Senate and Assembly Prepare to Approve One-House Budgets  
March 10, 2020

NYCOM staff continue to focus their attention on the State Budget which is due to be adopted in twenty-two days. The Senate and Assembly will release and pass their one-house budgets next week at which time we will have a much better understanding of how things will play out with respect to our priorities. Based on what we are being told in discussions with legislators, it sounds like infrastructure funding is a priority for both houses. The legalization of cannabis and e-bikes/e-scooters also continue to be in the mix, as do amendments to the criminal justice reforms.

NYCOM continues to strongly oppose the proposals related to the siting of small wireless facilities and renewable energy projects due to their lack of local input and their infringement on municipal home rule authority. While the fate of the small cells proposal is uncertain, the renewable energy initiative appears to be gathering steam. NYCOM is working closely with the Association of Towns and has gone on record in opposition with the *Buffalo News*, *Politico* and *Newsday*.

If you haven’t done so already, now is the time to reach out to your legislators and let them know that you:

- Support an increase in CHIPS as well as a funding stream that would ensure every municipality would receive its own annual allocation for water/sewer infrastructure based on the amount of pipelines and mains owned and operated by the municipality.

- Support giving all cities and villages, regardless of population, the authority to prohibit any operation involving the cultivation, processing, distribution and sale of adult-use cannabis within their jurisdiction and for those communities that do not opt out, the ability to regulate the time place and manner of all cannabis-related operations and to receive a share of cannabis tax revenue.
• Oppose any proposals that would jeopardize your home rule authority and eliminate local oversight and local input with regard to siting decisions involving small wireless facilities or renewable energy projects.

• Support amendments to the discovery reforms to make them more effective and more affordable to implement, including extending the discovery timeframe from 15 to 60 days unless the defendant is incarcerated and excluding any charge not involving a felony or misdemeanor.

Local Government Lobby Day
In an effort to drive home our position on key state budget issues that we have been and will continue to advocate for in the upcoming weeks, we encourage you to join us at Local Government Lobby Day, Monday, March 23 at the Renaissance Hotel in Albany. NYCOM and the Association of Towns (AOT) are joining forces to ensure that our state budget priorities are at the forefront of the State Legislature’s mind during the final days prior to the Budget’s adoption.

The day will begin with a discussion led by NYCOM and AOT staff updating you on the status of those issues of greatest importance to you and your communities. Following that we will hold a news conference at the State Capitol, after which you will have the opportunity to meet with your Senate and Assembly representatives to reiterate our position on these initiatives. (Talking points will be made available for you to use to facilitate your discussions.) We strongly encourage you to begin scheduling those meetings now and to coordinate with other city, town and village officials in your region.

There is no fee for this event but we do ask that you register by March 18. Continental breakfast and a box lunch is included.

Coronavirus (COVID-19) Guidance
In recent days, NYCOM has received several inquiries on the coronavirus. We encourage all local officials to keep abreast of the latest reports and advisories from the New York State Department of Health and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). More information is available on the NYCOM website.

NYCOM Video Calls for Increased State Support for Cities and Villages

NYCOM has released a new advocacy video — "My Community, My Future" — told from the point-of-view of a young New Yorker. She highlights the many important ways municipal services support her development and she knows that her future depends on increased State investment in her community.

NYCOM urges all of our members to distribute this video to your constituents and the media via newsletters, social media, and broadcasting at public meetings. The public needs to be reminded that State support of cities and villages is critically important to the future success of our children.
INCREASE STATE SUPPORT FOR CITIES AND VILLAGES
MY SUCCESS DEPENDS ON IT