



ULSTER COUNTY LEGISLATIVE NEWS

ULSTER COUNTY NEWS INFORMATION
OFFICE OF THE COUNTY LEGISLAUTRE
244 FAIR STREET, 6TH FLOOR
KINGSTON, NY 12401

MEDIA CONTACT INFORMATION
• PHONE 845-340-3900
* EMAIL LegislativeNews@co.ulster.ny.us
• FAX 845-340-3651

Legislature.UlsterCountyNY.gov

For Immediate Release:

November 14, 2024

Chair of Ulster County Legislature Advocates for Fair Wages for All County Employees

(Kingston, NY) — Ulster County Legislature Chair Peter Criswell has introduced a resolution to expand the county's Living Wage Law, ensuring that all county employees—not only contractors and vendors—earn a fair wage. Under the current law, enacted in 2021, only contracted workers are covered at a minimum wage of \$15.00 per hour. This new legislation proposes a base pay increase to \$17.70 for all county employees, reflecting Ulster County's commitment to providing wages that keep pace with rising living costs.

“Ensuring fair compensation for our public servants is essential to attracting new talent, retaining our workforce, and acknowledging the increased cost of living in our county and beyond,” said Chair Criswell. “In close collaboration with the County Executive and her finance team, we identified \$17.70 as a fiscally responsible rate that exceeds the upcoming New York State minimum of \$15.50, while supporting our employees in a meaningful way. I look forward to hearing public feedback on this proposal and encourage the community to engage,” **said Chair Peter Criswell.**

Proposed Local Law No. 14 of 2024 has passed the Laws & Rules & Government Services and Ways & Means Committees, and the Legislature will vote on November 19, 2024, to hold a public hearing on December 17, 2024, at 6:00 PM in the Legislative Chambers. The full text of the proposed law can be found [here](#).

“Expanding this law to cover all county employees is a step forward in addressing the real financial challenges faced by our workforce,” Criswell added. “While more work remains to fully align wages with the cost of living in our community, this resolution shows our commitment to valuing the contributions of our employees and strengthening our local economy.”

###