to use behavioral history in making determinations,
34 and clarifies the definition of “likely to result in serious harm to self or others” to include
35 the “substantial inability of the person to meet such person’s basic need for food,
36 clothing, shelter, or medical care” as it provides a framework for local governments to
37 provide meaningful assistance to these individuals experiencing extreme need before a
38 mental health breakdown, overdose, or arrest.

39
40 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, the New York State Association of
41 Counties (NYSAC) urges the state to develop guidance for the implementation of
42 programming at the county level to provide this assistance, including the procedures
43 and due process protections necessary to determine who is in need, and the graduated
44 least restrictive interventions that can be used that balance the goals of personal
45 autonomy, mental health, and public safety; and

1 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that NYSAC urges the New York State Legislature to
2 provide grants to counties to be able to create and/or sustain programs tailored to the
3 specific county mental health priorities, proactive approaches, and effective methods of
4 providing assistance to this population of people in extreme need; 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, the New York State Legislature, and all others deemed
11 necessary and proper.



NYSAC
— NEW YORK STATE —
ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES

2025 NYSAC Fall Seminar Niagara County

Standing Committee on Taxation and Finance Resolutions

Hon. Terri L. Ross (Allegany County) - Chair
Hon. Patrick Schmitt (Wayne County) - Vice Chair

1 **2025 NYSAC Fall Seminar**
2 **Standing Committee on Taxation and Finance**
3 **Resolution #1**

4
5 **Resolution Urging Governor Kathy Hochul and New York State Legislature**
6 **to Fundamentally Alter State Spending to Ensure New York is on a Fiscally**
7 **Sustainable Path, Without Shifting New Costs to Local Government**
8 **Taxpayers**
9

10 **WHEREAS**, upon adoption of the SFY 2026 State Budget the Division of Budget
11 estimated the fiscal gap through SFY 2029 would increase to \$34.1 billion, a 250 percent
12 increase from what was projected a year earlier when the SFY 2025 budget was enacted;
13 and
14

15 **WHEREAS**, the dramatic increase in the state fiscal gap stems primarily from state
16 actions, not economic or federal changes; and
17

18 **WHEREAS**, when new potential costs from federal actions are fully understood, the
19 multi-year gap will grow by billions of dollars more making the state fiscal situation
20 worse; and
21

22 **WHEREAS**, state deficits of this size have not been seen since the Great Recession, the
23 biggest financial crisis the nation had experienced in nearly 100 years; and
24

25 **WHEREAS**, state leaders have repeatedly forced counties to pay more for state
26 programs when state budget gaps increase, self-inflicted or not; and
27

28 **WHEREAS**, shifting more state costs to county governments simply amplifies the
29 affordability crisis for New Yorkers by raising their local tax burden, while also placing
30 in jeopardy local services they need and strongly desire; and
31

32 **WHEREAS**, as experienced managers who must balance their own budgets, county
33 officials understand and support the need for spending restraint.
34

35 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that in order to address the severity of the
36 increasing state deficit and prepare for federal funding changes, the New York State
37 Association of Counties (NYSAC) urges the Governor and State Legislature to make
38 necessary and fundamental changes in the size and scope of state government in order
39 to place the state on a fiscally sustainable path, without shifting the costs for State
40 programs and policies to local government taxpayers; and

1 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, NYSAC wants to be a partner with the state to
2 improve and help implement program efficiencies that provide real, timely and mutual
3 fiscal benefit, while minimizing the impact on taxpayers; and

4
5 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, copies of this resolution be sent to the counties of
6 New York 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.

2025 NYSAC Fall Seminar
Standing Committee on Taxation and Finance
Resolution #2

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

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

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

WHEREAS, there is also an additional four percent sales tax that goes to the localities where the dispensary is located with one percent retained by the county and three percent to the city, town, or village that hosts the dispensary; and

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

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

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

WHEREAS, the initial rollout of the MRTA was slowed by litigation, complex and unclear statutory language, and the need to build a new State cannabis office with expansive responsibilities; and

WHEREAS, many of the implementation challenges for approving licenses to dispensary owners have now been resolved, with 436 legal dispensaries licensed as of August 1, 2025, according to OCM; and

WHEREAS, as more dispensaries have been approved counties continue to fall behind state law requirements for timely disbursement of funds to localities primarily due to insufficient state information, which is often delayed further upon clarification from the multiple agencies involved; and

WHEREAS, 45 counties are listed as having at least one adult-use cannabis dispensary with most counties having two or more.

