

ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING
Morning Session
Monday, January 5, 2026
Legislative Chambers, Bath, New York

Pursuant to Section 151 of the County Law and the *Rules of Procedure* of the County Legislature adopted August 23, 1993, the Legislators from the thirteen districts comprising the towns and cities of Steuben County convened in the Legislative Chambers, Bath, New York on Monday, the 5th day of January, 2026 at 9:00 a.m. for the purpose of organizing the County Legislature of Steuben County for the year 2026 and 2027 and for the transaction of such other business as would properly and lawfully come before the meeting.

The meeting was called to order by the Clerk of the Legislature, Rochelle L. Casselbury at 9:15 a.m.

The Deputy Clerk called the Roll and all members were present.

Mrs. Lando provided the Invocation, and the Pledge of Allegiance was led by Mrs. Logsdon.

The Honorable Judith Hunter, County Clerk, administered the Oaths of Office to all newly elected and reelected members of the Legislature.

The Clerk called for nominations of a Temporary Chair. *Mrs. Lando nominated Mr. Schu for temporary chair, seconded by Ms. Fitzpatrick.* There being no further nominations, the nominations were closed, and Mr. Schu was duly elected Temporary Chair.

Temporary Chair Schu called for a motion to go into Executive Session pursuant to Public Officers' Article 7§ 105(1)(f) relative to the appointment of a specific individual. Motion made by Mr. Thew, seconded by Mr. Van Caesele and duly carried.

Temporary Chair Schu reconvened the meeting.

Temporary Chair Schu called for nominations for Chair of the Steuben County Legislature for 2026 and 2027.

Mrs. Lando nominated Ms. Fitzpatrick, seconded by Ms. Shannon.

There being no further nominations, Temporary Chair Schu closed the nominations.

RESOLUTION NO. 001-26

Introduced by H. Lando.

Seconded by D. Shannon.

APPOINTING THE CHAIR OF THE STEUBEN COUNTY LEGISLATURE FOR A TWO-YEAR TERM OF 2026 AND 2027.

Pursuant to Section 2.04 of the Steuben County Charter and Local Law No. Four of the Year 1981 for the County of Steuben.

WHEREAS, this Steuben County Legislature has, on this 5th day of January 2026, been duly organized and has, in accordance with Section 2.04 of the Steuben County Charter, duly selected County Legislator **KELLY H. FITZPATRICK** of Bath, New York, as Chair of the Legislature for a two-year term commencing January 1, 2026.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED, KELLY H. FITZPATRICK of Bath, New York, be and the same hereby is appointed Chair of the Legislature of Steuben County for a two-year term commencing January 1, 2026, and within twenty days (s)he shall cause to be filed in the Office of the Steuben County Clerk an Oath of Office as such Chair; and be it further

RESOLVED, a certified copy of this resolution shall be forwarded to the County Clerk, to the above-named appointee, the Commissioner of Finance, and the Personnel Officer.

Vote: Roll Call – Adopted.

The Honorable Judith Hunter administered the Oath of Office to Chair Kelly H. Fitzpatrick.

Chair Fitzpatrick called for nominations for Vice Chair of the Legislature.

Mr. Thew nominated Mr. Horton, seconded by Mr. Warriner.

There being no further nominations, Chair Fitzpatrick closed the nominations.

RESOLUTION 002-26

Introduced by W. Thew.

Seconded by D. Warriner.

APPOINTING THE VICE-CHAIR OF THE STEUBEN COUNTY LEGISLATURE FOR A TWO-YEAR TERM OF 2026 AND 2027.

Pursuant to Section 2.04 of the Steuben County Charter.

WHEREAS, this Steuben County Legislature has on this 5th day of January 2026, been duly organized and has in accordance with Section 2.04 of the Steuben County Charter, duly selected County Legislator **JEFFREY P. HORTON** of Campbell, New York, as Vice-Chair of the Legislature for a two-year term commencing January 1, 2026.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED, JEFFREY P. HORTON of Campbell, New York, be and the same hereby is appointed Vice-Chair of the Legislature of Steuben County for a two-year term commencing January 1, 2026, and within twenty days (s)he shall cause to be filed in the Office of the Steuben County Clerk an Oath of Office as such Vice-Chair; and be it further

RESOLVED, a certified copy of this resolution shall be forwarded to the County Clerk, to the above-named appointee, the Commissioner of Finance, and the Personnel Officer.

Vote: Roll Call – Adopted.

The Honorable Judith Hunter administered the Oath of Office to Vice Chair Jeffrey P. Horton.

Chair Fitzpatrick stated I spent a lot of time yesterday trying to write a speech that puts down the thoughts that I have for our next two years. I feel that it is more important, rather than to go into a speech, to go into a bit of a story. We have opportunities that have presented themselves to us. These opportunities are in the forms of challenges that are coming from pretty much every level of government. We know that the Federal Government has issued some mandates and changes that are going to affect us at the State level. Then the State challenges are going to affect us.

