

RESOLUTION NO. 19 - 2025


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

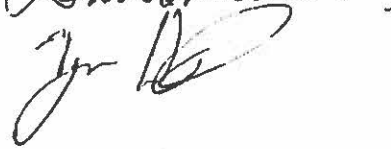
WHEREAS, the Committee on Legislation has reviewed the following items for the 2025 Westchester County Joint State Legislative Package; Now Therefore Be It

RESOLVED, that after considerable deliberation, it is recommended that this Honorable Board approve these legislative initiatives, and that they be presented to and considered by the New York State Legislature and Governor during the current state legislative session.

Dated: February 10, 2025

White Plains, New York

Margaret A. Cio


David Murray
Jr


David J. Fubio
Benjamin Boykett (WOP)
Vedat Fathi

**COMMITTEE ON
LEGISLATION**

Dated: February 10, 2025
White Plains, New York

The following members attended the meeting remotely and approved this item out of Committee with an affirmative vote. Their electronic signature was authorized and is below.

Emiliana May

COMMITTEE ON

Legislation

2025 STATE LEGISLATIVE PACKAGE SUBMISSIONS - BOL & CE submissions					
Pkg #	Type	State Bill #	Short Description	Notes/Justification	notes
1	Finance	N/A	Authorize Design Build for Westchester County	<p>In 2019, 7 agencies in New York City received authorization to utilize Design-Build project delivery (as opposed to Design-Bid-Build) through the Public Works Investment Act (PWIA). Design-Build consolidates projects into one point of responsibility on the basis of which design and construction team can deliver the best project at the best value. Under the current Design-Bid-Build model, the 'Design' and 'Build' components of a project are barred from collaboration, slowing project schedules, increasing cost, and resulting in lower quality completed projects. New York City is required to provide annual reports on design-build projects, including short lists and proposers, cost savings, time savings and MWBE utilization within the project. Westchester county would be willing to provide this information as well. Westchester therefore requests authorization to utilize Design-Build.</p>	included in 24 package
2	Finance	N/A	Continue the 18B Assigned Counsel Reimbursement	<p>New York State provided a pay raise to 18B Assigned Counsel attorneys through the SFY 2024 State Budget, and provided a \$92 million fund to support State Reimbursement to counties and New York City for 50% of eligible expenses related to the rate increase. With new costs generated by the 18B pay raise, the end of New York State's sharing of Federal eFMAP revenue, and additional burdens placed on County level social services by the ongoing housing crisis, Westchester asks that this reimbursement be continued to ensure that the County has the resources to respond to the needs of its residents.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Set 18B Pay by a Sliding Scale: When the State raised the pay of 18B Assigned Counsel Attorneys, pay became the same for attorneys representing clients in violations, misdemeanors, and felony cases. Attorneys are now less willing to represent felony cases, as they would be paid the same to cover violations or misdemeanors. Westchester asks that the sliding scale pay scale, which was in place before the recent pay raise, be re-implemented with the new, increased pay rate applying to felony representation. 	included in 24 package
3	Finance	N/A	Prevent Breach of the Medicaid Cap	<p>Westchester has been able to meet new costs due to healthy sales tax revenues. These revenues are likely to decline over time. A breach of the Medicaid cap would result in a \$4 to \$7 million annual cost, or \$12-21 million over 3 years, growing each year thereafter, placing pressure on property taxes.</p>	included in 24 package

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4	Finance	N/A	Lift the Sunset on the Indian Point Closure Mitigation Fund	Indian Point's 2021 closure resulted in the loss of over 1,000 jobs and created budget problems for local municipalities. New York State created the Electric Generation Facility Cessation Mitigation Program (Mitigation Fund) to offset the impact of lost property tax. Westchester County requests that the sunset on this funding be lifted so that the County and surrounding impacted local governments and school districts may continue providing services to those impacted by the plant's closure.	included in 24 package
5	Finance	N/A	Amend the STOA Formula	Westchester County's Bee Line Bus Service has a larger ridership than Nassau County, but receives less in State Transportation Operating Assistance (STOA). The STOA formula currently prioritizes the distance of a transportation system rather than its ridership. This favors counties like Nassau and provides Westchester with a more limited allocation despite its higher ridership and significant transportation issues. 51% of Westchester's riders are transit-dependent, meaning they rely on the Bee Line and do not have a car for their use. Westchester's Bee Line needs more investment over the next decade, and the structural disadvantage of the STOA formula actively denies funding which Westchester would use to improve its routes, to provide a variety of climate friendly transportation routes, and to improve the conditions of its drivers. As such, Westchester requests that the STOA formula be amended to prioritize the ridership of a system, not the distance which it travels.	included in 24 package
6	Finance	N/A	Continue to Support Empire City Casino's Full License	Westchester supports MGM's work to acquire a full commercial gaming license at Empire City Casino in Yonkers. The provision of this license will bring new jobs, new tourism revenue, new opportunities for MWBEs and local businesses, and will bring additional funding for education. As such, Westchester County requests that members of its delegation continue their strong support of this item.	included in 24 package

