

2020 Legislative Agenda

- 1) *Bail Reform* - Continue to advocate for changes and reform regarding the Bail Reform Act of 2019. We object, in the interest of justice, to any continued reduction in our authority to require defendants to appear in court on a timely and scheduled basis.
- 2) *Suspensions* - In the interest of justice, will oppose any elimination or reduction of the authority of the courts to suspend driver's license and registration for failure to comply with court orders including payment of surcharges and fines and the failure to appear in court.
- 3) *Retirement Benefits for Town and Village Justices* - Town and Village Justices have given years of dedicated service to their communities and New York State. Considering the nominal pay these local Justices receive, and the fact that they are on call and available 24/7/365, the Committee believes that full retirement benefits would be an appropriate recognition of their service which would not have a significantly negative impact on the state retirement system.
- 4) *Court System Funding* - NYSMA has advocated that the State provide adequate funds to continue implementation of the Action Plan including JCAP for the State's town and village justice courts. To provide true access, the courts must have well trained personnel and maintain all necessary facilities. As part of this, the State should bring the JCAP amount back up to \$10,000,000.00 per year.
- 5) *Wedding Officiating Fees* - Raise the fee to a Town or Village Justice to perform a wedding to a maximum \$300.00.
- 6) *Associate Village Justice. Amend the Term of Appointment* - Amend the term for which an associate village justice is appointed from one year to a maximum of four years. *Second associate village justice* - Support legislation which permits the appointment of a second associate village justice directly by the Mayor and Board of Trustees instead of the current requirement of New York State Legislative approval on each separate occasion.
- 7) *Translation Services* - Raise the statutory reimbursement rate for translation services (foreign language and sign language for the deaf) from \$25.00 per day to \$300.00 per day.
- 8) *Amendment of ABC Law 65-c* - Recommend to the Legislature to allow the Court to suspend the driving privileges of a defendant in those instances where a defendant fails to appear and/or fails to comply with a sentence imposed by the court in connection with the charge of unlawful consumption and/or sale of an alcoholic beverage; and/or authorize courts to render default judgments in cases of failure to answer for unlawful possession of an alcoholic beverage with the intent to consume by persons under the age of twenty-one years.
- 9) *SAFE Act* - Amend the New York SAFE Act to exempt sitting and retired judges from re-registering periodically for pistol permits in the same manner as Law Enforcement Officers are currently exempt.