



**OFFICE OF THE MAYOR**  
Hon. Stephanie A. Miner, Mayor

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
DATE: January 30, 2017

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## **MAYOR MINER PUSHES FOR GOVERNMENT REFORMS IN ALBANY TESTIMONY**

*In Annual Testimony Before the State Legislature, Mayor Miner Pushes Election Reform, Home Stability Support Program, Contracting Reform, and Mandate Relief*

*Miner: NYS Should Implement Reforms Making New York A Fairer, More Efficient State that Works For Everyone*

ALBANY, N.Y. – Mayor Stephanie A. Miner today delivered testimony before the New York State Legislature’s Joint Budget Committee hearing on local governments. In her testimony, the Mayor urged the legislature to take important actions on ethics, contracting, housing and education funding reform and highlighted the work the City of Syracuse has done to share services and increase efficiency in government.

“I am always pleased to speak before New York’s elected leaders in Albany to help them understand how their decisions impact Syracuse every day. This past year, we have seen New York State subject to disappointing headlines about inappropriate use of taxpayer funds in economic development projects. Through common sense contracting reforms, we can avoid this and put tax dollars to their highest, best uses alleviating poverty and rebuilding our infrastructure,” said **Syracuse Mayor Stephanie A. Miner**. “From fully funding the *Campaign for Fiscal Equity* court decision to implementing Home Stability Support, and modernizing our elections, we implement the reforms making New York a fairer, more efficient state that works for everyone.”

In the Mayor’s testimony this afternoon, she highlighted reforms she announced a few weeks ago with Susan Lerner of Common Cause New York and government reform advocate Zephyr Teachout. These include closing the so-called “LLC loophole” in campaign finance laws, which allows nearly unlimited donations from limited liability corporations to political candidates.

Also among the reforms the Mayor urged was changes to state contracting laws. These reforms would require implementing the same procurement standard statewide, even to public authorities and affiliate agencies; transferring all economic development awards to the Empire State Development Corporation; empowering the Office of the Comptroller to review and approve all contracts over \$250,000; prohibiting state authorities, corporations, and non-profits from doing business with their board members; and creating a public database so citizens can review all awards given to individual companies.

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Mayor Miner repeated her call for modernizing the elections process, including easing voter registration; shortening the registration deadline; allowing minors to pre-register so they do not need to wait when they turn 18; adopting an early voting period; streamlining ballots so they are easier to understand; and upgrading poll worker recruitment.

Importantly, Mayor Miner highlighted the work the City of Syracuse has done to address cutting its, including consolidating purchasing and mail services with Onondaga County. In his State of the State announcement this year, the Governor called on cities and counties to do collaborative work following the leadership of the City of Syracuse.

**Mayor Miner** added: “The City of Syracuse has done yeoman’s work in addressing our fiscal realities and we have made important investments in shared services, including consolidating purchasing and implementing PeopleSoft financial management software. We have even been recognized by Governor Cuomo for these efforts. We need New York State to do their part and address the mandates that are the biggest drivers of our costs, including our pension and healthcare responsibilities.”

The largest cost drivers for the City of Syracuse are all related to personnel, including hefty pension and healthcare costs for retirees. The City of Syracuse, which is self-insured, provides expensive benefits to retirees under New York State laws.

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