



ULSTER COUNTY LEGISLATIVE NEWS

ULSTER COUNTY NEWS INFORMATION
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Chairman Releases Statement on Governor Cuomo's Budget Agreement

Governor Cuomo's budget takes an important step in capping Medicaid expenses on counties. Stopping the growth, as he is proposing to do over the next three years, is an important first step in mandate relief; and I emphasize- first step.

In addition, his creation of a Tier 6 for new public employees will help hold down costs, and make government more affordable for taxpayers. The time existed not too long ago, when public workers were paid well below their private sector counterparts. That is no longer the case. When health insurance benefits and pension costs are added to public salaries, the long-term cost of public services has become unaffordable for small business and private sector taxpayers. Governor Cuomo recognizes that, and he is taking steps to change that, and make New York affordable to live in again.

I am also in support of the Governor's proposal in the budget to transfer the operation of Belleayre to the Olympic Regional Developmental Authority. We want to make sure there is a strong voice on ORDA's Board for Ulster County. However, Belleayre needs a new sense of urgency, direction, and prioritization from State government, and ORDA can certainly do no worse than the DEC has these past three years.

Note: Anyone wishing to access a summary of the Governor's budget plan can go to: <http://www.governor.ny.gov/press/01172011ExecutiveBudget>