

**PUTNAM COUNTY EXECUTIVE
KEVIN M. BYRNE**

December 5, 2025

Dear Putnam County Employees:

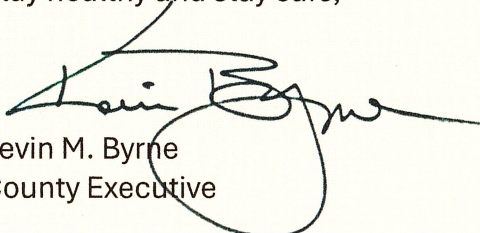
Thank you for your continued commitment to the vitality and well-being of our community. Your hard work has not gone unnoticed.

As many of you know, my fiscal year 2026 County Budget included a significant reduction for employees with the highest contribution level toward the cost of health-insurance coverage next year. For example, where most new full-time hires paid a mandatory 25% or even 30% of their salary toward healthcare premiums, that figure will be cut to 17% for most Putnam County employees in 2026 – an average savings of thousands of dollars per employee.

I'd like to thank all the members of the health-insurance advisory committee who worked diligently to present their findings to me which ultimately led to my decision and proposal for which the Legislature voted to approve this week. Thank you to Chris York, Bill Carlin, Jim Burpoe, Shanna Siegel, Cindy Trimble, and Pat Sheehy, as well as our four labor unions, for their hard work and insight.

This provision of my Affordability Agenda will help to ease one of the largest cost burdens for our employees and allow us to remain competitive with neighboring county governments. In survey after survey, and through my day-to-day interactions with you, employees have said that healthcare costs are too high. You spoke; we acted. Thank you, and have a happy, successful, and productive new year.

Stay healthy and stay safe,



Kevin M. Byrne
County Executive