

ULSTER COUNTY  
2011  
PROPOSED  
OPERATING BUDGET

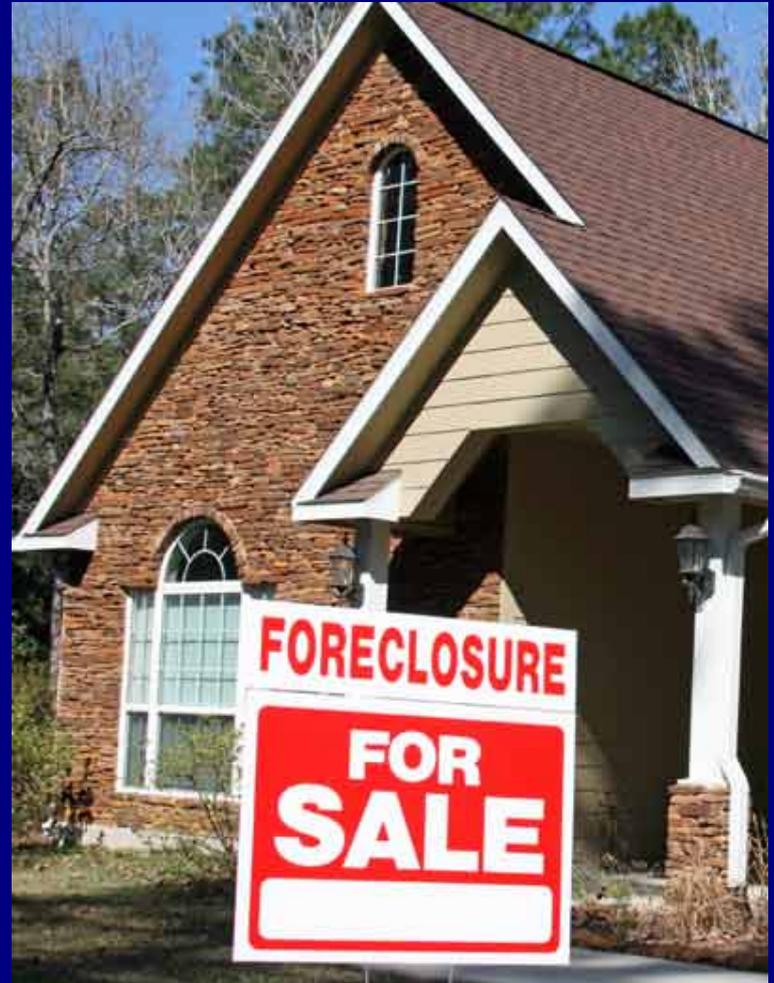


County Executive Michael P. Hein

September 30, 2010

# The Epidemic of Taxation in New York State

- Property taxes in New York are 80 % above the national average
- The annual net loss of New Yorkers moving to other states ranged from nearly 250,000 people in 2005 to 126,000 in 2008
- New York State Foreclosure Rates were up 37% in the month of August



“Governments at all levels must learn to operate within the means of the people they have been created to serve.”

“New York State government  
has not addressed either  
property tax relief or mandate  
relief.”

# Mandates

- 65% of Ulster County's Budget is mandated
- While unfunded mandates have continued the state has reduced its percentage of funding
- The majority of county property taxes go to fund state programs

## State Programs

### Counties are Mandated to Deliver and Fund

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**Medicaid:** \$35.4 million county share (grows by \$182 million or 3% annually statewide)

