



**PRESS RELEASE FROM
JOHN M. KENNEDY, JR.**

**SUFFOLK COUNTY
COMPTROLLER**



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Consolidation of Audit & Control to be Completed by Years End!

May 27, 2015 – Comptroller John M. Kennedy, Jr., County Executive Steve Bellone, and Treasurer Barry Paul, were extremely proud to announce that the assimilation of the Department of Finance & Taxation into the Department of Audit & Control would be completed by the end of this year. The plan that was created will speed the consolidation of the two offices by January of 2016, instead of 2018 which the original referendum was designed for. The early eliminating of positions in the Treasurer’s Office will result in over 1.5 million dollars being saved by Suffolk County.



(From L to R Deputy Presiding Officer Jay Schneiderman, Minority Leader Kevin McCaffrey, Treasurer Barry Paul, Comptroller John M. Kennedy Jr., County Executive Steve Bellone, Legislator William J. Lindsay III, Majority Leader Robert Calarco)

The plan will immediately reduce the size of the merged office, saving more than \$500,000 per year. The Treasurer’s Office is already down by five positions since the beginning of 2015, including the mandated positions of Assistant to the County Treasurer

and Exempt Secretary which remain unfilled. Once merged, the three positions of Treasurer and two Deputy Treasurer which are currently filled, would be abolished.

“Our residents have stated that they want to see their County government operate efficiently, effectively and at the least possible cost. This agreement on the part of the Executive and Legislature does just that, by accelerating the cost savings to be accomplished with the advent of the departure of the former Treasurer, but more importantly, allows for the unification of common core functions, such as revenue and expenditure accounting, administration of the lodging tax program and streamlining of a variety of functions.” Comptroller Kennedy said.

The newly consolidated offices will in addition to a reduction of positions also eliminate a redundancy of tasks saving both time and money for the County. The consolidated office will provide that these and additional advanced workflow automation improvements continue so that Suffolk County taxpayers continue to receive timely refunds and taxpayers don’t end up footing the bill for interest payments.

The merged office will save an addition \$150,000-200,000 by hosting MUNIS in the County’s IT system and will save additional funds down the road by combining systems. Through additional improvements in information technology, an additional three positions will be eliminated through attrition, saving an additional \$135,000 per year.

For more information please visit <http://www.suffolkcountyny.gov/comptroller> for the latest news. For any questions call (631) 853-5045 or email comptroller@suffolkcountyny.gov.

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