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7	Finance	N/A	Allocate \$3 million in funding to cover costs associated with police patrols to New York State Parkways which are provided by Westchester County	<p>The Westchester County Department of Public Safety, under a grant agreement with New York State, patrols the State Parkways in the County (Hutchinson River Parkway, Saw Mill River Parkway and Cross County Parkway). In 2021, the state appropriated \$2,235,000 to support this program. This year, the Executive Budget Proposal contains no appropriation of funding for this purpose.</p> <p>Westchester's budgeted cost for providing this service was roughly \$3 million. This does not include fringe benefits of approximately \$3 million. Including fringe, our total cost is over \$5 million. This does not include the cost of vehicles, fuel, maintenance, computers, firearms, and other associated equipment. Westchester County's Department of Public Safety has patrolled the parkway system since 1920, and relies on this State funding to provide public safety services to travelers using these parkways.</p>	included in 24 package
8	Finance	SOTS	Support Working Families (Tax cuts + Child Care initiatives)	<p>Support Gov Hochul's proposal to cut taxes for joint filers making up to \$323k/per year and eliminate state income tax for low-income New Yorkers.</p> <p>Support governor hochul's proposals to increase the state child tax credit to \$1,000 per child under 4/ \$500 for children 4 to 16; appropriate \$110 million to create a Child Care Construction Fund.</p> <p>Increase funding for child care assistance.</p> <p>Eliminate the requirement that parents or caretakers have to earn a minimum wage to be eligible for child care assistance.</p> <p>Provide that a caregiver shall be eligible for assistance for child care under the Child Care Block Grant regardless of the hours the caregiver actually works.</p>	
9	Finance		Fund Domestic Violence Non-Residential Services and Housing	<p>Requesting the state provide an additional \$150,000 in funding for increased utilization of a program that services victims of domestic violence. Many survivors of domestic violence are unable to escape their situations because they cohabit with their abusers. This program provides victims of domestic violence with meaningful alternatives to returning to a living situation that will perpetuate abuse.</p>	
10	Finance		Sales Tax Reauthorization	Requesting the state reauthorize the county's authority to levy sales tax.	

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11	Finance	N/A	Reimburse Westchester County for shelter costs and allowing the transfer of DSS client shelter payments to trust accounts.	<p>Individuals with income who enter the Westchester shelter system currently pay a portion of their income to offset county expenses incurred from the operation of the shelters. All remaining costs of providing care are reimbursed through New York State's federally-sourced Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) funding.</p> <p>Westchester County requests that New York State allow individuals with income (who are entering a County shelter) to deposit their income into trust accounts rather than paying the county to offset costs. This would give a client funding - when they hopefully transfer out of the shelter system - to secure new housing.</p>	
12	Finance	N/A	Funding for Access to Counsel	<p>Provide funding for legal representation of tenants in housing court to challenge evictions and prevent homelessness. New York State has provided funding for eviction prevention legal services to represent clients in eviction cases. Courts still face a backlog of eviction cases, due to the pandemic eviction moratorium, despite recent movement. If funding is cut or reduced, enormous demand for legal support will be generated in Westchester, forcing additional costs onto the County. As such, Westchester asks that this funding be continued.</p>	
1	Legislative Initiatives	2025/24-S4020 (Mayer) / A3392 (Garcia)	Relates to emergency medical services	Includes the establishment of an emergency medical services quality and sustainability assurance program, a statewide comprehensive emergency medical system plan and an emergency medical systems training program.	included in 24 package
2	Legislative Initiatives	S270 (Harckham) / A#### (Levenberg)	Provide Parkland Exemption for Renewable Energy Projects	Provides an exemption from requirements for the alienation of parkland for certain renewable energy generating projects.	
3	Legislative Initiatives	S#### (Mayer) / A1004 (Paulin)	Authorize Westchester County's Sewer Consolidation PILOT	Provides for the conveyance or lease of sewer system properties and responsibilities by cities, towns and villages in the county of Westchester when determined to be in the public interest.	

