LOCAL GOVERNMENT FISCAL STRESS:
2017 SURVEY RESULTS

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See more information at http://www.mildredwarner.org/restructuring/fiscal-stress
Stresses on Local Government

Research and findings under the direction of Dr. Mildred Warner, Department of City and Regional Planning
State Policy - Declining State Aid

Economy- Tax-exempt Property

Data Source: NYS Department of Taxation and Finance (2010 Assessment Rolls)
Economy- Tax-exempt Property

City of Albany

$8,694,433,000 in partial or full tax-exempt property

66.4% of Equalized Value

Data Source: NYS Department of Taxation and Finance (2010 Assessment Rolls)

59%
Economy - Tax-exempt Property

City of Ithaca

$2,666,216,000 in partial or full tax-exempt property

60% of Equalized Value

79%

Non-profit: educational

Data Source: NYS Department of Taxation and Finance (2010 Assessment Rolls)

Research and findings under the direction of Dr. Mildred Warner, Department of City and Regional Planning
Economy - Tax-exempt Property

City of Syracuse

$5,353,393,000 in partial or full tax-exempt property

56% of Equalized Value

Nonprofit: educational & medical

Data Source: NYS Department of Taxation and Finance (2010 Assessment Rolls)
Shifting Demographics

Population Change:

-6.1% - 5%
-4.9% - 2.5%
-2.4% - 0%
0.01% - 2.5%
2.6% - 5%

Data Sources: 2015 American Community Survey & 2010 Census

Research and findings under the direction of Dr. Mildred Warner, Department of City and Regional Planning
2017 NYS Fiscal Stress Survey

Link to full report:  
•  http://cms.mildredwarner.org/p/268

Collaborators:  
•  Cornell University
•  Dept. of City & Regional Planning
New York Conference of Mayors
New York State Association of Towns

Funding for the survey was provided by the USDA Hatch and Smith Lever funds and the Cornell University Institute for Social Sciences.
### 2017 Fiscal Stress Survey Response Rates

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Cities</th>
<th>Counties</th>
<th>Towns</th>
<th>Villages</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total NYS</td>
<td>62</td>
<td>57</td>
<td>932</td>
<td>545</td>
<td>1,596</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of Responses</td>
<td>47</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>509</td>
<td>333</td>
<td>919</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Response Rate</td>
<td>76%</td>
<td>53%</td>
<td>55%</td>
<td>61%</td>
<td>58%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Conducted by Cornell University in collaboration with:
- New York Conference of Mayors
- NYS Association of Towns

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Sources of Local Fiscal Stress

- Stagnant State Aid
- State Mandates
- Property Tax Cap
- Personnel Costs: Benefits
- Aging Infrastructure
- Personnel Costs: Pension Contributions
- Aging Population
- Economic Development Challenges
- Personnel Costs: Salaries
- Sales Tax Volatility
- Tax-exempt Properties
- Poverty
- Declining Population
- Population Growth

Significant ■ Moderate □ Weak □ None
Budgetary Needs Most Affected by Tax Cap

*Which future budgetary needs will be most affected? (Select all that apply)*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Service</th>
<th>% Yes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Infrastructure Investments</td>
<td>86%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Long-term Planning</td>
<td>63%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Recreation</td>
<td>26%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elder Services</td>
<td>19%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social Services</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Service Cuts in Response to Fiscal Stress

Over 45% of Communities Report Citizen Opposition to Cuts
Reactions to Fiscal Stress

Cuts (Mean = 1.3)

- Personnel Cuts Made
- Personnel Benefits Reduced
- Reduce Service(s)
- Consolidate Depts.
- Selling Assets
- Eliminate Service(s)
- Privatize Service(s)
- Consider Bankruptcy

Revenue Enhancements (Mean = 2.4)

- Explore Additional Sharing Agreements
- Apply for More Grants
- Defer Capital Expenditures
- Increase Existing User Fees
- Consider Government Consolidation
- Adopt New User Fees
- Increase Collection Efforts
- Use Volunteers for Services

What Causes Stress? What Can be Done?

- **State Policy**
  - Mandates
  - Rules

- **Economy**
  - Tax exempt land
  - Econ dev. challenges
  - Aging infrastructure

- **Demography**
  - Poverty

- **Strategic Management**

**FISCAL STRESS**

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT ORGANIZATION**

**ENVIRONMENT**