Chair Fitzpatrick stated I think one of the things we have to do is remember that we are a collaborative and cooperative group. Those are our key words. We want to collaborate and

cooperate with all of our employees, our department heads, our partner agencies, and other local officials that can help us. I think that we need to actively engage our partners in making sure that unfunded mandates do not come down from the State any more than they already do. I think we need to take the money that we spend on all of our programs, and we need to stretch it further than we have done in the past. We need to improve those services so that we are getting the most out of dollars. We have come through our State audit, and we are in a very strong financial position. We have managed to do that when the State manages not to do that. So, I want us to take a clear stand that we are not going to supplement some of the State's bad policies if we can avoid it.

Chair Fitzpatrick stated we have 93,000 people that live in our county. Some of our constituents needs services. We need to make sure that we are not only protecting our vulnerable constituents, but also the taxpayers. We do not want to charge them any more for services than we already do, and we want to make sure that those services are the best that they can possibly be. I want us to use our strong financial position to build security and stability for our county for years to come.

Chair Fitzpatrick stated we are going to establish a list of priorities and share those priorities with all of our department heads and employees. We are going to share those priorities with our partner agencies, and we are going to work together to build the strongest county and the best community that we possibly can.

Chair Fitzpatrick asked if the parties needed to adjourn into caucus. *Motion to adjourn into caucus made by Mr. Horton, seconded by Mr. Thew and duly carried.*

Chair Fitzpatrick reconvened the meeting.

RESOLUTION NO. 003-26

Introduced by N. Pelham.

Seconded by B. Schu.

RECEIVING AND FILING THE DESIGNATION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER OF THE STEUBEN COUNTY LEGISLATURE.

Pursuant to Section 2.04 of the Steuben County Charter.

BE IT RESOLVED, Legislator **PAUL E. VAN CAESEELE** be and the same hereby is designated Majority Leader of the Steuben County Legislature; and be it further

RESOLVED, the aforesaid designation of **PAUL E. VAN CAESEELE** of Hornell, New York, be and the same hereby is accepted for filing, said designation to be for a two-year term commencing January 1, 2026; and be it further

RESOLVED, a certified copy of this resolution shall be forwarded to the above designee.

Vote: Roll Call – Adopted. Yes – 8257; No – 0; Absent – 1101, Abstained – 0
(Absent: Legislators Nichols and Thew)

RESOLUTION NO. 004-26

Introduced by J. Tobia.

Seconded by D. Shannon.

RECEIVING AND FILING THE DESIGNATION OF THE MINORITY LEADER OF THE STEUBEN COUNTY LEGISLATURE.

Pursuant to Section 2.04 of the Steuben County Charter.

BE IT RESOLVED, Legislator **HILDA T. LANDO** be and the same hereby is designated Minority Leader of the Steuben County Legislature; and be it further

RESOLVED, the aforesaid designation of **HILDA T. LANDO** of Corning, New York, be and the same hereby is accepted for filing, said designation to be for a two-year term commencing January 1, 2026; and be it further

RESOLVED, a certified copy of this resolution shall be forwarded to the above designee.

**Vote: Roll Call – Adopted. Yes – 8817; No – 0; Absent – 541; Abstained – 0
(Absent – Legislator Thew)**

RESOLUTION NO. 005-26

Introduced by K. Fitzpatrick.

Seconded by F. Potter.

RECOGNIZING THE AUTHORITY OF THE CHAIR OF THE LEGISLATURE OF THE COUNTY OF STEUBEN TO APPOINT STANDING AND SPECIAL COMMITTEES FOR THE YEARS 2026 AND 2027.

Pursuant to Section 2.04 of the Steuben County Charter and the Rules of Procedure of the Steuben County Legislature.

RESOLVED, this Legislature does hereby recognize the authority of the Chair of the Legislature of Steuben County to appoint such designated members of this Legislature as they shall select to the various standing and special committee positions for the years 2026 and 2027, which have heretofore been established and set up by the Steuben County Legislature and said committees shall each consist of the same number of members as prescribed in the "Rules of Procedure" of the Steuben County Legislature until such committee is abolished or changed by a majority vote of the Legislature membership pursuant to the "Rules of Procedure"; and be it further

RESOLVED, members of a special committee shall serve for the period specified in the resolution or until the committee is discharged and in no event for a longer period than the term for which the members were elected as legislators; and be it further

RESOLVED, the Chair of this Legislature, within thirty (30) days of his/her election to the Chairmanship, shall duly submit and file in the Office of the Clerk of this Legislature the committees' roster appointed for the years 2026 and 2027; and the Clerk of the Legislature shall duly and properly furnish to each member of this Legislature a complete list of the said committees' roster.

**Vote: Roll Call – Adopted – Yes – 8817; No. 0; Absent – 541; Abstained – 0
(Absent – Legislator Thew)**

RESOLUTION NO. 006-26

Introduced by K. Fitzpatrick.

