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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Broome County Clerk Joseph Mihalko, State Senator Fred Akshar & and Broome County Legislature Chairman Dan Reynolds Call on Governor Cuomo to Increase the County DMV Revenue Share to 25%

Broome County Clerk Joseph Mihalko, State Senator Fred Akshar, County Executive Jason Garnar and Broome County Legislature Chairman Dan Reynolds are banding together to call on Governor Cuomo and the State Legislature
to update New York's antiquated DMV fee sharing agreement with County governments.

Under §205 of the NYS Vehicle & Traffic Law, Clerks in 51 counties are mandated to serve as agents of the NYS Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) and operate local DMV offices.

"We're required to shoulder all of the overhead and staffing costs for our locally-operated DMVs, yet the State only allows counites to retain 12.7% of the DMV fees we collect," said Broome County Clerk Joseph Mihalko. "The remaining 87.3% is funneled into the abyss of Albany's bloated General Fund, over which there's little oversight or local accountability."

New York State Senator Patty Ritchie sponsors legislation (S.1371) that would increase the County's retention percentage from 12.7% to 25%. It's currently under consideration in the Senate's Transportation Committee. State Senator Fred Akshar co-sponsors the bill.

"I commend Senator Akshar for listening to our concerns and stepping up to co-sponsor this important legislation," continued Clerk Mihalko. "This change won't cost taxpayers a dime and will increase local revenue by over $1 million annually. Those funds could be put to much better use right here in Broome County by offsetting local government expenses and providing residents with some much-needed tax relief."

"I'm proud to partner with our local leaders to stand up and demand fair treatment from Albany," said Akshar. "The current model of crippling unfunded mandates is unsustainable for school districts, municipalities and the hardworking taxpayers. Instead of easing the burden of unfunded mandates, the Governor's proposed budget doubles down on shouldering communities with additional costs, which will only lead to higher property taxes. If we ever stand a chance at curbing the steady outmigration of New York residents, the State needs take some responsibility and reduce these unfair burdens on our communities, not increase them," said Senator Akshar.

"The Broome County Legislature has been a key partner in our fight to enact these reforms as well," said Clerk Mihalko. "My hat's off to Chairman Dan Reynolds for his leadership in passing a County Resolution in support of the revenue share increase on back on February 20th," said Clerk Mihalko.

"The uneven DMV revenue distribution hasn't changed since 1999, yet the State has continued to increase the services to be provided by our local DMV offices and mobile units," said Legislature Chairman Daniel J. Reynolds. "It's extremely unfair that our local county DMV, and taxpayers, carry all the burden of providing these services while the State takes the lion's share of revenues. Increasing the County's share would at least be a step in the right direction from the State to address mandate relief."

"We're collectively calling on Governor Cuomo and the State Legislature's Majority Leaders to include S.1371 in the Article VII language in this year's final enacted State Budget," said Clerk Mihalko.

Also attending the press conference were Broome County Executive Jason Garnar, County Legislator Kelly Wildoner (District 3) and County Legislator Greg Baldwin (District 6).

Local residents are encouraged to voice their support for S.1371 by calling their State leaders and Governor Cuomo's office at (518) 474-8390.

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