New York State, like other states around the nation, established its county system of government as a way to deliver services more efficiently on a grassroots basis. There are 3,069 counties in the United States. Only Connecticut and Rhode Island have no functioning county governments. All county governments are led by an elected body. Westchester, one of New York State’s original ten counties, was first led by the Board of Justices which convened for the first time on November 1, 1683. The legislature then became the Board of Supervisors and is now called the Westchester County Board of Legislators.

The 17-member County Board is the lawmaking branch of county government. It sets policies that protect and serve Westchester’s nearly one million residents, and allocates the money needed to operate county programs and services. It has oversight responsibility of the executive branch, which was created in 1939 to carry out its policies. Each County Legislator, elected to a two-year term, represents a district of about 57,000 residents.

**Westchester County’s Budget**
Two-thirds of Westchester County’s operating budget involves services and programs mandated by the federal government and the state of New York. Some of these services are funded entirely by federal and state aid; however, the State shifts a significant portion of the cost of other programs (in particular Medicaid) to the County to be funded through tax revenue. The remaining one-third of the budget is considered discretionary or non-mandated, and the County Board has greater control over how this portion of the budget is spent. *(See the back page for a breakdown of mandated and discretionary spending for services and programs.)*

**WHERE DO YOUR PROPERTY TAXES GO?**

Contrary to popular perception, county services are the smallest piece of the property tax dollar.

- **City/Town/Village/Special Districts:** 22.5¢
- **Schools:** 62.5¢
- **County:** 15.0¢

**SOURCES OF COUNTY REVENUE**

- **Sales Tax:** 16.9%
- **Property Tax:** 29.8%
- **Fed/State Aid:** 24.0%
- **Other:** 29.3%

**County/Town Revenue Sharing**
Counts, unlike the State and some cities around NY, collect no income taxes. Westchester shares over $125 million of its sales tax revenues with towns and school districts.

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**Citizen involvement is critical to the success of county government.**

County government belongs to the people of Westchester. The legislative process is open, transparent and accessible to all Westchester residents. County Board and Committee meeting calendars and agendas are posted on the Board’s Web site at [www.westchesterlegislators.com](http://www.westchesterlegislators.com). Your County Legislators have been the voice of the people of Westchester for over 335 years. To best represent your interests and ensure your voice is heard, the legislators need to hear from you.

Westchester County Board of Legislators ● 148 Martine Avenue, 8th Floor, White Plains, NY 10601 ● www.westchesterlegislators.com

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Rev. March 2019
About two-thirds of the County’s operating budget goes toward paying for services mandated by the State. County government provides a regional, cost-effective solution for delivering services that local municipalities would have to otherwise provide and fund through property taxes. The bottom-line: county government offers efficiencies that save taxpayer dollars.

### Capital Projects Budget* ($195,834,000)

- **Airport**: 4,000,000
- **Correction**: 300,000
- **Emergency Services**: 2,000,000
- **Information Technology**: 4,100,000
- **Labs & Research**: 850,000
- **Parkways**: 4,500,000
- **Planning**: 8,602,000
- **Public Safety**: -420,000
- **Public Works-Buildings**: 8,290,000
- **Public Works-Parking Facilities**: 2,675,000
- **Recreational Facilities**: 32,335,000
- **Refuse Disposal**: 13,730,000
- **Roads & Bridges**: 11,080,000
- **Sewer and Water Districts**: 65,000,000
- **Social Services**: 700,000
- **Transportation**: 38,092,000

* Funded primarily through the issuance of bonds.

### County Sales Tax Distribution ($125.6 M)

- **Public Health ($146.9 M)**
- **Social Services ($614.9 M)**
- **Regional, cost-effective solution for delivering services that local municipalities would have to otherwise provide and fund through property taxes.**

### County Sales Tax Distribution ($125.6 M)

- **Social Services ($614.9 M)**
- **Public Health ($146.9 M)**
- **Regional, cost-effective solution for delivering services that local municipalities would have to otherwise provide and fund through property taxes.**

### Public Health ($146.9 M)

- **Communicable Disease Control**
- **Environmental & Community Health**
- **Early Intervention**
- **Inspections: restaurants, hotels, day camps, water, solid waste systems**
- **Public Health Laboratories**

### Correction ($134.2 M)

- **County Jail**
- **Penitentiary**

### Social Services ($614.9 M)

- **Mandated**
- **Non-mandated or discretionary services.**

### WHAT DOES THE COUNTY DO?

**A Consolidated Services Model**

- **7 wastewater treatment plants**
- **194 miles of sewers**
- **4,000 manholes**
- **42 pump stations**
- **Water Filtration Systems**
- **4 water districts**
- **Kensico Dam**
- **Charles Point Trash Disposal**
- **Materials Recycling Facility**

Please note: Sewer and refuse services are not included in the County’s operating budget.

### Capital Projects Budget* ($195,834,000)

- **Airport**: 4,000,000
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- **Sewer and Water Districts**: 65,000,000
- **Social Services**: 700,000
- **Transportation**: 38,092,000

* Funded primarily through the issuance of bonds.

### Environmental Facilities Department

**A Consolidated Services Model**

- **7 wastewater treatment plants**
- **194 miles of sewers**
- **4,000 manholes**
- **42 pump stations**
- **Water Filtration Systems**
- **4 water districts**
- **Kensico Dam**
- **Charles Point Trash Disposal**
- **Materials Recycling Facility**

Please note: Sewer and refuse services are not included in the County’s operating budget.

**FED/STATE MANDATED**

$1.295 BILLION

**NON-MANDATED**

$649 MILLION

About one-third of the County’s operating budget goes toward funding non-mandated or discretionary services.

### Public Works / Transportation ($157.6 M)

- **Bee Line Bus System**
- **Infrastructure**

### Parks, Recreation & Conservation ($51.3 M)

- **24/7 county-wide fire & EMS**
- **Emergency Evacuation**
- **WMD Response**
- **Arson Unit**
- **Bomb Squad**
- **Fire Training Facility**
- **HAZMAT Team**
- **Special Operations**
- **Alternatives to Incarceration**
- **Substance Abuse; Mental Health Court; Depression Help Line**
- **Case Management**
- **Substance Abuse**
- **Mental Health Court**
- **Addiction Help Line**
- **Case Management**
- **Consumer Protection**

### Home & Community Services ($5.6 M)

- **Senior Program**
- **Consumer Protection**

### Mental Health ($3.6 M)

- **Case Management**
- **Depression Help Line**
- **Mental Health Court**

### Emergency Services ($6.3 M)

- **Special Operations**
- **HAZMAT Team**
- **Fire Training Facility**
- **Bomb Squad**
- **Arson Unit**
- **WMD Response**
- **Emergency Evacuation**
- **24/7 county-wide fire & EMS**

### Planning ($4.2 M)

- **Open Space**
- **Water Quality**
- **Land Use-Westchester 2025**
- **Affordable Housing**
- **Farm Protection**
- **Community / Economic Development**

### Employee Fringe ($184.6 M)

- **Administrative, Supportive & Miscellaneous ($76.4 M)**
- **Debt Service ($96.7 M)**

**NOTE:** These numbers are reflective of the 2019 County Budget adopted on Dec. 10, 2018.