



ULSTER COUNTY LEGISLATIVE NEWS

ULSTER COUNTY NEWS INFORMATION

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Statement from Chair Peter Criswell on County Executive Veto

As Chair of the Ulster County Legislature, I want to thank County Executive Metzger for her thoughtful use of her line-item veto authority to address an amendment related to wage increases. The Executive's veto reflects her responsibility under the Ulster County Charter and supports her role as the lead negotiator in the collective bargaining process.

Since the adoption of the 2025 budget, the Legislature gained additional information that clarified the complexities of this issue. Specifically, it has become clear that addressing this matter within the collective bargaining process is the most appropriate and effective way forward. The County Executive's decision reinforces the importance of adhering to the Charter's delineation of powers.

The Legislature's intent in adopting the amendment was to address concerns raised about employee compensation. However, after careful review and in consultation with the Executive, we recognize that this matter is best addressed through the collective bargaining process.

This year's budget process underscores the importance of collaboration between the Executive and Legislative branches of our government and further ensures good governance for Ulster County residents. I am confident that this decision sets the stage for resolving this issue in a manner that respects both the rights of employees and the integrity of the County's labor negotiations process.

I remain committed to working closely with the County Executive, my colleagues in the Legislature, and all stakeholders to ensure that Ulster County continues to serve its residents effectively and responsibly.

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