



YATES COUNTY LEGISLATURE
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Leslie Church
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**YATES COUNTY SPECIAL LEGISLATIVE
AGENDA
May 4, 2023 at 2:15 p.m.**

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- Call to Order & the Pledge of Allegiance
- Zoom Attendees
- Public Comment
- Resolutions
- 2:30 p.m. Senator O'Mara & Assemblyman Palmesano Questions, Comments, & Topics
- Public Comment

Resolution No. 223-23

Date: 5/4/23

Motioned By: Holgate

Seconded By:

**REQUEST HOME RULE LEGISLATION TO RENEW THE 1% SALES TAX
INCREASE IMPOSED IN 2003**

WHEREAS, in 2003 Yates County increased the county portion of the sales tax rate by 1% in order to generate approximately \$2 million per year in additional county revenue without imposing an additional burden to property owners through the property tax; and

WHEREAS, the authorization from the State Legislature to impose this additional sales tax expires on November 30, 2023;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Yates County Legislature hereby requests home rule legislation be passed by the Assembly in bill **A5332A** and the Senate in bill **S5609A**, to amend the tax law in relation to the imposition by the County of the additional 1% on the county portion of the sales tax rate through November 30, 2026; and be it further

RESOLVED, that copies of this resolution be given to Senator O'Mara, Assemblyman Palmesano, NYSAC, the Yates County Administrator, the Yates County Director of Finance, and the Yates County Treasurer.

Resolution No. 224-23
Motioned By: Holgate

Date: 5/4/23
Seconded By:

**REQUEST HOME RULE LEGISLATION TO RENEW THE
ADDITIONAL COUNTY RECORDING TAX ON MORTGAGES**

WHEREAS, Yates County has identified a 0.25% increase in the County portion of the recording tax on obligations secured by a mortgage on real property as a method for obtaining approximately \$200,000 per year in additional county revenue without imposing an additional burden on property owners through the property tax; and

WHEREAS, the authorization from the State Legislature to impose this additional county recording tax expires on December 1, 2023;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Yates County Legislature hereby requests home rule legislation be passed by the Assembly in bill **A4915A** and the Senate in bill **S5612A** to amend the tax law in relation to authorizing Yates County to impose the additional county recording tax on obligations secured by a mortgage on real property through December 1, 2025; and be it further

RESOLVED, that copies of this resolution be given to Senator O'Mara, Assemblyman Palmesano, NYSAC, the Yates County Administrator, the Yates County Director of Finance, and the Yates County Treasurer.

**Meeting with Senator O'Mara & Assemblyman Palmesano
Questions, Comments, & Topics**

1. NYS Department of Health staff indicated back in 2021 that they had completed the reconciliation of our eFMAP reimbursement for Medicaid. At that time, Yates County was owed \$710,127 for the years 2016 – 2020. We still have not received these funds. Where does this stand?
2. Sheriff Spike applied for a grant for Emergency Services Communications in the amount of approximately \$3.1 million to upgrade Yates County's system. He reported that the grant was denied to Yates, but other adjacent counties (Schuyler and Steuben, I believe) received awards. Yates is in the process of installing all new communications equipment along with towers, shelters, generators, etc. almost totally at county expense. What are the reasons for the focused grant denial?
3. NYS has enacted various legislation relating to power generation, electric vehicles sales, and new home construction all of which will increase electricity demands. Yates County continues to see projects not being able to move forward due to lack of grid capabilities. What is NYS doing to get the grid in better shape to handle these future demands? How are you going to turn around the destructive NYS energy policies and what can you do to help your colleagues into the real world of Facts and Reality?

4. In the governor's address to NY, she is mandating every municipality to build new housing developments for low income people. This is overriding the local government's control over their community. How can we help you push back on the states mandates of land use planning which has historically been the sole responsibility of local government? The governor has also taken away the power of the local zoning authority to make decisions in regard to solar projects. How can we support you to fight against this?
5. Mental health continues to be a community issue across NYS. Yates County relies on a lot of organizations to address the mental health issues but there are limited resources available it seems to help address this major issue. There are limited mental health specialists available to fill positions, beds for those in need are scarce, and the need seems to be increasing which put a strain on local law enforcement and EMS services. Is anything being done on a State level to address mental health? Is any funding available for our local hospital to open the 3rd floor (mental health) so we can address our community's needs for mental health. George has reported that the governor decreased the number of beds in all hospitals during the pandemic. When will they be reopened? Is Albany proposing new mental health beds in our region? Is there a plan to attract mental health professionals to our region?
6. EMS continues to be a challenge across NYS. Various items were mentioned by State reps at NYSAC conferences in the past but it seems little has actually been put into effect to address this issue. There was a property tax incentive floated recently but that is really just displacing a tax credit already in place for many so it really isn't going to do much. Is NYS offering any real corrective actions to help with addressing this issue before it becomes too late?
7. I am aware of several people with huge billing errors on utility bills, clearly errors not usage. \$5000, \$1000. I know NYS Dept. of Public Service oversees utilities, but there is a persistent problem across the region, RG&E, NYSEG, National Grid etc with over billing. I hear this is also at a time when they are pushing people to get constant monitoring meters and worse thermostats that report back to utility company and I fear may be controlled by them at some point. What can they do?
8. Senator O'Mara- can you help with the grant that I wrote through your office, and you approved, several years ago to do repairs to masonry under main street bridge on behalf of KLOC? Status?
9. YC Legislature recently approved \$2,000,000 towards a field house at Yates Community Center. There is no public access pool in Yates since Keuka closed theirs several years ago. Are there any state or other grant opportunities you know of that could help with a swimming pool or the field house?
10. How is NYS going to stop the exiting of our population and businesses to other states, as destructive fees and the tax revenue flows will slow and finally stop and our NYS spending policies are not going down, as these are just basic facts? When cash flows go even more thoroughly negative and NYS government grinds down will anybody in Albany realize that layoffs must happen and how will they make the public understand the reduction of state and county services and this is going to affect their quality of life?

11. The past ongoing budget discussions are proof that no one is willing to except financial reality, can and will you help and how? Why are non-budgetary items (e.g. - In-Rem Foreclosure) included with budget negotiations? What can be done to separate them?

Executive session if needed