1 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, the New York State Association of
2 Counties (NYSAC) calls on the Governor, the New York State Legislature, and
3 appropriate state agencies to restructure laws and regulations to allow for the
4 streamlining of the process for dispensing and reconciling cannabis sales tax receipts to
5 counties so they can timely and accurately distribute funds to localities; and
6

7 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, counties strongly urge the state agencies responsible
8 for administering this process to use the same tax liability period for collection and
9 disbursement to minimize confusion regarding payments counties receive that often
10 cannot be reconciled with the appropriate tax liability period when they are received;
11 and
12

13 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, state agencies should ensure that payments to
14 counties are consistent with the state sales tax quarter to minimize confusion regarding
15 payments that sometimes come monthly, cover two months, or come quarterly and are
16 often difficult to align with the correct vendors or communities that are hosting the
17 dispensaries; and
18

19 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, copies of this resolution be sent to the counties of
20 New York 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 New York Office of
24 Cannabis Management, Department of Taxation and Finance, Office of the State
25 Comptroller, and all others deemed necessary and proper.

2025 NYSAC Fall Seminar
Standing Committee on Taxation and Finance
Resolution #3

**Resolution Urging the Governor to Sign Legislation Passed by the
Legislature, S.1515 (May)/A.2177-A (Lupardo), that Exempts Local EMS
Costs from Counting Against the Property Tax Cap**

WHEREAS, New York State communities are experiencing a crisis in emergency medical services (EMS) delivery; and

WHEREAS, the crisis is driven by rising operational costs, inadequate reimbursement from insurance providers and Medicaid, and critical staffing shortages; and

WHEREAS, the current property tax cap prevents municipalities from adequately funding these essential services, forcing difficult choices between fiscal constraints and public safety; and

WHEREAS, the result is a direct threat to community health and safety, with many residents facing longer waiting times for ambulances and emergency medical care when every second counts; and

WHEREAS, removing EMS from the constraints of the real property tax cap, will empower municipalities to expand and enhance their support for these services; and

WHEREAS, implementing this legislation will also enable localities to allocate resources more effectively to bolster their emergency response infrastructure and address the pressing needs of their communities; and

WHEREAS, this legislation was passed unanimously in the Assembly and by a 55-4 margin in the Senate and is strongly supported by local governments across the state; and

WHEREAS, this measure is critical to provide immediate relief and ensure the continuity of EMS statewide while long-term solutions to the challenges facing emergency medical services continue to be explored by the Executive and State Legislature.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the New York State Association of Counties (NYSAC) urges Governor Kathy Hochul to sign S.1515/A.2177-A; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, since all counties and towns, and some city, fiscal years begin January 1st with budget development and adoption occurring in the fall, NYSAC encourages the Governor to sign this legislation as soon as possible to accommodate Fiscal Year 2026 budget development for local governments that may be impacted by this legislation; and

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

3

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



NYSAC
— NEW YORK STATE —
ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES

2025 NYSAC Fall Seminar Niagara 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 **2025 Fall Seminar**

2 **Standing Committee on Transportation and Public Works**

3 **Resolution #1**

4
5 **Resolution Supporting Efforts by Counties to Reduce Road Salt Usage and**
6 **Urging State Lawmakers to Pause Legislative Proposals That Compromise**
7 **This Progress**
8

9 **WHEREAS**, the Randy Preston Road Salt Reduction Act (RPRSRA) was signed into
10 law in 2020 (with Chapter Amendment in 2021) creating the Adirondack Road Salt
11 Reduction Task Force; and
12

13 **WHEREAS**, the Task Force conducted a review of road salt use and impacts, current
14 state, local, and commercial winter management practices, levels of service for
15 roadways, and practices in other states with similar winter conditions; and
16

