



2008 Legislative Program

THE ASSOCIATION OF TOWNS
OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK

2008 BUSINESS SESSION

Wednesday, February 20, 2008 • Hilton New York, NYC

Resolved, that the Official Delegates to the 2008 Business Session of the Association of Towns of the State of New York have adopted resolutions on the following topics:

HOME RULE

- Home Rule

GOVERNMENT OPERATION AND FUNDING

- Mandate Relief
- Increase in Justice Court Funding
- Fund the Unfunded MS4 Mandate
- Highway Funding
- Local Road Classification
- Speed Limits on Town Roads
- Preserve and Strengthen Local Government's Role in the Siting of Energy Generation Facilities
- Municipal Deposits in Credit Unions and Thrift Institutions

REAL PROPERTY TAXES AND ASSESSMENTS

- Reform Real Property Tax and Assessment System
- Reform Condominium Assessments
- Preservation of Local Taxation on Certain Lands Owned by the State of New York

PERSONNEL

- GML 207-c Disability Benefits for Law Enforcement Reform
- Restore and Secure Equity in Collective Bargaining
- Preserve Local Control over Active and Retiree Health Insurance Benefits

To: The Governor of the State of New York

To: The Members of the New York State Assembly and Senate

To: The Heads of the Several State Departments, Divisions, and Other Agencies of New York State Government

To: Members of the United States Congress

The resolutions contained herein were adopted by the Delegates to the 75th Annual Meeting of the Association of Towns of the State of New York on February 20, 2008. As such, they were passed by a majority of the delegates present and, in respect to these issues, represent the legislative positions of the Association for 2008.

The adopted resolutions were first submitted to the Association's Resolutions Committee from one or more of its member towns. They were considered by the Committee and if found to be relevant to all towns, or town government as a whole, they were then forwarded to all member towns prior to the Annual Meeting. They were then put before the delegates for an affirmative or negative vote.

The Resolutions contained herein, if successfully enacted into law or placed in regulation, would either directly or indirectly increase the efficiency of town government and lower costs to its residents. At a time when much emphasis is being placed on studying ways to accomplish such goals, the Association and its members, representing almost half of New York State's population, urge that as legislative proposals are advanced that relate to the subjects contained in these resolutions, you will keep our positions and concerns in mind, with an intent toward embracing them as positive steps for the benefit of town government and its eight million residents.

Please feel free to call upon the staff of this Association if you need assistance in resolving any issues relating to these resolutions.

Respectfully submitted:

G. Jeffrey Haber
Executive Director

Dated February 20, 2008

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Albany, NY 12207
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2007-2008 Resolutions Committee

<u>NAME</u>	<u>OFFICE</u>	<u>TOWN</u>
Kenneth Andrews, Chairman	Councilman	DeWitt
Don Barber	Supervisor	Caroline
Donald Castellucci	Councilman	Owego
Roger Cleveland	Hwy. Supt.	New Hartford
Rebecca Connolly	Town Clerk	Somerset
Robert Giza	Supervisor	Lancaster
Dorothy Goosby	Councilwoman	Hempstead
Elizabeth Greene	Councilwoman	Newburgh
Rebecca Haines	Town Clerk	Ellery
Cheryl Horton	Supervisor	Philadelphia
John LaPointe	Supervisor	Putnam
Carole Marsh	Supervisor	Pompey
Edward Mosher	Supervisor	Colesville
Elizabeth Ann Neville	Town Clerk	Southold
William Nichols	Hwy. Supt.	Belfast
Andrea Nilon	Assessor	Chester
Jean Raymond	Supervisor	Edinburg
Robert Taylor	Supervisor	New Lisbon
Timothy Whitesell	Supervisor	Binghamton
John Walker	Supervisor	Sheridan
Gerald Geist, Ex-Officio	Councilman	North Castle

About New York's Towns . . .

New York State local government structure is made up of four general purpose municipal corporations: counties, towns, villages and cities. A town is a general purpose municipal corporation with Constitutional “home rule” powers. More than 8.1 million New Yorkers or nearly 50% of our population live in towns; in fact everyone in New York who lives outside a city or an Indian reservation lives in a town. There are more towns in New York than there are cities and villages combined.

About the Association of Towns . . .

The Association of Towns of the State of New York was established by town officials in 1933 as a means for united action of the towns of this State and of the officers thereof for the improvement and preservation of town government. In 1935, the Association organized the Town and County Officers Training School and obtained a charter from the Board of Regents to conduct training courses of both a regional and state-wide nature, for various town and county officers; including, town board members, clerks, tax collectors and receivers, assessors, finance officers, justices, attorneys, and planning and zoning board members. The Annual Meeting of the Association of Towns is a peak in the Association’s internal affairs each year. The group sessions for the respective officers provide not only formal instruction, but also a medium for the exchange of ideas and information. For the past 40 years, the annual meeting and training school has been conducted in New York City. As part of the Annual Meeting, town officials from around the state gather to vote on the Association of Town’s annual legislative program. The goals of the legislative program are many, including preservation of home rule and local authority, elimination of burdensome mandates and a means to strengthen the partnership between federal, state and local governments in order to foster our shared economic prosperity and to improve the quality of life for those who live, work and visit New York.