

CONSUMER AFFAIRS - 6610

MISSION

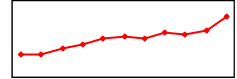
The mission of the Department of Consumer Affairs is to protect Albany County consumers by ensuring that goods for sale meet prescribed standards for quality and purity, and are accurately labeled. The Department also works to secure the consumer's rights and responsibilities in the marketplace through the investigation of consumer complaints.

ABOUT OUR DEPARTMENT

The Department of Consumer Affairs serves consumers in Albany County in six major program areas:

- **Octane Testing** ensures that every gasoline pump and gas station in Albany County adheres to the New York State Clean Air Act and all local laws. Gasoline sold for use in combustible engines is tested to ensure that it meets the advertised level of octane.
- **Commodities Inspection** ensures that all stores selling food items adhere to New York State prescribed commodities standards. Goods for sale are inspected to ensure that they meet advertised weight.
- **Item Pricing** ensures that all stores comply with item pricing requirements provided for in Albany County Local Law No. 1 of 1992 and that all prices are clearly marked.
- **Price Posting Law** ensures that all dry cleaners, tailors, shoe repairers, barbers, and cosmetologists post a conspicuous list of prices for services offered, as provided for in Albany County Local Law No. 2 of 2002.
- **Pumps and Scales** certifies the accuracy of all commercial scales in Albany County. Gasoline pumps are tested to ensure that they accurately dispense the amount of gasoline reflected by the selling price.
- **Consumer Education** provides information on consumer rights through the production of materials and educational forums.
- **Consumer Fraud Investigation/Mediation** works with other law enforcement agencies to provide assistance and information to victims of consumer fraud.

APPROPRIATION HISTORY



1998:	\$149,474
1999:	\$145,233
2000:	\$182,996
2001:	\$203,842
2002:	\$228,683
2003:	\$240,650
2004:	\$231,150
2005:	\$259,626
2006:	\$249,380
2007:	\$272,146
2008:	\$351,487

CONTACT INFORMATION

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OUTCOME

Goods and services purchased by Albany County residents will meet the standards required by New York State and Local Consumer Protection Laws.

DEPARTMENT HIGHLIGHT

The 2009 Executive Budget proposes a year to year change in Risk Retention Fund Charges of \$71,403. This change reflects a modification in the methodology used for allocation of Workers Compensation Claims and Administration expenses.

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Account	Description	2007 Expended	2008 Adjusted	2009 Proposed	2008-09 Change	2008-09 Percent Change
Appropriations						
Consumer Affairs-(6610)						
	Personnel Services	\$ 176,501	\$ 181,209	\$ 163,826	\$(17,383)	(9.6%)
	Equipment	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	0.0%
	Contractual Expenses	\$ 24,426	\$ 95,296	\$ 27,201	\$(68,095)	(71.5%)
	Fringe Benefits	\$ 52,032	\$ 74,982	\$ 65,754	\$(9,228)	(12.3%)
	Consumer Affairs	\$ 252,959	\$ 351,487	\$ 256,781	\$(94,706)	(26.9%)
	Appropriations	\$ 252,959	\$ 351,487	\$ 256,781	\$(94,706)	(26.9%)
Revenue						
	Consumer Affairs	\$(221,370)	\$(261,340)	\$(273,840)	\$(12,500)	4.8%
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	County Share	\$ 31,588	\$ 90,147	\$(17,059)	\$(107,206)	(118.9%)
		2008	2009	2009	2008-09	2008-09
		Adjusted	Requested	Proposed	Changes	Percent Change
CONSUMER AFFAIRS		6	7	6	0	0.0%