

# Democratic Rural Conference of New York State

May 1 & 2, 2026

THE SARATOGA HILTON  
SARATOGA SPRINGS, NY

\*\*\* Mobilize for Midterms! \*\*\*

\*\*\* The Voice of Rural New York \*\*\*

# THANK YOU

The Democratic Rural Conference understands that the strength of New York lies not just in our cities, but in elevating the voices of every small town and rural community across this great state. We look forward to continuing our partnership in the years ahead to ensure that rural New Yorkers have a seat at the table and the resources they need to thrive.

FROM

GOVERNOR  
**KATHY HOCHUL**

FORMER SPEAKER  
**ADRIENNE ADAMS**



PAID FOR BY THE NEW YORK STATE DEMOCRATIC COMMITTEE



# Democratic Rural Conference 2026

The Saratoga Hilton | May 1 & 2, 2026

## AGENDA

### FRIDAY, MAY 1, 2026

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1:00 – 6:00 p.m.	<b>CONVENTION REGISTRATION AND CREDENTIALING</b> Registration will not begin until 1:00
2:00 p.m.	<b>NY STATE LEGISLATIVE UPDATE</b> Assemblywoman Carrie Woerner, Moderator, with State Senate and Assemblymembers representing DRC counties
3:00 p.m.	<b>CONGRESSIONAL UPDATE</b> with DRC Representatives, moderated by Congressman Paul Tonko
4:00 p.m.	<b>BREAKOUTS by Congressional District</b>
6:00 p.m.	<b>OPENING RECEPTION with Governor Kathy Hochul</b>
7:00 p.m.	<b>DINNER with New York Democrats</b> in the Saratoga Ballroom
9:00 p.m.	<b>DESSERT RECEPTION with Attorney General Letitia James</b>
10:00 p.m.	<b>NY YOUNG DEMOCRATS After Party</b>

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### SATURDAY, MAY 2, 2026

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7:30 a.m.	<b>CONVENTION REGISTRATION AND CREDENTIALING</b>
8:00 a.m.	<b>BREAKFAST with Comptroller Tom DiNapoli</b> in the Saratoga Ballroom
9:00 a.m.	<b>DRC BUSINESS MEETING &amp; BOARD ELECTIONS</b>
10:00 a.m.	<b>2026 STRAW POLL FOR NYS COMPTROLLER</b>
11:00 a.m.	<b>LABOR UPDATE</b> with Union Representatives
12:00 noon	<b>LUNCHEON with Speaker Congressman Josh Riley</b> Luncheon Sponsors: New York State United Teachers, NYS AFLCIO, CWA Local 1124, AFSCME, IBEW Local 2104, IBEW Local 2032, 1199 SEIU Healthcare East, CSEA New York and Teamsters Joint Council 18
2:00 p.m.	<b>SPECIAL NY-19 CONGRESSIONAL BREAKOUT SESSION</b> with Josh Riley
2:30 p.m.	<b>BOARD WRAP-UP:</b> New board members please plan to attend

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# DRC Labor Luncheon

*"The American Labor Movement has consistently demonstrated its devotion to the public interest. It is, and has been, good for all America." – John F. Kennedy*

Sincere thanks to our generous sponsors and lifelong friends in Organized Labor.



## **NYSUT**

Melinda Person, President  
[www.nysut.org](http://www.nysut.org)  
[@nysut](#) on Facebook,  
Instagram, X, and LinkedIn



## **IBEW Local 2104**

Lou Fazzolari, Business Manager  
PO Box 881  
Niagara University, NY 14109



## **Teamsters Joint Council 18**

President  
Thomas Quackenbush



## **Communications Workers of America, District 1 CWA Local 1124**

Corey DeCillis  
Executive Vice President  
[www.cwad1.org](http://www.cwad1.org)  
[cwa1124@verizon.net](mailto:cwa1124@verizon.net)



## **AFSCME**

Lee Saunders, President  
[www.afscme.org](http://www.afscme.org)  
[@afscme](#) on Instagram



## **New York State AFL-CIO**

Mario Cilento, President  
[nysaflcio.org](http://nysaflcio.org)  
[information@nysaflcio.org](mailto:information@nysaflcio.org)  
[@nysaflcio](#) on Facebook,  
Instagram, X, BlueSky,  
Threads and TikTok



