



**NEWS FROM THE OFFICE OF  
ERIE COUNTY COMPTROLLER**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Erie County Comptroller Shenk Weighs In On Mid-Year Budget Estimates**

Erie County Comptroller David J. Shenk released the following statement today in response to County Executive Poloncarz's mid-year budget analysis.

"Evidently, Erie County is still in the hospital business. In spite of claims by the previous administration, Erie County is going to be responsible for payments related to the Erie County Medical Center Corporation that might range between \$34 million and \$50 million above what the Collins administration forecasted in their 2012 budget.

"Finger-pointing makes for great sound-bites, but poor public policy. I say that we must focus on solving the problem. County leaders need to pull together and demonstrate teamwork: the administration, the Legislature and my fellow county-wide elected officials must show a united front by sharpening their pencils and holding down costs in order to get through 2012 - no unnecessary spending.

"I am asking that the Control Board compel the County Executive to update his 4 year plan in light of these new numbers and I urge our Federal and State officials to continue their efforts to ease the burden that Medicaid has on local taxpayers. The County should pursue any remaining efficiency grants from the Erie County Fiscal Stability Authority. I also believe that we cannot rule out considering a hiring freeze.

"Finally, for several weeks I have been calling for the creation of a comprehensive fund balance policy that includes a formal replenishment plan. The fund balance is our "rainy day" fund, and it appears that storm clouds are looming. A formal replenishment policy would demonstrate to the public, credit rating agencies and investors that we are serious about managing our money.

"As Comptroller I have made it my mission to guard the long-term fiscal health of our community. We cannot continue the previous administration's pattern of relying on one-shot deals and downplaying our obligations.

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