

MONROE COUNTY ASSOCIATION OF VILLAGES

**Brockport
Churchville
East Rochester
Fairport
Hilton**

**Honeoye Falls
Pittsford
Scottsville
Spencerport
Webster**

We, the mayors of the 10 villages in Monroe County, are writing to register our strong opposition to the Governor's proposed elimination of AIM funding for 480 of the 533 villages in New York State. Nine of our 10 villages will lose all their AIM funding under this proposal.

As we move into budget preparation season for 2019-20, this reduction in our budgets is especially concerning.

We have all worked assiduously over the last five years to keep our budgets within the 2% tax cap even when the tax cap in reality was considerably less than 2%. Simply eliminating state funding that is less than 2% of our expenditures does not compute to staying under what is proposed to be a permanent tax cap. In exchange for loss of AIM funding we are offered a carrot of tax revenue on internet sales. That may give some relief to villages in Monroe County which shares sales tax revenue with its villages, but not all counties do. And there is no guarantee that this revenue would equal or exceed what each of us is losing in AIM funding.

AIM funding helps pay for the many services local governments provide to their residents. We pride ourselves on our historic, walkable villages, the quality of life they offer to residents, and on our responsiveness to our constituents. We know that it's the most local government that has the greatest impact on peoples' daily lives.

Here in dollars and cents is how loss of AIM funding will affect some of our villages in Monroe County.

- Brockport's tax rate will increase \$.45/1000 or 3.9%
- Churchville's tax rate will increase \$.11/1000 or 3.4%
- Fairport 's tax rate would increase \$.35/1000 or 5.28%
- Honeoye Falls tax rate would increase \$.07/1000 or 3%
- Spencerport's tax rate will increase \$.15/1000 or 4.2%
- Webster's tax rate will increase \$.14/1000 or 6.3%

AIM funding, though frozen since 2008, has been the State's commitment to its municipalities. The Governor's Consolidated Funding Program has absorbed State monies that were once available to villages through a variety of State funding programs that have been discontinued. AIM represents the last source of State funding available to many villages.

We join the chorus of other municipal leaders who deem this budget cut regressive and punitive, and we urge our legislators to make sure AIM funding remains in the state budget.