



**NYSAC**  
— NEW YORK STATE —  
ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES

# **2025 NYSAC Legislative Conference Resolutions**

**Albany County  
February 24 – February 26, 2025**

**Hon. Benjamin Boykin II, President**

**Stephen J. Acquario, Executive Director**

# NYSAC 2025 Legislative Conference Resolutions ~ Table of Contents

**NYSAC Board of Directors ..... 5**

Resolution Encouraging the Governor and the State Legislature to Increase Funding for the County Infrastructure Grants Program to a \$100 Million Annual Appropriation ..... 6

Resolution Urging New York’s Congressional Delegation to Oppose Disproportionate Federal Funding Cuts and Mitigate the SALT Deduction Cap’s Impact..... 8

Resolution Urging Governor Hochul and the New York State Legislature to Avoid Increasing Costs on Local Governments and to Adopt a State Spending Limit Comparable to Local Mandates ..... 11

**Standing Committee on Agriculture, Economic Development & Rural Affairs Resolutions ..... 13**

Resolution Urging the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation to Pause Implementation and Reverse the Freshwater Wetlands Regulations ..... 14

Resolution Urging New York State to Fund State-Mandated Agricultural District Reviews..... 16

**Standing Committee on Climate Action, Energy & Environment Resolutions ..... 18**

Resolution Urging the Enactment of the Packaging Reduction and Recycling Infrastructure Act (S.1464/A.1749) with the Addition of Printed Paper ..... 19

Resolution Calling on the Governor and Legislature to Reform E-Waste Recycling to Provide Relief to Local Governments and Protect New York’s Natural Resources ..... 21

Resolution Urging the Adoption of Smart Renewable Energy Siting Practices with Strong Local Input and Agricultural Protections..... 23

Resolution Supporting the Climate and Clean Energy Investments in the SFY 2026 Executive Budget and Urging Additional Resources for Local Climate Action..... 25

Resolution Urging the New York State Congressional Delegation to Protect Federal Infrastructure and Climate Investments that Support Local Communities ..... 27

Resolution Calling for Open Access to Community Energy Data to Support Local Climate Action and Market Innovation ..... 29

**Standing Committee on Children with Special Needs Resolutions..... 31**

Resolution Urging the Governor and State Legislature to Release the Full Outstanding Local Share of Covered Lives Reimbursement into County and City Escrow Accounts in Accordance with a Pre-Determined Payment Schedule ..... 32

Resolution Urging the New York State Department of Health to Remove the Proposed Decrease in Telehealth Service Rates and Clarify Implementation Details Regarding Early Intervention Reimbursement Changes ..... 34

**Standing Committee on Intergovernmental Relations, General Government & Public Employee Relations Resolutions ..... 36**

|  |           |
|--|-----------|
| Resolution Calling on the State of New York to Make the Department of Civil Service Authorization of the HELP Program Permanent.....   | 37        |
| Resolution Calling on the State to Increase the Salary Cap for Retired Public Employees Seeking County Employment .....  | 39        |
| Resolution Calling on the State to Increase Certain Local Government Procurement Thresholds .....  | 41        |
| <b>Standing Committee on Medicaid and Human Services Resolutions.....</b>  | <b>43</b> |
| Resolution Urging the Governor and Legislature to Become True Partners in Addressing Homelessness by Focusing on Rent Allowance and Standard of Need that Includes the Restoration of 50/50 Cost Sharing for Safety Net Programs, and Provide Actual Brick and Mortar Solutions by Making Permanent Housing the Central Focus.....                                       | 44        |
| Resolution Urging Governor Hochul and the Department of Health to Continue to Pursue a Federal 1115 Waiver to Allow Justice Involved Adults and Youth to Be Enrolled in Medicaid/CHIP 90 Days Before an Eligible Person’s Expected Release from Incarceration .....  | 47        |
| Resolution Urging Governor Hochul and the New York State Legislature to Amend the Proposed Budget to Restore Funding for the FFFS Program to the SFY 2025 Level and to Increase State Support for Code Blue by \$20 Million Above the Amount Provided in the Governor’s Proposed SFY 2026 Budget to Ensure Critical Services Can Be Provided in Code Blue Shelters ..... | 49        |
| <b>Standing Committee on Native American Affairs &amp; Gaming Resolutions .....</b>  | <b>51</b> |
| Resolution Calling on the State to Equitably Distribute Gaming Revenue to all New York Counties and to Make Whole Counties Impacted by the State’s Gaming Revenue Changes.....   | 52        |
| <b>Standing Committee on Public Health and Mental Health Resolutions .....</b>   | <b>54</b> |
| Resolution Calling for the SFY 2025-26 Enacted Budget to Include Reforms for Determining the Capacity of a Defendant to Stand Trial.....   | 55        |
| Resolution Supporting A.2128 (Rosenthal) to Strengthen Enforcement Authority and Close Statutory Loopholes for Regulation of Flavored Vapor Products.....  | 58        |
| Resolution in Support of the SFY 2026 Executive Budget Proposals to Strengthen New York State's Public Health and Behavioral Health Workforce and Urging Additional State Investment .....   | 60        |
| <b>Standing Committee on Public Safety Resolutions .....</b>   | <b>63</b> |
| Resolution in Support of S.2695-B (Harckham) / A.7086-A (Jones) to Ensure Sheriffs and Undersheriffs Continue to Have Police Officer Powers .....  | 64        |
| Resolution Encouraging Governor Kathy Hochul and the New York State Legislature to Increase the Medication-Assisted Treatment (MAT) Budget Allocation for County Jails.....  | 65        |
| 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 .....  | 66        |

Resolution Encouraging the State Legislature and Governor to Enact Technical Edits to Components of the Raise the Age Law .....69

**Standing Committee on Taxation and Finance Resolutions .....71**

Resolution Urging the Governor and Relevant State Agencies to Work with Counties to Ensure Implementation of Pending Short Term Rental Legislation Includes a Requirement for Platforms that Facilitate Short-Term Rentals Provide Information to the State and Counties in a Uniform Format that is Easily Transferable to Local Government Data System Needs ..... 72

Resolution Calling on New York’s Congressional Delegation to Preserve the Federal Tax Exemption for Municipal Bonds ..... 74

**Standing Committee on Transportation and Public Works Resolutions ..... 76**

Resolution Urging the Governor and State Lawmakers to Grant Design Build and Electronic Bidding Authority to Counties ..... 77

Resolution Urging the Governor and State Lawmakers to Add Counties as Eligible for Funding Under the New York State Touring Routes Program ..... 79



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ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES

**2025 NYSAC Legislative Conference  
Albany County**

**NYSAC Board of Directors**

**Hon. Benjamin Boykin II, President**

1 **2025 NYSAC Legislative Conference**  
2 **NYSAC Board of Directors**  
3 **Resolution #1**

4  
5 **Resolution Encouraging the Governor and the State Legislature to Increase**  
6 **Funding for the County Infrastructure Grants Program to a \$100 Million**  
7 **Annual Appropriation**  
8

9 **WHEREAS**, the SFY 25 Enacted Budget, Chapter 54 of the Laws of 2024 (S.8304-  
10 D/A.8804-D) included the creation of a new County Partnership Grants Program with  
11 an initial appropriation of \$50 million; and  
12

13 **WHEREAS**, under the leadership and guidance of Governor Kathy Hochul, Empire  
14 State Development is the state agency administering the program; and  
15

16 **WHEREAS**, late this past fall, Empire State Development (ESD) announced that  
17 counties are now eligible to apply for grant funding with eligible expenses to include  
18 construction, reconstruction, renovation, site preparedness, demolition, acquisition of  
19 real property, preparation of plans, and design and other costs thereto; and  
20

21 **WHEREAS**, the current program provides for maximum grant awards of \$1 million for  
22 projects that result in the creation of 10 or more housing units, with all other grants  
23 subject to a maximum award of \$500,000; and  
24

25 **WHEREAS**, this program currently requires a minimum county match of 50 percent  
26 for projects to be eligible for funding, placing a significant financial burden on counties,  
27 particularly those with limited budgets and high infrastructure demands; and  
28

29 **WHEREAS**, New York State counties are responsible for maintaining vital  
30 infrastructure, including roads, bridges, and public facilities, and have faced growing  
31 challenges in funding these projects due to rising costs and increased fiscal constraints;  
32 and  
33

34 **WHEREAS**, this new program has attracted enormous attention and excitement from  
35 county officials across the state; and  
36

37 **WHEREAS**, counties want to be at the forefront of helping the state achieve its  
38 economic development and housing goals; and  
39

40 **WHEREAS**, this transformational investment has the potential to redevelop some of  
41 our local communities, unlock economic competitiveness to attract new businesses, and  
42 revitalize and strengthen local employment opportunities and tax base.  
43

44 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, the New York State Association of  
45 Counties calls upon the Governor and the New York State Legislature to increase the  
46 appropriation for the County Partnerships Grants Program to a minimum of \$100  
47 million in the SFY 26 Enacted Budget; and

1 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that at the higher funding level the program should  
2 increase the maximum award to \$2 million for projects that lead to the creation of 10 or  
3 more units of housing and \$1 million for other projects, and reduce the non-ESD match  
4 to 25 percent; and

5  
6 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, the State of New York should recognize the  
7 significance and importance of this new program and the potential to usher in a new  
8 wave of economic growth across all regions of this great state; and

9  
10 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, we should celebrate and take pride in what is surely  
11 to become a model of success for the rest of this nation; and

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

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

1 **2025 NYSAC Legislative Conference**  
2 **NYSAC Board of Directors**  
3 **Resolution #2**

4  
5 **Resolution Urging New York’s Congressional Delegation to Oppose**  
6 **Disproportionate Federal Funding Cuts and Mitigate the SALT Deduction**  
7 **Cap’s Impact**  
8

9 **WHEREAS**, President Trump and congressional leaders are actively negotiating how  
10 to implement major federal funding cuts to help offset the cost of extending federal tax  
11 cuts for individuals, while also adding new tax cuts for individuals and corporations;  
12 and increasing spending for defense, border security and deportations; and

13  
14 **WHEREAS**, the cost of extending tax cuts, adding new tax cuts, and increasing  
15 spending for presidential priorities are approaching \$10 trillion over 10 years by some  
16 estimates; and

17  
18 **WHEREAS**, the goal is to reduce federal spending by up to \$2.5 trillion over 10 years,  
19 and

20  
21 **WHEREAS**, President Trump has indicated a desire to protect key programs from cuts  
22 including social security, Medicare, interest on the debt, veteran’s services, defense and  
23 border security, which comprises nearly 70 percent of all federal spending; and

24  
25 **WHEREAS**, these parameters will require a small subset of federal programs including  
26 Medicaid, child care, social services, education, surface transportation, mass transit, the  
27 federal workforce, medical research, public health, green energy programs, among other  
28 items to bear the cost reductions; and

29  
30 **WHEREAS**, many of the cuts being considered will disproportionately impact New  
31 York because the state utilizes these programs more than other states, or existing federal  
32 formulas target populations prevalent in New York in need of federally defined services  
33 such as Medicaid, Affordable Care Act (ACA) health insurance subsidies, clean energy  
34 subsidies and incentives, TANF and other social service programs; and

35  
36 **WHEREAS**, the uneven treatment of a minority of states bearing most of the federal  
37 funding cut burden extends to the current cap on federal income tax deductions related  
38 to SALT which has harmed so many New Yorkers in the past seven years taking money  
39 directly out of their pockets and local economy, and subjecting them to double taxation  
40 under the federal tax code for the first time since inception of the individual income tax  
41 over 100 years ago; and

42  
43 **WHEREAS**, the biggest vulnerability to New York are the massive cuts being  
44 considered to Medicaid and ACA health insurance subsidies which provide health  
45 coverage to nearly half of all New Yorkers and provide revenue directly to tens of  
46 thousands of health care providers and facilities across the state; and



1 **WHEREAS**, our entire nation, and New York, relies on an integrated health care  
2 system that is funded by a wide variety of sources including individual out-of-pocket  
3 pay, private group insurance, direct government spending (federal, state and local), and  
4 federal tax incentives that support private insurance; and

5  
6 **WHEREAS**, federal direct spending pays for about 40 percent of health care service  
7 delivery in the U.S. according to the Peterson Foundation and the Congressional  
8 Research Service, not including federal tax incentives of about \$380 billion annually  
9 that support the availability of private health insurance provided by most employers;  
10 and

11  
12 **WHEREAS**, because the cuts being considered are broad and deep, the lost revenue to  
13 support the overall health care system would cause health care providers of all types to  
14 limit or end services due to a lack of revenues and covered individuals; and

15  
16 **WHEREAS**, these impacts would fall on anyone seeking health care services; and

17  
18 **WHEREAS**, in New York State more than eight million people receive their health care  
19 through Medicaid, 1.5 million receive their health care through ACA health insurance  
20 subsidies and nearly 600,000 children are enrolled in CHIP; and

21  
22 **WHEREAS**, federal Medicaid and other health care program cuts being considered  
23 could exceed \$1 trillion over the next decade based on proposals currently being  
24 circulated; and

25  
26 **WHEREAS**, while federal Medicaid and ACA cuts vary widely, and can be dialed up or  
27 down, some could reduce federal Medicaid funding to New York by as much as 50  
28 percent on an annual basis; which would effectively limit health care for millions of New  
29 Yorkers and force numerous health care providers to end service delivery; and

30  
31 **WHEREAS**, the most damaging cuts to Medicaid and ACA subsidies include  
32 establishing federal per capita Medicaid spending caps, imposing Medicaid block grants,  
33 not renewing current ACA health insurance subsidies, eliminating the 50 percent federal  
34 medical assistance (FMAP) matching rate floor, and limiting or ending the use of  
35 currently allowable health care provider taxes; and

36  
37 **WHEREAS**, Congress is considering large cuts in funding for TANF which provides  
38 resources to all states to help low-income families and individuals; and

39  
40 **WHEREAS**, because New York and California receive about 40 percent of all TANF  
41 funding nationwide based on existing federal formulas, any federal cut would  
42 disproportionately impact New Yorkers; and

43  
44 **WHEREAS**, New York is a national leader in building new, and converting commercial  
45 and residential energy systems to, greener and renewable energy sources, the loss of  
46 federal tax credits and incentives being considered by repealing entire Titles of the  
47 Inflation Reduction Act, which also provides direct subsidies to commercial enterprises

1 and counties that reduce their energy and carbon emission footprint in New York State  
2 will jeopardize thousands of high-paying jobs.