Seconded by S. Van Etten.

REGULATING THE PUBLICATION OF CERTAIN OFFICIAL MATTERS.

Pursuant to Section 2.09 of the Steuben County Charter.

WHEREAS, *The Leader* of Corning, New York, and *The Evening Tribune* of Hornell, New York, have a circulation covering the entire County, but there are occasions when publications are limited to one newspaper in a given area.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED, whenever this Legislature does not designate the particular newspaper or newspapers for the publication of a certain matter in a specific resolution, this resolution shall govern the officer or officers having the publication in charge for the years 2026 and 2027;

1. Where the matter is of county-wide interest as hereinafter enumerated, the same shall be published in *The Leader* of Corning, New York, and *The Evening Tribune* of Hornell, New York, and such other newspaper as may be deemed advisable:

- a. Notice of hearing on a proposed local law;
- b. Local Law as finally adopted;
- c. Notice of submission to bid for purchase of supplies or equipment;
- d. Notice of submission to bid for public works and services;
- e. Notice of hearing on proposed amendments to civil service rules;
- f. Notice of civil service examinations; and
- g. Such other notice or statement of countywide interest required by law to be published.

2. Where the matter is of local effect as hereinafter enumerated, the same shall be published in either *The Leader* of Corning, New York, or *The Evening Tribune* of Hornell, New York, and such other newspaper published in the area as may be deemed advisable:

- a. Notice of submission to bid on parcels of land offered for sale, as tax title and welfare owned;
- b. Notice of closing of any county highway;
- c. Proclamation of a term of court with a grand jury;
- d. Legalizing act of the Legislature; and
- e. Such other notices or statements of similar nature required by law to be published in a limited area.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, a certified copy of this resolution shall be forwarded to all county offices and departments and each of the above-named newspapers.

**Vote: Roll Call – Adopted. Yes – 8817; No – 0; Absent – 541; Abstained – 0
(Absent – Legislator Thew)**

RESOLUTION NO. 007-26

Introduced by K. Fitzpatrick.

Seconded by P. Van Caesele.

DESIGNATION OF OFFICIAL NEWSPAPER BY THE REPUBLICAN MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATURE.

Pursuant to Section 214, subdivision 1 of the County Law, we, the Republican members of the Steuben County Legislature, hereby designate the following official newspaper for the years 2026 and 2027:

Concurrent resolutions, tax sale notices and tax redemption notices - *The Leader* of Corning, New York.

Election notices - *The Leader* of Corning, New York.
Official election canvas - *The Leader* of Corning, New York.

The above-named designations are filed with the Clerk of this Legislature this 5th day of January 2026; and the Clerk is directed to forward certified copies to the Secretary of State at Albany, New York; the Steuben County Clerk; the Commissioner of Finance; the Steuben County Board of Elections; and the above-named newspaper.

Dated: January 5, 2026

/s/ Justin Eberlin

/s/ Frederick G. Potter

/s/ Kelly H. Fitzpatrick

/s/ Brian C. Schu, Esq.

/s/ K. Michael Hanna

/s/ William A. Thew

/s/ Jeffery P. Horton

/s/ Paul VanCaesele

/s/ Shannon Logsdon

/s/ Scott J. VanEtten

/s/ Robert V. Nichols

/s/ Michael J. Volino

/s/ Nicholas D. Pelham

/s/ Daniel Warriner

**Vote: Roll Call – Adopted. Yes – 8817; No – 0; Absent – 541; Abstained – 0
(Absent – Legislator Thew)**

RESOLUTION NO. 008-26

Introduced by K. Fitzpatrick.

Seconded by J. Tobia.

DESIGNATION OF OFFICIAL NEWSPAPER BY THE DEMOCRATIC MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATURE.

Pursuant to Section 214, subdivision 1 of the County Law, we, the Democratic members of the Steuben County Legislature, hereby designate the following official newspaper for the years 2026 and 2027:

Concurrent resolutions, tax sale notices and tax redemption notices - *The Evening Tribune* of Hornell, New York.

Election notices - *The Evening Tribune* of Hornell, New York.
Official election canvas - *The Evening Tribune* of Hornell, New York.

The above-named designations are filed with the Clerk of this Legislature this 5th day of January 2026; and the Clerk is directed to forward certified copies to the Secretary of State at Albany, New York; the Steuben County Clerk; the Commissioner of Finance; the Steuben County Board of Elections; and the above-named newspaper.

Dated: January 5, 2026

/s/ Hilda T. Lando

/s/ Deborah L. Shannon

/s/ Joseph Tobia

Vote: Roll Call – Adopted. Yes – 8817; No – 0; Absent – 541; Abstained – 0
(Absent – Legislator Thew)

Motion to adjourn made by Mr. Pelham, seconded by Mr. Van Caesele and duly carried.