



ULSTER COUNTY LEGISLATIVE NEWS

ULSTER COUNTY NEWS INFORMATION

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Ways & Means Committee to Consider Amendments to Ulster County Fair Taxes Act

(Kingston, NY) – Sponsors of the Ulster County Fair Taxes Act have introduced amendments to Resolution No. 295 that will be considered by the Ways & Means Committee on Thursday July 9, 2026 reflecting feedback the Legislature has received from the public since its introduction in May. At the June 16, 2026 Session, the Legislature heard from dozens of members of the public providing comment on the initiative as well as numerous written comments both in favor and against the proposal.

“Hearing from our constituents allows us to utilize their feedback and information to develop stronger legislation. I'm excited to move forward with the exploration of a fair tax structure for Ulster County. Republican tax policy from Washington has saddled Ulster County with projected 8-figure cost increases in future years. By opening the conversation with New York State via this Home Rule Request, we are creating the option to enact a progressive tax structure in the years ahead to mitigate these effects,” **said Majority Leader Abe Uchitelle**, a Sponsor of Resolution No. 295.

“The so called ‘Big Beautiful Bill’ reduced federal taxes on individuals making over \$250,000 and couples over \$500,000 while passing roughly \$8.5 million in new mandated costs down to Ulster County. The Fair Taxes Act proposes that those who received these significant federal savings help fund those costs through a small surcharge,” **said Legislator Jeff Collins, Chair of the Ways & Means Committee** and a Sponsor of Resolution No. 295.

"I want to thank everyone who took the time to share their thoughts with the Legislature on this important issue. We heard the concerns of residents, taxpayers, and the business community - and we listened,” **said Chair Peter Criswell**. “The changes proposed directly reflect that feedback by creating a business carve-out and adjusting the taxable income thresholds.”

As a Home Rule request, Resolution No. 295 is not levying a new tax surcharge but asking New York State permission to consider such a measure under New York State Tax Law. This would need to be passed by the New York State Legislature and signed into law by the Governor before the County can take any action. Changes to the proposed Home Rule request include raising the

taxable income threshold to \$250,000 for individuals and \$500,000 for couples as well as adds a Pass-Through Entity Tax (PTET) credit for eligible partnerships, s-corps, and LLCs.

The Ulster County Fair Taxes Act is a targeted measure to address anticipated budget shortfalls stemming from federal cuts to Medicaid and other programming administered by Ulster County. Rather than relying more on property and sales taxes, which disproportionately impact low-to-moderate income residents, the proposed surcharge would apply only to those with taxable incomes exceeding \$250,000 for individuals or \$500,000 for couples, representing approximately one percent of the County's adult population.

Levying a surcharge is a process that would begin to be considered only after the Home Rule request is signed into law. As a Local Law, this process would require further deliberation, analysis and public input that will give Ulster County residents additional opportunities to provide input and shape the final legislation.

“Voting on this home rule request is not the end of the process. If the state grants authorization in 2027, Ulster County will have the option, not the obligation, to consider a Local Law creating a surcharge. We remain committed to exploring all solutions to our financial challenges while protecting our most vulnerable residents,” **Concluded Chair Peter Criswell.**

Should the amendments be adopted and approved by the Ways & Means Committee, Resolution No. 295 will be considered at the July 14, 2026 Session of the Legislature. Full text of the proposed amendments to Resolution No. 295 can be found [here](#).

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