3  
4 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, the New York State Association of  
5 Counties (NYSAC) calls on the New York Congressional Delegation to protect New York  
6 from the most damaging and disproportionate federal funding cuts being considered in  
7 Budget Reconciliation as described above; and

8  
9 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, NYSAC urges the Congressional Delegation to fix  
10 SALT as the President has promised; and

11  
12 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, NYSAC urges the Congressional Delegation to protect  
13 existing federal financial commitments already made to New York that support  
14 Medicaid, ACA programs, surface transportation, mass transit, income security, green  
15 energy implementation, advanced manufacturing (including semiconductor chip  
16 manufacturing) that provide direct services to millions of New Yorkers and will protect  
17 hundreds of thousands of high paying jobs; and

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

21  
22 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, the New York State Association of Counties shall  
23 forward copies of this resolution to the New York Congressional Delegation, Governor  
24 Kathy Hochul, the New York State Legislature, and all others deemed necessary and  
25 proper.

1 **2025 NYSAC Legislative Conference**  
2 **NYSAC Board of Directors**  
3 **Resolution #3**

4  
5 **Resolution Urging Governor Hochul and the New York State Legislature to**  
6 **Avoid Increasing Costs on Local Governments and to Adopt a State**  
7 **Spending Limit Comparable to Local Mandates**  
8

9 **WHEREAS**, as elected officials and leaders of New York State, it is incumbent upon us  
10 to hold ourselves to the same standards that we profess to others; and

11  
12 **WHEREAS**, this is a basic principle and an inherent element of the social contract; and

13  
14 **WHEREAS**, the New York State budget appears to have abandoned this principle by  
15 mandating counties and local governments stay within a two percent property tax cap,  
16 but often saddling counties with cost increases substantially beyond this two percent  
17 limit; and

18  
19 **WHEREAS**, up to 80 percent of a county’s total budget can be dedicated to paying for  
20 state and federal mandates; and

21  
22 **WHEREAS**, we did not just stumble into this predicament but got here through a  
23 series of cost shifts from the state to counties starting with the State and federally  
24 defined Medicaid program, Persons in Need of Supervision, indigent legal defense,  
25 preschool special education, early intervention, probation and more stemming from the  
26 1960’s through today; and

27  
28 **WHEREAS**, during the Great Recession the State reduced reimbursements to counties  
29 by nearly \$400 million annually without reducing any of the costs of state-mandated  
30 programs—and without lowering state spending on other programs; and

31  
32 **WHEREAS**, recent state budgets included a doubling of the hourly rate for 18-b  
33 attorneys leaving counties to pay half the increase at a cost of about \$90 million  
34 annually, dramatically increased foster care rates with no state funding support  
35 approaching \$200 million, and the state permanently confiscating nearly \$700 million  
36 in annual federal Medicaid eFMAP benefits linked to the Affordable Care Act that had  
37 been passed through to counties for more than a decade; and

38  
39 **WHEREAS**, the property tax cap was first implemented in response to high property  
40 taxes, which are a direct result of increases in state mandates; and

41  
42 **WHEREAS**, since 2011, New York’s budget has grown by over 80 percent, with the  
43 average annual increase in general fund spending of 7.7 percent since SFY 2020; and

44  
45 **WHEREAS**, the State Division of the Budget acknowledges in recent financial plan  
46 documents that revenues from 2024 through 2028 are expected to grow at only 3.5

1 percent per year and that state spending rate will come in higher than revenue growth;  
2 and

3  
4 **WHEREAS**, at the same time, unfunded state mandates have also grown by 37 percent  
5 since 2020 and it's important to note that when the state shifts costs to counties and  
6 localities, the true value of spending is actually hidden to taxpayers.

7  
8 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, the New York State Association of  
9 Counties (NYSAC) calls upon Governor Hochul and the New York State Legislature to  
10 regularly pass state budgets and other legislation that ensures we are truly making New  
11 York a more affordable place to live, work and raise a family; and

12  
13 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, NYSAC believes the best way to accomplish this goal  
14 is to:

- 15 • Not increase costs on local governments, or, at a minimum, limit any increase in  
16 state imposed costs on counties to no more than allowable tax cap growth;
- 17 • Require the state to stay within the same spending discipline it places on its local  
18 governments; and

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

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



**NYSAC**  
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ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES

**2025 NYSAC Legislative Conference  
Albany 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

1 **2025 NYSAC Legislative Conference**  
2 **Standing Committee on Agriculture, Economic Development & Rural**  
3 **Affairs**  
4 **Resolution #1**

5  
6 **Resolution Urging the New York State Department of Environmental**  
7 **Conservation to Pause Implementation and Reverse the Freshwater**  
8 **Wetlands Regulations**  
9

10 **WHEREAS**, the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC)  
11 has adopted significant amendments to the Freshwater Wetlands Regulations under 6  
12 NYCRR Part 664, which expands state jurisdiction over wetlands, reduces the acreage  
13 threshold for regulation, and creates new classifications such as “Wetlands of Unusual  
14 Importance;” and

15  
16 **WHEREAS**, these regulations were developed without a thorough analysis of their  
17 economic and operational impacts on counties, rural communities, and local  
18 governments, including their potential to delay or prevent essential public works  
19 projects, housing development, agricultural best-management practices, and other  
20 infrastructure improvements; and

21  
22 **WHEREAS**, the New York State Association of Counties (NYSAC) submitted a letter to  
23 the DEC highlighting objections to the proposed regulations, including concerns over  
24 increased permitting delays, additional financial burdens on homeowners and  
25 municipalities, and the undermining of recent state investments in economic  
26 development, such as the \$500 million allocated for shovel-ready sites through FAST  
27 NY and Restore New York; and

28  
29 **WHEREAS**, NYSAC further recommended pausing the implementation of these  
30 regulations for 12 months to allow for comprehensive analysis of their impacts and the  
31 formation of a working group with representatives from local governments to develop  
32 balanced and practical solutions; and

33  
34 **WHEREAS**, other stakeholders, including the New York State Economic Development  
35 Council and The Business Council of New York State raised similar concerns,  
36 emphasizing the adverse effects of these regulations on economic development, rural  
37 property values, and the timely completion of affordable housing and renewable energy  
38 projects; and

39  
40 **WHEREAS**, these changes could impose significant permitting challenges for  
41 municipalities managing critical infrastructure projects, such as water and sewer  
42 systems, and exacerbate already strained municipal budgets due to increased  
43 compliance costs and project delays; and

44  
45 **WHEREAS**, while the protection of New York’s freshwater wetlands is an essential  
46 goal, it must be balanced with the need to support local governments, economic

1 development, and affordable housing in a manner that does not disproportionately  
2 burden communities and taxpayers.

3  
4 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, NYSAC calls on the DEC to immediately  
5 reverse the proposed regulations under 6 NYCRR Part 664 and allow for a more  
6 thorough and thoughtful analysis of their potential impacts on counties, that does not  
7 usurp local land control or home rule, local governments, and economic development;  
8 and

9  
10 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that NYSAC urges the DEC to establish a  
11 collaborative working group with representatives from counties, local governments, and  
12 other key stakeholders to address concerns and identify practical solutions that protect  
13 wetlands without imposing undue burdens on communities; 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**, a copy of this resolution be sent to the Governor of  
19 the State of New York, the Commissioner of the New York State Department of  
20 Environmental Conservation, the New York State Legislature, and all others deemed  
21 necessary and proper.

1 **2025 NYSAC Legislative Conference**  
2 **Standing Committee on Agriculture, Economic Development & Rural**  
3 **Affairs**  
4 **Resolution #2**

5  
6 **Resolution Urging New York State to Fund State-Mandated Agricultural**  
7 **District Reviews**  
8

9 **WHEREAS**, the 2022 Census of Agriculture outlined a concerning trend in U.S.  
10 agriculture, including fewer farms, reduced farmland, and larger average farm sizes; and

11  
12 **WHEREAS**, New York is experiencing these challenges at an accelerated rate, with a 14  
13 percent loss in farms and a nine percent loss in farmland between 2012 and 2022; and

14  
15 **WHEREAS**, according to the USDA 2022 Census of Agriculture, since 2017, New York  
16 State of has seen a decline of 2,788 farms, including 1,865 dairy farms and 363,885 acres  
17 of farmland; and

18  
19 **WHEREAS**, while the state achieved a significant milestone of over 100,000 acres of  
20 protected farmland in 2023, more than 98 percent of New York’s farmland remains  
21 unprotected; and

22  
23 **WHEREAS**, Governor Hochul has proposed making investments to improve “tracking  
24 of lost farmland, and capacity building within New York’s network of community led  
25 land trusts to efficiently execute Environmental Bond Act dollars allocated for farmland  
26 protection;” and

27  
28 **WHEREAS**, Article 25-AA of the Agriculture & Markets (AGM) Law, enacted in 1971,  
29 empowered counties to create and maintain county agricultural districts to protect and  
30 promote the availability of land for farming purposes through county agricultural and  
31 farmland protection boards; and

32  
33 **WHEREAS**, agricultural districts are a critical tool for farmland preservation and  
34 conservation, providing benefits and protections that only apply to farming operations  
35 and land used in agricultural production; and

36  
37 **WHEREAS**, under Section 303-a of Article 25-AA, counties are required to conduct  
38 comprehensive reviews of agricultural districts every eight years, producing the state’s  
39 most detailed and accurate data about farmland conversion and agricultural viability;  
40 and

41  
42 **WHEREAS**, the requirement constitutes a vital but unfunded mandate on counties,  
43 requiring significant staff time and resources to complete detailed parcel-level analyses,  
44 conduct public hearings, provide statutorily required notifications, and prepare  
45 comprehensive reports; and



1 **WHEREAS**, accurate tracking of farmland changes through agricultural district  
2 reviews is essential for developing effective farmland protection strategies and targeting  
3 preservation efforts where they are most needed.

4  
5 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, the New York State Association of  
6 Counties (NYSAC) commends Governor Hochul for enhancing state funding for the  
7 creation and implementation of county and municipal agricultural and farmland  
8 protection plans through Part OO of the Transportation, Economic Development and  
9 Environmental Conservation (TED) Article VII legislation; and

10  
11 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, NYSAC urges the Governor and Legislature to amend  
12 TED Part OO to include funding for 100 percent of the state-mandated eight-year  
13 agricultural district reviews under AGM Article 25-AA Section 303-a; and

14  
15 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, since these eight-year agricultural district reviews are  
16 the primary mechanism by which New York State tracks farmland changes at the parcel  
17 level and evaluates the effectiveness of agricultural districts in protecting viable  
18 farmland, NYSAC believes state funding support for these reviews is critical to achieving  
19 the Governor’s goal of improved farmland tracking; and

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

23  
24 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, NYSAC shall forward copies of this resolution to  
25 Governor Kathy Hochul, the New York State Legislature, Commissioner of the  
26 Department of Agriculture and Markets, and all others deemed necessary and proper.



**NYSAC**  
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**2025 NYSAC Legislative Conference  
Albany 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 Legislative Conference**  
2 **Standing Committee on Climate Action, Energy & Environment**  
3 **Resolution #1**

4  
5 **Resolution Urging the Enactment of the Packaging Reduction and Recycling**  
6 **Infrastructure Act (S.1464/A.1749) with the Addition of Printed Paper**

7  
8 **WHEREAS**, New York State faces an imminent waste management crisis, with the  
9 state’s largest landfill set to reach capacity in 2025, remaining landfills projected to have  
10 only 16 years of capacity, and municipalities struggling to maintain recycling programs  
11 due to increasing costs; and

12  
13 **WHEREAS**, over 860,000 tons of potentially recyclable materials are trashed annually  
14 in New York State due to confusion about what is recyclable and a lack of proper  
15 infrastructure; and

16  
17 **WHEREAS**, implementing comprehensive Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR)  
18 legislation for packaging and printed paper would provide multiple benefits to  
19 municipalities and residents, including:

- 20 • Providing approximately \$300 million in annual cost relief to local governments  
21 and taxpayers;
- 22 • Creating dedicated funding for recycling infrastructure investments;
- 23 • Establishing consistent statewide standards for recyclable materials to reduce  
24 consumer confusion;
- 25 • Incentivizing producers to design packaging that is more recyclable and contains  
26 more recycled content;
- 27 • Prohibiting toxic chemicals in packaging, including PFAS, phthalates, and heavy  
28 metals;
- 29 • Boosting recycling rates from the current 18 percent to over 70 percent, as  
30 demonstrated in other jurisdictions with EPR;
- 31 • Reducing contamination in recycling streams to improve material quality and  
32 marketability; and
- 33 • Creating green jobs in collection, processing, and manufacturing with recycled  
34 materials; and

35  
36 **WHEREAS**, five states have already enacted packaging EPR laws, and such programs  
37 have been successfully implemented for decades throughout Canada and Europe,  
38 achieving recycling rates as high as 78 percent; and

39  
40 **WHEREAS**, the Packaging Reduction and Recycling Infrastructure Act (PRRIA),  
41 S.1464 (Harckham)/A.1749 (Glick), would establish an EPR program for packaging in  
42 New York State and should be expanded to include printed paper given its significant  
43 contribution to municipal recycling costs and material volume.

