



Highlights of Governor Cuomo's 2016 State of the State / Executive Budget Proposals

The Chamber will review the Governor's proposals as soon as more details are released. Until that time, the Chamber's general positions on policy areas of importance to Upstate New York are provided below in italics.

PROPOSAL 1: Make New York the first state in the nation to enact a \$15 minimum wage for all workers. More information available [here](#); video and other media available [here](#).

The Chamber is opposed to raising the minimum wage to \$15.

PROPOSAL 4: Make a series of investments and new initiatives to continue growing the economy and building stronger, more vibrant communities across New York State. More information available [here](#); video and other media available [here](#).

The Chamber supports small business tax relief, investment in the Capital Region's water and sewer infrastructure and the Regional Economic Development Councils. The Chamber advocates for integrated policies that support downtown revitalization.

PROPOSAL 5: Invest in Upstate transportation infrastructure. More information available [here](#); video available [here](#).

The Chamber supports upstate/downstate transportation funding parity.

PROPOSAL 9: Launch a Municipal Consolidation and Efficiency Competition designed to reward local governments that take real steps to make living and working in New York State more affordable. More information available [here](#).

The Chamber supports a permanent property tax cap coupled with meaningful mandate relief. It is an absolute necessity to provide municipal government with appropriate state aid and relief from state mandates.

PROPOSAL 10: Dramatically expand and improve access to high-speed Internet in communities statewide. The New York State Public Service Commission recently voted to approve the merger of Time Warner Cable and Charter Communications, which will dramatically improve broadband availability for millions of New Yorkers. More information available [here](#); video available [here](#).

The Chamber supports the proposed merger of Charter and Time Warner. This merger will create a new company that will greatly improve the quality and capacity of broadband in our area and will make broadband more accessible to underserved populations.

PROPOSAL 11: Launch a \$200 million competition to revitalize Upstate airports. More information available [here](#).

The Chamber is a leading advocate for increased flights and competitive pricing to/from the Albany International Airport. We will also continue our efforts for a reconstructed Northway/I-87 Exit 4 in order to provide direct access to the airport.

PROPOSAL 12: Combat poverty and reduce rampant inequality through the Empire State Poverty Reduction Initiative. The \$25 million program will bring together state and local government, non-profit and business groups to design and implement coordinated solutions to increase social mobility in ten cities with the highest poverty rates in the state. More information available [here](#).

As this proposal would directly impact the cities of Albany and Troy, the Chamber will carefully review and discuss this proposal with all interested stakeholders.

PROPOSAL 14: Increase opportunity for minority- and women-owned business enterprises across New York State. More information available [here](#).

The Chamber supports efforts to effectively and equitably encourage the growth of Minority and Women Owned Business Enterprises (MWBE).