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4	Legislative Initiatives	SOTS	Free School Lunch	Free breakfast and lunch to all students statewide. In the FY2026 Executive Budget, Governor Hochul included funding to expand universal free school meals statewide. The Legislature has championed this critical proposal and now must ensure it remains fully funded in the final budget. Statewide universal free school meals will allow nearly 600 more schools to provide free school meal for all, expanding access for more than 280,000 additional students. After the 23-24 state expansion, 116 schools in Westchester have free for all school meals and 77,000 students have access. However, 83 schools and 40,000+ students still do not have access in Westchester County.	
5	Legislative Initiatives	S1464 (Harckham) /A1749 (Glick)	Packaging reduction and recycling infrastructure act	The average New Yorker creates nearly 5 pounds of trash every day, which means our state produces approximately 15 million tons of waste each year(1). 14 million tons of waste is produced by New York City alone(2). This waste primarily goes to landfills and incinerators, but can often end up in our water, natural habitats, and municipal spaces. The 2021 recycling rate for the United States has been estimated to be between 5-6963. While New Yorkers understand the importance of reducing our waste, reusing what we can, and recycling- our current system is not meeting our environmental demands. Local governments continue to struggle with recycling costs and infrastructure, which is seen through increased taxes or significantly limited materials that can be collected. The Packaging Reduction and Recycling Infrastructure Act would require companies with net income over \$1 million who sell or distribute certain materials and products to reduce packaging, improve recycling and recycling infrastructure, financially support municipal recycling programs, and reduce toxins in packaging. This legislation shifts the onus of recycling from municipalities and ensures that producers of products are serving our interests by establishing solutions to sustainable packaging.	included in 24 package
6	Legislative Initiatives	SOTS	Addressing Housing Affordability	Gov. Hochul proposals to create \$100 Million New York State Pro-Housing Supply Fund for pro-housing communities. Gov Hochul proposal to double the Low Income Housing Tax Credit program. Gov. Hochul Proposal to strengthen existing local authority to acquire vacant and abandoned buildings and by proposing to authorize localities across the state to adopt a tax exemption to incentivize redevelopment of these properties into affordable homes.	

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1	Delegation Support	2023-24: S1155-A (Skoufis) /A4116A (Levenberg)	Amend the general business law to require self-help practitioners to disclose information to clients regarding risks and to produce a risk management plan	This legislation will establish guidelines for the self-help industry to improve consumer safety.	
2	Delegation Support	A216 (Burdick)/ S3972 (Harckham)	PFAS Mitigation funding	Directs the department of environmental conservation to establish an installation grant program and a maintenance rebate program for perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances removal treatment.	
3	Delegation Support	S1179 (Mayer)/ A1004 (Kelles)	New York long term care trust act	Establishes the New York long term care trust program to provide long term care benefits for eligible residents who have paid the required premium contributions and are in need of assistance with at least two activities of daily living as determined by the department of health.	
4	Delegation Support	S746 (Mayer) /A814 (Benedetto)	Safe Gun Storage	Directs the commissioner of health to develop and implement a public awareness campaign on the safe storage of firearms, rifles and shotguns and child access and prevention.	
5	Delegation Support	S2083 (Kavanagh) /A27 (Burdick)	Affordable Housing Needs Assessment	Requires municipalities to include an Affordable Housing Needs Assessment to establish a data-based foundation for the creation and preservation of affordable housing in the municipality, utilizing the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development median income calculations, in their comprehensive plans.	
6	Delegation Support	S3425 (Rivera) / A1466 (Paulin)	NY Health Act	Provides for establishment of the New York Health plan.	
7	Delegation Support	A506 (Paulin)/ S2075 (Mayer)	Prompt Non Profit Contracting Bill	Relates to state agency contracts with not-for-profit corporations.	
8	Delegation Support	S3590 (Harckham) /A10573 (Rules)	climate resilient New York	Enacts the climate resilient New York act of 2024; establishes the office of resilience to assess and identify climate related threats.	

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9	Delegation Support	S878 (Bailey)/ A2620 (Hevesi)	Children's Early Access to Counsel Bill	Protect youth rights during interrogations by law enforcement, ensuring equitable treatment and implementing tailored guidelines for youth interrogations.	
10	Delegation Support	S1896 (Mayer) / A1028 (Barrett)	Require certain utilities to adopt the common equity ratio and rate of return on equity authorized by the public service commission	This bill requires certain utilities to adopt the common equity ratio and rate of return on equity authorized by the Public Service Commission, unless the utility can demonstrate that such rates do not meet their capital or operating needs. This bill aims to standardize financial practices among utilities, ensuring fair returns while protecting consumers from excessive rates. By aligning utility returns with regulatory standards, it promotes transparency and accountability in utility rate-setting processes.	

STATE OF NEW YORK)
) ss.
COUNTY OF WESTCHESTER)

I HEREBY CERTIFY that I have compared the foregoing Resolution, Resolution No. 19 - 2025, with the original on file in my office, and that the same is a correct transcript therefrom, and of the whole, of said original Resolution, which was duly adopted by the Westchester County Board of Legislators, of said County on February 10, 2025.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the Corporate Seal of said County Board of Legislators on this 11th day of February, 2025.

Malika Vanderberg

Malika Vanderberg

The Clerk of the Westchester County
Board of Legislators

County of Westchester, New York

