



**NEWS FROM THE OFFICE OF
ULSTER COUNTY COMPTROLLER
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

EDUCATION RELATED EXPENSES DRIVE COUNTY’S \$6.6M NOVEMBER SPENDING
Making Sense Out of Dollars

KINGSTON, NY (December 7, 2015)... County Comptroller Elliott Auerbach announced today his office approved 1715 invoices from 515 vendors totaling payments of over \$6.6 million in November. The Ulster County Spending Tracker highlights several unique disbursements from twenty-nine units of government that were a part of the monthly audit.

As the County’s chief auditing officer, Auerbach’s office reviews request for payments for all County departments and offices and audits each submission. This independent review ensures that purchases are authorized, contract stipulations have been met and payments are free from fraud, waste and improprieties.

While many of the expenditures were related to customary expenses necessary for the day-to-day function of County government, sizable payments were made for a handful of distinctive and atypical expenses.

November saw education expenses leading as the major cost center for the County. Among them were college chargebacks to nine schools, the fee paid when a County resident attends a community college other than SUNY Ulster, totaling \$659,000. The rates vary per full time enrolled student (FTE) and include an annual \$300 Capital Chargeback Rate, all of which are prorated accordingly and set by New York State Education Law. The three schools with the greatest charges were as follows:

Orange Community College	242 students	(\$3,770 per FTE)	\$323,134.194
Columbia-Greene Community College	135 students	(\$4,910 per FTE)	\$219,899.91
Sullivan Community College	40 students	(\$6,020 per FTE)	\$88,825.25

Auerbach’s office releases spending tracker reports to provide current information about the number and types of payments by the county and posts them on his website to ensure public transparency.

The NOVEMBER 2015 County Spending Tracker can be found at youreyesonulster.com.

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