



New York State Association of Counties

Legislative Program

2024 End of Session County Priorities

Rescue EMS

- Provide our EMS partners with the resources they need, S.4020-C (Mayer) / A.3392-C (Otis).
- Exempt EMS funding from the tax cap calculation, S.5000 (May) / A.4077 (Lupardo).
- Authorize EMS to receive reimbursement for treating patients at the point of emergency and transporting patients to non-hospital healthcare facilities, S.8486-A (Hinchey) / A.9102-A (Kelles).
- Allow volunteer firefighters and ambulance workers to claim both state income and local property tax credits, S.6630 (Mannion) / A.6274 (Barrett).
- Increase the volunteer firefighters' and ambulance workers' personal income tax credit to \$800 for eligible individuals and \$1,600 for eligible married joint filers, S.7286 (Martinez) / A.7524 (Thiele).
- Create a methodology for ambulance reimbursement under Medicaid that more closely approximates the true cost of delivering EMS services, S.3223 (Sanders) / A.9237 (Hevesi).
- Support S.5122 (Rivera) / A.5133 (McDonald) to create a Uniform Ambulance Assessment Program, generating additional federal Medicaid funding for non-government EMS providers.
- Support S.6645 (Comrie) / A.6136 (Eachus) to require the thruway authority to issue emergency services permits to EMS vehicles as is already done for fire vehicles, which would exempt EMS from Thruway tolls.



Authorize Sales Tax Collections for Short-Term Rentals

- Require short-term home rental agencies, such as VRBO, AirBnB, and others collect sales tax and hotel/motel occupancy tax (outside of New York City), S.885-B (Hinchey) / A.4130-A (Fahy).

Local Government Operations

- Expedite the distribution of state aid for the Supervision and Treatment Services for Juveniles Program (STSJP), A.6452 (Solages) / S.396 (Cleare).
- Allow electronic arraignments when appropriate, S.6114 (Skoufis) / A.9600 (Burke).
- Extend Section 103 (1-b) of the procurement law authorizing local governments to purchase technology products and software, security, law enforcement, and disaster relief from the Federal General Service Administration (GSA).
- Extend Section 104 of the procurement law authorizing local governments to make purchases using the Office of General Services (OGS) contracts to purchase a myriad of products.



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Environment

- Allow local governments to advance solar energy projects under two megawatts that are directly above parking lots without approval from the State Legislature, S.1179 (Harckham)/A.7279 (Levenberg).
- Prohibit the sale of consumer products that contain intentionally added PFAS, S.5648-A (Hoylman-Sigal)/A.3556-A (Zebrowski).
- Establish an extended producer responsibility (EPR) program for mattresses, similar to S.6419-D (Kavanagh).
- Create an EPR program for textiles, A.8078 (Kelles)/S.6654 (Kavanagh).
- Amend the Packaging Reduction and Recycling Infrastructure Act to include printed paper, S.4246-B (Harckham) / A.5322-B (Glick).
- Establish the Safe Water Infrastructure Program, S.4350-A (Hinchev) / A.6155 (Gunther) to assist local governments with drinking water, stormwater, and sanitary sewer infrastructure projects.
- Enact the Private Well Testing Act to provide all New Yorkers with information on the quality of their drinking water, S.1650 (Hoylman-Sigal) / A.5979 (Burdick).



Local Government Finance / General Government

- Ease the creation of local government health insurance consortia under Article 47 of the Insurance Law, S.3554 (Breslin)/A.4412 (Steck)
- Lower court judgment interest rates by enacting S.3250 (Sanders) / A.5016 (McDonald) (2021) (Part R, PPGG 2024).
- Enact S.1634-A (Kavanagh) / A.4026 (Rosenthal) to hold property owners of abandoned properties accountable for not maintaining their property.
- Require all state legislation to include a statement of fiscal impact affecting local governments as outlined in S.5966 (Harckham) / A.305 (Burdick).
- Grant counties sales tax permanency at their existing rates and authorize all counties to raise sales tax rates to 4% as outlined in Part O, S.4009/A.3009 (2023) Part U, S.8009/A.9009 (2022) and S. Part L, S.2509/A.3009 (2021).
- Allow counties to set other home rule revenue tax rates up to the most common rate existing in other counties across the state without state legislative approval. This would include, but not be limited to, mortgage recording taxes, occupancy taxes, real estate transfer taxes, etc.
- Enact S.8959 (Hinchev) / A.8374 (McDonald) to authorize regional planning councils to apply for state and federal grants.



