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## **New York State Association of County Health Officials (NYSACHO) Statement on Governor Cuomo's 2019-2020 Budget Address**

By Sarah Ravenhall, MHA, CHES, Executive Director

“There are several elements of the Governor’s budget address that appear promising, including his proposal of dedicating marijuana tax revenue for public health education, data gathering and monitoring, substance abuse prevention, and research on cannabis use. Local public health departments will play a critical role in all of these activities, therefore it is imperative that local health departments are properly resourced by the State to do so.

“We also are heartened to see the Governor’s proposal to raise the age of tobacco sales and e-cigarettes from 18 to 21 years of age. The State of New York has long been a national leader in the fight against tobacco and the Governor’s announcement today further demonstrates the State’s commitment to public health policy that is aimed to protect communities, families and youth from exposure to tobacco products.

“We look forward to reviewing the budget details as they become available, and working with the Governor and Legislature to ensure we can effectively respond to the local public health needs of New York’s communities.”

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