44  
45 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, the New York State Association of  
46 Counties (NYSAC) commends Senator Pete Harckham and Assemblymember Deborah

1 Glick for their steadfast leadership in sponsoring the Packaging Reduction and  
2 Recycling Infrastructure Act; and

3  
4 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, NYSAC urges Senator Harckham and  
5 Assemblymember Glick to amend this legislation to include printed paper in recognition  
6 of its significant contribution to greenhouse gas emissions and municipal recycling  
7 costs; and

8  
9 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, NYSAC calls on the Senate and Assembly to pass and  
10 the Governor to sign the amended PRRIA during the 2025 Legislative Session; and

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

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

1 **2025 NYSAC Legislative Conference**  
2 **Standing Committee on Climate Action, Energy & Environment**  
3 **Resolution #2**

4  
5 **Resolution Calling on the Governor and Legislature to Reform E-Waste**  
6 **Recycling to Provide Relief to Local Governments and Protect New York’s**  
7 **Natural Resources**  
8

9 **WHEREAS**, despite enactment of the 2010 Electronic Equipment Recycling and Reuse  
10 Act that intended to shift e-waste management costs from municipalities to  
11 manufacturers, local governments continue to bear significant financial and operational  
12 burdens due to insufficient manufacturer support and unstable collection infrastructure;  
13 and  
14

15 **WHEREAS**, the current e-waste program has critical systemic failures, including:

- 16 • Many collection sites becoming non-operational, leaving some areas with as few  
17 as three locations to serve hundreds of thousands of residents;
- 18 • Counties forced to either absorb substantial unbudgeted costs or suspend vital  
19 collection services;
- 20 • Manufacturers exploiting mail-back programs rather than providing convenient  
21 local collection options for large items such as televisions; and
- 22 • Inadequate oversight and enforcement of manufacturer obligations; and  
23

24 **WHEREAS**, electronic products contain toxic materials like lead, mercury, and other  
25 hazardous substances that can contaminate soil and groundwater if improperly  
26 disposed, making robust collection systems essential for protecting public health and  
27 the environment; and  
28

29 **WHEREAS**, while the Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) adopted new  
30 regulations in 2022 attempting to improve the program, these changes have not  
31 resolved the fundamental problems municipalities face in maintaining e-waste  
32 collection services; and  
33

34 **WHEREAS**, S.7941 (Harckham, 2023-24) would address these failures by requiring  
35 manufacturers to provide more convenient collection methods, clarifying manufacturer  
36 responsibility for all program costs, improving reporting requirements, and enhancing  
37 enforcement capabilities.  
38

39 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the New York State Association of  
40 Counties (NYSAC) calls upon the Governor and Legislature to:

- 41 • Provide dedicated funding to reimburse municipal e-waste management costs;
- 42 • Require manufacturers to establish and fund permanent local collection sites;
- 43 • Strengthen DEC’s enforcement authority to hold manufacturers accountable; and
- 44 • Eliminate mail-back programs from satisfying convenience standards; and

1 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that NYSAC strongly supports S.7941 (2023-24) and  
2 urges its enactment during the 2025 Legislative Session; and  
3  
4 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, copies of this resolution be sent to the counties of  
5 New York State encouraging member counties to enact similar resolutions; and  
6  
7 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that NYSAC shall forward copies of this resolution to  
8 Governor Kathy Hochul, the New York State Legislature, the Commissioner of the  
9 Department of Environmental Conservation, and all others deemed necessary and  
10 proper.

1 **2025 NYSAC Legislative Conference**  
2 **Standing Committee on Climate Action, Energy & Environment**  
3 **Resolution #3**

4  
5 **Resolution Urging the Adoption of Smart Renewable Energy Siting**  
6 **Practices with Strong Local Input and Agricultural Protections**  
7

8 **WHEREAS**, while the transition to clean energy is essential for reducing greenhouse  
9 gas emissions and meeting New York's climate goals, the siting of renewable energy  
10 facilities must be done thoughtfully to protect valuable farmland, natural resources, and  
11 community interests; and

12  
13 **WHEREAS**, local governments can provide critical insights into:

- 14 • Local agricultural resources, land use priorities, and community needs;
- 15 • Potential impacts on farming operations and food production;
- 16 • Infrastructure capacity and upgrade requirements;
- 17 • Environmental and cultural resources requiring protection; and
- 18 • Opportunities for development that benefit host communities; and

19  
20 **WHEREAS**, the Renewable Action through Project Interconnection and Deployment  
21 (RAPID) Act consolidated state control over renewable energy and transmission siting  
22 while failing to establish local governments as full partners in planning and  
23 implementation, specifically by:

- 24 • Granting ORES broad authority to override local zoning and planning regulations  
25 without meaningful justification;
- 26 • Creating an imbalanced process that prioritizes speed over thorough local review  
27 and community input; and
- 28 • Providing insufficient resources and technical assistance for municipalities to  
29 properly evaluate complex project impacts; and

30  
31 **WHEREAS**, strengthening local input, agricultural protections, and community  
32 benefits in the renewable energy and electric transmission siting process would help  
33 ensure renewable energy development proceeds in a way that maintains agricultural  
34 viability, protects environmental resources, and builds public support for clean energy  
35 projects.

36  
37 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, NYSAC calls on the Governor, the  
38 Legislature, and the Department of Public Service (DPS) to strengthen local control and  
39 participation in the clean energy and electric transmission siting process by:

- 40 • Requiring early and meaningful engagement with local communities through  
41 inclusive processes that offer opportunities for dialogue, negotiation, and  
42 community input;
- 43 • Limiting ORES's authority to preempt local laws by requiring a higher burden of  
44 proof to justify overriding local zoning and planning regulations and by  
45 narrowing the definition of "unreasonably burdensome;"

- 1 • Ensuring that municipalities have adequate time, resources, and funding to  
2 assess the potential impacts of proposed facilities and prepare comprehensive  
3 compliance statements;
- 4 • Increasing funding for grants and technical assistance programs that support  
5 local climate action and energy planning; and
- 6 • Mandating that utilities actively engage with local governments as full partners in  
7 planning, developing, and implementing distribution system upgrades and clean  
8 energy integration projects; and

9  
10 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that Governor Hochul, New York State Legislature,  
11 and DPS agree to enhance agricultural and environmental protections by:

- 12 • Requiring all applicants for major renewable energy facility siting permits to  
13 submit a completed smart solar siting scorecard as part of their application to  
14 ensure consideration of agricultural, environmental, and community impacts;
- 15 • Broadening the definition of agrivoltaics so it is not limited to grazing but  
16 includes a wider range of agricultural activities, such as crop production and  
17 other forms of dual land use;
- 18 • Requiring the integration of pollinator-friendly vegetation varieties into project  
19 designs, rather than only traditional lawn cover, to enhance biodiversity and  
20 ecosystem services;
- 21 • Ensuring that mitigation payments for unavoidable impacts to agricultural land  
22 are disbursed expeditiously to provide timely assistance for local agricultural and  
23 farmland protection efforts;
- 24 • Providing for the appointment of an independent and qualified agricultural  
25 monitor with an understanding of agricultural practices to oversee construction,  
26 restoration, and follow-up monitoring for projects impacting agricultural land;  
27 and
- 28 • Reinstate and reinforce the role of the Department of Agriculture and Markets in  
29 overseeing the development of renewable energy and transmission projects, as  
30 was the case under Article 10; and
- 31 • Requiring detailed decommissioning and site restoration plans that provide  
32 sufficient financial security for all decommissioning costs and ensure impacted  
33 agricultural land can return to its original state prior to construction; and

34  
35 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the State should enact legislation establishing an  
36 extended producer responsibility program for solar and wind equipment to ensure  
37 responsible end-of-life management; and

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

41  
42 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that copies of this resolution be transmitted to  
43 Governor Kathy Hochul, the New York State Senate and Assembly, the Chair of the  
44 Department of Public Service, the Executive Director of the Office of Renewable Energy  
45 Siting, the Commissioner of New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets,  
46 and all others deemed necessary and proper.



1 **2025 NYSAC Legislative Conference**  
2 **Standing Committee on Climate Action, Energy & Environment**  
3 **Resolution #4**

4  
5 **Resolution Supporting the Climate and Clean Energy Investments in the**  
6 **SFY 2026 Executive Budget and Urging Additional Resources for Local**  
7 **Climate Action**  
8

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

13 **WHEREAS**, the State Fiscal Year (SFY) 2026 Executive Budget includes several major  
14 investments in advancing the CLCPA goals, including the New York Opportunity  
15 Promise Scholarship Program and Sustainable Future Program; and  
16

17 **WHEREAS**, the proposed New York Opportunity Promise Scholarship would provide  
18 funding for community college students ages 25-55 pursuing associate's degrees in high-  
19 demand fields, including green and renewable energy and other clean technology  
20 sectors; and  
21

22 **WHEREAS**, supporting workforce development in clean energy fields is critical to  
23 achieving the State's climate goals while creating economic opportunities for New  
24 Yorkers; and  
25

26 **WHEREAS**, the Executive Budget includes \$1 billion for the new Sustainable Future  
27 Program to support climate mitigation and adaptation projects, including reducing  
28 greenhouse gas emissions, decarbonizing buildings, creating renewable energy  
29 infrastructure, and advancing clean transportation initiatives; and  
30

31 **WHEREAS**, counties are on the frontlines of implementing climate solutions but often  
32 lack sufficient resources and technical assistance to fully support these efforts; and  
33

34 **WHEREAS**, many low- and moderate-income (LMI) households are unable to  
35 participate in energy efficiency and electrification programs because they cannot afford  
36 necessary pre-weatherization improvements like roof repairs and mold remediation;  
37 and  
38

39 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the New York State Association of  
40 Counties (NYSAC) supports the inclusion of green and renewable energy, advanced  
41 manufacturing, and other clean technology fields as eligible areas of study under the  
42 New York Opportunity Promise Scholarship program, and specifically recommends that  
43 Building Performance Institute certification courses and courses for certification to  
44 install zero-emissions building technologies be included in this program, among other  
45 green job fields; and

1 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that NYSAC urges the Governor and Legislature to  
2 dedicate a portion of the Sustainable Future Program funding specifically to support  
3 local government climate initiatives, including expanded funding for successful  
4 programs like Climate Smart Communities and Clean Energy Communities; enhanced  
5 technical assistance and training; support for regional sustainability coordinators and  
6 clean energy hubs; grants for geothermal district heating and cooling systems; and  
7 increased funding for programs that help municipalities divert organic waste from  
8 landfills and incinerators; and

9  
10 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that NYSAC calls on the Governor and Legislature to  
11 provide funding for pre-weatherization improvements that are necessary before homes  
12 can receive energy efficiency upgrades and electrification through programs like  
13 EmPower+; and

14  
15 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that NYSAC supports allocating state funding to  
16 replace any reduced federal incentives for residential heat pumps and other clean energy  
17 technologies for LMI households; and

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

21  
22 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that NYSAC shall forward copies of this resolution to  
23 Governor Kathy Hochul, the New York State Legislature, the Public Service  
24 Commission, and all others deemed necessary and proper.

1 **2025 NYSAC Legislative Conference**  
2 **Standing Committee on Climate Action, Energy & Environment**  
3 **Resolution #5**

4  
5 **Resolution Urging the New York State Congressional Delegation to Protect**  
6 **Federal Infrastructure and Climate Investments that Support Local**  
7 **Communities**  
8

9 **WHEREAS**, the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) and Inflation  
10 Reduction Act (IRA) represent historic federal investments in infrastructure, clean  
11 energy, and climate resilience that are delivering significant benefits to New York's  
12 counties and communities; and

13  
14 **WHEREAS**, New York State has received over \$28.8 billion in IIJA funding, including  
15 \$22.6 billion for transportation, \$2.1 billion for water infrastructure, \$1.8 billion for  
16 broadband, \$764 million for clean energy, \$592 million for resilience, and \$189 million  
17 for remediation; and

18  
19 **WHEREAS**, New York State has also received over \$1.5 billion in IRA funding to  
20 support clean energy deployment, building electrification, climate-smart agriculture,  
21 and other initiatives that advance state and local climate goals; and

22  
23 **WHEREAS**, these federal investments are supporting critical local projects, including  
24 road and bridge repairs, public transit improvements, lead service line replacements,  
25 stormwater management, coastal resilience and habitat restoration, and low-carbon  
26 building retrofits; and

27  
28 **WHEREAS**, these programs are creating family-sustaining jobs, spurring private  
29 investment, strengthening supply chains, improving public health and safety, and  
30 helping communities become more resilient; and

31  
32 **WHEREAS**, the IRA established an innovative “direct pay” option that allows counties,  
33 local governments, and other tax-exempt entities to directly access clean energy tax  
34 incentives that were previously only available to tax-paying entities, enabling county  
35 and local governments to pursue renewable energy, geothermal, and battery storage  
36 projects, convert vehicle fleets to zero-emission vehicles, and install electric vehicle  
37 charging infrastructure, reducing costs of projects to local taxpayers by 30-40 percent;  
38 and

39  
40 **WHEREAS**, any disruption or reduction in this federal funding would significantly  
41 impact counties' ability to deliver essential services and meet local infrastructure and  
42 climate needs.

