



Marcia E. Lynch, Public Information Officer
607-274-5555, Office
607-227-2152, Cell
September 23, 2011
ONE PAGE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Annual Community Budget Forum September 26

The Tompkins County Legislature will hold its annual Community Budget Forum Monday, September 26, from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. at the Borg Warner Room of the Tompkins County Public Library, 101 E. Green Street, Ithaca. County residents are invited to attend—to learn about the 2012 tentative County budget and the fiscal challenges the County faces, and to discuss their concerns with legislators.

Legislators want to hear citizens' suggestions before they begin considering any changes to the budget recommended by County Administrator Joe Mareane. Legislators acting as an Expanded Budget Committee began hearing budget presentations from departments and agencies earlier this month. They will begin voting on changes to the administrator's proposal in mid-October.

The 2012 Recommended Budget supports total expenditures of \$161.3 million (an increase of 1.4%) and local dollar spending of \$77.8 million (a 2.2% increase that reflects diminished State aid), and it reduces the County workforce by 3.3%. The budget starts with the level of spending that can be supported within the State's property tax cap—estimated at 2.92% with adjustments permitted under the tax cap law. The Administrator's recommendation, however, would increase the tax levy by 5.3%, in line with the 2012 levy goal set by the Legislature as a basis for budget development.

Over the past two months, nearly a dozen community meetings have been held around the County regarding the 2012 budget, those meetings sponsored by individual Legislators. At Monday's meeting, citizens will have the opportunity to again discuss the administrator's budget, with all or most members of the Legislature present.

The tentative budget, and other materials on the budget and the review process, are posted on the County web page at www.tompkins-co.org (Click on "County Budget.") Paper copies of the tentative budget are available for review at the County Legislature Office, 320 N. Tioga Street, Ithaca, and at Tompkins County Administration, 121 E. Court Street (Third Floor), Ithaca.

For more information on Monday's Community Budget Forum, contact the Legislature Office at 274-5434 or the County Public Information Office at 274-5555.

Media contact: James Dennis, Chair, Budget, Capital, and Personnel Committee, 387-4058.

- END -