



**Westchester**  
County Association

CONTACT: Amy Allen  
The Westchester County Association, Inc.  
(914) 948-1168  
aallen@westchester.org

*For Immediate Release*

## **WESTCHESTER COUNTY ASSOCIATION SAYS COUNTY'S PROPOSED 2010 BUDGET TAX LEVY HIKE IS 'UNACCEPTABLE'**

Business Group Assembles Team of Independent Accountants to Analyze Budget and Make Recommendations for Additional Cuts

**WHITE PLAINS, NY (November 18, 2009)** -- The Westchester County Association (WCA), the county's leading business membership and advocacy group, today criticized the proposed 2010 County Operating Budget, calling the nearly 5% tax levy hike 'unacceptable.' It also announced that it has assembled a team of independent certified public accountants who have begun a technical review of the budget to help the WCA recommend policy changes that will result in additional areas for savings and eliminate the prospect of another tax increase for property owners.

WCA President William Mooney said: "At a time when everyone has made painful sacrifices to survive this deep recession, the County has not taken the necessary steps. We do not agree that this is an 'austerity' budget. It does not go far enough in making the necessary cuts in county government needed to cap or

even reduce the budget.” He added: “Westchester’s tax payers are at the breaking point and cannot afford yet another tax increase.”

Mr. Mooney noted that cutting 37 staff jobs in the new budget was misleading because “34 of them are already vacant. Further, the County’s explanation that state budget mandates leave no room to trim the county budget is erroneous. Although it’s true the state can mandate that a specific service be provided, it does not dictate how much needs to be spent or how much staff is needed to deliver that service.”

Mr. Mooney also said that the budget should not be adopted until the very last date allowable by law (December 31) to give the maximum time for public review and comment. This will enable the team of accountants from the Westchester Chapter of the NYS Society of CPA’s, headed by Howard Klein, managing partner of EZKR, to complete their independent review of the budget and make recommendations.

The WCA will urge the public to participate in the budget hearings and said it would join other organizations in publicizing the dates and times of the hearings.

The Westchester County Association ([www.westchester.org](http://www.westchester.org)) is the preeminent business membership organization in Westchester County. The Association is committed to business advocacy, economic vitality and to providing a strong and clear voice for the interests of businesses on the regional, national and international levels. Its key objectives are: promoting positive economic development in the region; fostering business development; and providing its members with access and interaction with key public and private sector individuals, agencies and organizations.