



State of New York County of Broome Government Offices

Executive's Office

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Broome County Executive Garnar Demands Restoration of AIM Funding by State

(BINGHAMTON, NY) Broome County Executive Jason Garnar is joining a group of bipartisan leaders across New York State in voicing his strong opposition to a state proposal that would force Broome County taxpayers to pay for Assistance and Incentives for Municipalities (AIM) funding. Garnar says this is a state program that has always been paid for by the state.

The AIM program funding was initially cut in the budget, but reinstated weeks later now requiring the counties to pay for the program.

“That’s like robbing Peter to pay Paul”, said County Executive Garnar. “We would be forced to either raise taxes or cut critical services, something no one wants to do”.

The proposed change would require Broome County taxpayers to pay almost \$1.4 million annually to pay for the program and cover 20 of the 24 municipalities in Broome.

“That’s an automatic 2% tax increase right off the bat,” said Garnar.

The proposal comes at the same time Broome is working its way out of a fiscal disaster inherited by Garnar when he took office in 2017. Broome’s reserves had been depleted to almost nothing and it was one of the few counties to be ranked as significantly fiscally stressed. Since taking office, Garnar has worked to increase the county’s fund balance, got the county off the fiscally stressed list, and even delivered a tax cut for 2019. Now the AIM funding change would again set the county back.

“We need the AIM funding restored in the state budget, the state needs to pay for it like they have always done, and time is running out for that to happen,” Garnar said. “I want to thank Senator Akshar and Assembly Members Lupardo and Crouch for standing up for taxpayers and fighting to stop this unfair plan in Albany. I hope that the rest of our state leaders agree as they work to finish this year’s budget”.

For more information on the AIM funding breakdown for 2019-20 click [here](#).