



# Livingston County, New York FY 2022 State Legislative Agenda

## Background

Livingston County government strives toward fiscally stable, efficient and transparent operations. Local government is uniquely positioned to support, serve, and respond to community and individual needs. However, state legislative policy and action is often needed to support county government in having this impact. State action can affect the County's ability to deliver services, shape what services the County delivers, impact the resources available for services, and remove obstacles to delivering services.

In 2022, as in previous years, the Livingston County Board of Supervisors appreciates the opportunity to present this annual State Legislative Agenda.

This program provides a guide for the County's legislative advocates and State delegation, and highlights key issues important to our community. The program provides eight guiding principles, prioritizes multiple issues intended for specific legislative action, and lays out ongoing general issues that the County will monitor for potential action should opportunities arise.

Livingston County's Guiding Principles
<i>To the extent permitted by law, Livingston County generally will <b>SUPPORT</b> legislation that...</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Advances the legislative priorities of the New York State Association of Counties</li> <li>▪ Fosters local decision and control</li> <li>▪ Reduces costs and protects and enhances revenues to Livingston County</li> <li>▪ Increases revenue to Livingston County for previously imposed under-funded or unfunded mandates</li> </ul>
<i>To the extent permitted by law, Livingston County generally will <b>OPPOSE</b> legislation that...</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Diminishes local decision and control</li> <li>▪ Requires Livingston County to perform a service or task without providing the necessary resources</li> <li>▪ Prohibits or limits Livingston County's ability to generate revenue</li> <li>▪ Requires Livingston County to give more County-collected revenue to New York State</li> </ul>

## Priority Areas

### **'Light Up Livingston' Broadband Initiative**

- Make State broadband funding available for Livingston County's fiber-to-the-home 'Light Up Livingston' initiative.
- Support passage of S8858/A10932 to repeal the recently adopted State law imposing new fees on fiber optic networks. At a minimum, the State should revise the law to exclude federal grant awardees from paying state fees.

### **Public Infrastructure and Transportation**

- Maintain historic funding levels for CHIPS, Marchiselli, PAVE-NY, BRIDGE-NY and Extreme Winter Weather Funding. Additionally, increase the CHIPS bidding threshold to give localities more flexibility.
- Continue funding the SAM Facilities Grant Program, and streamline the grant process to increase timeliness and efficiency.
- Increase financial support to parks and trail operations as they are a significant asset to tourism, recreation, and community development in Livingston County.

### **Veterans**

- Distribute all Veteran-related funds directly and equitably to counties to ensure proper usage and oversight at the local level.
- Expand the Joseph P. Dwyer Peer-to-Peer Veterans Support Program, with Livingston County Veteran Services slated to receive \$100,000.

### **Public and Mental Health**

- Allocate unrestricted, flexible funding to the Livingston County Department of Health to better prepare for the next pandemic.
- Amend the Mental Hygiene Law 43.03 (c) by: (i) placing a 30 day limit on the fiscal responsibility of counties for services to patients held in state inpatient facilities pursuant to court orders, and (ii) reducing the county cost share of OMH and OPWDD restoration services.

## **Social Services and Nursing Home**

- Fully reimburse Livingston County for federally funded Medicaid savings that have been withheld by the State.
- Increase funding to the Livingston County Center for Nursing and Rehabilitation through Medicaid reimbursement payments.
- Provide for a direct pool of State funding to assist Public Nursing Home providers still reeling from the COVID-19 pandemic impact.

## **Economic and Community Development**

- Provide necessary funding to the County's Thrive in Livingston Anti-Poverty Plan.
- Include a direct State appropriation for the Livingston County Land Bank Corporation.
- Provide funding support to GrowLivCo's groundbreaking Community Revitalization Initiative
- Restore funding for local tourism matching grants.

## **Gaming**

- Maintain the equitable structure of the Western Regional Off-Track Betting Board of Directors.
- Immediately make Livingston County whole with arrears being collected from the Seneca Nation compact, and assure that payments are made moving forward.
- Equitably share a portion of proceeds from mobile sports betting with Livingston County.

## **General Government**

- Enhance the flexibility of the County-Wide Shared Services Initiative by expanding opportunities for Livingston County shared services plans, actions, and State matching funds.

## **Public Safety**

- Amend the bail reform law to allow judges the ability to consider a defendant's potential threat to public safety.
- Eliminate the language in criminal procedure law that requires a judge to employ the "least restrictive" means of ensuring a bail eligible defendant return to court.
- Ensure sufficient financial resources are allocated to law enforcement, prosecution, probation and mental health departments.
- Provide funding to counties for pre-trial service programs.

- Provide support and funding for law enforcement training.

## **Local Finance and Tax Relief**

- Modernize the tax law by subjecting all vacation rentals to state and local sales tax.
- Allow permanent local sales tax authority for Livingston County at its existing rate or up to four percent.
- End the diversion of Livingston County taxes to pay for the Aid and Incentives to Municipalities Program and Distressed Hospital Fund.
- Avoid cost shifts and cuts, while providing tools that will reduce costs for taxpayers.
- Provide permanent and meaningful property tax relief by reforming mandates, especially the cost of Medicaid.
- Support an increase to 15% in the county share of Department of Motor Vehicles revenue retention.
- Amend the CPLR to authorize County Clerks to retain motion fees for the processing and entry of "Clerk Entered" default judgments.
- Fix the disproportionate rate setting methodology that exists presently and assume more state fiscal responsibility for community college expenses.
- Allow Livingston County to set home rule revenue tax rates up to the highest state approved rate without state legislative approval.
- Enact "No New Unfunded Mandates" legislation.
- Cap current state mandated costs at a rate that does not exceed the state-imposed property tax cap.

## **Environment**

- Increase FLOWPA funding to address incessant threats to Conesus Lake water quality and recreation.