

THE PUTNAM COUNTY LEGISLATURE

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Daniel G. Birmingham *Chairman*
William Gouldman *Deputy Chair*
Diane Trabulsy *Clerk*



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William Gouldman	Dist. 2
Toni E. Addonizio	Dist. 3
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October 23, 2026

Ms. Diane Trabulsy
Clerk of the Legislature
40 Gleneida Avenue
Carmel, New York 10512

RE: Report of the Budget & Finance Committee on the 2027 Tentative Budget

Dear Madam Clerk:

The Putnam County Budget & Finance Committee has completed its review of the 2027 Putnam County Tentative Budget as submitted by the County Executive to the Legislature on October 1, 2026. Pursuant to Section 7.04 B (3) of the Putnam County Charter, I hereby submit this report to you from the Budget & Finance Committee ("the Committee").

At the County Executive's presentation to the Budget & Finance Committee on Monday, October 5th, he explained that the proposed Tentative Budget totals approximately \$229.7 million, an increase of less than 1% over the adopted 2026 Budget. The County Executive attributed the increase to rising transportation costs and contractual expenses, including gasoline, heating oil, electricity, and materials. Additionally, he stated that the proposed budget maintains the County's strong financial condition, which reflects positively on its AA1 bond rating from Moody's. Immediately after the presentation, the Committee held its first public hearing, where several residents and local officials provided fruitful feedback and made requests to the Legislature.

The mission of the County Legislature is to approve a sound and responsible 2027 Budget that is attentive to the health, safety, and wellbeing of all Putnam County residents while continuing to support both current and retired County employees and utilizes the County's Fund Balance that will result in lowering the tax levy, benefitting the Putnam County homeowners. With these

goals in mind, the County Legislature commenced its review of the Tentative Budget on October 7, 2026. This process is a true team effort, with collaboration and input from the Administration, Department Heads, County Elected Officials, and members of the public. The Legislative Committees submitted proposed revisions and adjustments to the Budget & Finance Committee for additional review, consideration and approval on October 20, 2026. Additionally, at the Budget & Finance Committee meeting, there were proposals made by individual Legislators. The approved proposals by the Budget & Finance Committee are outlined in the attached "Schedule A".

In the short time between the departments' budget submissions to the County Executive and delivery of the Tentative Budget to the Legislature, some adjustments became necessary and the Committee made amendments to accommodate those changes, such as increasing the Diesel Line in the Road Machine Fund and the Legal Services Line of the County Law Department along with ministerial corrections to various budget lines.

The budget lines for the Putnam On Demand program were broken out to clearly show funding allocations and revenues. The Committee allocated \$15,000 for a County Tourism Impact study, which will provide useful information when considering how to best manage the increasing number of visitors and the impact that has on our beautiful County.

Within the Personnel section of the budget, the Committee approved a request from the Law Department pertaining to three positions, including moving a Senior Deputy County Attorney from part-time to full-time and adding a new Senior Deputy County Attorney position. Amendments were also made to the salaries of the Legislators and the two leadership positions in the County Executive's Office. The Cost-of-Living Adjustment (COLA) was removed from all nine Legislator salaries as well as from the Deputy County Executive salary. The compensation will remain at the 2026 budgeted amounts of \$48,173 and \$167,464, respectively. The 2027 salary for the County Executive was set at \$175,000, a \$6,303 reduction from the 2026 adopted salary.

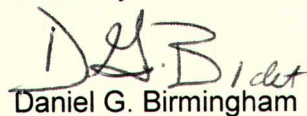
During the Budget & Finance Committee meeting, Legislator Toni Addonizio brought forward a proposal to implement a 2-year plan that would provide a total of \$10 million to the local towns and villages for the "Municipal Public Works and Infrastructure Cooperation Project". Recognizing that the \$6.5 million put into subcontingency per former Legislator Jonke's 2026 proposal for the Homeowner Tax Relief Program was not able to come to fruition, it is the intention to utilize the \$6.5 million that will roll back into Fund Balance at the end of this year for Legislator Addonizio's proposal. Her proposal at the Budget & Finance Committee meeting was to allocate the remaining \$3.5million from Fund Balance and transfer it into subcontingency for said purpose. The Committee did approve Legislator Addonizio's proposal.