## **1199SEIU United Healthcare Workers East**

Sara O'Neill, Political Coordinator  
<https://www.1199seiu.org>  
[sara.oneill@1199.org](mailto:sara.oneill@1199.org)  
(315) 907-2103



## **IBEW Local 2032**

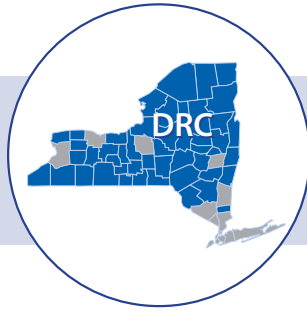
William Brown Jr.  
Business Manager  
(315) 764-1778  
[ibewlocal2032@gmail.com](mailto:ibewlocal2032@gmail.com)  
[ibewlocal2032.org](http://ibewlocal2032.org)



## **CSEA New York**

Mary E. Sullivan, President  
[cseany.org](http://cseany.org)  
[@cseany1000](#)

# Welcome Letter



# from the Chair

Dear Members and Friends,

As this program book goes to press in early April, it's hard to know what the crisis of the week will be by May 1. Outrages spill out of Washington too fast to count. But what we do know is that the only way to end our national chaos is to elect Democrats up and down the ballot in November.

Rural New York is uniquely placed to make this happen. The Democratic candidate for Marjorie Taylor Greene's seat just shifted the district 25 points to the left. That wasn't enough to win in deep red rural Georgia. But a 25 point gain would be enough for us to flip every single Republican House seat in the state of New York.

As I said last year in running for this position, we know how to do this. In 2009, Bill Owens flipped the district in the North Country. In 2011, Kathy Hochul flipped a red district in western New York. In 2018, Anthony Brindisi flipped a 16-point Republican seat in central New York. In 2024, John Mannion and Josh Riley flipped districts in the heart of our region.

How do we do it? We win by treating everybody respectfully. We welcome everybody who is willing to help: our own committees, Indivisible groups, union members, Democratic voters, independents and moderate Republicans. We win by setting aside our internal differences after the primary to fight for the common good.

We win by never reproaching our voters for decisions they've made in the past. Nobody wants to feel they've fallen for a con. We need to reserve our anger for the con man himself. Like all of us, his voters are his victims. When we offer respect and welcome without judgement, we win.

We win by getting our candidates in front of as many voters as possible as often as possible. Rural voters expect to know their elected officials. We win by knocking doors, making calls, registering voters, writing letters, connecting through social media. Every action seems small, but the power of politics is that many small actions accumulate.

For 31 years the Democratic Rural Conference of New York State has been committed to accumulating all of our small actions into a larger whole. When we network with each other and share our experiences, we win. When we join our separate voices into one voice for rural New York, we win.

It's never been more important that we win. We were made for this moment.

Bill Thickstun, Chair  
Democratic Rural Conference of New York State

# THANK YOU TO THE DEMOCRATIC RURAL CONFERENCE!

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*I'm always  
proud to fight  
for our rural  
communities  
alongside you!*

*- U.S. Senator Kirsten Gillibrand*

PAID FOR BY GILLIBRAND FOR SENATE



# DRC BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Chair, Bill Thickstun (Oneida)  
 Vice Chair, Mike Zagrobelny (St. Lawrence)  
 Treasurer, John Hurley (Ontario)  
 Secretary, Liz Moran (Madison)  
 Parliamentarian, Dia Carabajal (Cayuga)  
 Western Vice Chair, Cindy Appleton (Wyoming)  
 Northern Vice Chair, Ron McDougall (St. Lawrence)  
 Catskill/Hudson Vice Chair, vacant  
 Central Vice Chair, Roger Saltman (Madison)

## BOARD MEMBERS:

Maggie Bartley (Essex)  
 Max Della Pia (Tioga)  
 Summer Downing (Washington)  
 Bill Hughes (Columbia)  
 Ram Lalukota (Saratoga)  
 Jamal Malik (Chemung)  
 Elizabeth Passer (Oswego)  
 Michael Plitt (Genesee)  
 Tom Schimmerling (Delaware)  
 Ted Young (Seneca)