17 **WHEREAS**, the RPRSRA statute made clear that measurable targets for reducing
18 sodium chloride levels represent simply *recommendations*, which could be adjusted if
19 the State Department of Transportation (DOT) or local government determines that
20 they are necessary if the access and safety of travelers, including emergency responders,
21 is a high priority; and
22

23 **WHEREAS**, the resulting Task Force recommendations, released in 2023, reflect a
24 balanced approach to reducing the use of road salt not only in the Adirondacks but in all
25 communities statewide, while still meeting the critical responsibility of the state,
26 municipalities, and private contractors to control ice and snow for the safety of the
27 traveling public; and
28

29 **WHEREAS**, by modifying application techniques and by using technologies and
30 management best practices, local highway departments are better able to protect
31 streams, lakes, and sources of drinking water while continuing to effectively control and
32 remove snow and ice; and
33

34 **WHEREAS**, this comprehensive Task Force process included a variety of stakeholders,
35 including two county highway superintendents who are responsible for determining the
36 rate and frequency of salt application based on weather conditions and other factors,
37 while deploying broad implementation and adoption of recommended salt reducing
38 practices; and
39

40 **WHEREAS**, the Cornell Local Roads Program (CLRP) provides, among other services,
41 education and training on road salt reduction methods and technologies, such as anti-

1 icing techniques which involve applying a brine solution to roads before snow or ice
2 forms, while stressing safety for public highway department managers and operators of
3 snow and ice removal equipment in the state; and
4

5 **WHEREAS**, in 2024, the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC)
6 made \$15 million in Clean Water Infrastructure Act funding available to local
7 governments to support best management practices, modifications to equipment that
8 automatically regulates the precise amount of salt needed, and to construct secure salt
9 containment and storage facilities as part of the Water Quality Improvement Project
10 (WQIP) program; and
11

12 **WHEREAS**, the implementation of several Adirondack Road Salt Reduction Task
13 Force recommendations and accompanying pilot programs have become models that
14 continue to work well for the Adirondacks and, by extension, other areas of the state
15 that have widely adopted these recommendations; and
16

17 **WHEREAS**, the Task Force found that smooth road surface conditions free of
18 potholes, rutting, and delamination, are more easily cleared of snow and frozen
19 precipitation by snowplows and the preemptive application of brine than a poorer
20 quality road with surface distresses and deficiencies; and
21

22 **WHEREAS**, roadside maintenance such as shoulder grading, ditching, brush cutting
23 and tree clearing allows for snow storage off the paved surface, provides better
24 controlled drainage and helps expose pavement to sunlight to naturally increase surface
25 temperatures to melt ice more quickly; and
26

27 **WHEREAS**, improving these elements directly leads to more effective snow and ice
28 clearing operations with less reliance on road salt and should be part of any efforts to
29 reduce road salt use and is justification for providing more state financial support for
30 CHIPS and other local highway maintenance programs; and
31

32 **WHEREAS**, instead of supporting existing and effective voluntary and cooperative
33 mechanisms established by the Task Force and being widely implemented throughout
34 the state, recent state legislative proposals have the potential to force inflexible
35 standards on road salt use that seek to override local decision making, raise liability
36 issues and threaten municipalities' ability to safeguard the traveling public; and
37

38 **WHEREAS**, the proposed legislation omits mention of such well-established best
39 practices endorsed by the Task Force such as cutting back the tree canopy where legal to
40 allow sunlight onto pavement to increase surface temperatures and promoting properly

1 maintained roadways to reduce the amount of salt needed to adequately maintain them
2 free of snow and ice during the winter season; and

3
4 **WHEREAS**, the implementation of several Task Force recommendations and
5 accompanying pilot programs is an existing model that continues to work well for the
6 Adirondacks and other areas of the state that are voluntarily adopting many of these
7 recommendations and best practices; and

8
9 **WHEREAS**, the State Department of Transportation released a summary report in
10 August 2024 on the progress of Task Force road salt reduction pilot programs that
11 contains valuable information and identifies reasonable strategies, including the
12 identification of effective and ineffective techniques for winter road maintenance and
13 appropriate levels of service.

