
2016 ALBANY COUNTY EXECUTIVE BUDGET

INTRODUCTION AND HIGHLIGHTS

MESSAGE FROM YOUR COUNTY EXECUTIVE



Daniel P. McCoy

County Executive

David J. Friedfel

Commissioner of Management & Budget

2016 Budget Message from Daniel P. McCoy

September 2016

The Members of the Albany County Legislature and the People of Albany County:

I am pleased to present a 2016 Executive Budget that is balanced, meets our fiduciary duties and demonstrates that we have worked together to stabilize Albany County's finances.

Four years ago, when my administration took office, we were facing a structural deficit; a nursing home that was costing our taxpayers nearly \$1 million a month in unreimbursed expenditures; programs and services that had been dramatically cut or eliminated; and perhaps troubling of all, property taxes that had been increased to close budget gaps.

My administration has been successful in cutting costs and being more efficient. This year, for the first time in six years, the county has not requested a Tax Anticipation Note (TAN) to meet its short-term financial needs. From 2010-14 the county has had to borrow millions of dollars to meet our needs. In 2010 the county had to borrow \$15.1 million and last year we borrowed \$9.9 million. The fact that we did not rely on borrowing and that we have stayed within the tax cap for the last two years shows that we have budgeted appropriately, kept spending under control and preserved necessary services for seniors, youth and veterans.

As a result, the Executive Budget as proposed is structurally balanced without the use of reserve funds or the use of budget gimmicks. This budget is based on prudent fiscal management and demonstrates how we have "turned the corner" financially, particularly with regard to the administration of our nursing home.

The nursing home had been a financial strain on County finances and hindered our progress in improving the facility and providing a safety net for vulnerable seniors. The deficits we faced forced us to work together in order to keep the nursing home open and viable. We've moved forward on changing operations at the nursing home and moved forward with an ambitious capital plan, which will usher in a new day at the nursing home.

Over the course of this year, we've worked to modernize the nursing home, replace room furnishings and update living areas and resident rooms. Taken together these measures will help improve the quality of care and increase occupancy rates.

I remain committed to making sure the nursing home operates with the highest degree of professionalism and provides vulnerable seniors the highest level of care possible.

As to county-wide cost saving initiatives, we are working closely with local governments within the county to implement a plan for shared services that will comply with Governor Cuomo and the State Legislature's requirements so that homeowners are eligible to receive the New York State Property Tax Freeze Credit.

In May of 2015 my office and Comptroller Mike Conners completed the Countywide Government Efficiency Plan, which detailed how the county and local governments have implemented efficiencies and other measures that will provide \$15.8 million in savings in 2017-19, \$6 million of which was reported by the county.

With regard to the tax cap, I am proud to propose a budget that stayed under the cap. I am also proud that we have one of the lowest property tax rates in New York State. Building on the work we've done over the last three years, I present a budget that proposed no tax increase for the second consecutive year. I believe that our property owners deserve a break from increasing property taxes and that to attract new residents and businesses we must send a message that in Albany County, sound fiscal management, not higher taxes, is the order of business.

I wish to renew the pledge I made in 2012 during my first State of the County; I will work tirelessly to ensure that we will continue on the road to recovery. I believe this budget demonstrates that together we have made great progress.

I am grateful to Shawn Morse, the Chairman of the Legislature, Majority Leader Frank Commisso and Minority Leader Lee Carman for working with me and my administration to do the hard work needed to keep Albany County moving forward. I am hopeful that we can build on that work in the coming year.

Respectfully Submitted,

Daniel P. McCoy
Albany County Executive