

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

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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

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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

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

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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

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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

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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

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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

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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

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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.

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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

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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

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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.