

1 **NYSAC 2020 Legislative Conference**
2 **Standing Committee on Public Employee Relations**
3 **Resolution #1**

4 **Resolution Calling Upon the Governor and the New York State Legislature**
5 **to Refrain from Enacting New Public Employee Benefits Mandates**

6 **WHEREAS**, New York State has one of the highest state and local tax burdens in the
7 nation; and

8 **WHEREAS**, the Governor and legislative leaders have all pledged on numerous
9 occasions to reduce the burden of local property taxes on businesses and home owners,
10 as a way to stimulate the state's economy; and

11 **WHEREAS**, in 2012 the State enacted a property tax cap in order to help reduce and
12 maintain tax levels throughout the State and in 2019 the Governor and legislature made
13 that tax cap permanent; and

14 **WHEREAS**, New York counties have stepped up to meet the challenge with the vast
15 majority staying under the cap level every budget year, but it is becoming increasingly
16 more difficult to do so; and

17 **WHEREAS**, the provisions of the Taylor Law and the Triborough Amendment, and
18 mandates for new employee leave benefits contribute to higher personnel costs to
19 counties; and

20 **WHEREAS**, in 2019 the State enacted sweeping reforms to the criminal justice system
21 that impacts county departments (DSS, District Attorney, Public Defender, Probation,
22 and Sheriff) which directly required counties from across the State to immediately
23 increase staffing; and

24 **WHEREAS**, NYSAC supports statewide policy changes that are in the best interest of
25 the residents in our communities, and counties take pride in executing such service
26 changes for our residents, however costs associated with proper implementation should
27 be met by the State; and

28 **WHEREAS**, the New York State Association of Counties recognizes and supports
29 recent efforts by the Governor to decrease the costs associated with binding arbitration;
30 and

31 **WHEREAS**, mandated personnel cost increases directly lead to budget increases for
32 counties and translate to added burdens to local taxpayers who must pay the costs of
33 these new benefits.

34 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, the New York State Association of
35 Counties calls on the State to refrain from creating any new public employee benefits

1 that would result in increased county costs unless these changes are fully funded by the
2 State; and

3 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, the New York State Association of Counties hereby
4 calls upon the Legislature not to enact and the Governor not to approve any new local
5 government personnel cost mandates without first performing and making public a
6 state and local fiscal cost analysis; and

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

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