43  
44 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, the New York State Association of  
45 Counties (NYSAC) urges the New York State Congressional delegation to protect IIJA  
46 and IRA funding that supports vital local infrastructure and clean energy projects; and

1 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that NYSAC calls on Congress to ensure federal  
2 agencies can continue disbursing already-committed funding to avoid disrupting  
3 ongoing projects and creating uncertainty; and  
4  
5 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, NYSAC supports maintaining and strengthening  
6 federal programs that help counties improve infrastructure, expand clean energy, create  
7 jobs, and build more resilient communities; and  
8  
9 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, NYSAC opposes any legislative efforts to repeal or  
10 reduce funding for IIJA and IRA programs that provide critical support to New York’s  
11 counties and municipalities; 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 Senate Majority Leader Charles Schumer, Senator Kirsten Gillibrand, the New York  
18 House Delegation, and all others deemed necessary and proper.

1 **2025 NYSAC Legislative Conference**  
2 **Standing Committee on Climate Action, Energy & Environment**  
3 **Resolution #6**

4  
5 **Resolution Calling for Open Access to Community Energy Data to Support**  
6 **Local Climate Action and Market Innovation**

7  
8 **WHEREAS**, the Climate Action Council’s Final Scoping Plan calls for developing a  
9 statewide dashboard of community greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions inventories to  
10 promote local climate action planning, monitor equity considerations, measure  
11 progress, and ensure data consistency at the county and municipal levels; and

12  
13 **WHEREAS**, utility data on energy use and consumption within municipal boundaries,  
14 presented in aggregated and anonymized form, is critical for local climate action  
15 planning and greenhouse gas inventories; and

16  
17 **WHEREAS**, the Public Service Commission (PSC) established the Integrated Energy  
18 Data Resource (IEDR) program to provide public access to aggregated and anonymized  
19 energy-related information from regulated utilities on a statewide data platform; and

20  
21 **WHEREAS**, the IEDR, as an open-source platform, was intended to empower the  
22 market by facilitating broad access to data that could be used by local and county  
23 governments, universities, businesses, policymakers, students, and other stakeholders  
24 to develop innovative studies, tools, applications, and research tracking energy use and  
25 consumption, GHG emissions, and adoption of clean energy technologies; and

26  
27 **WHEREAS**, the Public Service Commission has recently moved to vest ownership of  
28 this platform in a private equity contractor, with privileged rights to data and public  
29 funding to build and own all use cases it serves; and

30  
31 **WHEREAS**, this structure prevents local governments and other stakeholders from  
32 accessing the same data to develop open-source products and tools that can be used to  
33 benefit communities and advance local climate goals; and

34  
35 **WHEREAS**, requiring communities to pay a private company for access to public  
36 energy data does not serve the public interest, creates an unnecessary barrier to climate  
37 action, and stifles innovation.

38  
39 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the New York State Association of  
40 Counties (NYSAC) calls on the Public Service Commission to restructure the IEDR  
41 program to ensure broad, non-discriminatory access to anonymized energy data; and

42  
43 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that NYSAC opposes granting any private entity  
44 exclusive intellectual property rights over public energy data and analytics that should  
45 be accessible to advance local climate initiatives and foster market innovation; and

1 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that NYSAC urges the State to invest in technical  
2 assistance and support to help local governments effectively utilize energy data for  
3 climate planning, consistent with the Scoping Plan, rather than restricting data access  
4 through exclusive private control; and

5  
6 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, copies of this resolution be sent to the counties of  
7 New York State 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, the Chair and CEO of the PSC,  
11 and all others deemed necessary and proper.



# NYSAC<sup>®</sup>

— NEW YORK STATE —  
ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES

## **2025 NYSAC Legislative Conference Albany 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

1 **2025 NYSAC Legislative Conference**  
2 **Standing Committee on Children with Special Needs**  
3 **Resolution #1**

4  
5 **Resolution Urging the Governor and State Legislature to Release the Full**  
6 **Outstanding Local Share of Covered Lives Reimbursement into County and**  
7 **City Escrow Accounts in Accordance with a Pre-Determined Payment**  
8 **Schedule**  
9

10 **WHEREAS**, Chapter 820 of the Laws of 2021 as set forth in A.5339/S.5560-A,  
11 established an Early Intervention Program (EIP) covered lives pool funded by an  
12 assessment of insurance plans; and

13  
14 **WHEREAS**, this legislation, intended to assure a reliable \$40M revenue stream for  
15 New York's EIP, went into effect on January 1, 2022; and

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

22  
23 **WHEREAS**, before the covered lives assessment pool went into effect, Early  
24 Intervention (EI) service claims were paid through three revenue streams - either  
25 commercial insurance, Medicaid, or out of escrow, depending on the child receiving the  
26 service's insurance coverage; and

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

32  
33 **WHEREAS**, municipalities are receiving Medicaid denials for coordination of benefits  
34 since commercial insurance is no longer being billed; and

35  
36 **WHEREAS**, since taking effect, providers are no longer billing commercial insurance  
37 for services provided; and

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

42  
43 **WHEREAS**, while the statute clearly defines a \$40M covered lives assessment and  
44 with the 49 percent state share equating to about \$20M for the state and \$20M for  
45 counties, only \$15M per year has been distributed to municipalities/counties; and



1 **WHEREAS**, counties are still owed \$5M from FY 2022; \$5M from FY 2023, and \$5M  
2 from FY 2024 in reimbursement (\$15M total statewide), reimbursement of which is  
3 being held by the State Division of Budget for reasons unclear to counties; and  
4

5 **WHEREAS**, counties must receive an official payment schedule outlining when the  
6 State Division of Budget is expected to release annual covered lives pool funds for the  
7 calendar year which will help municipalities with budgeting and cash flow; and  
8

9 **WHEREAS**, the unexpected delay and shortage in distributing these funds to counties  
10 has caused increases in their upfront escrow costs, and these challenges have been  
11 exacerbated due to the rollout of the EI-Hub and anticipated provider rate increases.  
12

13 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, the New York State Association of  
14 Counties (NYSAC) calls upon the Governor and the New York State Legislature to take  
15 measures to expedite the release of the covered lives assessment pool funds still owed to  
16 counties retroactively to January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2022 when the legislation went into effect, totaling  
17 \$15 million (\$5 million per year between FY 2022 and FY 2024); and  
18

19 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, the State continues its financial commitment to the  
20 Early Intervention Program, rather than chipping away at its resources, which benefits  
21 children with developmental delays and disabilities, being a shared cost between the  
22 State and municipalities/counties; and  
23

24 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, the State provides an analysis to counties to  
25 determine if the current allocation is sufficient to cover costs no longer reimbursed by  
26 commercial insurance and Medicaid due to coordination of benefits denials; and  
27

28 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, the New York State Department of Health, Bureau of  
29 Early Intervention, and New York State Division of the Budget provide  
30 municipalities/counties with clear guidance and a payment schedule detailing how the  
31 State plans to issue payments, including information regarding if the adjudication and  
32 reconciliation of payments will occur at a county level or a child/claim level; and  
33

34 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, the New York State Department of Health, Bureau of  
35 Early Intervention consider amending county escrow agreements to change the payment  
36 process, so the State provides counties with their covered lives assessment pool share on  
37 a quarterly basis; and  
38

39 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, copies of this resolution be sent to the counties of  
40 New York encouraging member counties to enact similar resolutions; and  
41

42 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, 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 Legislative Conference**  
2 **Standing Committee on Children with Special Needs**  
3 **Resolution #2**

4  
5 **Resolution Urging the New York State Department of Health to Remove the**  
6 **Proposed Decrease in Telehealth Service Rates and Clarify Implementation**  
7 **Details Regarding Early Intervention Reimbursement Changes**  
8

9 **WHEREAS**, on December 31, 2024, the New York State Department of Health  
10 (NYSDOH) submitted a State Plan Amendment (SPA) to modify Early Intervention fee-  
11 for-service reimbursement rates; and

12  
13 **WHEREAS**, while the SPA includes a 5 percent rate increase for in-person services, it  
14 also proposes a reduction in reimbursement rates for telehealth services, with regional  
15 decreases of 22 percent for New York City, Westchester, Poughkeepsie, and Long Island,  
16 and a 10 percent reduction for the rest of the state; and

17  
18 **WHEREAS**, these reductions would disproportionately impact families relying on  
19 telehealth services for early intervention care and would further exacerbate existing  
20 provider shortages by making telehealth services less financially viable, leading to some  
21 providers ceasing Early Intervention (EI) services in certain counties; and

22  
23 **WHEREAS**, the proposed SPA does not provide sufficient clarity on how these  
24 reductions were calculated, raising concerns about transparency and fairness; and

25  
26 **WHEREAS**, the SPA did not include the 4 percent rate increase for rural and  
27 underserved areas agreed upon in the 2024-25 budget, and further clarification is  
28 needed on whether NYSDOH plans to submit an additional SPA to ensure the increase  
29 is effective by April 1, 2025; and

30  
31 **WHEREAS**, it is essential for counties to receive a minimum of three months' notice to  
32 prepare for any reimbursement rate changes and a clearly defined reconciliation process  
33 for retroactive implementation to ensure proper local spending accountability.

34  
35 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, the New York State Association of  
36 Counties urges the New York State Department of Health to not decrease telehealth  
37 service rates to allow for further clarification and reexamination of this proposal; and

38  
39 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that NYSDOH provide a minimum of three months'  
40 notice prior to any reimbursement rate changes to ensure counties can adequately  
41 prepare; and

42  
43 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that NYSDOH clarify the timeline and  
44 implementation plan for the 4 percent rate modifier for rural and underserved areas,  
45 including a full breakdown of projected funding and the zip codes expected to be  
46 included in the rollout; and

1 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that NYSDOH clearly define a reconciliation process  
2 for retroactive rate changes and clarify the planned implementation of changes to group  
3 service billing; and  
4  
5 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, NYSDOH clarify which in-person services the new  
6 rates apply to and provide a full-service schedule for the rate increases; and  
7  
8 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, copies of this resolution be sent to the counties of  
9 New York encouraging member counties to enact similar resolutions; and  
10  
11 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, the New York State Association of Counties shall  
12 forward copies of this resolution to Governor Kathy Hochul, the New York State  
13 Legislature, and all others deemed necessary and proper.



**NYSAC**  
— NEW YORK STATE —  
ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES

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

5  
6 **Resolution Calling on the State of New York to Make the Department of**  
7 **Civil Service Authorization of the HELP Program Permanent**  
8

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

13  
14 **WHEREAS**, this authority allowed for more immediate hires of State public service  
15 employees; and

16  
17 **WHEREAS**, in 2024, a similar authority was granted to local governments by the NYS  
18 Department of Civil Service; and

19  
20 **WHEREAS**, the local HELP Program is now available to local governments, and this  
21 has been very beneficial to hire needed public service providers; and

22  
23 **WHEREAS**, the local government program differs from the State's HELPS program in  
24 that State Civil Service requires municipalities and counties to submit and receive  
25 specific title approval from State Civil Service whereas State agencies can use this  
26 program at their discretion; and

27  
28 **WHEREAS**, this difference causes unnecessary hiring delays and confusion as a job  
29 title may be approved in one county and not another; and

30  
31 **WHEREAS**, county governments across the State continue to face unprecedented  
32 recruitment challenges that began during COVID; and

33  
34 **WHEREAS**, these public sector recruitment challenges have created a crisis on the  
35 local government level; and

36  
37 **WHEREAS**, providing local public services at a high level can always be a challenge for  
38 local governments to staff, but in the last few years, it has become nearly impossible;  
39 and

40  
41 **WHEREAS**, new challenges, including inflation, working from home, and large-scale  
42 retirement, have forced county governments into a situation where they cannot adapt  
43 fast enough to compete with the private sector to hire quality candidates promptly; and

44  
45 **WHEREAS**, while this system has been extremely beneficial, there is concern that the  
46 HELP program is temporary, and this uncertainty about future use makes local  
47 planning for hiring more difficult.

1 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, the New York State Association of  
2 Counties (NYSAC) calls on the State of New York to, in a manner the Commission  
3 deems consistent with Civil Service Law, immediately allow any title approved by the  
4 State Civil Service Commission within any civil service jurisdiction under the HELP  
5 program to thereby authorize any other municipal jurisdiction to hire that title without  
6 examination, so long as at the time of the appointment there is not a mandatory civil  
7 service list for that jurisdiction for that title; and  
8

9 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, for the State of New York to codify and make  
10 permanent under law and/or State Constitutional amendment, the HELP program to  
11 ensure proper essential staffing levels are met on a local government level; 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**, NYSAC shall forward copies of this resolution to  
17 Governor Kathy Hochul, the New York State Legislature, and all others deemed  
18 necessary and proper.

