



NASSAU COUNTY COMPTROLLER

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PRESS RELEASE

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Nassau County Comptroller's Office Discovers Former Employees' Spouses/Dependents Double Dipping on Benefits

MINEOLA, NY – The Office of Nassau County Comptroller Elaine Phillips has identified 94 retirees whose spouses/dependents were receiving Medicare Part B reimbursement from the County and also from their former employer. The overpayments totaled \$1,507,096.97.

“Although the 94 recipients found double dipping constitute less than 1% of our retirees, and the \$1.5 million total impact on the county is less than 0.04% of the county’s \$4 billion budget, I take misuse of funds very seriously,” said Nassau County Comptroller Elaine Phillips. “To date, 39 retirees have repaid the County in full or in part and dedicated staff in my Payroll and Health Benefits Division continue to reach out to the rest of the involved retirees by phone and letters.”

To date, the County has recovered \$258,172.30 and efforts are underway to recover the remainder of the funds.

Nassau County currently provides health benefits for approximately 10,240 retirees and 3,690 retirees’ dependents as a condition of participation in the New York State Health Insurance Program (NYSHIP) and numerous collective bargaining agreements. Among these benefits is reimbursement for Medicare Part B premiums, which currently run \$202.90 per month per person.

Reimbursement of Medicare Part B premiums is contingent on the retiree and/or dependent *not* receiving reimbursement from another source or that the retiree/dependent’s Medicare premium is *not* being paid by another entity on their behalf.

In October 2025, the issue of retirees and/or their spouses receiving duplicate Medicare Reimbursement checks came to the attention of staff and leadership in the Comptroller’s Payroll and Health Benefits Division. An audit was immediately launched.

The field of potential double dippers was narrowed by excluding:

- retirees who had no dependents on their health insurance plan, and
- retirees and their dependents who were not yet eligible for Medicare (typically younger than 65).

The audit focused on the 3,690 retirees for whom the County was issuing Medicare Reimbursement checks for their spouses/dependents. The full report is available here:

<https://www.nassaucountyny.gov/2377/Field-Audits>

About the Comptroller's Office

Comptroller Elaine Phillips is the independent protector of the taxpayers and residents of Nassau County. With a population of almost 1.4 million people and an annual budget of approximately \$4 billion, Nassau County relies on Comptroller Phillips and her dedicated staff to monitor Nassau's budget and financial operations. The Division of Payroll & Health Benefits processes four payroll cycles – full-time, part-time, partial pay and supplemental – every two weeks for 10,500 employees, including those at Nassau Community College – and manages and administers benefits for more than 8,000 active employees, 10,240 retirees and 21,800 dependents for a total of more than 40,000 covered lives.

The Comptroller's Office reports on matters that affect Nassau's financial health, proactively advocates for operational efficiency on behalf of the taxpayers, and audits government departments and outside agencies that do business with the county to uncover and prevent waste, fraud, and inefficiency.

For more information, access the Comptroller's website at www.nassaucountyny.gov/1590/County-Comptroller or email nccomptroller@nassaucountyny.gov.

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