

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 2021, 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

**1. Light Up Livingston - Rural Broadband**

- Provide State support and funding for rural broadband to continue the County's Light Up Livingston Initiative

**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 of Medicaid.
- Specifically - Fully Fund (with NYS dollars): Raise the Age, Pre-Trial Services, the Distressed Hospital/Facility Fund and the AIM Program for Towns/Villages.
- 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
- Provide funding to counties to fund pre-trial service programs
- Provide support and funding for law enforcement training

**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)
- Include a direct State appropriation for county land banks
- Support/funding for GrowLivCo's groundbreaking Community Revitalization Initiative (CRI)
- Sustainment of the NYS Matching Funds program for tourism promotion efforts at the County level

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

- Continue to work with counties to ensure a fair and level playing field for all retailers by addressing any remaining shortcomings in Internet sales tax collection practices.

**6. 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 currently allowed rate/level of any one single county in NY.

**7. 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.

**8. 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.

**9. 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.

**10. Gaming**

- With respect to 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 mobile/expanded sports betting is allowed, equitably share a portion of new proceeds with county governments