A look at the major elements of the executive budget proposal:

LOCAL EFFECTS

• Major elements: Cuomo's plan to freeze local property taxes for two years would make homeowners' second rebate check their local governments taking steps to consolidate services. For the first time Tuesday, Cuomo de cooperation: In the first year, governments and school districts will need to work together to find levies, rising to 2 percent in the second year and 3 percent in the third. Local governments would relief, and could face forfeiting state aid if they don't stick to their plans.

The budget maintains $715 million in Aid and Incentives for Municipalities funding. All four of th receive the same amount of AIM funding in the next fiscal year: Albany, $12.6 million; Schenectad Saratoga Springs, $1.6 million.

• Reaction: "In three short years, Gov. Cuomo broke through Albany's decades of gridlock and is 2014. I applaud the governor's proposal," said Troy Mayor Lou Rosamilia.

SCHOOLS

• Major elements: Total education spending would rise to $21.9 billion, an increase of $807 million in additional formula-based school aid.

The plan offers $100 million to begin offering universal pre-K statewide — the first installment of City Mayor Bill de Blasio would like to see universal pre-K paid for through a tax increase on the response from Cuomo.

A new $20 million "Teacher Excellence Fund" would provide performance bonuses of up to $20,0 "highly effective."

The amount allocated for grant funding through the State Council on the Arts remains flat at $36 Cuomo also is proposing a $2 billion bond act — to be considered by voters in November — that w classrooms and fund school infrastructure improvements, including facilities for universal pre-K.

The governor announced he and the Legislature would convene a panel to examine the controvers Core standards.

• Reaction: In a joint statement, Board of Regents Chancellor Merryl Tisch and state Education o\ncommitment to pre-K funding and said the Common Core panel and its own similar body "can be strengthen ... implementation."
Progressive education advocates were less enamored: Billy Easton, executive director of the Alliar-K proposal "just does not add up. ... After five years we will be lucky if it covers even 20 percent c

HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

- Major elements: Medicaid funding rises 4.6 percent or $2.6 billion; non-Medicaid spending a $519 million, a cut of 11.2 percent.

The proposal sets aside $65 million to pay for the linking of the state's regional medical records databases that will allow state residents to access their own records. The state investment is expected to be a federal dollars.

Cuomo is proposing a new $1.2 billion program to help fund infrastructure improvements for health homes, hospitals and clinics.

The state Office of the Medicaid Inspector General will see its budget cut by $6 million, a reduction of 9.5 percent.

- Reaction: Ken Raske, president of the Greater New York Hospital Association, praised the capital program as "essential to the viability of New York's health care delivery system."

ENVIRONMENT

- Major elements: Cuomo proposes changes a brownfield cleanup program to reduce hundreds of millions of dollars in tax credits that the state has been paying developers to build on polluted sites. Credits will remain for cleanups, but will be limited for rebuilding at sites that have been vacant for at least a decade, are worth less than cleanup costs or are a state "priority" extended from 2015 to 2025.

The plan would increase the Environmental Protection Fund from $153 million to $157 million ($14 million for parks and recreation, $85 million for open space programs).

- Reaction: Pete Iwanowicz, executive director of Environmental Advocates, praised the brownfields program reforms but said "the fund's overall budget remains roughly half what it once was ... and should receive $200 million in fundir

HIGHER EDUCATION

- Major elements: State support for the SUNY system remains flat at $3.3 billion.

A new scholarship program would pay for a SUNY or CUNY education for students in the top 10 percent of their class who enter science, technology, engineering or math fields and agree to stay in New York for five years.
Cuomo sets aside $15 million to begin development of a new SUNY College of Emergency Prepare and Cybersecurity.

• **Reaction:** SUNY Chancellor Nancy Zimpher called the plan "a thoughtful stewardship of state funds to address the diverse needs of nearly all New Yorkers."

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT/TAXES**

• **Major elements:** Businesses would see a range of tax breaks, including a corporate income tax rate for upstate manufacturers of zero (costing $24 million).

Businesses would also reap a tax benefit from the speeded-up phaseout of the 18-A assessment or state $200 million.

• **Reaction:** "I'm pleased to see the governor is looking to reduce the corporate tax rate to help manufacturers," said Mark Eagan, president and CEO of the Albany-Colonie Chamber of Commerce. "We're No. 1 on most lists of the most expensive states which to do business. Last year, START-UP NY was geared to attract new business to the state. This year, existing businesses will be pleased to see some relief."

Progressive advocates object to what Michael Kink of the Strong Economy for All Coalition call "unfair and unneeded tax breaks will make inequality worse."

**ETHICS**

• **Major elements:** Cuomo proposed creating a system that would use public funds to match small contributions to political candidates who opt in, but he didn't assign a cost to it. The system, which is opposed by 2016 and all candidates for state office in 2018.

Cuomo sets aside $5.3 million to hire additional enforcement staff for the Board of Elections, and Division of Election Law Enforcement within the board — but overseen by a chief enforcement officer.

While not a budgetary concern, the plan would limit contributions to party "housekeeping" accounts to wealthy donors to multiply their giving.

Similarly, the budget includes a host of changes to laws covering the prosecution of bribery and other disclosure requirements for lawmakers who work for firms that have clients with business before the state.

• **Reaction:** The League of Women Voters said the proposal "demonstrates a vital commitment to addressing the culture of corruption that has plagued the Capitol for too many years."

State Sen. Kathy Marchione, R-Halfmoon, said she remains opposed to "spending millions on well financed political campaigns."

**PUBLIC SAFETY**
• **Major elements:** Cuomo seeks to use $15 million in federal funds for Superstorm Sandy recovery to support the initial work on a state-of-the-art weather detection system that would increase the number of monitoring stations from 27 to more than 100. Only five other states have such networks in place.

It also includes another $75 million to help counties create communication networks to allow disparate agencies to more seamlessly work with each other.

Cuomo proposes investing $10 million in the New York State Protection Cloud — technology that will allow state and local law enforcement agencies more quickly share crime-fighting information.

The governor also proposes $15.2 million for Gun-Involved Violence Elimination, a program targeted at high priority areas already receiving funding through Operation IMPACT.

As in past years, the budget proposes $24 million in capital funding for economic development grants to communities affected by four planned prison closures.

— Compiled by Casey Seiler, Brian Nearing, Eric Anderson and Jordan Carleo-Evangelist