

LET'S

TALK ABOUT

LOCAL

GOVERNMENT



Make your voice heard! Join the New York Association of Towns for its Lobby Day on May 5, 2026. Kick off the day with an overview of NYAOT's legislative priorities, followed by meetings with state legislators.

May 5, 2026

8 a.m. Albany Marriott

189 Wolf Road | Albany, NY 12205

EVENT HIGHLIGHTS:

- Legislative Presentation
- Coordinated Shuttles
- Meetings with Legislators
- Networking Reception

Free to attend; register at www.nytowns.org



NYAOT 2026 Legislative Priorities

For a complete list of our 2026 Legislative Priorities, please click [here](#).

1. Preserve & Support Home Rule

Protect the constitutional authority of towns to govern local affairs, adopt local laws, manage land use, and respond to community needs without state overreach. Support state and federal recognition of home rule.

STATE FUNDING & INFRASTRUCTURE

2. Maintain & Increase AIM & TMA Funding

Advocate for increased unrestricted State aid adjusted for inflation and call for the continuation of Temporary Municipal Assistance funding.

3. Support Highway, Bridge & Transportation Funding

Maintain and increase CHIPS, PAVE-NY, BridgeNY, Extreme Winter Recovery, POP, and other DOT capital programs to address significant local road and bridge funding gaps.

4. Create Dedicated Water & Sewer Infrastructure Funding

Establish a CHIPS-style annual program for water and sewer systems using a fair, formula-based allocation to assist towns in modernizing aging infrastructure and supporting housing development.

WORKFORCE & CIVIL SERVICE

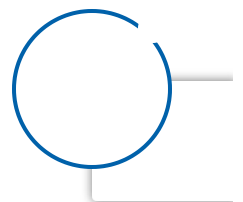
5. Increase the Retiree Salary Cap

Raise the §212 earnings cap for public retirees returning to public service from \$35,000 to \$65,000 to help towns fill critical vacancies and retain experienced workers.

6. Amend Civil Service Rules for More Efficient Hiring

Allow provisional employees to become permanent after nine months if no exam has been offered, permit pass/fail scoring when appropriate, and remove state-licensed professions from competitive classifications.

TAX, FINANCE, & LOCAL REVENUE



7. Provide Towns a Voice in PILOT Negotiations

Require town approval for PILOT agreements that affect their tax base or mandate community benefits agreements to offset lost revenue.

8. Reform Inequities in the Real Property Tax Cap

Exclude EMS and infrastructure costs, as well as special district spending, from the cap formula to reflect true municipal obligations.

9. Authorize New Local Revenue Sources & Evaluate Mandates

Give towns the option to enact hotel occupancy taxes, local sales taxes, gross receipts taxes, and 911 surcharges. Review unfunded mandates driving local costs.

GOVERNMENT MODERNIZATION

10. Establish a Statewide Grant Clearinghouse

Create a centralized platform where all state agencies must post local government funding opportunities, simplifying access and reducing administrative burden.

11. Increase Competitive Bidding Thresholds

Update General Municipal Law §103 thresholds (currently \$20,000 for purchases, \$35,000 for public works) to reflect 15 years of inflation and streamline procurement.

12. Modernize Public Notice Requirements

Authorize towns to use their official .gov websites, supplemented by digital tools, as valid public notice platforms, reducing costs and improving access where newspapers have diminished.

HEALTH BENEFITS & COST SAVINGS

13. Support Ways to Reduce Municipal Health Benefit Costs

Lower barriers to cooperative health plans by:

- Allowing towns under 100 employees to avoid costly community rating;
- Reducing the 2,000-lives threshold for Article 47 consortia;
- Clarifying authority for towns to join BOCES health consortia;
- Allowing pooled stop-loss coverage so towns may join county self-insured plans.

