



Dear Taxpayer,

This is the second year that Washington County is working with the State tax cap. It is the Board of Supervisors' goal to operate within the cap regulations, however, it is important to maintain a stable and sustainable spending plan with no tax spikes. This informational sheet shows where each \$100 of your County tax dollars go (note: this only applies to the County tax portion of your 2013 tax bill).

The County's 2013 tax levy of \$29,382,774 funds 36.62% of the total General Fund budget. The balance comes from operating revenue, State & Federal aid, fees, fund balance allocation and sales tax. The County has posted a worksheet on-line showing an allocation by category within the 2013 budget along with a brief explanation of each line item (www.co.washington.ny.us).

State and Federal mandates greatly affect the County's budget, in fact, \$78.71 of each \$100 of the County's tax levy goes to fund State & Federal mandated programs.

Social Services programs are administered by the County, however, the programs are set by State and Federal guidelines which Washington County must adhere to. These programs and the cost to administer them represents \$11.42 of each \$100 in County taxes. The County is seeing the funding for these programs declining which shifts the costs to the local taxpayer.

The largest single mandated program Washington County must pay for is Medicaid.

- \$22.92 of every \$100 of County taxes goes to fund the local cost of Medicaid. New York has the most expensive Medicaid program in the nation.
- In 2013, Washington County will pay the New York State Health Department \$11,493,750 for our share of Medicaid, that's \$221,034 per week or \$31,576 per day or \$1,316 per every hour in 2013.
- New York is one of five States that mandates County governments pay a portion of the State cost of Medicaid.
- New York's Medicaid costs are higher than the next two States combined (California and Texas).

The State legislature mandates numerous programs that the County must provide including employee retirement, service for handicapped children, probation, jail, highway, public defender, district attorney, and a share of higher education costs for two-year college, to name a few. These costs represent 44.37% of each \$100 in the County tax levy.

For 2012, the Washington County-operated nursing home (Pleasant Valley) is projected to have a net cost of \$3,000,000.

Buying local supports businesses and jobs in the County. Sales tax is our second largest funding source and will fund 21.50% of the General Fund Budget in 2013. Did you know, sales tax paid online also comes back to the County?

If you have any questions regarding this flyer, you may contact the Washington County Board of Supervisors at 383 Broadway, Fort Edward, NY 12828 or email supervisors@co.washington.ny.us.