*On behalf of the Board and Program Book Committee, we're grateful to our county committees, sponsors, patrons, candidates and elected officials for your unwavering support of the DRC.  
 —Bill Thickstun*

## THE DEMOCRATIC RURAL CONFERENCE 2026 LEADERSHIP ROSTER

Bill Thickstun, DRC Chair  
 Jane Dodds, Conference Coordinator  
 Summer Downing, Conference Assistant Coordinator

## PROGRAM BOOK COMMITTEE:

Karen Ash, Cindy Appleton,  
 Suzanne Coogan, John Hurley

*Thank you to  
 Monroe County Democratic Committee  
 for printing the program book.*

# AMERICAN ROCK SALT

SNOWFLAKE  
TRANSPORTATION



Mined with pride in the U.S.A

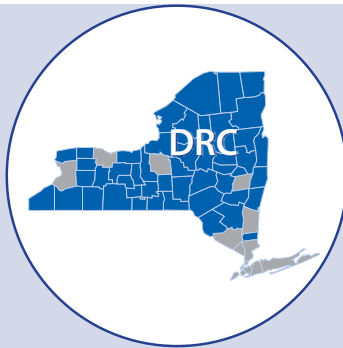
## LIVINGSTON COUNTY PROUD.



American Rock Salt has supported the economy of our entire region, having over 380 employees in Livingston County and hundreds of related jobs in the region through the trucking, rail, and construction industries.

**– KEEPING A SKILLED LABOR FORCE EMPLOYED –**

**All Our Rock Salt is Mined With Pride by NYS Workers  
Keeping Roads Safe in 12 States**



*The Voice of Rural New York State*

## The Democratic Rural Conference of New York State sincerely thanks our 2026 Conference Sponsors

### **FRIDAY WELCOME RECEPTION**

Governor Kathy Hochul  
and The New York State Democratic Committee

### **FRIDAY DESSERT RECEPTION**

Attorney General Letitia James

### **FRIDAY AFTER PARTY**

New York State Young Democrats

### **SATURDAY BREAKFAST**

Comptroller Tom DiNapoli

### **SATURDAY LUNCHEON**

NYSUT, NYS AFL-CIO, CWA Local 1124,  
AFSCME, IBEW Local 2104,  
IBEW Local 2032,  
1199SEIU United Healthcare Workers East,  
Teamsters Joint Council 18  
and CSEA New York



Andrea Stewart Cousins  
New York State Senate, 35<sup>th</sup> District  
President Pro Tem and Majority Leader

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**Best Wishes to My Friends at the**  
Democratic Rural Conference of New York State  
**on the occasion of your**  
2026 Annual Conference: Mobilize for Midterms

I want to extend my sincere thanks to **DRC Chair Bill Thickstun**, along with the **Board Members** and **Officers**, for their steadfast dedication to bringing together rural communities across Upstate New York in support of shared democratic values. This year's theme, **Mobilize for Midterms**, could not be more timely as we approach our nation's 250th anniversary—a moment to reflect on the ideals of freedom, equality, and government by the people.

Today, those ideals are being tested. We are seeing ongoing challenges to fundamental rights and democratic norms, making this election cycle critically important. Democrats must show up, speak out, and stay engaged—because participation is how we **protect** our freedoms.

The work of the DRC is essential in recruiting and supporting candidates who will stand up for our rights and our communities. Democracy depends on all of us. Now is the time to mobilize, organize, and ensure our voices are heard—because when Democrats vote, Democrats win!

IN RECOGNITION OF  
**TED YOUNG**



First elected to the DRC Board in October 2007, Ted Young is retiring as its longest-serving member after more than 18 years. Ted has been an active DRC member since 2002. He has served as Chair of the Seneca County Democratic Committee and has represented Seneca County on the NY State Democratic Committee for decades.

Ted is a Vietnam Veteran, and a retiree of New York State Electric and Gas. He's a former Mayor, Town Supervisor, County Supervisor, and was recently elected again as Town Supervisor. Ted and his wife Judy live in Waterloo, where they raised their family. Daughter Tracie is in Waterloo and son Todd is now in Colorado with Ted's grandchildren, Chloe and Theo.

