

SARATOGA COUNTY 2025 TENTATIVE BUDGET



COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR'S BUDGET MESSAGE

**To the Honorable Chairman Phil Barrett, the Saratoga County Board of Supervisors,
and the Residents of Saratoga County:**

I am pleased to present the Tentative 2025 County Budget for your review and consideration. Thanks to the visionary leadership of our elected officials, Saratoga County continues to excel as a statewide leader in quality of life, fiscal responsibility, and robust population and economic growth. I'm happy to report that the County remains in strong fiscal health as we approach 2025. This success is rooted in our longstanding commitment to fiscal conservatism, which has laid the foundation for our thriving population and tax base.

For 2025, we will maintain the two key metrics that have propelled our growth: the lowest county sales tax rate and the lowest county property tax rate among all 55 upstate counties in New York. Our proposed budget for 2025 includes a significant 5% reduction in the property tax rate, while staying within the state's property tax cap. We are also increasing investments in our workforce, public safety, health initiatives, and essential services for our seniors, youth, and the disadvantaged.

We understand that keeping tax rates low is essential for our residents, especially as they navigate the rising costs of necessities like food and housing. The driving force behind these low taxes is our commitment to minimizing government spending, as reflected in our 2025 budget, which maintains the lowest per capita spending rate of any county in the state. Our team consistently strives for efficiency and effectiveness in delivering services to our nearly 240,000 residents, and I am immensely proud of their dedication.

However, challenges remain, particularly with significant new unfunded mandates imposed by New York State and our federal government. These requirements will cost Saratoga County taxpayers over \$10 million in additional expenditures next year. In addition, we are seeing a slow down in sales tax revenue, which will impact the County's ability to expand some services moving forward.

I want to extend my gratitude to Chairman Phil Barrett, Law & Finance Chairman Matt Veitch, and all Supervisors involved in this process for their insights and recommendations to the Budget Liaison Committee. I also thank our Department Heads and their teams for their valuable assistance and feedback throughout this journey.

Most importantly, I would like to acknowledge Budget Director Stephanie Hodgson, Deputy Administrator Ridge Harris, and Director of Human Resources Scot Chamberlain and his team for their hard work and thoughtful contributions in developing the 2025 budget.

Thank you all for your commitment to our County's future!

Respectfully submitted,

Steve Bulger

Steve Bulger
County Administrator