

# NEWS:



Edward A. Diana  
Orange County Executive

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June 7, 2011

For Release: Immediate

**ORANGE CONTINUES AGGRESSIVE COST CONTAINMENT POLICIES**  
*DIANA INTRODUCES HEALTH INSURANCE BENEFIT TIER FOR MANAGEMENT AND ELECTED OFFICIALS AND CALLS UPON DEPARTMENT HEADS FOR FLAT LINE BUDGET*

**Goshen**-Orange County Executive Edward A. Diana announced today a measure that would require a 10% contribution for health benefits by all incoming members of management for every unit of government not covered by collective bargaining starting January 1, 2012. In addition, he also proposed legislation, which requires first time legislators and first time county-wide elected officials to also contribute 10% for their health care benefits starting in January 1, 2014.

Diana's actions address the rapidly escalating cost of health benefits which are currently slated at \$52 million for FY 2011 and projected to rise to \$58 million in FY 2012.

"As a government we have historically made decisions that are not just fiscally responsible today, but address the needs of the future. This measure strengthens our ability to respond to the changing face and focus of government. We understand that current employees have a vested right to the terms under which they were hired. This action does not penalize those who were hired under previous terms and conditions or contracts. However, we must address ever spiraling health care benefit costs and believe that this is a fair and equitable manner in which to proceed," Diana said.

Diana continued, "Moreover, this proposal continues our efforts to bring our benefits package in line with other levels of government and the private sector, just as eliminating paid lunches for new employees and beginning mandatory health contributions did when they were implemented by my administration in 2004." Currently about half of Orange County's unionized workforce contributes to their health benefits package.

In highlighting this measure, Mr. Diana also called upon elected officials, commissioners and directors to submit budgets for fiscal year 2012 with no additional burden on county taxpayers. "During these perilous economic times we must present to the people of Orange County a budget that holds the line on spending while maintaining essential services."

Mr. Diana thanked the members of the Commission on Cost Containment and Efficiency Deputy County Executive Jimmy O'Donnell, Director of Operations Richard Mayfield, Commissioner of Human Resources Steve Gross, Commissioner of Finance Joel Kleiman and Risk Manager Michael Morris for their hours of review on this proposal and pledged to continue to seek even further efficiencies as he continues to reduce the size and scope of government.

For further information, please contact Richard Mayfield in the County Executive's Office at 845-291-2704

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