



OFFICE OF THE COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

STEVE BULGER, COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

518.884.4742

SARATOGACOUNTY.NY.GOV

40 MC MASTER ST, BALLSTON SPA, NY 12020

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DATE: November 8, 2023

SARATOGA COUNTY UNVEILS TENTATIVE 2024 BUDGET WITH 8% CUT TO PROPERTY TAX RATE

Makes Significant Investments in Economic Development & Tourism, Workforce Development & Public Safety

BALLSTON SPA, NY – Saratoga County officials unveiled the County’s tentative 2024 budget, which is highlighted by an 8% decrease in the property tax rate while making significant investments in economic development, public safety, and new services and programs for residents. The proposal allows Saratoga County to maintain its position as having both the lowest property tax rate and sales tax rate out of all 62 counties statewide.

The proposed \$411 million budget reduces the property tax rate by 8%, keeping the levy within the state’s property tax cap and continuing to provide Saratoga County homeowners the lowest property tax rate in the State at \$1.95 per \$1,000 of assessed value.

The County makes a conservative sales tax revenue projection for 2024 of \$165 million, amidst higher inflation and uncertainty in future consumer spending habits. This is a decrease of \$5 million compared with expected 2023 revenues.

Saratoga County Board of Supervisors Chairman Theodore T. Kusnierz, Jr. said, “Saratoga County continues to be one of the fastest growing, fiscally conservative counties in the State as reflected in this proposed budget. Given the uncertain economic and inflation pressures we are experiencing, homeowners and businesses will receive real relief with an 8% property tax rate reduction. Importantly, the budget upholds our fiscally responsible practices, continues to provide vital programs and services to our residents, supports public safety and public health initiatives, and makes smart investments in economic development.”

Saratoga County Board of Supervisors Vice Chairman Jonathan Schopf said, “Once again our budget reflects our goals to invest in needed services and programs for our residents while continuing to reduce taxes. This fiscal discipline has proven to be a catalyst for growth in our County, and to ensure we can continue to provide services that make Saratoga County one of the healthiest and safest counties in New York State.”

(more)

County Administrator Steve Bulger said, “We are pleased to be able to provide robust services for our residents in an increasingly challenging fiscal environment. Unfunded state and federal mandates continue to grow every year, which will cost our taxpayers over \$6 million more than in 2023. We are also making significant investments in broadband, highway, and other infrastructure improvements to help sustain the quality-of-life Saratoga County residents enjoy.”

2024 Tentative Budget Investments for Saratoga County Residents Include:

- Continued support of and new investments in **Youth Development Programs** administered by the Department of Aging and Youth Services (Youth Development, Youth Sports, and Teams programs) that provide opportunities to disadvantaged children and youth countywide who may not otherwise have access to youth sports programs. A new program, Teams, will provide funding to towns and team sports programs throughout the county that support the health and well-being of children and youth. (\$352,612)
- A **broadband expansion project** to provide high-speed broadband expansion to the towns of Corinth, Day, Edinburg, Hadley, and Providence, utilizing federal ARPA funds. This investment will open opportunities for underserved residents of our northern corridor to work remotely, engage in education activities, get access to tele-health care, and more easily communicate with their friends and family. (\$2,051,813)
- **Workforce Development training** investments to provide residents and businesses with career and job seeker training opportunities with a special focus on developing a strong workforce for in-demand skilled trades jobs. (\$487,471)
- A **new Caregivers Conference** administered by the Department of Aging and Youth Services dedicated to empowering family and professional caregivers with essential knowledge, resources, and practical tools to help them in their important roles of caregivers. (\$9,240)
- **Enhanced investments in economic development and tourism** programs to maintain Saratoga County’s status as a cultural, entertainment, and industry destination for travelers and businesses worldwide (more than \$1.3 million)
- **Preserving open space and providing outdoor recreational opportunities** for residents through investments in our Farmland and Open Space Acquisition and fish stocking programs and by increasing funding for our Local Assistance to County Trails grant program. (\$575,000)
- **Continued investments to address the opioid epidemic** including utilizing Opioid Settlement Funds to create programs and provide services to connect families, veterans, and underserved populations with community-based treatment, rehabilitation, recovery, and support services related to opioid and substance use disorders. (\$150,000)
- **Robust investments in public safety** to build upon Saratoga County’s longstanding ranking as one of New York State’s safest communities and support officials’ increased obligations stemming from changes in New York State public safety laws. These include investments in personnel, technology, and equipment for the Sheriff’s Office, District Attorney’s Office, Probation Department, Public Defender’s Department, and Conflict Defender’s Office. (nearly \$57,000,000)
- **Emergency Services communications upgrades** and a new Fire Training Tower in support of volunteer firefighters throughout Saratoga County. (more than \$3 million)

For more information, to view the budget brief, and to read the full tentative 2024 budget, please visit www.SaratogaCountyNY.gov.