

2018 Orange County Shared Services Panel

Shared Services Panel:

Chair- County Executive Steven Neuhaus

Required Panel Members- Mayors of every city and village, and supervisors of every town, within the county.

Optional Panel Members- The County Executive is permitted to identify and invite the participation of any school district, board of cooperative educational services (BOCES), fire district, fire protection district, and/or special improvement district as Optional Panel Members. If invited, the governing body of the entity may, by a majority vote, appoint a representative of the board to participate on the Panel. The CEO can invite any combination of school districts, BOCES, fire district, fire protection district, or special improvement districts to participate as a panel member or may choose not to invite any such entity. For purposes of County-wide Shared Services Property Tax Savings Plan Law, “special improvement districts” means districts authorized by Town Law Articles 12, 12-A, 12-C, or 13 or County Law Articles 5-A, 5-B, or 5-D. Such special improvement districts include sewer, drainage, water, water quality treatment, park, public parking, lighting, snow removal, water supply, sidewalk, a fallout shelter district or refuse and garbage district, aquatic plant growth control district, ambulance district, watershed protection improvement district, harbor improvement district, public dock district, beach erosion control district, hurricane protection, flood and shoreline erosion control districts, and small watershed protection districts. The vast majority of these special improvement districts do not have a separate governing body but are part of their respective town/county and would be participating as part of such town/county. Members of the public, business improvement districts and similar entities cannot serve on the panel.

Legislation in the 2019 NYS Budget amends Section 119 of the general municipal law by adding a new subdivision 4 to read as follows: 4. Any school district or board of cooperative educational services may join a county shared services panel and may further participate in any of the activities of such panel, with any participating county, town, city, village, fire district, fire protection district, or special improvement district participating in such panels. For cooperative agreements which involve functions, services, or provisions permitted by this section, school districts and boards of cooperative educational services shall be permitted to create and execute such agreements, when a part of the activity of such panel, without opinion or approval of the state education department.

Panel Meeting Requirements

The requirements of the Open Meetings Law should be applied to any meeting of the Panel where business is conducted or a vote is taken. A majority of the members of the Panel constitutes a quorum. The Panel cannot approve a Plan or conduct business without a quorum and majority vote of the Panel, though there is no requirement that a quorum be present for each meeting of the Panel, pursuant to General Construction Law section 41.