



NEWS RELEASE

Joint Statement from the Executive Directors of the Conference of Mayors and the Association of Towns on the Governor's Countywide Consolidation Mandate

Countywide Consolidation Referendum Will Hurt Chances for More Shared Services

"There is widespread belief that removing the link between Aid and Incentives for Municipalities (AIM) funding and the Governor's countywide consolidation proposal would be a win for local governments. This is absolutely untrue because, contrary to what many seem to think, the language does not link AIM funding to whether local governments comply with the consolidation proposal – rather, it links AIM funding to state legislative approval of such proposal. While we strongly believe the link should be removed, the real victory for local governments and their taxpayers will occur when the countywide referendum mandate is rejected.

"City, town or village voters should not be asked to approve how their neighbors in another city, town or village will receive local services that they need, want and are willing to pay for. Having one municipality impose its will on the residents of another is not how local government should work in New York. This new mandate would create a top-down, state- and county-dictated process that will actually make enhanced shared services more difficult.

"NYCOM and AOT are calling on the State Legislature to take back their budgetary power by removing the linkage to AIM and, most importantly, reject any new referendum requirements as part of the countywide consolidation proposal."