**Pre-School Special Education:** County pays 51% of the cost. \$4.2 million in 2011.

**Food Stamp Administration:** 55% County 45% Federal. \$512 thousand in 2011.

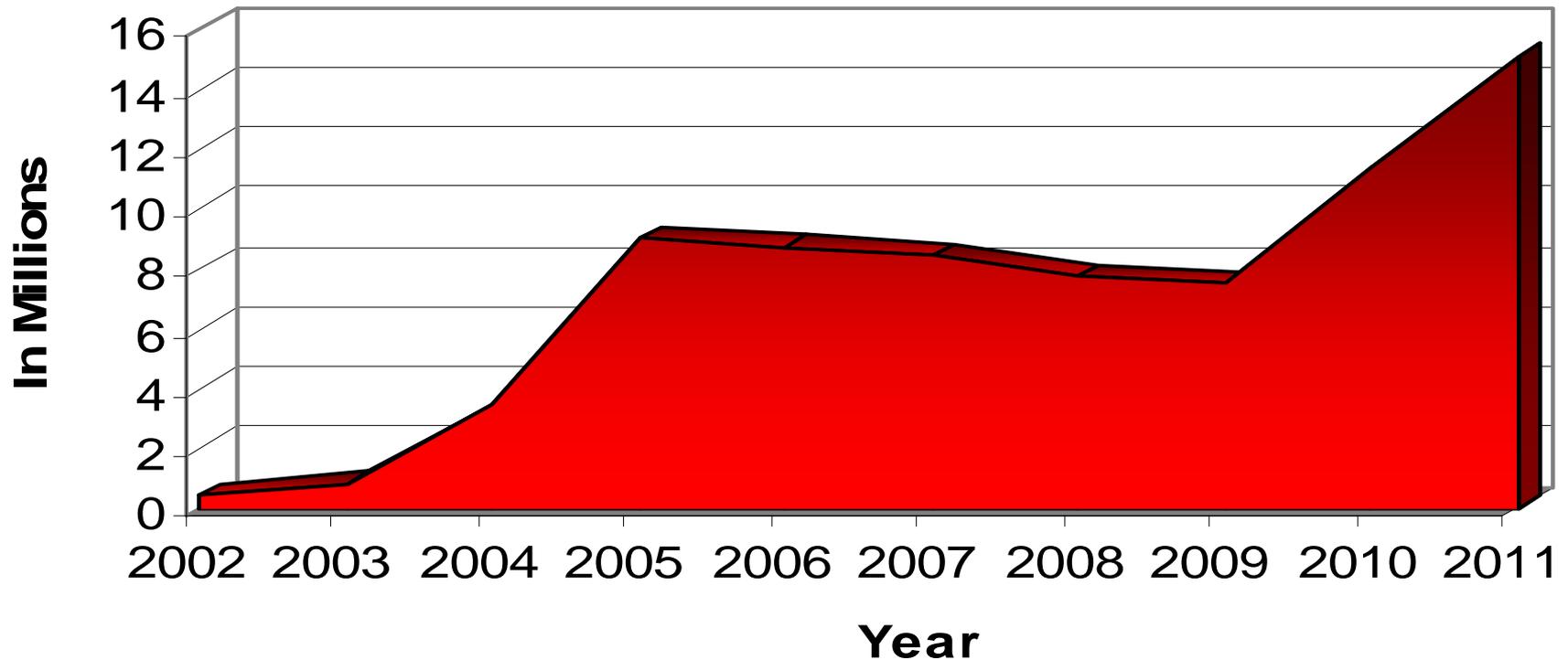
**Indigent Legal Defense:** \$1.85 million of mandated county cost

**Probation:** 86 % County/14 % State

# IMPACT OF PENSION FUND PAYMENTS ON COUNTY TAXPAYERS

- A 36% increase from 2010
- County Contributions have **DOUBLED** since 2009
- Increased **3,312%** since 2002
- The 2011 Ulster County Contribution to the NYS Retirement system is **\$15,054,649**

