

2016 NYSAC Legislative Program

County Priorities: The State Must

- Provide meaningful and permanent property tax relief by taking more fiscal responsibility for state programs designed and controlled by the state
- Target most of the \$2.4 billion in unappropriated bank settlement funds to rebuilding our upstate transportation infrastructure
- Restore prior cost sharing arrangements under the Safety Net program, while maintaining the full federalizing of Temporary Assistance for Need Families (TANF) and other related Family Assistance costs

Priorities By Issue Area

Agriculture and Rural Affairs

- Sustain funding to ensure farmland throughout New York is preserved
- Support funding for agriculture local assistance programs

Children and Families

- Dedicate and expand resources to ensure counties are fully reimbursed for outstanding Early Intervention (EI) claims that predate the Statewide Fiscal Agent
- Require EI provider claims are filed in a timely manner with commercial insurance and Medicaid
- Establish a plan to remove counties from the fiscal responsibility of preschool special education transportation costs
- Implement a new statewide computer system that provides real time, reliable data that improves the ability to monitor the financing, service, and program administration of the preschool special education program

Economic Development

- Deploy broadband grants to unserved and underserved communities across the state
- Allow IDAs to finance civic facilities and provide grants and loans for local projects

Energy and the Environment

- Amend the “Electronics Recycling and Reuse Act” to require manufacturers to collect e-waste and provide fiscal relief to local governments forced to still recycle electronics
- Support programs and policies that curb the spread of invasive species
- Encourage congressional members to repeal federal rules that expand the Clean Water Act by redefining “waters of the US”

Gaming

- Maintain casino revenue shares to counties to cover public safety, social services and infrastructure cost increases associated with state licensed gaming facilities
- Maintain the integrity of the state created gaming exclusivity zones

This Legislative Program was developed by county delegates, and reflects the need for specific state or federal action. These priority issues have a direct impact on local governments, our businesses, and the New Yorkers who live in our communities. For more details on these items, visit our website at www.nysac.org or contact NYSAC Director of Intergovernmental Affairs Dave Lucas at 518-465-1473.

Hon. Maggie Brooks, President

Stephen J. Acquario, Executive Director

Indigent Legal Defense Services

- Support a fully funded state takeover for county indigent defense service expenses
- Ensure full state funding for increased county costs related to arraignment at first appearance, or any other state-imposed changes to indigent defense services

Human Services

- Ensure all costs associated with raising the age of criminal responsibility are paid for in full by the state
- Bolster state resources for child welfare services by restoring the 65 percent open ended state reimbursement to counties for preventive and protective services
- Ensure federal changes to child care programs that increase local costs are backfilled with sufficient state resources and assistance to protect child care slots in our communities

Local Government Finance and Tax Relief

- Support a four year authorization of all local sales tax extenders when renewed in 2017
- Urge voters to approve a constitutional convention so that delegates can consider ending the imposition of unfunded state mandates on counties and other local governments

Medicaid

- Ensure no costs are shifted to counties as the state continues to take over local Medicaid administration

Public Employee Relations

- Provide enhanced veteran benefits in a way that does not increase costs for localities

- Amend scaffold laws to be more in line with other states, thereby reducing the cost of new construction in NYS
- Refrain from any new or enhanced mandated local public employee benefits that will increase costs for local taxpayers

Public Health and Mental Health

- Increase support for Article 6 programs by raising the base grant and increasing state reimbursement to local health departments
- Support statewide awareness of Lyme Disease and other tick borne diseases
- Foster collaboration and information sharing as the State OPWDD transforms the developmental disabilities system

Public Safety

- Require more frequent updates to driver's license photos to enhance public safety
- Increase state assistance for medical costs in county jails, particularly for HIV and Hepatitis C treatment
- Develop a plan for the next generation of 911 service capability by ensuring the Public Safety Surcharge is collected on all devices that access 911
- Provide an increase in base Public Safety Answering Points (PSAP) grants to counties
- Create a New York State 911 Department that supports county PSAPs and enhances local emergency dispatch services
- Enact legislation that promotes video conferencing for court appearances for county jail inmates

Public Infrastructure and Transportation

- Provide counties a more equitable share of fees collected at county-operated DMVs
- Increase the registration weight of ATV's to increase tourism and promote safety

