

# Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR) Guide

## Office of Nassau County Comptroller Jack Schnirman

### CAFR Made More Accessible

This quick reference guide is designed to help you navigate and explore Nassau County's 2018 CAFR report. This document contains a wealth of information regarding our County's finances, structure, and key statistical information. Our hope is that this guide will provide further transparency and assist in keeping you informed.

#### What is a CAFR?

The Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR) is a comprehensive set of financial and statistical statements for a governmental entity that comply with accounting requirements established by the Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB). The CAFR is audited by an independent auditor using generally accepted government auditing standards. The CAFR consists of three sections:

- 1. Introductory:** Guides the reader through the report;
- 2. Financial:** Presents the financial statements, notes to the financials and the auditors' report;
- 3. Statistical:** Provides additional financial and statistical data, including financial trends.

#### How is it different from the Budget?

A budget is a **PLAN** for the **future** fiscal period that shows how revenues will be generated and spent. A CAFR contains the **ACTUAL RESULTS** of the year's financial activities.

#### DID YOU KNOW?

Last year was the first time the CAFR report was presented by the Comptroller's Office on time in seven years! This on-time CAFR continues the effort to provide timely data to guide decision making.

#### What are the key components of the 2018 report?



**Transmittal Letter:** Letter from the Comptroller; provides the reader with context.

**Audit Report:** Report from the County's independent audit firm.

**Management's Discussion & Analysis:** Management provides an overview of the year's operations and how the County performed financially.

**Financial Statements:** Nassau County's financial statements.

**Notes to Financial Statements:** Notes that provide additional information relevant to the County's financial statements, including accounting policies and subsequent events.

**Budget-to-Actuals:** Provides the reader with a crosswalk from total budgetary authority (appropriations) to actual expenditures by function.

**Control Period Calculation:** Calculation of the fiscal year's results using the Control Period Calculation methodology required by Nassau County Interim Finance Authority (NIFA).

**Statistical Reporting:** Provides reader with key financial trends; revenue information; department information; County statistics by function; and demographic and economic information.

JULY 2, 2019

# Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR) Guide

## Governmental Fund Financial Statements: December 31, 2018

### Nassau County, New York

#### Revenues, Expenditures and Changes in Fund Balance

Exhibit X-5 (Dollars in Thousands)	General Fund	NIFA Fund	Police District Fund	Sewer and Storm Water District Fund	Capital Fund	Disputed Assessment Fund	Nonmajor Governmental Funds	Total Governmental Funds
Total Revenues	\$2,492,053	\$147,562	\$405,684	\$139,170	\$118,397	\$2,473	\$137,644	\$3,442,983
Total Expenditures	\$2,592,650	\$1,601	\$396,964	\$110,430	\$242,058	0	\$295,603	\$3,639,306
Excess (Deficiency) of Revenues Over (Under) Expenditures	\$-100,597	\$145,961	\$8,720	\$28,740	\$-123,661	\$2,473	\$-157,959	\$-196,323
Total Other Financing Sources (Uses)	\$86,517	\$-145,872	\$-6,737	\$-44,185	\$259,258	\$-426	\$159,272	\$307,827
Net Change In Fund Balance (Deficit)	\$-14,080	\$89	\$1,983	\$-15,445	\$135,597	\$2,047	\$1,313	\$111,504
Total Fund Balance (deficit) at the Beginning of Year	\$81,092	\$735	\$-6,006	\$24,085	\$147,845	\$62	\$108,110	\$355,923
Total Fund Balance (Deficit) at the End of year	\$67,012	\$824	\$-4,023	\$8,640	\$283,442	\$2,109	\$109,423	\$467,427

\*The circled numbers are the primary operating fund deficit

Excerpt from CAFR

**\$27.5 million deficit in the annual primary operating funds  
\$22 million negative annual unassigned fund balance (rainy day fund)**

#### Governmental Funds Balance Sheet

Exhibit X-3 (Dollars in Thousands)	General Fund	NIFA Fund	Police District Fund	Sewer and Storm Water District Fund	Capital Fund	Disputed Assessment Fund	Nonmajor Governmental Funds	Total Governmental Funds
Total Fund Balance Deficit								
Nonspendable	\$40,482	\$61	\$12,185	\$410			\$1,016	\$54,154
Spendable								
Restricted	\$9,526				\$2,912	\$2,109	\$107,620	\$122,167
Committed	\$21,473		\$1,273		\$280,530		\$370	\$303,646
Assigned		\$763		\$8,230			\$417	\$9,410
Unassigned	\$-4,469		\$-17,481					\$-21,950
Total Fund Balance Deficit	\$67,012	\$824	\$-4,023	\$8,640	\$283,442	\$2,109	\$109,423	\$467,427

\*The circled number is the unassigned fund balance

Excerpt from CAFR

#### Notes

##### GAAP (Generally Accepted Accounting Principles):

GAAP is a combination of authoritative standards (set by policy boards) and the commonly accepted ways of recording and reporting accounting information. GAAP improves the clarity of the communication of financial information.

**Primary Operating Funds:** The General Fund; Police District Fund; and the Sewer and Storm Water.

