

**Livingston County, New York
FY 2023 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 2023, 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 guiding principles, prioritizes multiple 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. Light Up Livingston - Rural Broadband

- Provide State support and funding for rural broadband to continue the County's Light Up Livingston Initiative. Ensure that the NYS Budget includes funding for innovative public-private partnerships and makes funds available in 2023 for expansion of infrastructure in counties that have been proactive and have plans currently in place.

2. 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 split of Medicaid expenses.
- Specifically - Fully fund (with NYS dollars) any new or expanded programs that are mandated but locally administered. For example – Mental Health Inpatient Costs are still at full county cost, formerly was split 50/50 between the county and State. This is a \$500k+ impact to Livingston County.
- Fix the disproportionate rate setting methodology that exists presently and assume more State fiscal responsibility for community college expenses.

3. Make Necessary Amendments to Criminal Justice Reform

- Ensure sufficient financial resources are allocated to law enforcement, prosecution, mental health and probation departments.
- Ensure continued support and funding for the Hurrell-Harring Settlement Implementation within counties.
- Provide funding for 18B panel / assigned counsel rate cost increases. Ensure sufficient financial funding is allocated to counties to support any increasing unfunded mandate for 18B panel attorneys.

4. State Funding Support for LivCo's Economic and Community Development Endeavors

- Provide necessary funding to the County's multi-point plan to combat rural poverty (Thrive In Livingston).
- Support funding for GrowLivCo's groundbreaking Community Revitalization Initiative (CRI).
- Sustain the NYS Matching Funds program for tourism promotion efforts at the county level.

5. Ease Current Legislative Restrictions on Local Home Rule Revenue Measures

- Allow counties to increase any home rule revenue subject to the limits of the maximum rate/level currently allowed in any one single county in NY.

6. Financial Support for Critical Infrastructure, including Water, Sewer, Highways, Parks and Trails

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

7. Preserving and Enhancing Supports 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.
- Fix and improve the Medicaid rate for nursing home care in NY. Nursing homes in the state have traditionally been underfunded (the NYS Medicaid rate is among the worst in the country) and there has not been an operating rate inflation adjustment in 15 years.
- Support the County's application to the Vital Access Provider Program (VAP) for funding for activities that will support long-term operational and financial viability of the County's Center for Nursing and Rehabilitation.

8. State Funding for Housing Initiatives, County Land Banks, and Child Care projects

- Tied to our County's Housing Needs Assessment, under the guiding principle of reduction of costs/ protect and enhanced revenue to Livingston County, provide and sustain funding for innovative, public-private housing projects including supportive and transitional housing initiatives.
- Support the continued appropriation of funds to Land Banks as part of the NYS Homes and Community Renewal Land Bank Initiative, but through a fair and equitable direct allocation rather than the current competitive grant process.
- Secure State funding for the development of an on-site child care operation for the County government workforce.

9. Easing of Administrative Burdens

- Support the implementation of the receipt and filing of local laws by electronic transmission to the Secretary of State per Municipal Home Rule Law Section 27.7 to expedite the home rule/local law process and eliminate the current notification delays.
- Work with NYS Civil Service to expedite and ease hiring due to staffing shortages.

10. Agricultural Protection Programs and Associated Items

- Continue support and funding for agricultural protection programs, such as the Farmland Protection Improvement Grants Program, which preserve valuable agricultural acreage for food supply stability and agricultural economic benefit.
- Under the Governor's proposed \$10MM in grant funding allocated to support food cooperatives, supermarkets and other similar retail stores in underserved communities in NY, consider locations in Livingston County – namely Lima and Mt. Morris.

11. Environmental Matters

- Support a modest increase in appropriation to \$3.0 million for the Finger Lakes - Lake Ontario Watershed Protection Alliance (FLOWPA) to implement environmental programs that protect water quality and create jobs and economic opportunity in the Conesus Lake watershed and Lake Ontario basin.
- New York's Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act (CLCPA) - Support a common-sense approach to implementation that keeps affordability and reducing the tax-burden for residents and businesses top of mind.
- With any State-led green energy initiatives, supply NYS funds to counties to use on infrastructure.

12. Early Voting & Election Mandates

- Allow local Boards of Elections the opportunity to modify their hours individually to better suit their voters. A one-size-fits-all approach does not work. For example, currently Election Law Section 8-600 requires 9 days of early voting for every Primary, Special, and General Election. Allowing local Boards the discretion to assess the needs of their voters would be a reasonable option.
- Reject mandated minimum staffing levels for local Boards of Elections.