

1 **NYSAC 2021 Legislative Conference**
2 **Standing Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs**
3 **Resolution #2**

4 **Resolution Commending Proposed Changes to the County-Wide Shared**
5 **Services Initiative, and Urging Lawmakers to Make it Optional**

6 **WHEREAS**, counties have long used shared services and departmental consolidations
7 as tools to improve local government efficiency; and

8 **WHEREAS**, since 2011, the State has enacted a series of laws requiring local
9 governments to reduce property tax increases and find new opportunities to share
10 services and reduce costs at the local level; and

11 **WHEREAS**, these laws included the property tax cap enacted in 2011, the Government
12 Efficiency Program enacted in 2014, the County-Wide Shared Services
13 Initiative (CWSSI) enacted in 2017; and

14 **WHEREAS**, in the 2017-18 State Budget, the County-Wide Shared Services Initiative
15 called for county leaders to convene panels of local government leaders to develop new
16 shared services and consolidation proposals designed to reduce the burden of local
17 property taxes and leverage a state match of savings achieved through these proposals;
18 and

19 **WHEREAS**, in the 2018-19 State Budget, state leaders extended the requirement that
20 counties convene these shared service panels in 2019, 2020, and 2021 to explore
21 additional opportunities for local shared service projects; and

22 **WHEREAS**, since then, counties have been required to spend resources, time, and
23 funding to coordinate these shared services panels, including in some cases hiring
24 additional staff members, or contracting with research agencies or consulting firms;
25 and

26 **WHEREAS**, this year's proposed 2021-22 Executive State Budget makes the
27 CWSSI permanent, requiring counties to convene these local government panels each
28 year; and

29 **WHEREAS**, the proposed spending plan also re-appropriates over \$200 million
30 for state matching funds for savings achieved through the CWSSI and proposes new
31 flexibility to leverage those savings if they are achieved in later implementations.

32 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, the New York State Association of
33 Counties (NYSAC) applauds the Governor for increasing the flexibility of the
34 CWSSI; and

35 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, NYSAC calls on state lawmakers to incorporate these
36 changes for counties who undergo the CWSSI process, and make the process optional

1 for counties who are not able to convene local government panels in any given year;
2 and

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

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