



## LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS® OF WESTCHESTER

520 White Plains Road, Suite 5095  
Tarrytown, NY 10591  
Phone (914)-949-0507 | Fax (914) 997-9354  
Email: [westchesterlww@gmail.com](mailto:westchesterlww@gmail.com)  
Website: [www.lwww.org](http://www.lwww.org)

### **2020 BUDGET STATEMENT**

The League of Women Voters of Westchester appreciates this opportunity to comment on the proposed 2020 county budget. We thank Budget Director, Larry Soule, for providing us with additional information and insight.

The League has reviewed the proposed 2020 County budgets and is encouraged to see several changes in the budgeting approach which we have previously recommended. We applaud the efforts to seek numerous avenues of continuous revenue-generating programs, rather than one-off transactions. The League also commends a renewed emphasis on capital spending as these projects have been long neglected.

We highlight a few proposed actions that will contribute to the fiscal improvement of the County:

- Adding \$10 million to the Unrestricted Reserve.
- Sharing revenues of 30 percent from the nearly 70M dollars collected from sales tax, allocating 20 percent to local municipalities and 10 percent to the school districts.
- Allocating \$1.5 million to housing and community development programs which hopefully reflects an attempt to address the urgent need for affordable housing in the County.
- Including an average 3% increase in funding various non-profits in recognition of the services provided which augment those provided by the County, plus funding a non-profit contracting position to improve the procurement process.
- Recognizing the need to increase the non-union salaries of 265 employees as the first increase in over ten years, and with increases being based upon performance results with a measure of accountability. We also laud the increase of 13 new personnel in several County departments, particularly in the Planning Department, to strive to complete proposed capital projects for 2020.
- Adding approximately \$2 million in funding for the Board of Elections for the three instances of early voting that will be incorporated in 2020, as per state election law reform. These expenditures are key to the expansion of voting opportunities which the League has advocated for decades.



LWVW is mindful of ongoing issues of concern:

- Raising salaries of the 17 Board of Legislators with a lower proposed increase, as a 52% increase should be thoroughly assessed.
- Addressing the unprofitability of Playland while encouraging the County to take a cautious approach prior to the planned analysis.
- Continuing to analyze operating expenses, infrastructure improvements, and proposals for growth at the Westchester County Airport, keeping in mind numerous environmental concerns, and the fiscal impact of any changes to the County.

The League of Women Voters of Westchester County supports the efforts of the current County government to resolve the County's extensive economic challenges. We look forward to continued innovative solutions being presented.

**Marylou Green**

President

**Kathy Meany**

Chair, County Government Committee