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

5  
6 **Resolution Calling on the State to Increase the Salary Cap for Retired Public**  
7 **Employees Seeking County Employment**  
8

9 **WHEREAS**, under current state law a retired public employee may only earn up to  
10 \$35,000 annually if retained/rehired to a state or local government position without  
11 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**, the \$35,000 cap was set in 2019, with the intent of minimizing misuse in  
17 hiring practices, while at the same time providing enough incentive for employees with  
18 broad experience and institutional knowledge to be retained in a government service  
19 capacity; and  
20

21 **WHEREAS**, this cap has been adjusted just once since 2007 at a rate of \$5,000 and  
22 this increase has eroded in value due to inflation over this time; and  
23

24 **WHEREAS**, the ability to hire enough qualified public employees on the State and  
25 county level to perform our residents' needed services has reached crisis level; and  
26

27 **WHEREAS**, this hiring crisis during COVID resulted in an Executive Order action  
28 allowing for the removal of the \$35,000 cap to help ease this issue, unfortunately, this  
29 was a limited allowance, and the Executive Order expired in 2023; and  
30

31 **WHEREAS**, New York counties have unique challenges when hiring for certain skilled  
32 or knowledge-based positions due to each county having different populations,  
33 economics, and demographics including but not limited to retired corrections deputy  
34 sheriffs, school resource officers, public health nurses, registered nurses, caseworkers,  
35 mental health professionals, and other critical positions; and  
36

37 **WHEREAS**, county governments are being asked to provide more services with less  
38 funding, a goal that becomes more difficult when those who best understand local  
39 government service needs are retiring and their continued connection to public service  
40 in a limited fashion is being deterred by state policies; and  
41

42 **WHEREAS**, in 2024 a bill was introduced (S.3144D, Mannion/ A.6419-B Stirpe) that  
43 recognizes adjusting this cap to \$50,000 will provide the State and the local  
44 governments more hiring options when they seek to fill a position that requires unique  
45 skill sets, government experience, and, in some cases, reduces health insurance costs as  
46 the person is already retired, and

1 **WHEREAS**, this bill passed unanimously in the Senate but did not make it to a floor  
2 vote in the Assembly.

3  
4 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, the New York State Association of  
5 Counties (NYSAC) hereby calls on the Governor and the legislature to enact legislation  
6 supporting an increase in this earnings rate as part of their 2025-2026 state budget  
7 negotiations; and

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

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



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

5  
6 **Resolution Calling on the State to Increase Certain Local Government**  
7 **Procurement Thresholds**  
8

9 **WHEREAS**, NYS General Municipal Law (GML) Section 103(16), commonly referred  
10 to as the "Piggyback Law," authorizes local governments to piggyback on competitively  
11 awarded contracts for public works, provided the contract value does not exceed \$1  
12 million; and

13  
14 **WHEREAS**, NYS local governments and schools have used this type of purchasing  
15 option for years in order to streamline the projects, save taxpayer dollars, and create  
16 efficiencies; and

17  
18 **WHEREAS**, GML 103(16) allows local governments to make purchases and contract  
19 for services related to the installation, maintenance, or repair of apparatus, materials,  
20 equipment, and supplies through cooperative purchasing agreements; however, the  
21 statute is silent on whether public works projects may be procured through  
22 piggybacking; and

23  
24 **WHEREAS**, the Office of the State Comptroller (OSC) has previously indicated  
25 informally that certain public works projects may be able to be piggybacked under GML  
26 103(16) on a case-by-case basis, particularly when the project involves a combination of  
27 materials procurement and installation services; and

28  
29 **WHEREAS**, a recent court decision (Daniel J. Lynch, Inc. v. Maine-Endwell School  
30 District) ruled that GML 103(16) does not authorize piggybacking for public works,  
31 resulting in the immediate need for legislative clarification; and

32  
33 **WHEREAS**, GML 103(3) already permits local governments to piggyback on county-  
34 awarded public works contracts, provided that the contracts comply with Article 8 of the  
35 NYS Labor Law (prevailing wage requirements), therefore extending this authority to  
36 GML 103(16) would align state law with existing procurement practices and provide  
37 local governments with a legally sound, cost-effective alternative for procuring smaller-  
38 scale public works projects; and

39  
40 **WHEREAS**, GML 103 regarding public works projects and commodity purchases must  
41 also be amended to increase the bidding threshold to keep up with inflation; and

42  
43 **WHEREAS**, this threshold is outdated, placed on local governments and schools over  
44 50 years ago at \$35,000 on public works projects and at \$20,000 for commodity  
45 purchases; and

1 **WHEREAS**, this outdated threshold places an undue burden on local government and  
2 is not in keeping with the spirit of the original law when considering inflationary values.

3  
4 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, the New York State Association of  
5 Counties (NYSAC) hereby calls on the Governor and the State Legislature to enact  
6 legislation increasing the local government bidding thresholds on public works and  
7 commodities to be in keeping with adjusted inflationary values; and  
8

9 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, the New York State Association of Counties (NYSAC)  
10 hereby calls on the Governor and the State Legislature to enact legislation clarifying that  
11 public works projects may be able to be piggybacked under GML 103(16); and  
12

13 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, copies of this resolution be sent to the counties of  
14 New York encouraging member counties to enact similar resolutions; and  
15

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



**NYSAC**  
— NEW YORK STATE —  
ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES

**2025 NYSAC Legislative Conference  
Albany 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 Legislative Conference**  
2 **Standing Committee on Medicaid and Human Services**  
3 **Resolution #1**

4  
5 **Resolution Urging the Governor and Legislature to Become True Partners**  
6 **in Addressing Homelessness by Focusing on Rent Allowance and Standard**  
7 **of Need that Includes the Restoration of 50/50 Cost Sharing for Safety Net**  
8 **Programs, and Provide Actual Brick and Mortar Solutions by Making**  
9 **Permanent Housing the Central Focus**

10  
11 **WHEREAS**, homelessness and housing affordability continue to be major concerns  
12 across the state; and

13  
14 **WHEREAS**, the COVID-19 pandemic made the situation worse through increased  
15 rental rates, decreased housing supply and an increased reliance on temporary housing  
16 assistance provided in shelters and motels; and

17  
18 **WHEREAS**, Governor Hochul and the Legislature indicate they want to prioritize  
19 housing affordability and availability; and

20  
21 **WHEREAS**, while the influx of migrant asylum seekers since the Spring of 2022 has  
22 slowed dramatically it is estimated that close to 150,000 are present in communities  
23 across the state, adding more strain to an already overburden statewide shelter system;  
24 and

25  
26 **WHEREAS**, many areas of the state are seeing increases in homelessness even without  
27 the addition of asylum seekers due to shortages in affordable housing, increases in  
28 evictions, and fewer landlords willing to rent their properties to the clientele local social  
29 service districts serve; and

30  
31 **WHEREAS**, according to some data sources, New York State has the highest  
32 homelessness rate in the country per 10,000 people at 53; and

33  
34 **WHEREAS**, the state's unprecedented reduction in fiscal support implemented over a  
35 decade ago when the state reduced its Safety Net program support from 50 percent to 29  
36 percent has made the situation worse; and

37  
38 **WHEREAS**, with the exception of homeless veterans', federal support in this area has  
39 been relatively flat in nominal dollars and declined sharply in housing cost adjusted  
40 dollars; and

41  
42 **WHEREAS**, shelter allowances provided by the state are so low today that homeless  
43 clients cannot compete in the current housing market; and

44  
45 **WHEREAS**, the net effect of low shelter rates for individuals and families that have  
46 been displaced and are residing in temporary housing is that current shelter allowances  
47 serve as a barrier to moving to permanent housing; and

1 **WHEREAS**, the homeless population is facing new problems as the needs of families  
2 have become more complicated; and  
3  
4 **WHEREAS**, regardless of family size and demographics, many of those facing  
5 homelessness or seeking emergency shelter can have challenging medical needs, mental  
6 health and substance abuse issues, some are registered sex offenders, and still others are  
7 state prison parolees or on probation; with some facing several of these challenges at the  
8 same time; and  
9  
10 **WHEREAS**, the state requires counties to fund 71 percent of costs for Safety Net  
11 individuals and 100 percent of the costs of administering these programs; and  
12  
13 **WHEREAS**, local social service districts focus scarce resources on achieving  
14 permanent housing, preventing homelessness and providing temporary placement; and  
15  
16 **WHEREAS**, counties maintain that preventing homelessness in the first instance is the  
17 best way to keep families safe and secure; and  
18  
19 **WHEREAS**, counties maintain that while it is important to provide help in a crisis, it is  
20 better policy to maintain stability and prevent emergencies by providing sufficient  
21 resources up front.  
22  
23 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, the New York State Association of  
24 Counties (NYSAC) calls on the Governor and State Legislature to prioritize permanency  
25 in housing and to update rental allowances and the standard of need, which have not  
26 been properly updated in decades to fully address the dramatic growth in housing,  
27 energy, and food costs; and  
28  
29 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, as part of the effort, the State must restore the Safety  
30 Net state share to 50 percent; and  
31  
32 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, counties need brick and mortar solutions to existing  
33 housing problems and encourage Governor Hochul and the State Legislature to increase  
34 state funding support to achieve these ends; and  
35  
36 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, the State should coordinate a timely transition to  
37 supportive housing for the highest need individuals with mental health and substance  
38 abuse issues in collaboration with OTDA, other state agencies, and local social services  
39 districts; especially those that have been repeatedly homeless and in need of supportive  
40 placements overseen by OMH, OASAS, OPWDD and DOCCS; and  
41  
42 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, the State should work with counties in developing a  
43 public education campaign to ensure people better understand the plight of families and  
44 individuals struggling with homelessness and how everyone can benefit by helping them  
45 achieve stable housing in our communities; and

1 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, counties seek the support of state officials to  
2 encourage New York’s congressional delegation to increase national funding for the  
3 Community Mental Health Services Block Grant by \$1 billion annually and target the  
4 increase to ensure mental health and substance abuse services are available for  
5 homeless families and individuals, and to help prevent homelessness in the first  
6 instance; and

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

10  
11 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, NYSAC shall forward copies of this resolution to  
12 Governor Kathy Hochul, New York State Legislature, New York’s Congressional  
13 Delegation, Office for Temporary Disability Assistance, Office of Mental Health, Office  
14 of Addiction Services and Supports, and all others deemed necessary and proper.

1 **NYSAC 2025 Legislative Conference**  
2 **Standing Committee on Medicaid and Human Services**  
3 **Resolution #2**

4  
5 **Resolution Urging Governor Hochul and the Department of Health to**  
6 **Continue to Pursue a Federal 1115 Waiver to Allow Justice Involved Adults**  
7 **and Youth to Be Enrolled in Medicaid/CHIP 90 Days Before an Eligible**  
8 **Person’s Expected Release from Incarceration**  
9

10 **WHEREAS**, New York state included provisions in a recent 1115 Medicaid  
11 demonstration waiver that would allow justice involved adults and youth to be enrolled  
12 in Medicaid/CHIP up to 90 days prior to their release from incarceration; and

13  
14 **WHEREAS**, while many components of the broader 1115 waiver were approved by the  
15 federal government, the component for incarcerated individuals was not approved; and

16  
17 **WHEREAS**, incarcerated individuals often live with higher rates of substance use  
18 disorders (SUDs), chronic physical health conditions, poor health care coordination,  
19 and other health concerns can realize improved treatment outcomes if formal treatment  
20 and coordination occur prior to their release; and

21  
22 **WHEREAS**, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) has approved 19  
23 state Medicaid waivers as of January 15, 2025, to support prisoner re-entry and another  
24 seven states have waivers pending; and

25  
26 **WHEREAS**, access to these services in advance of release can help:

- 27 • transitions into the community;
- 28 • coordination and communication among correctional facilities, Medicaid  
29 programs and CHIPs, as well as managed care plans, and community-based  
30 providers;
- 31 • enhance connections between carceral settings and community services to  
32 address physical health, behavioral health, and health-related social needs;
- 33 • improve interventions for certain behavioral health conditions and increased use  
34 of stabilizing medications like long-acting, injectable anti-psychotics and  
35 medications targeting SUDs, with the goal of reducing decompensation, suicide-  
36 related deaths, overdoses, and overdose-related deaths in the near-term post-  
37 release; and
- 38 • reduce unnecessary emergency department visits, inpatient hospitalizations, and  
39 all-cause deaths among recently incarcerated people with Medicaid and  
40 individuals otherwise eligible for CHIP if not for their incarceration status; and

41  
42 **WHEREAS**, the New York State Association of Counties (NYSAC) strongly believes  
43 that approval of an 1115 Medicaid waiver that assists high-risk incarcerated individuals,  
44 including those held in county jails, to be enrolled in Medicaid/CHIP prior to their  
45 release is a necessary step to improve health outcomes for these individuals, will save  
46 lives by preventing overdose deaths, improve public safety and reduce recidivism.

1 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, NYSAC strongly encourages Governor  
2 Hochul and the Department of Health to continue negotiations on a federal 1115  
3 Medicaid demonstration waiver allowing Medicaid/CHIP coverage for incarcerated  
4 individuals prior to their release, including those held in county jails, or alternatively  
5 allow for Essential Plan Coverage for this population if they are not Medicaid eligible;  
6 and

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

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



1 **NYSAC 2025 Legislative Conference**  
2 **Standing Committee on Medicaid and Human Services**  
3 **Resolution #3**

4  
5 **Resolution Urging Governor Hochul and the New York State Legislature to**  
6 **Amend the Proposed Budget to Restore Funding for the FFFS Program to**  
7 **the SFY 2025 Level and to Increase State Support for Code Blue by \$20**  
8 **Million Above the Amount Provided in the Governor’s Proposed SFY 2026**  
9 **Budget to Ensure Critical Services Can Be Provided in Code Blue Shelters**

10  
11 **WHEREAS**, over the last 15 years the state has devolved away from its historic and  
12 constitutional responsibilities of providing social services and support for low-income  
13 families and children, as demonstrated through significant reductions in state financial  
14 support for these programs, thereby shifting state costs and responsibilities to counties  
15 and New York City; and

16  
17 **WHEREAS**, the SFY 2025 adopted budget continued the trend of shifting social  
18 services costs to counties and New York City by requiring additional local spending of  
19 \$75 million for child welfare services within the capped Flexible Fund for Family  
20 Services (FFFS) which is already underfunded; and

21  
22 **WHEREAS**, the SFY 2025 budget partially offset increased costs for counties with  
23 temporary federal funding of \$50 million that was not continued in SFY 2026 even  
24 though the need has not changed, which will force higher costs on county taxpayers on a  
25 recurring basis; and

26  
27 **WHEREAS**, counties are pleased the SFY 2026 Proposed Budget includes \$20 million  
28 to assist counties with Code Blue costs; and

29  
30 **WHEREAS**, these resources are welcomed, but counties are in dire need of additional  
31 state support to not only cover the brick-and-mortar side of emergency shelter care but  
32 to also provide state funding to support robust service delivery in these settings as well.