14
15 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, the New York State Association of
16 Counties (NYSAC) hereby applauds the work of the Adirondack Road Salt Reduction
17 Task Force, and calls on State Lawmakers to recognize its successful efforts to protect
18 public safety, and maintain road surfaces in alignment with that legal duty; and

19
20 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, NYSAC opposes legislative proposals that block the
21 inclusion of locally elected and appointed public sector highway and public works
22 professionals from formal participation on road salt reduction councils and advisory
23 committees; and

24
25 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that NYSAC also opposes proposals that create other
26 regional and/or statewide road salt reduction councils, training, and certification
27 mandates for road salt applicators that are redundant to the efforts of the Task Force
28 and/or could compromise ongoing successful highway safety efforts already being
29 deployed; and

30
31 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that municipal liability questions are a serious
32 concern for counties and these are not being adequately addressed by legislative
33 proposals; and

34
35 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, NYSAC believes all future road salt reduction
36 legislative proposals will only be supported if there is consideration and input from
37 counties and highway department professionals that have practical experience and
38 understanding of best practices, existing adoption rates, and the results of the pilot
39 programs; and

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

3

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

1 **2025 Fall Seminar**

2 **Standing Committee on Transportation and Public Works**

3 **Resolution #2**

4
5 **Resolution Highlighting the Necessary Linkage Between Economic**
6 **Development and Adequate State Funding Support to Rural Counties' Local**
7 **Transportation Systems**
8

9 **WHEREAS**, a highly functional and well-maintained transportation system provides
10 economic and social benefits that result in better accessibility to markets, additional
11 employment, and increases in private sector investments; and
12

13 **WHEREAS**, the State of New York successfully promotes economic development
14 opportunities in the state through the administration of a variety of federal and state
15 programs, financing opportunities and aggressive government tax incentives; and
16

17 **WHEREAS**, local highway departments maintain 87 percent of New York's 97,000
18 miles of highways and more than half of the state's 8,600 highway bridges yet the vast
19 majority of this local system is not eligible for federal funding; and
20

21 **WHEREAS**, 48 percent of the vehicle miles driven in New York are on local roads, yet
22 less than 12 percent of the taxes and fees paid to the state by these drivers goes back to
23 maintaining local roads; and this differential is increasing as a growing number of EV
24 drivers do not pay gasoline taxes; and
25

26 **WHEREAS**, many of the state's economic development projects are located in rural
27 upstate New York, and the accompanying production and jobs rely on local roads,
28 bridges and culverts to carry the increased volume of passenger vehicle and truck traffic
29 that come from these new commercial activities; and
30

31 **WHEREAS**, the Micron project in Central New York is expected to significantly
32 increase truck traffic, particularly during the initial construction phase and later during
33 the operational phase, bringing thousands of trucks to this area daily for material
34 deliveries and waste removal, which will certainly impact local roads conditions; and
35

36 **WHEREAS**, in addition to the Micron project, there are an estimated \$2.4 billion in
37 planned investments in cutting-edge dairy-related processing plants in rural counties of
38 upstate New York, resulting from expansions of such well-known companies as
39 Chobani, Fairlife, and Great Lakes Cheese; and

1 **WHEREAS**, it is estimated that the new processing capacity will require milk from
2 approximately 220,000 additional cows, generating 100 pounds of manure daily (over 4
3 billion pounds annually); and
4

5 **WHEREAS**, these economic development investments create challenges to local roads,
6 bridges, and culverts that will experience significant increases in heavy truck trips
7 transporting milk from farms to the processing facilities, and for the hauling of cows,
8 manure and feed, and ultimately product deliveries to markets.
9

10 **NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, the New York State Association of Counties
11 (NYSAC) hereby finds that the State has a responsibility to assure that the local
12 transportation infrastructure can support critical economic development projects to
13 assure the success of these investments; and
14

