



Robert E. Antonacci II, CPA  
Comptroller

COUNTY OF ONONDAGA

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# NEWS RELEASE

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## New York State Unfunded Mandates Up \$10 Million in 2016 in Onondaga County

Syracuse, NY – Onondaga County Comptroller Robert E. Antonacci II announced today New York State unfunded mandates were up \$10 million in 2016 in Onondaga County. “While we are preparing to release our comprehensive annual financial report, I wanted to release some early numbers which are timely considering the debate on consolidation. It cannot be understated how much New York State unfunded mandates drive up property taxes,” said Antonacci. New York State Association of Counties has stated merely nine of the dozens of unfunded mandates equal all the statewide county property tax levy.<sup>1</sup>

“Mandates are up and sales tax is down from projections, this is not a recipe for success,” said Antonacci. Onondaga County has little to no discretion in numerous areas of spending. The County must provide these services in the manner in which the State dictates.

<b>Mandates:</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2015</b>
Medicaid	\$99,198,189	\$97,911,148
Pre-School Hand. Children	36,196,228	32,876,066
Foster Care	32,863,732	29,229,238
Safety Net	26,407,769	25,589,900
Family Assistance	23,285,303	22,877,482
Probation	9,302,279	8,514,364
Indigent Defense	7,955,091	7,769,761
Youth Detention	4,752,444	4,572,953
Early Intervention	2,790,588	2,885,398
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$242,751,623</b>	<b>\$232,226,310</b>

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“If we are going to cut taxes in Onondaga County, we need to be frank about what is driving those taxes,” said Antonacci. “The problem of high property taxes is not a local one, it is statewide. In

<sup>1</sup> <http://www.nysac.org/files/Lowering%20Property%20Taxes%20-%20NYSAC%20fact%20sheet.pdf>

Fiscal Year 2015, New York State spent \$60 billion on Medicaid compared to Florida's \$21 billion.<sup>2</sup> Florida Legislators are debating competing budget bills in the range of \$80-\$85 billion<sup>3</sup>, while our Governor is proud of New York's over \$150 billion budget. The math doesn't add up! Florida is now larger than us yet we spend nearly three times as much on Medicaid and nearly double on overall spending," said Antonacci.

"If the structure of government is what drives our taxes, maybe New York needs to adopt Florida's Constitution," concluded Antonacci.

For further information, contact Robert Antonacci II, CPA at (315) 435-2130.

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<sup>2</sup> <http://kff.org/medicaid/state-indicator/total-medicaid-spending/?currentTimeframe=0&sortModel=%7B%22colId%22:%22Total%20Medicaid%20Spending%22,%22sort%22:%22desc%22%7D>

<sup>3</sup> <http://www.miamiherald.com/news/article144480999.html>