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COUNTY OF ONONDAGA

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NEWS RELEASE

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County Executive Mahoney Continues to Debate Herself

Syracuse, NY – County Executive Joanne Mahoney continued debating herself on the impact of New York State mandates on County Taxpayers. In a press release dated April 24, 2017, the County Executive said, “state mandates account for less than half of the County Budget and are not what is driving property tax bills anymore,” citing her own website for support.

When defending the current sales tax agreement, “Mahoney said increases in the cost of Medicaid, pensions, employee wages and a host of state mandates and other expenses beyond local control will force the county to spend most of its newfound sales tax money,” according to a media report in 2010.¹

In her 2012 budget presentation, Mahoney continued by saying, “There is a certain amount of fatigue with respect to the constant theme of state mandates, but the truth is that they continue to take the lion’s share of our property tax dollars. The entire levy is still lower than the bill from New York State. The one year increase in mandated costs is \$9.7 million this year. To put this in perspective, I’d like you to consider this: our entire Park’s budget for 2012 is \$9.1 million. We can eliminate the entire Park’s Department and still not keep pace with just this year’s increase in the state mandated costs. In fact there are nine Albany mandated programs that consume 90% of all county property tax collected statewide. Counties across our state collect [sic] a total of \$4.4 billion in property taxes in 2010 -- \$4 billion of those dollars went straight to Albany to pay the bills for only nine programs. These are nine programs over which we have no input and no control, but we are expected to foot the bill.”

Then on September 15, 2014, County Executive Mahoney stated in her budget presentation, “Of the \$407 million in local dollar spending proposed by this budget, 43%, or \$173 million goes to support mandated programs; Medicaid, temporary assistance, Child Welfare programs, Special Children Services, Legal Aid and a few others. Of those mandates – our Medicaid costs alone are \$102 million or 25% of our entire local dollar budget – and 73% of our entire property tax levy.”

¹ http://www.syracuse.com/news/index.ssf/2010/09/onondaga_countys_sales_tax_for.html

Mahoney declared in her April 24, 2017 press release, "State mandates are not going up". In an April 20, 2017 press release, Onondaga County Comptroller Robert E. Antonacci detailed the State mandates which went up \$10 million from 2015 to 2016.

"In 2010, when the County used just \$125 million in property tax dollars, the County Executive blamed Medicaid and other unfunded State mandates for property taxes. Today, when the County is using more property tax dollars, more sales tax dollars, and State mandates continue to go up, the County Executive has the audacity to parrot the Governor and claim local governments are the problem? It is just unbelievable," said Antonacci.

In her 2010 State of the County Address, Mahoney stated, "I don't know about you, but I think Albany takes enough of our money."

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