

# SULLIVAN COUNTY INVESTMENT POLICY

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## I - PURPOSE

The purpose of establishing an investment policy is to develop operating principles [which govern investment activity] within the guidelines of current legislation. The investment policy will enable the County to work within these guidelines to formulate investment objectives. The County Treasurer will be guided by the investment policy in managing the short and long term investments of the County's available cash.

## OBJECTIVES

The County's three primary objectives are the preservation of principal (**safety**), the timely maturity of investments [and earnings] (**liquidity**) and competitive interest rates on investments (**yield**). In order of priority, the investment objectives as previously mentioned are as follows:

**SAFETY:** Investing in money market instruments is generally considered to be extremely safe, whether it is short term or long term in nature. Nonetheless, there are differences in safety associated with various securities. Therefore, consideration must be given to safeguard the investment of available funds. Such considerations would include:

1. FDIC coverage
2. Written third party collateral agreements with local Banking Depositories and Primary Dealers
3. Statutory guidelines which govern the types of investments allowed by local municipalities

**LIQUIDITY:** A major concern to the County Treasure is the ability to convert securities into cash to meet all operating requirements that may be reasonably anticipated. Cash flow projections developed for both capital and operational commitments is a basic tool used in the planning and timing of maturing investments to meet anticipated demands.

**YIELD:** Selecting investments that will return to the County the highest possible yield (interest rate) while conforming to the requirements of safety and yield.

# SULLIVAN COUNTY INVESTMENT POLICY

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## II – SCOPE

The Investment Policy encompasses all moneys that become available for investment and or deposit by the County. The sources of available funds include proceeds from local tax receipts, revenues from State and Federal agencies, sales tax receipts, proceeds from certain bond and note issues, revenues from fiduciary accounts (trust and agency), and other miscellaneous revenues.

## DELEGATION OF AUTHORITY

The authority to manage the investment program is granted to the County Treasurer who is the Chief Fiscal Officer of the County; as provided in the Sullivan County Charter. The County Treasurer shall carry out the established written procedures and controls for the operation of the investment program consistent with the County Investment Policy. No person shall engage in an investment transaction except as provided under the terms and conditions of this policy and the procedures established by the Chief Fiscal Officer. The Chief Fiscal Officer shall be responsible for all transactions undertaken and shall establish a system of controls to regulate the activities of subordinate officials.

## III STANDARDS OF CARE - PRUDENCE & ETHICS

**Prudence:** in the investment process the Chief Fiscal Officer shall act as a responsible custodian of the public trust and shall avoid any transaction that might impair public confidence to govern effectively. The Chief Fiscal Officer shall act in accordance with written procedures as outlined in the County Investment Policy and exercise due diligence as an investment official. Investments shall be made with judgment and care, under prevailing circumstances, considering the probable safety of County revenues as well as the anticipated income to be derived from investments.

# SULLIVAN COUNTY INVESTMENT POLICY

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**Ethics:** The Chief Fiscal Officer shall refrain from any personal business activity that could conflict with proper execution of the investment program, or which could impair the ability to make impartial investment decisions.

## INTERNAL CONTROLS

The County Treasurer is responsible for establishing and maintaining an internal control structure to provide reasonable assurance that deposits and investments are safeguarded against loss from unauthorized use or disposition, that transactions are executed in accordance with appropriate discretion and recorded properly, and are managed in compliance with applicable laws and regulations governing public funds.

## IV – DESIGNATION OF DEPOSITORIES

**Authorized Financial Dealer and Institution:** Section 10 of New York State General Municipal Law requires the Sullivan County Legislature to designate one or more banks to secure the deposits of County funds and investments.

# SULLIVAN COUNTY INVESTMENT POLICY

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## Exhibit A

Section 212 (3) of the County Law provides that the County Legislature shall designate one or more depositories within the County or in another county within the State, for the deposit of all monies received by the County Treasurer, and specify the maximum dollar limit which may be kept on deposit at any one time in each depository.

DEPOSITORY NAME	MAXIMUM
Provident Bank	\$25,000,000.
First National Bank of Jeffersonville	<del>25,000,000.</del> 50,000,000
Key Bank	<del>50,000,000.</del> 100,000,000
Wayne Bank	<del>25,000,000.</del> 50,000,000
Catskill Hudson Bank	<del>25,000,000.</del> 50,000,000
M&T Bank	<del>50,000,000.</del> 100,000,000
TD Bank	<del>25,000,000.</del> 100,000,000
Chase Bank	<del>50,000,000.</del> 75,000,000
Citizens Bank	25,000,000.
<b>NY CLASS</b>	<b>30,000,000.</b>

# SULLIVAN COUNTY INVESTMENT POLICY

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## V- COLLATERALIZING DEPOSITS