33  
34 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, the New York State Association of  
35 Counties (NYSAC) opposes state cost shifts to counties and New York City in critical  
36 social services and requests the New York State Legislature and Governor agree to  
37 restore the \$50 million in FFFS to the prior year level of \$1.104 billion using TANF  
38 funds; and

39  
40 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, NYSAC encourages the New York State Legislature  
41 and Governor to add \$20 million in additional state resources above the amount allotted  
42 in the SFY 2026 budget proposal for Code Blue to support service delivery in these  
43 critical settings; and

44  
45 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, copies of this resolution be sent to the counties of  
46 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, the New York State Legislature, and all others deemed  
3 necessary and proper.



**NYSAC**  
— NEW YORK STATE —  
ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES

**2025 NYSAC Legislative Conference  
Albany 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 Legislative Conference**  
2 **Standing Committee on Native American Affairs & Gaming**  
3 **Resolution # 1**

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 from new downstate casinos will likely generate billions  
19 of dollars in new revenue for the State of New York, none of which is scheduled at this  
20 time to be shared with the local governments; and

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

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

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

40  
41 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, NYSAC calls on the State to make a permanent  
42 annual appropriation to offset any local funding decrease that results from major  
43 gaming statewide changes such as mobile sports betting, private casino expansion, and  
44 the resulting compact negotiations with the Seneca Nation; and

45  
46 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that copies of this resolution be sent to the counties  
47 of New York State encouraging member counties to enact a similar resolution; and

1 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that NYSAC shall forward copies of this resolution 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 Legislative Conference  
Albany 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 Legislative Conference**  
2 **Standing Committee on Public Health/Mental Health**  
3 **Resolution #1**

4  
5 **Resolution Calling for the SFY 2025-26 Enacted Budget to Include Reforms**  
6 **for Determining the Capacity of a Defendant to Stand Trial**

7  
8 **WHEREAS**, section § 730 of the Criminal Procedure Law (CPL) provides that  
9 defendants charged with felonies who are mentally ill and/or developmentally disabled  
10 and who are determined by a court to be unable to understand the charges against them  
11 or participate in their own defense (often called “730’s”) are sent to New York State-  
12 operated forensic hospitals solely for the purpose of trying to restore them to  
13 competency so they can stand trial; and

14  
15 **WHEREAS**, the origin of CPL § 730 dates back over five decades to the laws of 1970,  
16 and parts of it have been declared to be unconstitutional; and

17  
18 **WHEREAS**, competency restoration provides necessary medications but primarily  
19 provides services such as courtroom training to familiarize the defendant with  
20 courtroom procedures so they can participate in their trial; and

21  
22 **WHEREAS**, many judges incorrectly believe that by ordering a 730 commitment, they  
23 are helping the mentally ill or developmentally disabled person to get treatment; and

24  
25 **WHEREAS**, in the cases for which restoration is appropriate, most defendants can  
26 generally be restored within 90-120 days; and

27  
28 **WHEREAS**, unfortunately, there are also numerous situations where defendants have  
29 been kept in restoration for periods of three, six, or even 10 years; and

30  
31 **WHEREAS**, these lengthy confinements have been declared to be unconstitutional by  
32 the U.S. Supreme Court as shown in the case of *Jackson v. Indiana* (1972), which  
33 provides that states may not indefinitely confine criminal defendants solely on the basis  
34 of incompetence to stand trial; and

35  
36 **WHEREAS**, the Office of Mental Health (OMH) has diverged from agreements with  
37 the county mental health commissioners/directors of community services to provide  
38 specific and timely information on the clients/defendants ordered to restoration; and

39  
40 **WHEREAS**, the SFY 2020-21 budget required counties to pay 100 percent of the OMH  
41 State Operations costs for individuals receiving court-ordered mental health  
42 competency restoration services at State-operated Forensic Psychiatric Centers; and

43  
44 **WHEREAS**, as the full payors of these services, the commissioners must have access to  
45 all client information deemed necessary to effectively manage their responsibilities  
46 under the Mental Hygiene Law; and

1 **WHEREAS**, the county cost of these services is over \$1,300 per day, and current  
2 statute does not require a timeline be established for when a defendant is unable to be  
3 restored; and

4  
5 **WHEREAS**, counties, through the county tax levy, already bear an overwhelming  
6 portion of the financial burden for supporting individuals suffering from serious mental  
7 illness, and the requirement to assume 100 percent of 730.20 competency restoration  
8 costs has taken away hundreds of millions of dollars from critical behavioral health  
9 programming in the community; and

10  
11 **WHEREAS**, an analysis of competency restoration costs across New York counties  
12 shows staggering increases between 2019 and 2024, with increases of over 6,000  
13 percent in some smaller counties, such as Warren County (10,926 percent) and  
14 Livingston County (6,549 percent); and

15  
16 **WHEREAS**, mid-sized counties have seen increases ranging from 121 percent to 695  
17 percent, with St. Lawrence County costs rising by 695 percent and Ontario County by  
18 271 percent; and

19  
20 **WHEREAS**, large counties are experiencing increases as high as 400 percent,  
21 including Orange County at 409 percent and Dutchess County at 405 percent, with  
22 some now facing annual costs exceeding \$5.3 million; and

23  
24 **WHEREAS**, given the advances in behavioral health and the modernization of the  
25 criminal justice system, it is time for the State to reform the statutory authority  
26 governing competency restoration to ensure that only individuals who are appropriate  
27 subjects of 730 court orders are sent for restoration in accordance with the current state  
28 of these two systems; and

29  
30 **WHEREAS**, the Legislature has introduced S.1004 (Brouk), which seeks to address the  
31 reforms necessary to update the archaic requirements of current statute, many which  
32 have been deemed unconstitutional and includes a critical requirement to reinvest any  
33 savings derived by the counties back into the local mental hygiene systems of care.

34  
35 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, the New York State Association of  
36 Counties (NYSAC) calls upon the Governor and Legislature to enact S.1004 (Brouk) to  
37 modify CPL § 730.10 to make clear that restoration is not mental health treatment, so  
38 the judiciary is better informed that a 730 order does not treat underlying mental health  
39 conditions; and

40  
41 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, CPL § 730.20 be reformed to establish specific  
42 criteria for 730 examiners, streamlining the process to establish equity across the  
43 system, and that the psychiatrist or psychologist conducting the psychiatric exam tell  
44 the court whether or not there is a reasonable chance of restoration, thereby granting  
45 the court an opportunity to allow diversion to mental health treatment; and



1 **BE IT FUTHER RESOLVED**, OMH consistently follow their agreements with the  
2 county mental health commissioners/directors of community services to provide  
3 specific and timely information on the clients/defendants ordered to restoration; and  
4

5 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, CPL § 730.20 adjust the fee for  
6 reimbursing psychiatric examiners; and  
7

8 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, CPL § 730.50 limit the time defendants are ordered  
9 for restoration services; and  
10

11 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, MHL § 9.33 allow individuals to be transferred to  
12 Article 9 facilities if it is determined that a defendant is unable to be restored; and  
13

14 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, MHL § 43.03 require Local Governmental  
15 Units (counties) to reinvest savings from these reforms into community mental health  
16 services; and  
17

18 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, the New York State Association of Counties (NYSAC)  
19 calls on the State to support all provisions outlined in S.1004 (Brouk); and  
20

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

24 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, NYSAC shall forward copies of this resolution  
25 to Governor Kathy Hochul and the New York State Legislature encouraging them  
26 to include these reforms in the SFY 2026 Enacted Budget.

1 **2025 NYSAC Legislative Conference**  
2 **Standing Committee on Public Health/Mental Health**  
3 **Resolution #2**

4  
5 **Resolution Supporting A.2128 (Rosenthal) to Strengthen Enforcement**  
6 **Authority and Close Statutory Loopholes for Regulation of Flavored Vapor**  
7 **Products**  
8

9 **WHEREAS**, in New York State, 18.7 percent of high school students report using e-  
10 cigarettes, which is significantly higher than the national average of 10 percent; and

11  
12 **WHEREAS**, e-cigarette use has been linked to the onset of various lung diseases,  
13 exposure to cancer-causing chemicals, and a dangerous addiction to nicotine; and

14  
15 **WHEREAS**, inhalation of toxic chemicals produced by e-cigarettes results in a  
16 spectrum of diseases referred to as EVALI (e-cigarette or vaping use-associated lung  
17 injury), causing inflammation of the lungs and symptoms such as chest pain, fever, and  
18 shortness of breath; and

19  
20 **WHEREAS**, e-cigarette use during adolescence puts children at risk of stunting lung  
21 development and inhibiting their ability to reach full functional potential; and

22  
23 **WHEREAS**, in 2020, New York State enacted legislation to address the epidemic of e-  
24 cigarette use among youth by banning the sale of flavored products; and

25  
26 **WHEREAS**, despite this intent, statutory loopholes have created significant challenges  
27 to effective enforcement of the law, including:

- 28 • Retail inspection limitations that do not require retailers to make their entire  
29 premises available to inspectors;
- 30 • Increased frequency of persistent violators operating without a license or with  
31 expired licenses;
- 32 • Out-of-state sales exemptions being misused to justify stocking prohibited  
33 products;
- 34 • Lack of authority to remove illegal products from retail premises;
- 35 • Continued distribution of flavored products by suppliers with no mechanism to  
36 track deliveries;
- 37 • Rise of deceptive products designed to circumvent flavor bans; and
- 38 • Growth in sales of "camouflage" vape products disguised as common items; and

39  
40 **WHEREAS**, Assembly Bill 2128 (Rosenthal) would strengthen enforcement by:

- 41 • Prohibiting the storage of flavored vapor products near where vapor or tobacco  
42 products are sold;
- 43 • Providing authority to suspend or revoke vapor product dealer registrations;
- 44 • Establishing penalties for violations and inspections refusals; and
- 45 • Enhancing record retention requirements; and

1 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, the New York State Association of  
2 Counties (NYSAC) calls upon the Governor and Legislature to enact A.2128 (Rosenthal)  
3 to close existing statutory loopholes and provide proper enforcement tools to protect  
4 youth from flavored vapor products; and

5  
6 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that NYSAC urges the Governor and Legislature to  
7 restore funding for tobacco prevention and control to \$40.6 million in the 2025-26 State  
8 Budget, undoing the \$7.5 million cut from SFY 2024-25; and

9  
10 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, copies of this resolution be sent to the counties of  
11 New York encouraging member counties to enact similar resolutions; and

12  
13 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, NYSAC shall forward copies of this resolution to  
14 Governor Kathy Hochul, the New York State Legislature and all others deemed  
15 necessary and proper.

1 **2025 NYSAC Legislative Conference**  
2 **Standing Committee on Public Health/Mental Health**  
3 **Resolution #3**

4  
5 **Resolution in Support of the SFY 2026 Executive Budget Proposals to**  
6 **Strengthen New York State's Public Health and Behavioral Health**  
7 **Workforce and Urging Additional State Investment**  
8

9 **WHEREAS**, over the last decade, local health departments (LHDs) and local mental  
10 health departments (LMHDs) have experienced a lack of sustainable state aid assistance  
11 to appropriately support the workforce required for the expansion and implementation  
12 of local services and supports; and

13  
14 **WHEREAS**, New York State's local public health and behavioral health workforce is  
15 responsible for promoting and protecting the health and wellbeing of New York's  
16 communities in accordance with Article 6 of the Public Health Law and Article 41 of the  
17 Mental Hygiene Law; and

18  
19 **WHEREAS**, more than one in three Americans struggle with mental health and/or  
20 substance use issues; and

21  
22 **WHEREAS**, maintaining a well-trained, adequately staffed public health and  
23 behavioral health workforce is essential for protecting community health, responding to  
24 emergencies, and delivering vital services to New York residents; and

25  
26 **WHEREAS**, research indicates that 90 percent of LHDs in New York State do not have  
27 the minimum number of staff needed to provide core public health services, with an  
28 estimated 1,000 additional full-time staff needed statewide; and

29  
30 **WHEREAS**, these staffing challenges are particularly acute in critical positions, with  
31 vacancy rates of 39.1 percent for licensed practical nurses, 26.0 percent for supervising  
32 public health nurses, and 24.3 percent for community health workers; and

33  
34 **WHEREAS**, stagnant state aid, tax caps, funding eligibility restrictions, and other  
35 administrative barriers all undermine the public health and behavioral health  
36 infrastructure necessary to respond to emergencies and provide essential services; and

37  
38 **WHEREAS**, shortages in fields such as nursing, counseling, and public health  
39 engineering have resulted in longer periods for recruitment to fill vacancies, as well as  
40 competition from the private sector that impacts employee retention; and

41  
42 **WHEREAS**, Local Governmental Units (LGUs) and Directors of Community Services  
43 (DCSs), operating under Article 41 of the NYS Mental Hygiene Law, are responsible for  
44 overseeing vital behavioral health services while facing unprecedented demands for  
45 mental health and substance abuse treatment; and

