



CONTACT: Dorothy Forcina
The Westchester County Association, Inc.
(914) 948-5689
dforcina@westchester.org

For Immediate Release

**Statement from Westchester County Association on
County Legislature's Vote on County Budget**

White Plains, NY (December 14, 2009)

The Westchester County Association (WCA) is disappointed by the legislature's vote today to approve a 2.9% tax levy increase in the county's 2010 budget. In spite of the recent claims by a group of influential legislators that they heard the voters and "get it," today's action shows that the overall board doesn't "get it." The WCA strongly argued and gave testimony at the county budget public hearing that anything more than a **zero increase** in the budget is unacceptable.

It's hard to imagine that on nearly a \$2 billion budget, the board lacked the political courage and will to make the necessary reductions to come up with a budget that responds to the needs of the taxpayers.

As it has done many times over the years, The WCA again urges that there be more transparency and timely process to review the budget; that a fiscal oversight function be created that has responsibility to report directly to the legislators and that the county should institute multi-year forecasting and exercise greater internal control function.

The WCA will continue its analysis of the budget to find areas where improvements can be made. It is hopeful that when the new Astorino Administration takes office in January, there will be significant progress in getting county government's fiscal house in order.

The Westchester County Association 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.