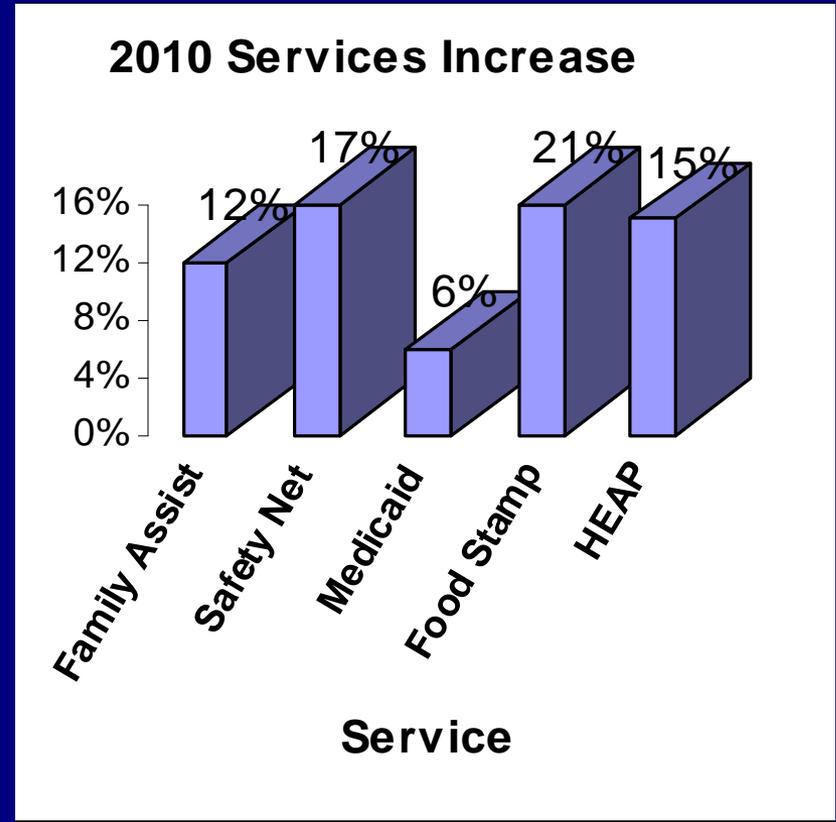
# IMPACT OF PENSION FUND PAYMENTS ON COUNTY TAXPAYERS



An Increase of **3,312%** since 2002.

# A Growing Demand for County Services

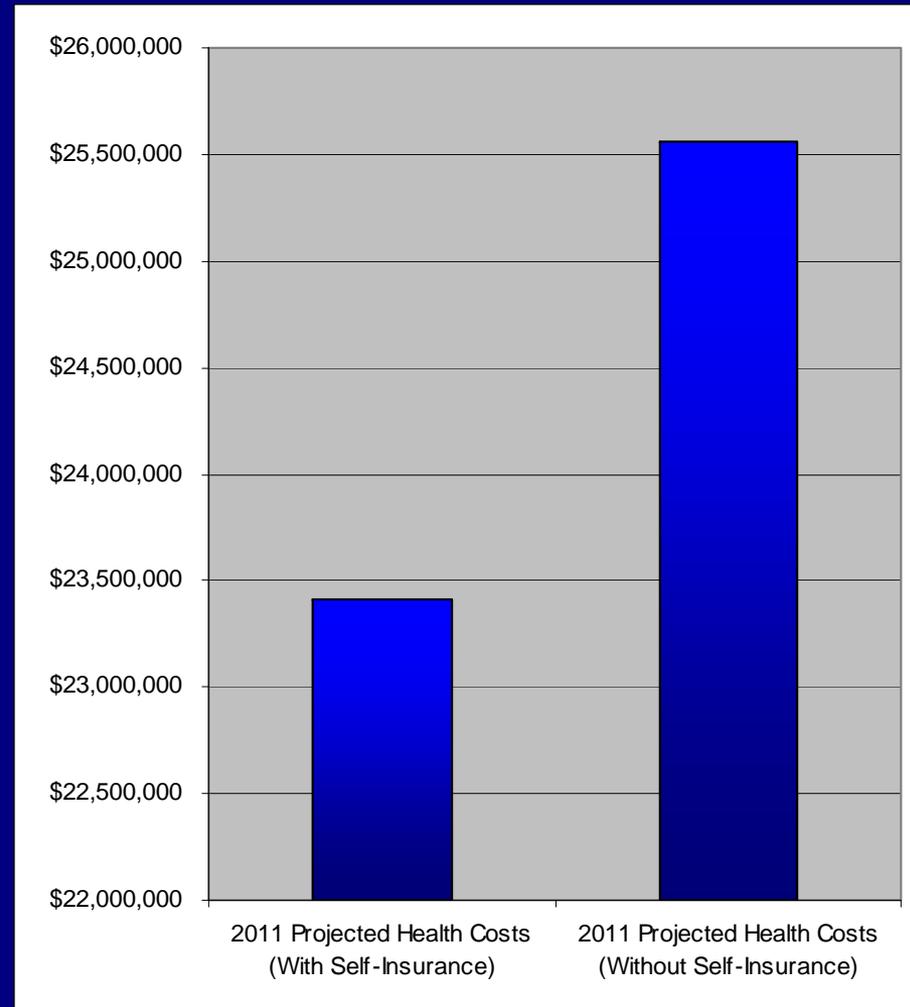
- Public Transportation
- Emergency 911
- Veterans Services
- Highway Maintenance
- Child Protective Services
- Department of Motor Vehicles
- Business and Tourism Promotion
- Domestic Violence Prevention
- Public Health Education
- Meals on Wheels
- Social Services
- Mental Health Services



