

Livingston County, New York
FY 2019 State Legislative Agenda

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 order to fulfill Livingston County's commitment to the community, positive state action including the allocation of resources should be sought. In 2019, as in previous years, the Livingston County Board of Supervisors appreciates the opportunity to present this annual 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 8 guiding principles, prioritizes 10 issues intended for specific legislative action, and lays out ongoing general state issues that the County will monitor for potential action should opportunities arise.

Livingston County's Guiding Principles

To the extent permitted by law, Livingston County generally will **SUPPORT** legislation that...

- Advances the Legislative Priorities of the New York State Association of Counties
- Fosters local decision and control
- Reduces costs and protects/ enhances revenues to Livingston County
- Increases revenue to Livingston County for previously imposed under-funded or unfunded mandates

To the extent permitted by law, Livingston County generally will **OPPOSE** legislation that...

- Diminishes local decision and control
- Requires Livingston County to perform a service or task without providing the necessary resources
- Prohibits or limits Livingston County's ability to generate revenue
- Requires Livingston County to give more County-collected revenue to New York State

New York State Priority Issues

1. **Ease Current Legislative Restrictions on Local Home Rule Revenue Measures**

- Since 2009, Livingston County has asked to install a transfer tax and increase our mortgage recording tax. Lost revenue for non-approval stands at over \$2.5 million and counting.

2. **Livingston County Land Bank Corporation**

- Include a direct state appropriation for county land banks.

3. **Economic and Community Development Measures**

- Amend the Governor's Downtown Revitalization Initiative ("DRI") criteria to include submissions that address a county-wide proposal, as opposed to a single, localized downtown area.
- Expand and prioritize state efforts to expand broadband coverage to unserved and underserved communities.

4. **Marketplace Fairness and Online Sales Collection**

- Ensure a fair and level playing field for all retailers by addressing shortcomings in internet sales tax collection practices.

5. **Gaming**

- Casino monies - assure that payments to exclusivity zone counties are made moving forward and provide for retroactive payments of monies held up in the Seneca Nation arbitration
- If sports betting is allowed, equitably share a portion of new proceeds with County governments

6. **Cost-Shifting/ Mandate Relief**

- 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.
- Specifically - Fully Fund the implementation expenses of Election Reforms (e.g. Early Voting and electronic pollbooks) and Raise the Age

7. **Financial Support for Parks and Trails & Critical Infrastructure**

- Increase financial support to local parks and trail operations as they are a significant asset to tourism, recreation, and community development in Livingston County.
- Continue to support revenue and grant programs such as CHIPS, BRIDGE NY and the SAM grant program.

8. **FLREDC, URI or State Funding Support for Thrive In Livingston Anti-Poverty Initiative**

- Provide necessary funding to the County's multi-point plan to combat rural poverty

9. **Preserving Supplemental Medicaid Upper Payment Limit (UPL) Payments to Public Nursing Homes**

- Continue legislative support to preserve the supplemental Medicaid Upper Payment Limit (UPL)/intergovernmental transfer (IGT) payments to public nursing homes in accordance with Subdivision 12(e-1) of section 2808 of the Public Health Law as the state transitions to mandatory Medicaid managed care for nursing homes and to pursue its replacement with a new federal waiver program before traditional fee for service Medicaid is significantly diminished or eliminated

10. Marijuana Legalization

- Assure with any legislation to legalize marijuana that public safety, public health, mental health and drug treatment programs are likewise addressed with corresponding increases in state funding support.
- Include in any legislation or regulation, the ability of counties to share in local sales or other taxes to the purchase/sale/production of marijuana.