

# Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR) Guide

## Office of Nassau County Comptroller Jack Schnirman *CAFR Made More Accessible*

This quick reference guide is designed to help you navigate and explore Nassau County's 2019 CAFR report. This document contains a wealth of information regarding our County's finances, structure, and key statistical information. Our hope is that this guide will provide further transparency and assist in keeping you informed.

### What is a CAFR?

The Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR) is a comprehensive set of financial and statistical statements for a governmental entity that comply with accounting requirements established by the Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB), and is prepared in accordance with Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP). The CAFR consists of three sections:

- 1. Introductory:** Guides the reader through the report;
- 2. Financial:** Presents the financial statements, notes to the financials and the auditors' report;
- 3. Statistical:** Provides additional financial and statistical data, including financial trends.

### How is it different from the Budget?

A budget is a **PLAN** for the future fiscal period that shows how revenues will be generated and spent. A CAFR contains the **ACTUAL RESULTS** of the year's financial activities.

### DID YOU KNOW?

This marks the third year in a row that this important financial report has been filed on time. This on-time CAFR continues the effort to provide timely data to guide decision-making.

### What are the key components of the 2019 report?

- Transmittal Letter:** Letter from the Comptroller; provides the reader with context.
- Audit Report:** Report from the County's independent audit firm.
- Management's Discussion & Analysis:** Management provides an overview of the year's operations and how the County performed financially.
- Financial Statements:** Nassau County's financial statements.
- Notes to Financial Statements:** Notes that provide additional information relevant to the County's financial statements, including accounting policies and subsequent events.
- Budget-to-Actuals:** Provides the reader with a crosswalk from total budgetary authority to budgetary actuals by major funds.
- Control Period Calculation:** Calculation of the fiscal year's results using the Control Period Calculation methodology required by the Nassau County Interim Finance Authority (NIFA).
- Statistical Reporting:** Provides reader with key financial trends; revenue information; department information; County statistics by function; and demographic and economic information.



# Governmental Fund Financial Statements: December 31, 2019

## Nassau County, New York

### Revenues, Expenditures and Changes in Fund Balance

| Exhibit X-5<br>(Dollars in Thousands)                     | General Fund | NIFA Fund   | Police District Fund | Sewer and Storm Water District Fund | Capital Fund | Disputed Assessment Fund | Nonmajor Government Funds | Total Governmental Funds |
|---|--------------|-------------|----------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------|--------------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|
| Total Revenues  | \$2,575,960  | \$144,530   | \$425,013            | \$144,227                           | \$80,652     | \$5,341                  | \$146,977                 | \$3,522,700              |
| Total Expenditures  | \$2,562,066  | \$1,769     | \$399,413            | \$107,140                           | \$213,345    |                          | \$307,000                 | \$3,590,733              |
| Excess (Deficiency) of Revenue Over (Under) Expenditures  | \$13,894     | \$142,761   | \$25,600             | \$37,087                            | (\$132,693)  | \$5,341                  | (\$160,023)               | (\$68,033)               |
| Total Other Financing Sources (Uses)                      | \$116,513    | (\$142,698) | (\$2,396)            | (\$45,408)                          | \$147,883    | (\$1,613)                | \$146,498                 | \$218,779                |
| Net Change in Fund Balance (Deficit)                      | \$130,407    | \$63        | \$23,204             | (\$8,321)                           | \$15,190     | \$3,728                  | (\$13,525)                | \$150,746                |
| Total Fund Balance (Deficit) at the Beginning of the Year | \$67,012     | \$824       | (\$4,023)            | \$8,640                             | \$283,442    | \$2,109                  | \$109,423                 | \$467,427                |
| Total Fund Balance at the End of the Year                 | \$197,419    | \$887       | \$19,181             | \$319                               | \$298,632    | \$5,837                  | \$95,898                  | \$618,173                |

\*The circled numbers are the primary operating fund surplus

Source 2019 CAFR Exhibit X-5

**\$145.3 million surplus in the primary operating funds**  
**\$112.2 million unassigned fund balance (rainy day fund)**

### Governmental Funds Balance Sheet

| Exhibit X-3<br>(Dollars in Thousands) | General Fund | NIFA Fund | Police District Fund | Sewer and Storm Water District Fund | Capital Fund | Disputed Assessment Fund | Nonmajor Government Funds | Total Governmental Funds |
|---------------------------------------|--------------|-----------|----------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------|--------------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|
| Total Fund Balance                    |              |           |                      |                                     |              |                          |                           |                          |
| Nonspendable                          | \$40,160     | \$61      | \$11,839             | \$347                               |              |                          | \$1,054                   | \$53,461                 |
| Spendable                             |              |           |                      |                                     |              |                          |                           |                          |
| Restricted                            | \$8,064      |           |                      |                                     | \$2,912      | \$5,837                  | \$94,101                  | \$110,914                |
| Committed                             | \$36,920     |           | \$6,273              |                                     | \$295,720    |                          | \$352                     | \$339,265                |
| Assigned                              | \$71         | \$826     | \$1,069              |                                     |              |                          | \$391                     | \$2,357                  |
| Unassigned                            | \$112,204    |           |                      | (\$28)                              |              |                          |                           | \$112,176                |
| Total Fund Balance                    | \$197,419    | \$887     | \$19,181             | \$319                               | \$298,632    | \$5,837                  | \$95,898                  | \$618,173                |

\*The circled number is the total unassigned fund balance

Source 2019 CAFR Exhibit X-3

### Key Terms

#### GAAP (Generally Accepted Accounting Principles):

GAAP is a combination of authoritative standards (set by policy boards) and the commonly accepted ways of recording and reporting accounting information. GAAP improves the clarity of the communication of financial information.

**Primary Operating Funds:** The General; Police District; and the Sewer and Storm Water District Fund.