**TAXPAYER FIRST**

# Redesigning Health Insurance

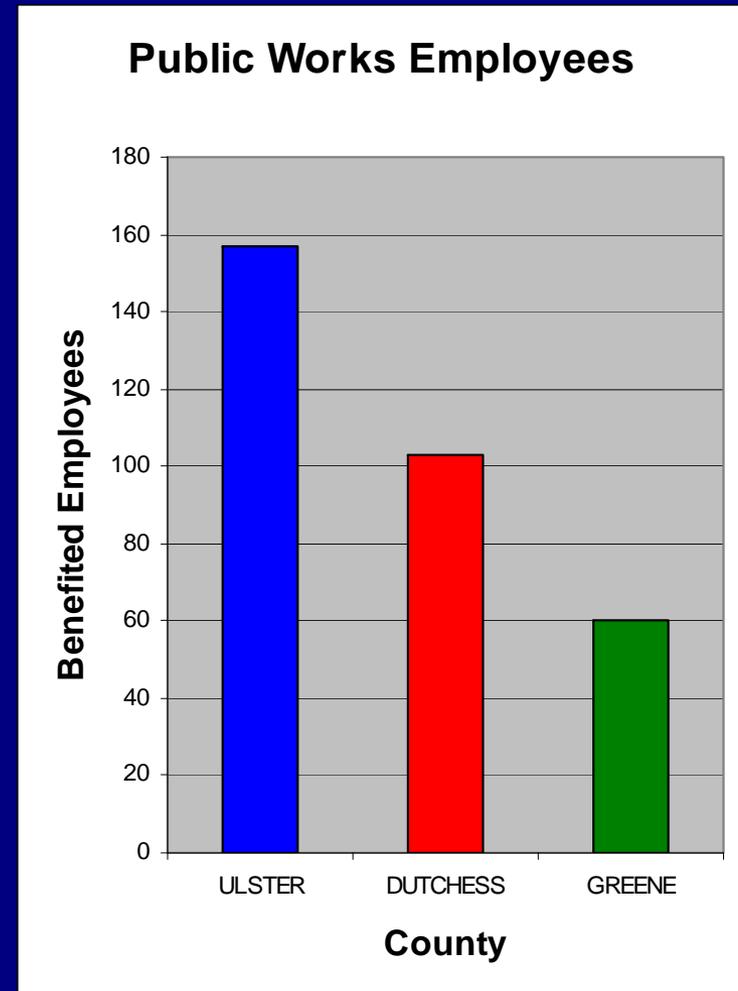
- 2010 Healthcare Premiums were \$21.9 million
- The 2011 projected costs would have increased \$3.1 million by maintaining the status quo
- Ulster County avoided an estimated \$2.1 million in additional costs through the Self-Insurance Plan



**RESTRUCTURING OF  
PUBLIC WORKS  
DEPARTMENT**

# PUBLIC WORKS DEPT. COMPARISON

- Ulster County's Highway Division had grown into one of the largest in the region
- The department has been restructured to maximize efficiency and cost savings
- The Public Works Department has reduced expenses by \$2.3 million



# Workforce Reductions

- In 2011, Ulster County will reduce its work force by:

