

**LOCAL LAW NO. 5 OF 2011
COUNTY OF ROCKLAND
STATE OF NEW YORK**

(Introduced by: Hon. Harriet D. Cornell)

(Co-Sponsors: Hon. Ilan S. Schoenberger, Hon. Jay Hood, Jr., Hon. Robert D. Jackson,
Hon. Connie L. Coker, Hon. Michael M. Grant, Hon. Philip Soskin,
Hon. Alden H. Wolfe, Hon. Douglas J. Jobson)

Chairwoman Cornell offered the following resolution, which was seconded by the Entire Legislature and unanimously adopted:

A local law providing for the submittal to the legislature of Rockland county of an annual multiyear financial plan for the county of Rockland.

Be it enacted by the legislature of the county of Rockland, New York, as follows:

Section 1. Name of local law

This law shall be known as “the Rockland County Multi-Year Finance Plan law.”

Section 2. Findings and Intent.

- A. The Rockland county legislature finds and declares that it is in the best interest of the County to have multi-year financial planning in order to give a true picture of the county’s financial situation.
- B. The Rockland County Legislature believes that multiyear financial planning will help residents and local government officials see the impact of fiscal decisions over time. They can then decide what program funding choices to make in advance to avoid sudden tax increases or dramatic budget cuts.
- C. All accounting entries to the spreadsheets shall conform to generally accepted accounting principles and uniform system of accounting as promulgated by the New York state comptroller’s office and regulations as promulgated by the New York state comptroller.
- D. The state of New York Comptroller has recognized the need for multiyear financial planning to be implemented at all levels of municipal government to aid in projecting revenues and expenditures for several years into the future allowing decision-makers to set long term priorities and work towards goals rather than making choices based only on the needs and policies of the moment.

- E. Multiyear financial planning helps to identify structural imbalances between revenues and expenditures caused by expenditures in many local governments growing at nearly twice the rate of inflation, fueled by upward pressures caused by wages and salaries, healthcare costs and other employee benefits, while revenues have either grown more slowly or declined.
- F. Multiyear financial planning does not authorize expenditures. Instead it illustrates what will happen to a government's ability to pay for and provide services, given a set of policy and economic assumptions. These projections help policy makers assess expenditure commitments, revenue trends, financial risks and the affordability of new services and capital investments, now and into the future.

Section 3. Definitions

As used in this section, the following words and phrases shall have the meanings given to them in this subsection:

- A. Out Year – means any budget year in the financial plan subsequent to the current year.
- B. Current Year –the fiscal year last adopted by the legislature.
- C. Prior Year – means any budget year in the financial plan prior to the current year.

Section 4. Requirements

- A. The county executive of Rockland county shall submit annually, a multiyear financial plan to the Rockland county legislature as is further set forth in this law. Commencing with the county executive's submission of a proposed budget for fiscal year 2012 to the legislature, and annually thereafter, at the same time, the county executive shall prepare a multiyear financial plan as set forth herein and submit the multiyear financial plan to the Rockland county legislature no later than the date the county executive is required to submit his/her proposed annual budget proposal. With respect to the major operating funds for each out year of the financial plan, the multiyear financial plan shall contain actions sufficient to ensure that the aggregate operating expenses for such fiscal years and the aggregate expenditures reasonably anticipated for said out- years, shall not exceed the annual aggregate operating revenues for each such year. The fiscal plan submitted by the county executive shall be in a format approved by the legislature of Rockland county, and said format and/or content required may be amended from time to time by said legislature of Rockland county by resolution of the Rockland county legislature.
- B. The format to be used in the initial year shall be that proposed by the New York State Comptroller in his "Local Government Management Guide" updated 2007, set forth in the attached exhibit templates and shall continue until modified by the legislature.

- C. The multiyear financial plan templates shall display the three most recent prior years' data and the projected revenues and expenditures for the same items identified and incorporated in the current year budget adjacent to the next three out years in the same row of the templates. The current year budget adopted numbers shall be entered in the row between the prior years and the out years.
- D. As to all out years the sums projected by categories, shall match up to the same categories set forth in the current year and to the extent possible, the prior years.
- E. The intention of this format is to display, in a spreadsheet format, the actual numbers of the three most current prior years, the adopted numbers for the current year and the four consecutive years following the current year (out-years) adjacent to each other on the same row.
- F. The county executive's submission of the multiyear financial plan shall set forth a fiscal plan that includes projections for the out years of fiscal conditions under current policies, a description of any new, amended or abandoned policies to improve future fiscal condition(s) and provide a description of policy changes in the recent past.
- G. As to the projections in the out-years, the county executive shall provide with his description of policy, any economic assumptions that he or she used or incorporated into out year projections.
- H. As to all data provided the county executive is to make known the assumptions that are being applied to out-year projections and shall provide with the report his or her current policy and economic assumption for his or her projections in a narrative format.
- I. The revenue projection shall detail real property taxes, sales and use tax, any other non property taxes, mortgage tax, other local revenue, payments in lieu of taxes, departmental income, other local revenue, state aid, federal aid, inter-fund transfers, and one time revenue(s).
- J. The expenditures shall include personal service cost, salary increments, union contracts negotiated/projected increases, total number of full time employees, part time employees, equipment and capital debt service, and employee benefits costs. The legislature shall advise the county executive of the categories of aggregated revenue and expenditure budget items.
- K. The county executive shall submit a financial improvement plan to the legislature by June 30 of each year wherein he shall set forth his or her realization of projected budget imbalance, such as deviations of revenue and expenses projection or assumptions that have changed since first filing the multi year plan. The financial improvement plan shall address changes in the assumption(s) and any new assumptions or policies, which if implemented, will provide for the submitted budget to be balanced. The County Executive shall outline the goals, plans and steps he or she recommends to eliminate or reduce the unanticipated result and what if any actions he or she recommends to correct the issue(s) raised.

Section 5. Severability

If any clause, sentence, paragraph, subdivision, section or part of this law or the application thereof to any person, individual, corporation, firm, partnership, entity or circumstance shall be adjudged by any court of competent jurisdiction to be invalid or unconstitutional, such order or judgment shall not affect, impair, effect or invalidate the remainder thereof, but shall be confined in its operation to the clause, sentence, paragraph, subdivision, section or part of this law or in its application to the person, individual, corporation, firm, partnership, entity or circumstance directly involved in the controversy in which such order or judgment shall be rendered.

Section 6. Effective date

This local law shall take effect immediately upon filing with the New York State Secretary of State.