1 **WHEREAS**, the COVID-19 pandemic severely exacerbated the preexisting workforce  
2 crisis, with droves of nurses, counselors, psychologists, social workers, and direct service  
3 professionals exiting the sector’s workforce or retiring early due to burn out, long hours,  
4 low pay, COVID-19 risks, and workplace stress or moving to private sector jobs with  
5 better pay, benefits, and hours; and  
6

7 **WHEREAS**, rising operational costs in areas such as technology, health insurance,  
8 utilities, and rent add significant burdens on providers to allocate extremely limited  
9 fiscal resources to meet both workforce and operational demands; and  
10

11 **WHEREAS**, the healthcare system is under significant strain, with 29 percent of New  
12 York’s hospitals financially distressed and providers struggling to maintain adequate  
13 staffing levels amid rising demand for inpatient and outpatient treatment, crisis  
14 services, and addiction care; and  
15

16 **WHEREAS**, Governor Hochul's SFY 2025-26 Executive Budget proposal includes  
17 several important initiatives to address these challenges, including:

- 18 • \$694 million for implementation of two workforce programs to support training  
19 and education for new health, behavioral health, and social care workforce  
20 workers, as well as support career advancement for existing workers through  
21 tuition payments and student loan repayment;
- 22 • \$47 million to cover tuition, fees, and books for community college students ages  
23 25-55 pursuing high-demand degrees, including nursing;
- 24 • A Targeted Inflationary Increase (TII) of 2.1 percent for providers of eligible  
25 services and programs under the Office for People With Developmental  
26 Disabilities (OPWDD), Office of Mental Health (OMH), Office of Addiction  
27 Services and Supports (OASAS), Office of Children and Family Services (OCFS),  
28 Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance (OTDA), and the State Office for  
29 the Aging (SOFA);
- 30 • \$16.5 million to enhance county-level implementation of assisted outpatient  
31 treatment programs (AOT); and
- 32 • \$2 million for additional OMH staff to increase reporting and monitoring of AOT  
33 programs, enhance statewide training, and provide additional support for  
34 counties and providers; and  
35

36 **WHEREAS**, these investments represent important steps forward; however, additional  
37 support is needed to build and maintain a robust public health and behavioral health  
38 workforce capable of meeting current and future challenges.  
39

40 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the New York State Association of  
41 Counties (NYSAC) supports Governor Hochul's Executive Budget proposals to  
42 strengthen the public health and behavioral health workforce; and  
43

44 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that NYSAC calls for an additional 7.8 percent  
45 increase for mental health and substance use disorder reimbursement rates and  
46 contracts in SFY 2025-26 beyond the proposed 2.1 percent Targeted Inflationary  
47 Increase (TII) to address the severe workforce crisis; and

1 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that comprehensive long-term workforce  
2 development solutions must be implemented, including:

- 3 • Creating clear job pathways beginning in high school;
- 4 • Developing career advancement programs at the community college level;
- 5 • Expanding scholarship opportunities;
- 6 • Implementing easily accessible student loan forgiveness programs; and
- 7 • Reducing administrative burdens on providers; and

8  
9 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that NYSAC urges the elimination of administrative  
10 barriers and funding restrictions that undermine workforce recruitment and retention,  
11 including:

- 12 • Removing the 50 percent fringe rate cap under article 6;
- 13 • Providing flexibility in funding streams to support workforce initiatives; and
- 14 • Modernizing civil service requirements to expedite hiring; and

15  
16 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that NYSAC supports increasing the state aid for  
17 general public health work base grants and behavioral health services to account for  
18 increased costs, expanded responsibilities, and the need to provide competitive  
19 compensation to attract and retain qualified staff.

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

23  
24 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that NYSAC shall forward copies of this resolution to  
25 Governor Kathy Hochul, the New York State Legislature, the Commissioner of the New  
26 York State Department of Health, the Commissioner of the New York State Office of  
27 Mental Health, the Commissioner of the Office of Addiction Services and Supports, and  
28 all others deemed necessary and proper.



**NYSAC**  
— NEW YORK STATE —  
ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES

**2025 NYSAC Legislative Conference  
Albany County**

**Standing Committee on Public Safety Resolutions**

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

1 **2025 NYSAC Legislative Conference**  
2 **Standing Committee on Public Safety**  
3 **Resolution #1**

4  
5 **Resolution in Support of S.2695-B (Harckham) / A.7086-A (Jones) to**  
6 **Ensure Sheriffs and Undersheriffs Continue to Have Police Officer Powers**

7  
8 **WHEREAS**, Sheriffs are elected law enforcement officials whose office is established by  
9 the New York State Constitution; and

10  
11 **WHEREAS**, historically, those individuals inhabiting the office of both Sheriff and  
12 Undersheriff were imbued with the legal authority of police officers solely by virtue of  
13 holding those positions; and

14  
15 **WHEREAS**, the statutory exemption granting Sheriffs and Undersheriffs police officer  
16 powers as a component of holding the office, absent any other prerequisite training, was  
17 ostensibly repealed as a component of the Professional Policing Act; and

18  
19 **WHEREAS**, such statutory change has narrowed the field of qualified candidates for  
20 Sheriff, since individuals who are already police officers can credibly claim that their  
21 civilian opponent, if elected, will not be a police officer, thereby diminishing the pool of  
22 aspiring public servants who could bring diversity and new perspectives to the Office of  
23 Sheriff.

24  
25 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the New York State Association of  
26 Counties (NYSAC) supports S.2695-B / A.7086-A (2024), which would restore the  
27 exemption language previously found in General Municipal Law section 209-q; and

28  
29 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, this GML section 209-q grants Sheriffs and  
30 Undersheriff police officer powers by virtue of holding those esteemed positions; and

31  
32 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that copies of this resolution be sent to the sixty-two  
33 counties of New York State encouraging member counties to enact similar resolutions;  
34 and

35  
36 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that NYSAC shall forward copies of this resolution to  
37 Governor Kathy Hochul, the New York State Legislature and all others deemed necessary  
38 and proper.



1 **2025 NYSAC Legislative Conference**  
2 **Standing Committee on Public Safety**  
3 **Resolution #2**

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

9 **WHEREAS**, local correctional facilities are obligated by Mental Hygiene Law section  
10 19.18-c to provide medication-assisted-treatment (MAT) services to incarcerated  
11 individuals who have been diagnosed with a substance use disorder; and  
12

13 **WHEREAS**, the provision of MAT must also be accompanied by tangential therapeutic  
14 services ranging from counseling, to peer support, to discharge planning; and  
15

16 **WHEREAS**, in many circumstances obtaining the specific medications necessary to be  
17 compliant with the law, particularly methadone, is a costly and time intensive endeavor;  
18 and  
19

20 **WHEREAS**, the annual appropriation provided in the State's Aid to Localities Budget  
21 has remained static at the insufficient amount of 8.865 million, to support the efforts of  
22 56 county jails.  
23

24 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the New York State Association of  
25 Counties (NYSAC) will join in the efforts of the New York State Sheriffs' Association to  
26 seek increased funding for this mandated and important public service; and  
27

28 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that NYSAC urges the State of New York to amend  
29 the Aid to Localities Budget to increase MAT funding by \$11 million for a total  
30 appropriation of \$20 million; and  
31

32 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that copies of this resolution be sent to the counties  
33 of New York State encouraging member counties to enact similar resolutions; and  
34

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

1 **2025 NYSAC Legislative Conference**  
2 **Standing Committee on Public Safety**  
3 **Resolution #3**

4  
5 **Resolution In Support of Efforts to Improve Probation and Alternatives to**  
6 **Incarceration In New York State to Protect the Public and Reduce Reliance**  
7 **on Prisons, Jails and Detention**  
8

9 **WHEREAS**, county probation departments are an integral part of the Criminal Justice  
10 System and operate within the legal framework of the Criminal Procedure Law, the  
11 Penal Law and the Family Court Act; and

12  
13 **WHEREAS**, it is the mission of probation to protect the community through  
14 intervention in the lives of those under supervision by facilitating compliance with court  
15 orders and serving as a catalyst for positive change; and

16  
17 **WHEREAS**, State funding for probation was drastically reduced between 1990 and  
18 2015 from a 46.5 percent state share in 1990 to less than 10 percent in 2024, putting a  
19 huge strain on counties and cost to county property taxpayers; and

20  
21 **WHEREAS**, at the same time there have been increases in the number of mandated  
22 programs and services county probation departments are required to provide, from the  
23 1990's where core services of intake, pre-sentence/pre-dispositional investigations and  
24 supervision were the norm, to the current enhanced services that are provided by local  
25 probation departments including but not limited to the following:

- 26 • Specialized caseloads to handle specific types of individuals such as sex offenders,  
27 DWI, mental health, domestic violence and gang members.
- 28 • Probation departments' involvement with specialized treatment courts (drug,  
29 domestic violence, mental health, veterans).
- 30 • Community service programming.
- 31 • School-based probation officers.
- 32 • Warrant squads for apprehension and return of offenders.
- 33 • DNA collection.
- 34 • Ignition interlock device monitoring.
- 35 • Expanded pretrial release programs to deal with the increased RUS cases  
36 resulting from bail reform.
- 37 • Expanded electronic monitoring to deal with both bail reform and lack of  
38 detention beds caused by increased juvenile crime.
- 39 • Increased probation officer time to search for specialized detention beds  
40 occurring from Raise the Age.
- 41 • Increased administrative tasks that probation staff are now responsible for  
42 including populating case management system and various risk assessments.
- 43 • Increased responsibilities for collections and disbursement of funds in  
44 connection with financial obligations including restitution, fines and fees.
- 45 • Sex offender verification.
- 46 • Administering cognitive behavioral interventions.

- 1 • Increased training regarding the delivery of evidenced-based programs.
- 2 • Increased time and cost resulting from new hires completing the basic course for
- 3 peace officers (BCPO).
- 4 • Increased protocol for GIVE counties including higher supervision levels and
- 5 GPS for a minimum of 6 months.
- 6

7 **WHEREAS**, the New York State Council of Probation Administrators, representing  
8 NYS probation directors, administrators and commissioners, has diligently worked with  
9 the New York State Association of Counties (NYSAC) and state leaders to bring more  
10 awareness to the important work that Probation does to protect the public; and

11  
12 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that NYSAC supports proposals put  
13 forward by the Governor to immediately enact statutory and regulatory changes that  
14 improve probation and alternatives to incarceration in the following ways:

- 15 1. In response to Raise the Age Legislation:
  - 16 a. Mandate that the state's evidence-based criteria should account for
  - 17 existing local best practice programs.
  - 18 b. Let probation apply for a temporary protection order as part of the
  - 19 adjustment process.
  - 20 c. Authorize law enforcement agencies to issue appearance tickets if deemed
  - 21 appropriate by the arresting officer when Adolescent Offenders and
  - 22 Juvenile Offenders are charged with most D felonies.
  - 23 d. Allow law enforcement agencies to deliver Adolescent Offenders and
  - 24 Juvenile Offenders to be held in detention facilities after hours without a
  - 25 securing order until the Youth Part is in session.
  - 26
- 27 2. Establish a dedicated funding stream through DCJS/OPCA for 100 percent of all  
28 local probation costs including, but not limited to, probation personnel and  
29 evidence-based programming associated with Raise the Age Legislation.
  - 30 a. Eliminate the monitoring of ignition interlock devices by local probation
  - 31 departments or monitors in all cases where a term of state prison has been
  - 32 imposed.
  - 33 b. That local probation departments receive 100 percent funding for all pre-
  - 34 trial services costs associated with bail reform, including, but not limited
  - 35 to, probation personnel expenses.
  - 36 c. That the Executive Chamber and the Office of Children and Families
  - 37 (OCFS) work towards transitioning some of the closed OCFS and/or
  - 38 Department of Correctional and Community Supervision facilities to
  - 39 accommodate the lack of specialized secure detention beds as well as
  - 40 allowing county consortiums to open specialized secure detention facilities
  - 41 if desired.
  - 42 d. The Division of Budget should be required to expeditiously reimburse
  - 43 counties for expanded or new specialized secure detention facilities, as the
  - 44 current capacity statewide is inadequate to meet our youth's detention
  - 45 rates.

1 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that NYSAC urges the State of New York to increase  
2 the probation department Aid to Localities budget line item to 46.5 percent of actual  
3 probation department costs; and  
4  
5 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that copies of this resolution be sent to the counties of  
6 New York State encouraging member counties to enact similar resolutions; and  
7  
8 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that NYSAC shall forward copies of this resolution to  
9 Governor Kathy Hochul, Deputy Secretary for Public Safety Marcos Gonzalez Soler, the  
10 New York State Legislature and all others deemed necessary and proper.

