

# Warren County Board of Supervisors

## RESOLUTION NO. 345 OF 2013

**Resolution introduced by Supervisors Conover, Taylor, Sokol, Monroe, Bentley, Wood, Kenny, Merlino and Frasier**

**RESOLUTION DECLARING “MAYDAY FOR MANDATE RELIEF” AND URGING THE STATE TO ADOPT LAWS THAT DO NOT IMPOSE FURTHER FISCAL STRESS ON LOCAL GOVERNMENTS AND TAXPAYERS AND BUILD UPON RECENT EFFORTS TO REFORM COSTLY UNFUNDED MANDATES**

WHEREAS, counties are mandated to administer and finance dozens of state and federal programs, and

WHEREAS, many counties in New York State face significant fiscal challenges made worse by the recent recession and slow economic recovery, and

WHEREAS, these county fiscal challenges are also directly tied to state-imposed mandates and in recent years reduced state reimbursement, and

WHEREAS, the New York State Association of Counties has identified 9 state mandates that consume 90 percent of all county property taxes levied across the state (outside of New York City), representing over \$4 billion in county property taxes levied. These mandates include: Medicaid, Public Assistance Safety Net, Child Welfare Protective and Preventive Care, Special Education Pre-School, Early Intervention, Probation, Indigent Defense, Youth Detention, and Pensions, and

WHEREAS, these mandated and fixed employee costs can consume more than 80 percent of a county’s total budget, leaving fewer local dollars that can be devoted to local programs and services, and

WHEREAS, these State mandates are the root cause of high county property and sales taxes in New York and have led to a decline in the delivery of important local services, now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that Warren County hereby declares the month of May to be “Mayday for Mandate Relief” to raise awareness that decisions made in Albany have a direct impact on the property tax levy and local community services here in Warren County, and be it further

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RESOLVED, that Warren County strongly encourages the Governor and State Legislature to continue working to enact meaningful mandate relief, and be it further

RESOLVED, that Warren County calls on State Lawmakers to enact legislation preventing future unfunded mandates without corresponding state aid to pay for them, and be it further

RESOLVED, NYSAC shall forward copies of this resolution to Governor Andrew M. Cuomo, the New York State Legislature and all others deemed necessary and proper.