In accordance with the provisions of General Municipal Law, Section 10, all deposits of Sullivan County including certificates of deposit and special time deposits, in excess of the amount insured under the provisions of the Federal Deposit Insurance Act shall be secured by the following alternatives:

1. By a pledge of “eligible securities” with an aggregate “market value”, equal to the aggregate amount of deposits from the categories designated to the policy.
2. An irrevocable **letter of credit** issued in favor of the County for a term not to exceed ninety days by a bank (other than the bank with which the money is being deposited or invested) whose commercial paper and other unsecured short-term debt obligations ( or, in the case of a bank which is the principal subsidiary of a holding company, whose holding company’s commercial paper and other unsecured short-term debt obligations) are rated in one of the three highest rating categories (based on the credit of such bank or holding company) by at least one nationally recognized statistical rating organization or by a bank (other than the bank with which the money is being deposited or invested) that is a compliance with applicable federal minimum risk-based capital requirements. A letter of credit must be 102% of deposit plus interest.
3. A **Surety Bond** payable to the County for an amount at least equal to 100% of the aggregate amount of deposits and the agreed upon interest, if any, executed by an insurance company authorized to do business in New York State, whose claims-paying ability is rated in the highest category by at least two nationally recognized statistical rating organizations.

# SULLIVAN COUNTY INVESTMENT POLICY

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## VI – PERMITTED INVESTMENTS

Section 11 of General Municipal Law expressly authorizes the Chief Fiscal Officer to invest moneys not required for immediate expenditure for terms not to exceed its projected cash flow requirements in the following types of investments:

1. Special time deposit accounts in an authorized banking depository or trust company secured in the same manner prescribed by General Municipal Law, Section 10.
2. Obligations of the United States of America
3. Obligations guaranteed by agencies of the United States of America where the payment of principal and interest are guaranteed by the United States of America.
4. Obligations of the State of New York
5. Obligations issued pursuant to Local Finance Law Section 24 or 25 (RANS & TANS) of other municipalities, school districts or district corporation other than the County of Sullivan (with approval of the State Comptroller's Office).
6. Obligations of public benefit corporations; public housing authorities, urban renewal agencies and industrial development agencies.
7. Certificates of Deposit.

Two other types of investments are also permitted:

1. **Repurchase Agreements** are authorized subject to the following restrictions:
  - A. Repurchase Agreements must be entered into subject to a master repurchase agreement. (aka – PSA agreement)
  - B. No substitution of securities will be allowed
  - C. Securities owned by the County must be held by a third party bank or trust company, acting as a custodian for the securities.
  - D. The custodian shall be a party other than the trading partner.
  - E. Obligations shall be limited to obligations of the USA and obligations guaranteed by agencies of the United States of America.
2. **Cooperative investments (CLASS and Public Financial Management/NYLAF)**, subject to a written agreement

All investment obligations shall be redeemable on respective maturity dates as determined by the County Treasurer to meet expenditures for purposes for which the moneys were provided.

# SULLIVAN COUNTY INVESTMENT POLICY

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3. New York General Municipal Law Article 3-A authorizes Cooperative investment agreements by and between local governments; and New York Municipal Law Article 5-G authorizes cooperative investment agreements through the enactment of municipal cooperation agreements by and between local governments; and New York General Municipal Law Article 2 authorizes the county/municipal chief fiscal officer having custody of municipal funds to temporarily invest moneys not required for immediate expenditure in investment funds, including cooperative investment agreements.

## VII – SAFEKEEPING AND COLLATERALIZATION

General Municipal Law, Section 10, requires that all securities pledged to secure deposits be held by a Third Party Bank or Trust Company and be held pursuant to a written Custodial Agreement. The custodial agreement must acknowledge all the necessary provisions in order to provide the County with a perfected security interest, which includes the following:

1. The custodial agreement shall contain a security provision, which would provide that the collateral is being pledged by the bank or trust company as security for the public deposits. It shall also provide the conditions under which the securities may be sold, presented for payment, substituted or released and the events that will enable the local government to exercise its rights against the pledged securities.
2. The securities held by the authorized bank or trust company as agent of and custodian for the County, will be placed separate and apart from the general assets of the custodial bank or trust company, and will not, in any circumstances, be commingled with or become part of the security for any other deposits or obligations.
3. The custodian shall confirm the receipt, substitution or release of the securities held on behalf of the County.
4. The types of collateral used to secure County deposits must be in accordance with the most current legislation authorizing various types of collateral, and approved by the County
5. The County requires a margin of maintenance of 102% of the uninsured portion of deposits collateralized.
6. The County prefers written consent on part of the County Treasurer for release and substitution of securities affecting the County's custodial account.
7. The County requires a monthly update on third party collateral security.
8. The County requires that there be no sub-custodian.
9. The Custodian Bank must be a member of the Federal Reserve Bank.