Also, during the Committee Meeting, Legislator Montgomery proposed utilizing Fund Balance rather than the 2026 \$2.1 million that had been assigned to Mental Health proposed by the County Executive in his October 5th presentation to the Legislature. Her proposal was to transfer the funds from Fund Balance and place into subcontingency for the purposes that had

been presented: Putnam County Wellness Coalition, 911 Diversion Training and the Enhanced Employee Assistance Program which the Committee approved. Similarly, I put forward proposals to utilize Fund Balance toward our Insurance Reserve, Retirement, and Post Employment Benefits, all of which were approved.

The County Legislature has diligently reviewed the Tentative Budget via the budget process and has appropriately made slight changes through the Budget & Finance Committee as outlined in the attached "Schedule A," producing a fiscally sound budget has been compiled through the combined efforts of the Administration and Legislature. The resulting budget will also allow the County to continue to provide the necessary services and programs to meet the health, safety and welfare needs of the Putnam County residents.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "D.G.B." with a stylized flourish at the end.

Daniel G. Birmingham

Chairman

Putnam County Budget & Finance Committee

Att./

Schedule A

1. Road Machine Fund – Increase Diesel Line (page 273)
2. Capital Projects – Move CP 2027-12, 34 Gleneida Ave, to CP 2027-01 (Capital Reserve – Minor Renovations)
3. Bureau of Emergency Services – Decrease E911 Phone Equipment (page 109)
4. Sheriff's Office – Adjust Other Equipment (Finance Correction) (pages 69 & 72)
5. Law Department – Increase Legal Services (page 33)
6. County Executive – Move Chargeback Vehicle Leasing to Health Dept. (page 12)
7. Putnam Arts Council – 3% Increase (page 225)
8. Tourism – Subcontingency – County Tourism Impact Study
9. Youth Bureau – Budget Revisions
10. Health Department – Revenue Revisions
11. Alcohol & Substance Abuse – Correct Department/Organizational Code (page 267)
12. Mental Health Services – Revise Subcontractors – Prevention Council Line (page 147)
13. Admin Social Services – Move to Correct Line (page 154)
14. Law Department – Personnel Increases (page 12 personnel)
15. Corrections – Personnel Line Revision (page 29 personnel)
16. Legislature – Remove COLA from Legislators' Salaries (page 1 personnel)
17. County Executive – Adjust County Executive Salary (page 4 personnel)
18. PART Bus System – Create Separate Putnam On Demand Budget Lines (page 277)
19. Extension Service – Move Ag Navigator to Legislative Board Budget (page 1)
20. Depot Theater Elevator – County Contribution (page 248)
21. Subcontingency – Countywide Garbage Pickup

22. Uniforms at 70% to Subcontingency
23. Adjust Effective Date of Salaries Higher than County Executive
24. County Executive – Salary Subcontingency
25. County Executive – Deputy County Executive – Remove COLA
26. Allocate \$3.5 to Subcontingency for Proposed Local Law - \$10 Million to Taxpayers – Municipal Public Works and Infrastructure Cooperation Project
27. Central Services Internal Chargebacks
28. Putnam County Wellness Coalition
29. 911 Diversion Training
30. Enhanced Employee Assistance Program
31. Subcontingency - Drones as First Responder Program
32. Decrease Allocation to Health Plans
33. Tourism – Reduce Advertising Line (page 185)
34. County Executive – Increase Travel (page 12)
35. Dues – Books and Supplements (page 52)
36. Finance – Adjust Salary – First Deputy Commissioner of Finance (page 5 personnel)
37. Use of Assigned Fund Balance (Insurance)
38. Using Assigned Fund Balance (Retirement)
39. Soil & Water – Increase County Contribution (page 252)
40. Use of Assigned Fund Balance (Post Employment)
41. Create Food Insecurity Budget Line – Subcontingency
42. Reduce Revenue Line – OSR Outreach Program (page 198)