Public Works

- Reform Scaffold Law to include a pure standard of comparative negligence, (S.1703 (Gallivan) 2021).
- Reform the NYS Wicks Law (GML §101) by raising current thresholds to at least \$5 million for all entities currently subject to limits to adjust for inflation.
- Enact A.426 (Magnarelli) to increase the CHIPS bidding threshold to \$750,000. An increase in the threshold would give localities the flexibility and option to bid out or perform in-house projects under \$750,000.
- Extend design-build authority to counties, allowing local governments to use this method would reduce costs and speed project completion.
- Enact S.2725 (Skoufis) / A.1341 (Lupardo), authorizing DEC to issue enhanced special airport air strike hazard permits to federal or state government employees and other professionals responsible for wildlife management at an airport.

Civil Service & Public Employees

- Amend Public Officers Law §3 to allow for home rule authority to set employee residency rules.
- Expand the acceptable zone of “band scoring” of civil service examinations, thereby accessing a larger pool of candidates.
- Pass legislation to disqualify applicants from civil services eligible lists who are inappropriate for a role in law enforcement, or corrections as evidenced by a failed background check or psychological examination.
- Eliminate the competitive status for any position that requires the applicant to hold a valid Professional License issued by the State of New York.
- Eliminate the need for applicants to cross-file in adjacent municipalities to have their test scores counted for the same title in multiple jurisdictions.
- Allow all, or as many as may be practicable, tests to be administered locally.
- Change all or certain subsets of exams to pass/fail. Limiting the ‘reachable’ applicants to the top three based on numeric score continues to be a major issue in certain titles, especially those in public safety where additional background and psychological testing is required.
- Establish a new exempt class of employees for airport positions.

Public Health / Mental Health

- Enact S.8531 (Hoylman-Sigal)/A.9110 (Rosenthal) to address challenges in enforcing the state’s ban on the sale of flavored vapor products.
- Enact S.1531 (Hoylman-Sigal)/A.7154 (McDonald) to require healthcare providers to enter adult immunizations into the New York State Immunization Information System (NYSIIS)/Citywide Immunization Registry (CIR).
- Reform the process of Mental Health Competency Restoration by enacting S.1874 (Brouk)/A.5063 (Gunther).



Public Safety

- Support S.4560 (Martinez) / A.6290 (Jean-Pierre) to increase the statewide interoperable communications grant (SICG) and public safety answering points (PSAP) grants by \$25 million and \$30 million, respectively, to provide needed support for implementing next generation 9-1-1 (NG911) technology and providing continuity of emergency dispatching services.
- Support S.4583-A (Martinez) / A.5942-A (Jean-Pierre) to use a portion of the 9-1-1 surcharge revenue to fully fund and deploy a statewide ESInet and related infrastructure for NG911 technologies.
- Authorize law enforcement agencies to issue appearance tickets, instead of a physical arrest when adolescent offenders (AO’s) and junior offenders (JO’s) are charged with Class D felonies.
- Enact S.3352 (Skoufis) / A.5090 (Gunther) to permit sheriffs in emergency situations to place adolescent offenders in adult facilities until a bed becomes available at a secure or specialized secure detention facility.

Veterans

- Expand the definition of “veteran” to recognize the service of Reserve or National Guard service members who have completed 20 years of service by enacting S.7683 (Thomas) / A.8113 (Jean-Pierre). Those individuals should be treated as veterans and receive access to the same services as those currently designated as a veteran under state law.
- Expand the Veterans Tuition Awards Program (VTAP) to allow the transfer of unused benefits to a spouse, survivor, or child by enacting S.2119 (Bailey) / A.2154 (Dinowitz).



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