



# State of New York County of Broome Government Offices

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Office of the Broome County Executive  
Jason T. Garnar, Executive

**EMBARGOED** until 6PM on September 12, 2018

## County Executive Jason Garnar Proposes **Tax Cut** for 2019

*Executive's Budget Maintains Critical Services and Programs  
Invests in Public Safety and Introduces New Workforce Development Initiatives*

(TOWN OF CONKLIN, NY) Broome County Executive Jason Garnar presented his 2019 Executive Budget proposal this evening to members of the Broome County Legislature, county officials, and residents at the DICK's Sporting Goods Distribution Center in Conklin.

The County Executive detailed a \$385 million proposed budget. His plan includes a tax cut, reducing the county property tax levy by 0.495. The last time an Executive presented a proposed tax cut was in 2004 (dating back to the 2005 proposed budget).

The 2019 proposed budget maintains critical county services and programs, with the introduction of several brand-new workforce development initiatives and increased investment to public safety.

County Executive Garnar said, "My 2019 Executive Budget shows my commitment to provide tax relief to the residents of Broome County while remaining realistic about our finances. There are no gimmicks and no games. This is what can happen when you roll up your sleeves, get to work and budget realistically and conservatively. Thanks to our departments' diligent efforts as well as receiving MAJOR state and federal grants, Broome County has implemented some great projects and programs which has helped our budget. We have seen some strong revenue growth and I have recognized some of that for 2019. This allowed me to present a budget that not only includes a TAX CUT but adds some priority positions and programs."

15 positions are necessary to meet the state-required Raise the Age legislation. These positions are in the departments of Probation, Social Services, Sheriff, District Attorney and Law. The costs of these positions will be reimbursed by New York State.

New workforce development initiatives proposed by the Executive in 2019 include increased funding to the Chamber of Commerce for a Welcome Wagon program, a diversion program created by the District Attorney in partnership with the Office of Employment and Training and a "Clean Sweep" program with a Job Coach at the Department of Social Services, designed to get people who are able to work, to work.

The County Executive is also proposing an increased investment in public safety with the addition of Corrections Officers at the Sheriff's Office required by Centralized Arraignment. Other new public safety investments include emergency dispatchers and an Emergency Management Coordinator for the Office of Emergency Services. Broome County has already experienced three State of Emergencies in 2018 with snow storms and flooding. Just recently,

county OES coordinated relief to major flash flooding in Broome and assisted in a train derailment just outside of the county.

The County Executive also addressed his commitment to working with municipalities in Broome County. He is proposing no change to the sales tax formula for 2019 for the municipalities. In 2019, he is also including \$150,000 for his Small Communities Grant Fund to provide grant money to municipalities for economic development projects. This program has been a great success in 2019 with approved projects in Fenton, Deposit, Windsor, Conklin and other municipalities.

“I thank the members of the County Legislature and my colleagues in county and local government for their shared commitment to building a Better Broome County, and I look forward to working with legislators in the coming weeks as we work toward adopting this budget for 2019,” said Garnar.