

**LOCAL LAW NO. 1 OF 2015
COUNTY OF ROCKLAND
STATE OF NEW YORK**

(Introduced by: Hon. Alden H. Wolfe)

Chairman Wolfe offered the following Local Law, which was seconded by Mr. Grant and adopted:

A local law requiring the public dissemination of all changes made to the County Executive's proposed budget.

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

Section 1. Name of local law.

This law shall be known as the "Adopted Budget Transparency Act."

Section 2. Legislative Intent.

The budget process requires the County Executive to submit a proposed budget for the upcoming year no later than October 1. The Legislature is required to hold a public hearing no later than November 20 and to adopt the budget no later than December 7 after accepting the report of the Budget and Finance Committee's containing their recommendations. If the County Executive vetoes the budget resolution adopted by the Legislature, in whole or in part, the Legislature has until December 20 to override any vetoes and finalize the budget. Once the budget is finalized, the final version is printed, bound and distributed and an electronic version is posted online at the County website.

It is important for the public to understand the process leading to the final adopted budget. To that end, the changes made by the Legislature as well as any items restored by the County Executive through sustained vetoes should be separately incorporated into all printed and electronic versions of the budget that are disseminated by including the report of the Legislature's Budget & Finance Committee and the County Executive's veto message. This will ensure the transparency of county government and a better-informed electorate in Rockland County, as well as providing all necessary information to those individuals and agencies interested in the fiscal health of the County.

Section 3. The following sections are hereby added to the Laws of Rockland County:

Section 4. Definitions.

As used in this article, the following terms shall have the meanings indicated

- A. COUNTY** - The County of Rockland, New York.
- B. REPORT OF THE BUDGET & FINANCE COMMITTEE** - The schedules adopted by the Budget & Finance committee listing the recommended changes to the County Executive's proposed budget along with any formal statement of explanation presented with the schedules.
- C. VETO MESSAGE** - The statement of the increases or additions or the decreases or deletions in the budget adopted by the Legislature to which the County Executive objects, setting forth the reasons therefor.

Section 5. Requirements

- A.** In the event that the annual budget adopted by the Legislature contains changes made to the County Executive's proposed budget, the report of the Budget & Finance Committee recommending the changes shall be included in all copies of the printed and bound version of the adopted budget and in any other electronic version posted on the County's website.
- B.** In the event that the annual budget adopted by the Legislature is vetoed in whole or in part by the County Executive, and said veto or vetoes are not overridden by the Legislature, thus restoring certain items to the adopted budget, the County Executive's veto message shall be included in all copies of the printed and bound version of the adopted budget and in any other electronic version posted on the County's website.

Section 6. Effective date.

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

The vote resulted as follows:

Ayes:	14	(Legislators Cornell, Diaz, Grant, Hofstein, Jobson, Low-Hogan, Meyers, Moroney, Murphy, Paul, Schoenberger, Soskin, Wieder, Wolfe)
U.A. Nays:	02	(Legislators Earl, Hood, Jr.)
Absent:	01	(Legislator Carey)