



NEWS RELEASE

New York State Conference of Mayors and Municipal Officials
119 Washington Avenue, Albany, New York 12210 • (518) 463-1185

Peter A. Baynes
Executive Director

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CONTACT: Peter A. Baynes
(518) 463-1185

Statement of NYCOM Executive Director Peter A. Baynes on Final Report of the Commission on Property Tax Relief

“For years, the New York State Conference of Mayors has tried to bring the issue of mandate relief to the forefront – most recently with a new website, StopTheTaxShift.org, which analyzes many of these state-imposed barriers to efficiency. The Final Report of the Commission on Property Tax Relief reinforces our message by providing insightful and ample evidence of the dire need for mandate relief. New York leads the nation in property taxes because we lead the nation in state mandates that force inefficiencies and unnecessary local spending.

“The Commission offers a reasonable yet beneficial set of mandate relief recommendations that, if approved by the State Legislature, would give locally elected officials the long-sought ability to control personnel costs. The Commission zeroes in on the cost drivers that lead to high property taxes in New York, including public pension costs, health insurance contributions and the collective bargaining process. The report also provides important recommendations that would allow for greater efficiencies in the relationship between school districts and municipalities. NYCOM urges the Governor, the Senate and the Assembly to give the Commission's report and its recommendations the fullest consideration.”