



## County Legislature begins review of 2019 budget

The Albany County Legislature has begun its review of County Executive Daniel McCoy’s proposed 2019 budget to provide a spending plan that doesn’t incur additional costs for County residents.

Throughout October, the Audit and Finance Committee has been meeting with the heads of each county department to review significant changes in their budgets as well as goals for the upcoming year.

The budget was released on October 10, totaling \$711,115,124, which represents a \$21.3 million increase, or 3.1 percent, over 2018. The spending plan includes a proposed tax levy of \$94,101,784, a 1.74 percent increase that falls within the state’s required real property tax cap. While the levy is projected to increase, the overall tax rate is expected to total \$3.61 per \$1,000 of equalized assessed value, a decrease from the previous year’s total of \$3.72.

“A budget is much more than a bunch of numbers. It is a short-term plan for governing. As the legislative, appropriating and policy determining body of Albany County, the Legislature takes its responsibility seriously to evaluate what the County Executive has proposed,” Andrew Joyce, chair of the Albany County Legislature said following the release of the budget. “The 2019 budget we send back will reflect the best ideas the Legislature comes up with for delivering services better, faster and cheaper to the residents of Albany County.” The budget review will continue into November.

### DSS eyes kiosks to expand services

The Legislature is considering a request by the Department of Social Services to set up kiosks outside DSS and in the community to provide better accessibility for those applying for SNAP benefits. The kiosks are being purchased through a \$102,893 grant received from the US Department of Agriculture, via the NYS Office of Temporary Disability Assistance. The grant will also be used to purchase document scanners; a laptop and printer to conduct outreach; and training employees to assist individuals.

Legislators are expected to vote on the request in November.



## Peeking at renovations

Legislators tour the \$70 million renovation project at the Albany County Nursing Home on October 18. Pictured: Majority Leader Dennis Feeney says a few words prior to the tour with County Executive Daniel McCoy, Deputy Chair Wanda Willingham, Deputy Majority Leader Lynne Lekakis, Deputy Minority Leader Paul Burgdorf, and Legislators Joseph O’Brien, Gary Domalewicz, Frank Commisso, Robert Beston, Peter Crouse and Paul Miller. Larry Slatky, Executive Director of the Nursing Home and Colonie Supervisor Paula Mahan were also in attendance.



### Congrats Andrew!

Legislature Chair Andrew Joyce is promoted to Major in the NY Army National Guard on October 21 at the 42<sup>nd</sup> Infantry Division in Troy.

### *In Remembrance of Herman Thomas*

The Albany County Legislature sends its condolences to the family of Herman Thomas, who passed away on October 28 at age 80.

Herman served as the first African American Coroner in Albany County from 2001 to 2013.

He previously worked for Albany Medical Center, retiring in 2002.

He leaves behind his wife, Lillia Mae Thomas; his children, Tonya Baldwin, Jacquelyn Mallett, Herman Thomas Jr., Dwayne Thomas, Ronald Thomas, Todd Triolo, Mitch Triolo; 26 grandchildren and a great-grandchild.