



ASSOCIATION OF TOWNS OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK

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Reject the Countywide Efficiency Plan Mandate and AIM Funding Contingencies in the Governor's Budget Proposal

What is AIM?

AIM is funding for cities, towns and villages to support government functions. Unlike other aid, there are no limitations or conditions on using or receiving AIM. General purpose revenue sharing, like AIM, is a proven property tax relief tool.

What happens to AIM funding if the state Legislature does not adopt the proposed Countywide Shared Services Property Tax Savings Plan?

Under the governor's proposal, **no town, city or village will receive AIM funding** if the state Legislature does not adopt legislation on new countywide efficiency plans. Conditioning AIM funding on the state Legislature imposing a new unfunded state mandate contradicts the goal of lowering property taxes.

What does the governor's proposed Countywide Shared Services Property Tax Savings Plan do?

It requires counties to develop new government efficiency plans for municipalities in their county to follow. In November 2017, voters will decide to approve or reject these plans. If approved, efficiencies in the plans will be implemented in 2018. If rejected, a new plan has to be developed and voted on in 2018.

Do towns, cities and villages have to approve these countywide efficiency plans?

No. Even though the effect could be huge, and could, for example, transfer highway maintenance from counties to towns, cities and villages, local governments do not need to approve these plans before they go to the voters.

Who would vote on these plans?

Everyone in the county. This means a voter in a town 50 miles away could have a say in something like transferring functions from the county to a city.

Would school districts have to comply with the countywide efficiency plans?

No, school districts are not included.

Is there funding in the governor's proposed budget to pay for these efficiency plans?

No, there is no proposed direct funding to develop or implement these plans.

What does AOT recommend the state Legislature do?

We recommend complete elimination of the countywide efficiency plan mandate (see PPG Part U S2005/A3005) and the removal of any conditions placed on distribution AIM funding distribution (see Aid to Localities Budget Bill S2003/A3003 page 1060). Instead, incentivizing voluntary shared services would yield better results and ensure that your constituents will continue to have convenient access to necessary local services.