36 Vacancies

33 Early Retirements

6 Layoffs

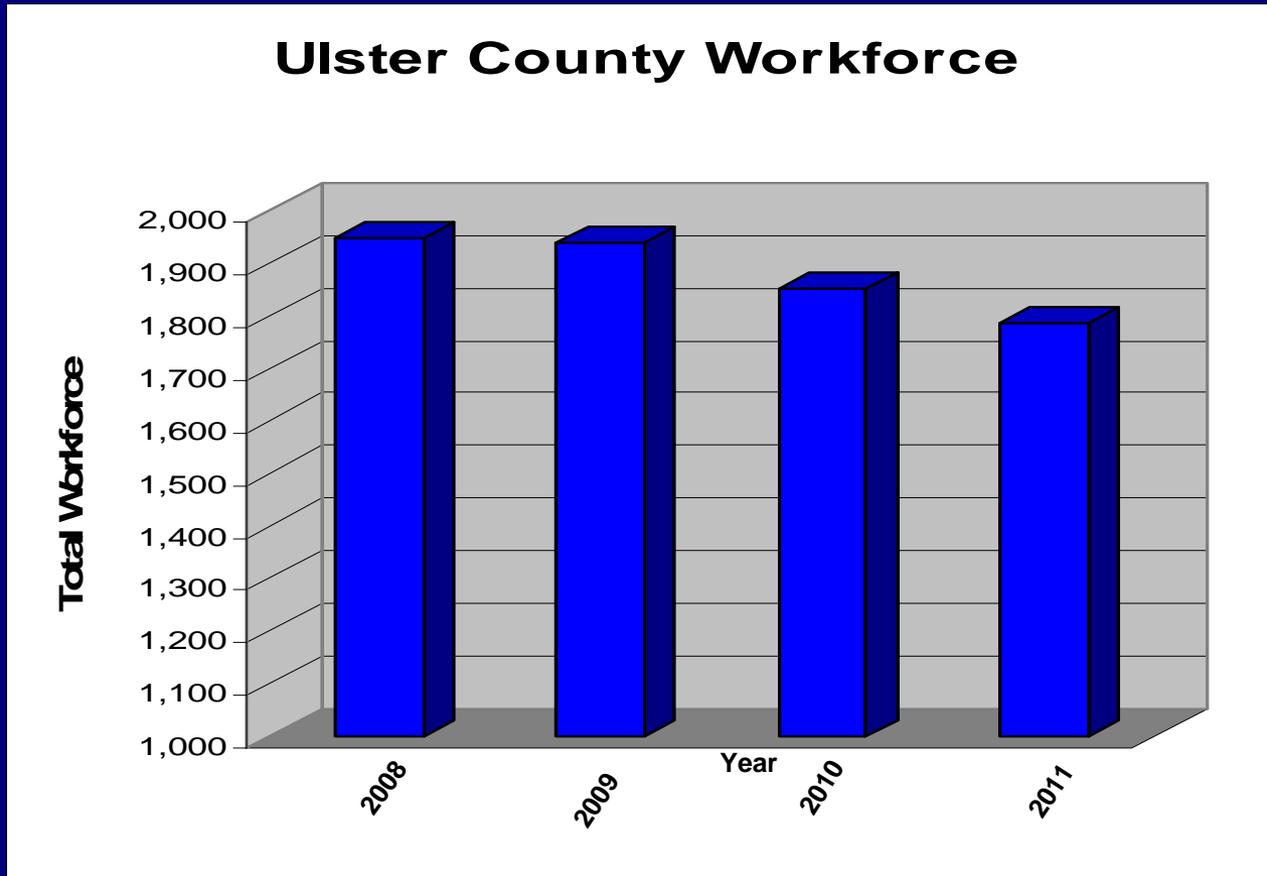
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= 75 Total Workforce Reduction

# Workforce Reductions

- Total benefited 2009 workforce: 1940
- Total benefited 2010 workforce: 1854
- Total benefited 2011 workforce: 1785
  
- Total Reduction over the past 2 budgets of 155 benefited positions or **8%** of the benefited county workforce

# Workforce Reductions



\*These reductions total \$3.4 million

# OUTSIDE AGENCY PROGRAMS

<b>Arts Council</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>41,250</b>
<b>Community Action Program</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>11,250</b>
<b>Cornell Cooperative Extension</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>266,475</b>
<b>Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA)</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>15,000</b>
<b>Libraries</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>67,500</b>
<b>RSVP Program</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>7,500</b>
<b>Soil &amp; Water Conservation</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>76,500</b>
<b>Supervised Visitation Program</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>15,000</b>
<b>UPAC</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>18,750</b>

# ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

## Promotion of Industry

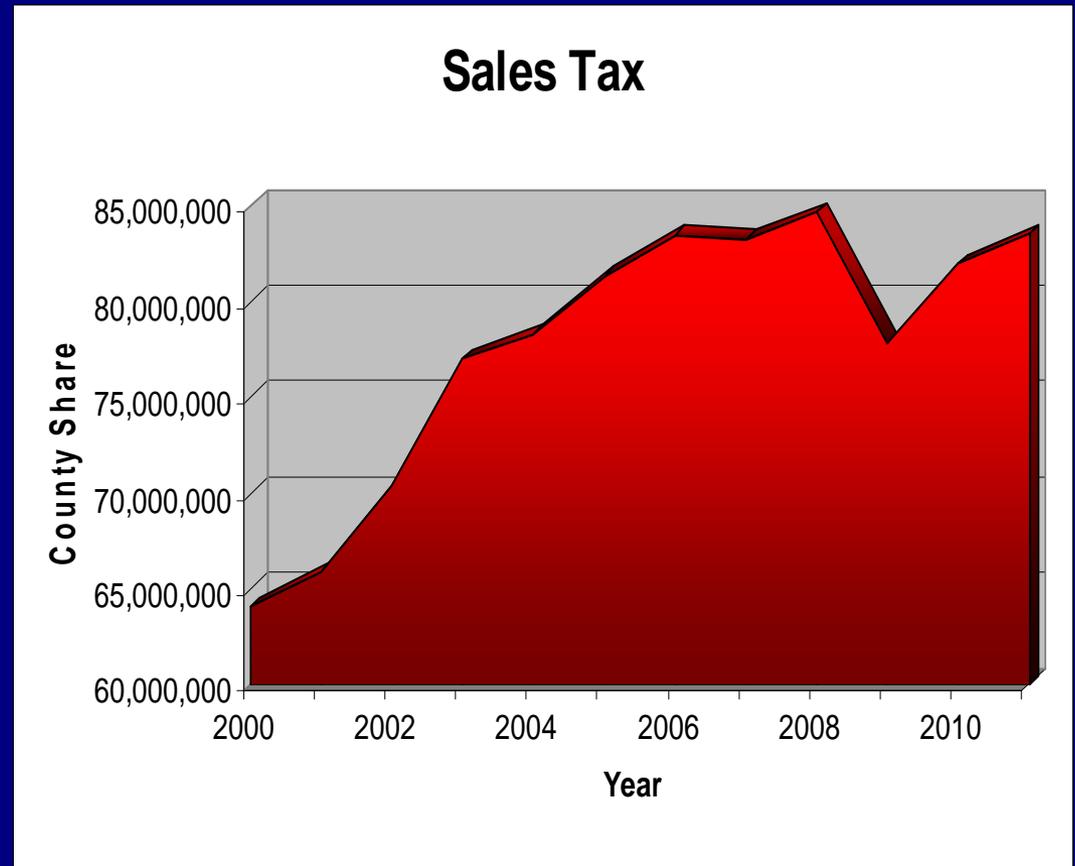
Ulster County Development Corporation	\$ 200,000
Ulster County Development Corporation (Performance Based Plan)	\$ 200,000
The Solar Energy Consortium (TSEC)	\$ 150,000
Kingston/Ulster Empire Zone	\$ 7,500
Total:	<u>\$ 557,500</u>

# ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

- Tourism is significant to the Ulster County economy and a major part of economic development
- Business parks like Tech City and Gardiner Business Park seeing more businesses and jobs
- Focused on small business and business retention

# Sales Tax

- The 2011 Sales Tax Projection is \$83.5 million
- The 2011 projection is a \$1.6 million increase from 2010 revised estimate or 2%
- The 2011 projection is \$1 million less than the 2008 actual sales tax level



# FUND BALANCE

- The NYS Comptroller's Office continues to recommend a fund balance of 5%-10% of the prior year General Fund adopted budget
- It is estimated that fund balance at the end of 2010 will be \$26 million or 9.28% of General Fund 2010 adopted budget
- \$12 million of General Fund balance has been appropriated leaving approximately \$14 million or 5.0% of the General Fund

# 2011 TENTATIVE PROPERTY TAX LEVY

Total Appropriations	\$ 351,492,388
Deferred Property Tax Revenues	+ 750,000
Total Expenses	<hr/> \$ 352,242,388
Estimated Revenues	262,928,178
Fund Balance Appropriations (all funds)	+ 12,369,250
Total Revenues	<hr/> = <u>\$ 275,297,428</u>
2011 Property Tax Levy	<b>\$76,944,960</b>

# 2011 ULSTER COUNTY EXECUTIVE PROPOSED PROPERTY TAX LEVY

2010 Property Tax Levy	\$ 76,944,960
2011 Property Tax Levy	\$ 76,944,960

Increase to Property Tax Levy

0%

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Budget available online  
[www.ulstercountyny.gov](http://www.ulstercountyny.gov)