

November 9, 2023

Dear Honorable Members of the Board of Legislators,

I am pleased to present my sixth budget to your Honorable Board for your consideration.

The 2024 Proposed Westchester County Operations Budget totals \$2.4 billion and continues a commitment to programs that meet the needs of Westchester County residents. The proposed operating budget for 2024 maintains the same County property tax levy as 2023, marking the fifth consecutive year without a levy increase. This is great news for our County, as it demonstrates our commitment to responsible budgeting and holding taxes steady. This budget continues to place particular emphasis on public safety and emergency preparedness, housing, health and mental health services, as well as environmental and economic development programs. There are no one-shots, borrowing for operating expenditures, or use of reserves of any kind in my proposal.

The fiscal actions that we have taken over the past six years have restored the County's unrestricted general reserves to a projected 22% of expenditures as we close 2023. The three major rating agencies have taken notice, as we now hold a 'positive' outlook with one and remain "stable" with the others. Additionally, due to another successful year of strong fiscal performance, the New York State Comptroller has recently lowered the fiscal stress score for the County to zero. This is the best score a municipality can achieve, indicating outstanding financial stability.

This budget provides continued record funding of \$265 million for public safety. \$300,000 is added for a flood, fire and non-FEMA emergency recovery program to provide families in need with costs associated with relocation and recovery. \$5.6 million is provided to continue funding for Project Alliance, a multi-pronged program to address the needs of Westchester County residents with behavioral health challenges. Funding for the highly successful HERRO program, which provides recruitment and retention incentives to assist local volunteer emergency service agencies in attracting volunteers, is increased by 20 percent. Included in Emergency Services is funding for 1 new fire instructor and 1 new grant program administrator.

Access to affordable child care and food security are important issues addressed by this budget. There is \$56 million for childcare subsidies including \$3.3 million for continuing the child care scholarship program. This program expands subsidy eligibility to include families up to 500 percent of the federal poverty level. To address food security, \$1.3 million in funding will be made available. In addition to the \$100 million in capital funding for affordable housing development included in my proposed 2024 Capital Budget released last month, this operating budget proposal contains funding for various housing subsidy and eviction prevention programs including \$500,000 for on call planning consultants to expedite implementation of affordable housing and flood mitigation projects.

Office of the County Executive

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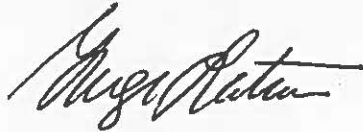
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This budget also provides \$7.9 million for economic development programs with a focus on the biosciences, tourism and healthcare sectors as well as funding for entrepreneurship programs. There is continued investment in health and mental health programs with over \$3 million in support for Federally Qualified Health Care Centers and \$975,000 in added funding for an outpatient mental health clinic expansion pilot. This budget continues the Municipal Food Waste Program and the recently submitted capital budget provides an additional \$5 million in funding for an EV charging infrastructure grant program for local municipalities.

I look forward to working with your Honorable Board on this proposed budget as we continue our partnership for the residents of Westchester County.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "George Latimer", with a stylized flourish at the end.

George Latimer  
Westchester County Executive

**HONORABLE BOARD OF LEGISLATORS  
THE COUNTY OF WESTCHESTER, NEW YORK**

Your Committee on Budget and Appropriations is in receipt of a transmittal from the County Executive of his proposed 2024 County Budget and Budget Act making appropriations and levying real property taxes for the support of County Government for the year Two Thousand Twenty-Four.

The Department of Budget has advised that this legislation is necessary for the conduct of County Government for the fiscal year beginning January 1, 2024.

Therefore, the Committee recommends the adoption of the attached Budget Act making appropriations and levying real property taxes for the support of County Government for the year Two Thousand Twenty-Four.

ACT NO. \_\_\_\_\_ of 2023

AN ACT adopting the County Budget and making appropriations and levying real property taxes for the conduct of the County Government for the year Two Thousand Twenty-Four.

Be it enacted by the Board of Legislators of the County of Westchester as follows:

Section 1. The accompanying County Budget including the current plan and the capital program for the County of Westchester and the several districts therein, as listed below, is hereby adopted for the fiscal year Two Thousand and Twenty-Four:

County of Westchester	
Environmental Facilities, Department of	Saw Mill Valley Sanitary Sewer District
Blind Brook Sanitary Sewer District	South Yonkers Sanitary Sewer District
Bronx Valley Sanitary Sewer District	Upper Bronx Valley Sanitary Sewer District
Central Yonkers Sanitary Sewer District	North Yonkers Pump Station
Hutchinson Valley Sanitary Sewer District	Joint Treatment Plant (Yonkers)
Mamaroneck Valley Sanitary Sewer District	Water Agency
New Rochelle Sanitary Sewer District	County Water District No. 1
North Yonkers Sanitary Sewer District	County Water District No. 2
Ossining Sanitary Sewer District	County Water District No. 3
Peekskill Sanitary Sewer District	County Water District No. 4
Port Chester Sanitary Sewer District	Refuse Disposal District No. 1

Section 2. During the Calendar Year 2024, the Commissioner of Finance shall verify and provide the Board of Legislators quarterly with a statement of the County's cash flow for the General Fund.