15 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, the State of New York must recognize the demands
16 on the counties and other municipalities expected to support these and other significant
17 economic development and job creation efforts and follow up this investment with
18 increased support for CHIPS and other local road, bridge and culvert funding programs
19 to ensure that the needs of these companies, processors, dairy farms and impacted rural
20 communities have the transportation infrastructure in a condition required to support
21 their operations and get their products to markets effectively and safely; and
22

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

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

1 **2025 Fall Seminar**

2 **Standing Committee on Transportation and Public Works**

3 **Resolution # 3**

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

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

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

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

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

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

37
38 **WHEREAS**, the Essential Air Service program is a U.S. government program that
39 assists some airports to maintain a minimal level of air service by providing federal
40 subsidies to connect these airports to the National Air Transportation System when it

1 might not be profitable for airlines to do so otherwise, but the program is limited to
2 small communities; and

3
4 **WHEREAS**, while federal initiatives like EAS and the Small Community Air Service
5 Development Program can help, many states have responded to the competition for air
6 service by enacting their own air service development support through such strategies as
7 marketing assistance, promotions of existing air service or new routes, revenue
8 guarantees, direct incentives to airlines to serve specific markets, and financial
9 assistance to communities to support air service deemed essential for economic
10 development; and

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

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

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

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

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

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

39
40 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that copies of this resolution be sent to the counties
41 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 Legislature, NYSDOT Commissioner Marie
3 Therese Dominguez, CEO and Commissioner of ESD Hope Knight, and all others
4 deemed necessary and proper.



NYSAC
— NEW YORK STATE —
ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES

2025 NYSAC Fall Seminar Niagara County

Information Technology (IT) Task Force

Lorne Green (Sullivan County) – Chair
Marguerite Beirne (Westchester County) – Vice Chair

1 **2025 NYSAC Fall Seminar**
2 **Information Technology (IT) Task Force**
3 **Resolution #1**

4
5 **Resolution in Support of Studying a Centralized Election and Voter**
6 **Registration Management System**

7
8 **WHEREAS**, free and fair elections are the cornerstone of our democracy, and the
9 integrity, accuracy, and security of voter registration and election management systems
10 are essential to maintaining public confidence; and

11
12 **WHEREAS**, the increasing sophistication of cyber threats underscores the need for
13 robust protections to safeguard election infrastructure from malicious attacks and
14 unauthorized access; and

15
16 **WHEREAS**, a centralized statewide election and voter registration management
17 system may provide enhanced security measures, including standardized cybersecurity
18 protocols, real-time monitoring, and consistent updates to protect sensitive voter data;
19 and

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21 **WHEREAS**, such a system may improve the accuracy and integrity of voter rolls by
22 reducing duplication, minimizing errors, and streamlining the process of maintaining
23 up-to-date registration records; and

24
25 **WHEREAS**, centralized management, only pertaining to the technical architecture of
26 said systems and not pertaining to voter registration at the county level, and exist within
27 the current NYS laws and regulations, may also assist in preventing fraud by enabling
28 stronger verification processes, reducing opportunities for manipulation, and ensuring
29 more transparent auditing and reporting; and

30
31 **WHEREAS**, conducting a comprehensive study of the potential benefits, challenges,
32 and costs of establishing a consolidated and centralized election and voter registration
33 management system will allow policymakers to make informed decisions that
34 strengthen public trust and electoral integrity.

35
36 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, the New York State Association of
37 Counties (NYSAC) hereby supports exploring the feasibility, benefits, and challenges of
38 creating a centralized election and voter registration management system to promote
39 better cybersecurity, accuracy, integrity, and fraud prevention in elections; and

40
41 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that such exploration should include, but not be
42 limited to:

- 43 • Cybersecurity risks and mitigation strategies;
44 • Cost-benefit analyses, including potential funding sources;
45 • Legal and regulatory considerations;
46 • Operational impacts on local and statewide election administration;

- Effects on voter access, transparency and public trust; and
- Recommendations for phased implementation, if deemed feasible; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a written report of the findings and recommendations be made publicly available by the end of 2026, so that informed legislative and policy decisions may be considered before the next following statewide election; and

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

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