1 **2025 NYSAC Legislative Conference**  
2 **Standing Committee on Public Safety**  
3 **Resolution #4**

4  
5 **Resolution Encouraging the State Legislature and Governor to Enact**  
6 **Technical Edits to Components of the Raise the Age Law**

7  
8 **WHEREAS**, the Raise the Age (RTA) law was enacted on April 17, 2017; and

9  
10 **WHEREAS**, RTA prohibits 16 and 17-year-olds from being held in adult jails and  
11 prisons, makes substantive changes to the procedures and mechanisms used to  
12 process 16 and 17-year-olds in the criminal justice and youth justice systems, and allows  
13 for additional services for youth and alters the types of detention and/or placement they  
14 may receive; and

15  
16 **WHEREAS**, State statute authorizes, and the State Financial Plan assumes 100 percent  
17 State reimbursement to eligible localities for RTA-related expenditures –this includes  
18 all incremental capital, personnel, and non-personnel costs counties/municipalities  
19 incur as a result of RTA; and

20  
21 **WHEREAS**, the State will cover incremental costs, such as: law enforcement; local  
22 detention; court services; Sheriffs’ transportation; probation services; youth placement;  
23 and aftercare services; and

24  
25 **WHEREAS**, the RTA law went into effect for 16-year-olds on October 1, 2018 and for  
26 17 year olds on October 1, 2019; and

27  
28 **WHEREAS**, the law has now been in effect for five years and in order to build upon the  
29 success of RTA, counties have identified areas of opportunity to improve the statute;  
30 and

31  
32 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the New York State Association of  
33 Counties (NYSAC) supports the following proposals to immediately enact statutory and  
34 regulatory changes that improve the RTA statute in the following ways:

- 35
- 36 • Criminal Procedural Law Section 722.23 should be amended to include all felony  
37 violations of Penal Law Article 265 (gun cases).
    - 38 ○ District Attorneys should be able to automatically prosecute all gun cases  
39 in the Youth Part and should not have to rely on the courts' unpredictable,  
40 undefined, and inconsistent findings of "extraordinary circumstances". We  
41 see far too many cases removed to Family Court and no real accountability  
42 for adolescent offenders for serious crimes involving firearms. Often, these  
43 offenders graduate to more serious crimes, including murder.
  - 44 • Close the Robbery Loophole by expanding Section 722.23(2).
    - 45 ○ Article 722.23 currently only allows District Attorneys to continue to  
46 prosecute a case when we can prove that the defendant displayed an  
47 actual, operable firearm. This means that cases where a defendant  
displayed something that appears to be a firearm or possessed a weapon

1 without displaying it cannot be prosecuted by the District Attorney. So,  
2 when a defendant robs a victim using a non-working or unloaded gun, or  
3 the gun is not recovered, District Attorneys are not allowed to prosecute,  
4 and the case is removed to Family Court.

- 5 • Section 722.23 should be further amended to allow for the court's discretion in  
6 allowing the District Attorney to maintain prosecution in certain additional  
7 circumstances.
- 8 • Allow youth part judges, prosecutors, and defense counsel to see family court  
9 records.
- 10 • Reimbursements to counties for operating and capital expenses shall be provided  
11 in the year in which funds are appropriated and expended.

12  
13 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that 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, Deputy Secretary for Public Safety Marcos Gonzalez Soler, the  
18 New York State Legislature and all others deemed necessary and proper.



**NYSAC**  
— NEW YORK STATE —  
ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES

**2025 NYSAC Legislative Conference  
Albany 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 Legislative Conference**  
2 **Standing Committee on Taxation and Finance**  
3 **Resolution #1**

4  
5 **Resolution Urging the Governor and Relevant State Agencies to Work with**  
6 **Counties to Ensure Implementation of Pending Short Term Rental**  
7 **Legislation Includes a Requirement for Platforms that Facilitate Short-**  
8 **Term Rentals Provide Information to the State and Counties in a Uniform**  
9 **Format that is Easily Transferable to Local Government Data System Needs**

10  
11 **WHEREAS**, Governor Hochul and the state lawmakers agreed to a Chapter  
12 Amendment to legislation that establishes a registration system for short-term rentals in  
13 New York State; and

14  
15 **WHEREAS**, in addition to the authorization of local registries, the law will require  
16 hosts, and platforms that facilitate the rental of short-term rental units, to collect state  
17 and local sales taxes and other applicable local taxes, which will provide the information  
18 and revenue local governments need to make smart decisions to help right-size the  
19 short-term rental market in their specific communities; and

20  
21 **WHEREAS**, it will allow municipalities with their own short-term rental registration  
22 systems to continue to use them; and

23  
24 **WHEREAS**, the law also requires platforms that facilitate the rental of short-term  
25 rental units to provide to counties on a quarterly basis essential data regarding the  
26 location of the physical address of the rental unit, the rental unit's registration number,  
27 the legal owner of the unit, the dates of stay and the number of guests, the cost of each  
28 stay including an itemization of sales tax and local occupancy tax collected; and

29  
30 **WHEREAS**, counties will be required to share this data with all city, town, and village  
31 governments located within such county within 60 days of receipt; and

32  
33 **WHEREAS**, the data from the platforms must also be provided to the New York State  
34 Department of State; and

35  
36 **WHEREAS**, short-term rental hosts and platforms that facilitate the rental of short-  
37 term rental units must also collect state and local sales tax on these transactions and  
38 submit quarterly sales tax reports to the state.

39  
40 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, the New York State Association of  
41 Counties (NYSAC) calls on the New York Department of State, and Department of  
42 Taxation and Finance to work with counties, and platforms that facilitate the rental of  
43 short-term rental units, to ensure the required information is delivered to counties and  
44 the state in a uniform format that is easily transferable to both state and county data  
45 systems needs; and



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

3

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

1 **2025 NYSAC Legislative Conference**  
2 **Standing Committee on Taxation and Finance**  
3 **Resolution #2**

4  
5 **Resolution Calling on New York’s Congressional Delegation to Preserve the**  
6 **Federal Tax Exemption for Municipal Bonds**

7  
8 **WHEREAS**, federal law provides a tax exemption for municipal bonds that has been  
9 part of the federal tax code since its inception in 1913; and

10  
11 **WHEREAS**, in recognition of the effectiveness of the exemption in helping state and  
12 local governments finance capital projects and improvements, including infrastructure  
13 and facilities that are vitally important to sustain local, regional and national economic  
14 growth; and

15  
16 **WHEREAS**, tax-exempt municipal bonds are the most important tool in the United  
17 States for financing investment in schools, roads, water and sewer systems, airports,  
18 bridges, ports, broadband, hospitals, and other vital infrastructure; and

19  
20 **WHEREAS**, between 2012 and 2022, counties, localities, states and state/local  
21 authorities financed \$3.3 trillion in infrastructure investments through tax-exempt  
22 municipal bonds; and

23  
24 **WHEREAS**, the 10-year funding gap between the \$5.9 trillion in infrastructure needs  
25 and public spending necessary to achieve a state of good repair is \$2.6 trillion; and

26  
27 **WHEREAS**, the municipal bond tax-exemption represents a fair allocation of the cost  
28 of projects between federal and state/local governments which have invested more than  
29 double in infrastructure than the federal government over the last decade; and

30  
31 **WHEREAS**, any reduction in the availability of tax-exempt municipal bonds combined  
32 with rising infrastructure material and labor input costs will place enormous pressure  
33 on local governments in New York to maintain existing levels of transportation  
34 construction, maintenance and service on what constitutes 87 percent of New York’s  
35 110,000 miles of roadways, 50 percent of 18,000 bridges, and 46 percent of the vehicle  
36 miles traveled in New York; and

37  
38 **WHEREAS**, nationwide, tax-exempt bonds are vital for infrastructure needs as  
39 counties own and operate 45 percent of public roads and highways and own a third of  
40 the nation’s transit systems and airports; and

41  
42 **WHEREAS**, the availability of these municipal bonds not only supports local needs  
43 and jobs, but it also strengthens the regional and national network of essential public  
44 infrastructure that enhances U.S. gross domestic product and improves the nation’s  
45 global competitiveness now and for decades to come; and

1 **WHEREAS**, congressional discussions to repeal or cap the municipal bond exemption  
2 to offset the costs of extending components of the Tax Cut and Jobs Act that sunset at  
3 the end of 2025 is likely to be counterproductive by making future infrastructure  
4 projects more expensive, and threaten the creation (and maintenance) of hundreds of  
5 thousands of high skill and high paying jobs; and  
6

7 **WHEREAS**, according to the Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA), if  
8 state and local governments lose the ability to use federally tax-exempt bonds and are  
9 compelled to issue taxable bonds as an alternative, it is estimated that debt issuance  
10 costs would increase by 25 percent, more for smaller and rural governments, making  
11 many projects too expensive to pursue; and  
12

13 **WHEREAS**, to maintain our global economic leadership and continue to lead the  
14 world economy through the next century, the U.S. must have a modern, efficient and  
15 well-maintained infrastructure system; and  
16

17 **WHEREAS**, the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act eliminated advance refunding as a cost-savings  
18 tool for state and local governments which has limited the options to refinance debt,  
19 especially since interest rates fluctuate over the lifetime of outstanding governmental  
20 bonds (which in many cases is 30+ years) causing state and local governments to pay  
21 more in interest, a cost directly borne by your constituents at the local level.  
22

23 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, the New York State Association of  
24 Counties (NYSAC) calls on the New York Congressional Delegation to maintain the  
25 federal tax exemption for municipal bonds; and  
26

27 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, Congress should restore advance refunding to the  
28 federal tax code; and  
29

30 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, copies of this resolution be sent to the counties of  
31 New York encouraging member counties to enact similar resolutions; and  
32

33 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, the New York State Association of Counties shall  
34 forward copies of this resolution to members of the New York State Congressional  
35 Delegation, Governor Kathy Hochul, the New York State Legislature, and all others  
36 deemed necessary and proper.



**NYSAC**  
— NEW YORK STATE —  
ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES

## **2025 NYSAC Legislative Conference Albany 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 Legislative Conference**  
2 **Standing Committee on Transportation and Public Works**  
3 **Resolution # 1**

4  
5 **Resolution Urging the Governor and State Lawmakers to Grant Design**  
6 **Build and Electronic Bidding Authority to Counties**

7  
8 **WHEREAS**, county transportation infrastructure is foundational to New York’s  
9 economic vitality.

10  
11 **WHEREAS**, current laws and regulations limiting flexibility for delivering public works  
12 construction projects can cause inefficiencies, delays, and increased costs to taxpayers  
13 especially for larger highway and bridge projects owned by counties;

14  
15 **WHEREAS**, design-build contracting as authorized for certain state agencies has been  
16 shown to save time and money by streamlining procuring design and construction  
17 services, and by making a single entity responsible for a project, reducing the possibility  
18 of contract claims related to design errors or omissions; and

19  
20 **WHEREAS**, design-build projects minimize project risk for the owner, increase the  
21 accountability of contractors and streamline the delivery schedule by compressing two  
22 procurements into one, eliminating one full procurement cycle; and

23  
24 **WHEREAS**, the City of New York reports that when it used alternative project delivery  
25 tools, such as during the COVID emergency when procurement regulations were  
26 significantly relaxed, its ability to deliver public infrastructure was transformative;  
27 delivering facilities in months instead of years, within budget, and with increased  
28 MWBE participation; and

29  
30 **WHEREAS**, State law does not allow for a fully digital bidding process even though  
31 electronic bidding decreases the administrative burdens and the costs that accompany  
32 the current paper-based process, and serves to make the process more transparent to  
33 agencies, vendors, and the public; and

34  
35 **WHEREAS**, the recognition of the positive benefits from design-build and electronic  
36 bidding led to the passage by both houses of the State Legislature in 2024 of bills to  
37 grant NYC new authority to use alternative project delivery contracts, including design-  
38 build and construction manager build, and expansion of electronic bidding for NYC,  
39 both of which was signed into law by Governor Kathy Hochul as Chapter 534 and  
40 Chapter 668; and

41  
42 **WHEREAS**, as New York State and NYC are authorized to use design-build authority  
43 and electronic bidding to great success, similar authority should be extended to  
44 counties; and

1 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, the New York State Association of  
2 Counties (NYSAC) hereby calls on the Governor and state lawmakers to work with  
3 NYSAC to develop legislation to authorize county governments to use design-build  
4 construction contracting and electronic bidding as an option for transportation projects  
5 to also realize the benefits to project delivery and local taxpayers as currently inure to  
6 the state and NYC; and

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

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

1 **2025 Legislative Conference**  
2 **Standing Committee on Transportation and Public Works**  
3 **Resolution # 2**

4  
5 **Resolution Urging the Governor and State Lawmakers to Add Counties as**  
6 **Eligible for Funding Under the New York State Touring Routes Program**  
7

8 **WHEREAS**, the New York State Touring Route Program provides \$140 million in State  
9 funds to cities, towns and villages based on the total number of signed touring route  
10 miles for which such municipality has capital maintenance responsibility to support the  
11 construction and repair of highways, bridges, highway-railroad crossings, and other  
12 transportation facilities; and

13  
14 **WHEREAS**, NYS Department of Transportation (NYSDOT) guidance directs that  
15 preference be given to roads located on a State highway where the State arterial is  
16 maintained by a municipality and designated as a Touring Route, however, funds may  
17 be used on an eligible roadway listed on the Local Highway Inventory; and  
18

19 **WHEREAS**, unlike the Consolidated Local Street and Highway Improvement Program  
20 (CHIPS), Extreme Winter Recovery, PAVE NY, BRIDGE NY, and Pave Our Potholes  
21 programs, for which all municipalities qualify, the State Touring Route Program  
22 excludes counties; and  
23

24 **WHEREAS**, several counties throughout the state have roads or segments of roads and  
25 other transportation infrastructure that would otherwise qualify for the additional  
26 allocation of funding enjoyed by all other levels of local government; and  
27

28 **WHEREAS**, there appears to be no identifiable reason for counties that have several  
29 miles of such touring routes as defined by NYSDOT guidance within their jurisdiction to  
30 be excluded from the program; an inequality that needs to be corrected in the next  
31 budget to prevent otherwise eligible counties from further loss of funding; and  
32

33 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, the New York State Association of  
34 Counties (NYSAC) hereby calls on the Governor and State Lawmakers to provide in the  
35 final state budget the necessary change to the touring route budget language to include  
36 counties; and  
37

38 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that copies of this resolution be sent to the counties  
39 of New York State encouraging member counties to enact similar resolutions; and  
40

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