Section 3. The several amounts specified in the above mentioned budget under the column heading "Allowed 2024" or so much of such amount as shall be sufficient to accomplish the purposes designated are hereby appropriated for such purposes under the following general classifications:

- Personal Service (Code 100 and 101)
- Purchase of Equipment (Code 200)
- Materials and Supplies (Code 300)
- Expenses (Code 400 and 599)
- Relief (Code 501)
- County Debt Service (Agency 51)
- Miscellaneous (Agency 52)
- Capital Projects

Section 4. Within 30 days after the close of the Second Quarter and the Fourth Quarter for the Calendar Year 2024, the Commissioner of Finance shall verify and provide the Board of Legislators with:

- (i) A combined statement of the County's cash balances for all accounts
- (ii) A statement of the County's cash balances for all enterprise funds

Section 5. With respect to the Executive Branch of County government, the positions shown in the budget are hereby authorized, created and/or continued and the number appearing on the line items of the positions shall be the number of positions under such title.

Section 6. All elective officers, appointive officers and other positions are to be paid at salaries set in accordance with the provisions of the personnel rules and amendments thereto adopted by this Board and with respect to the Executive Branch of County government, may be filled only in accordance with procedures approved by the County Executive.

Section 7. Where personal service is required to accomplish the intended purpose of an appropriation, such personal service may be employed in accordance with the provision of the personnel rules and amendments thereto adopted by the Board, when approved and allocated by the Budget Director as appropriate.

Section 8. Where personnel are employed under a trust or grant, such employment shall terminate at the expiration of the funds provided by the trust or grant.

Section 9. The Commissioner of Finance is hereby authorized to advance from funds on hand to Year 2024 Budget accounts such amounts as may be required, pending receipt of taxes and/or other revenues.

Section 10. Transfer of appropriations between departments and transfer of appropriations between a department and the Miscellaneous Budget are made upon the prior recommendation of the County Executive with the prior authorization of the County Board of Legislators.

Section 11. Transfer of appropriations between general classifications of expenditures within the same department and transfers of appropriations between account lines in the Miscellaneous Budget are made with the prior authorization of the County Executive on the recommendation of the Budget Director and with the prior approval of the Committee of the County Board designated by resolution of such Board.

Section 12. The "Trusts" section presented after the operating budget of a department is provided for informational purposes only. Adoption of this budget act shall not be considered to be acceptance of any grant requiring the expenditure of County funds.

Section 13. The invalidity of any provisions, paragraphs, or portions of this Act shall have no effect upon the validity of any other part or portion hereof. Should any provision(s) of this Act be held by a court of competent jurisdiction to be invalid or for any reason unenforceable, the remainder shall nonetheless be of full force and effect.

Section 14. The amounts of the County and Special District Taxes for 2024 resulting from the County Budget are hereby fixed and determined as indicated below:

County of Westchester:		
Metropolitan Transportation Authority	32,527,847	
Metropolitan Commuter Transportation Mobility Tax	1,786,000	
County Operating Purposes	507,882,380	
<b>Total County</b>		<b>542,196,227</b>

**Special Districts:**

Blind Brook Sanitary Sewer District	9,631,324
Bronx Valley Sanitary Sewer District	28,891,517
Central Yonkers Sanitary Sewer District	2,070,617
Hutchinson Valley Sanitary Sewer District	8,377,068
Mamaroneck Valley Sanitary Sewer District	20,485,179
New Rochelle Sanitary Sewer District	18,601,335
North Yonkers Sanitary Sewer District	5,844,511
Ossining Sanitary Sewer District	4,806,002
Peekskill Sanitary Sewer District	5,979,689
Port Chester Sanitary Sewer District	3,738,104
Saw Mill Valley Sanitary Sewer District	18,073,494
South Yonkers Sanitary Sewer District	2,415,774
Upper Bronx Valley Sanitary Sewer District	1,650,020
County Water District No. 1	4,698,623
Refuse Disposal District No. 1	61,085,163

Section 15. The foregoing amounts are hereby levied and assessed upon the real property liable therefore in the County, and in the several special districts indicated.

Section 16. This ACT shall take effect immediately.

DATED: December \_\_\_\_\_, 2023  
 White Plains, New York