<b>Cynthia M. Appleton</b>	<b>Summer Downing</b>	<b>Ronald P. McDougall</b>
<b>Karen Ash</b>	<b>Barbara A. Finnie</b>	<b>Liz Moran</b>
<b>Darlene Baker</b>	<b>Kathleen Hayek</b>	<b>Michael Plitt</b>
<b>Keith Batman</b>	<b>Shawn D. Hogan</b>	<b>Roger L. Saltman</b>
<b>Lynne Boecher</b>	<b>Mark Holt</b>	<b>Susan Sauvageau</b>
<b>Mandy L. Bushnell</b>	<b>Bill Hughes</b>	<b>Josef Schoell</b>
<b>Jason Clark</b>	<b>John F. Hurley</b>	<b>Bill Thickstun</b>
<b>Suzanne Coogan</b>	<b>Marcia Westling Johnson</b>	<b>Barb Turpin</b>
<b>Joan Davis</b>	<b>Phil Jones</b>	<b>Ken Warner</b>
<b>Max H. Della Pia</b>	<b>Denise W. King</b>	<b>Rachel Weil</b>
<b>Jane Dodds</b>	<b>Ram Lalukota</b>	<b>Mike Zagrobelny</b>

*“Motion to Adjourn”* —Thanks, Ted!

# Tom DiNAPOLI

COMPTROLLER

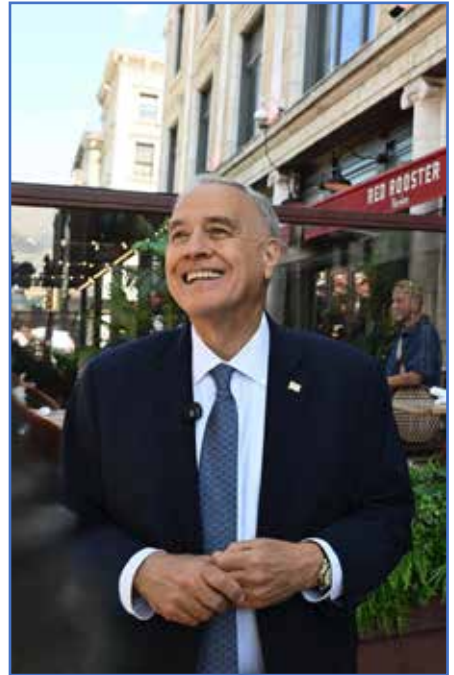
There are so many great Democratic organizations across New York, but none represent the backbone of our party quite like the Democratic Rural Conference. It is great to be together in Saratoga once again celebrating the important work you all do and planning for a successful 2026!

I'm honored to once again be the New York Democrats' candidate for Comptroller, and I'm working hard every day to earn the votes of New Yorkers.

Together, I know we will be celebrating a great 2026!



Thomas P. DiNapoli  
New York State Comptroller



.....

CANDIDATE FOR STATE SUPREME COURT  
8TH JUDICIAL DISTRICT

**Hon. Kenneth A. Szyszkowski**

LACKAWANNA CITY COURT

.....

# Congressional and State-Level Candidates



**Rev. Dr. Phillip Fleming**  
for  
**NYS Assembly District 131**  
*flemingforad131.com*  
(315) 719-2434



**Victoria Guite**  
for  
**NYS Senate District 57**  
*VictoriaForStateSenate.com*  
716-394-3733



**Cait Conley**  
for  
**NY Congressional District 17**  
*CaitConley.com*



**John Gunther**  
for  
**NYS Assembly District 114**  
*gunther4assembly.com*  
518-854-2022



**Jon Lipe**  
for  
**NYS Assembly District 119**  
*LipeForAssembly.com*



**Diana Kastenbaum**  
for  
**NY Congressional District 24**  
*DianaForNY24.com*  
585-201-7180



**Melissa Seale**  
**PMHNP-BC**  
for  
**NYS Senate District 45**  
*SealeforSenate.com*  
518-480-4002



**Scott Comegys**  
for  
**NYS Senate District 54**  
*ElectScottComegys.com*  
585-278-8290



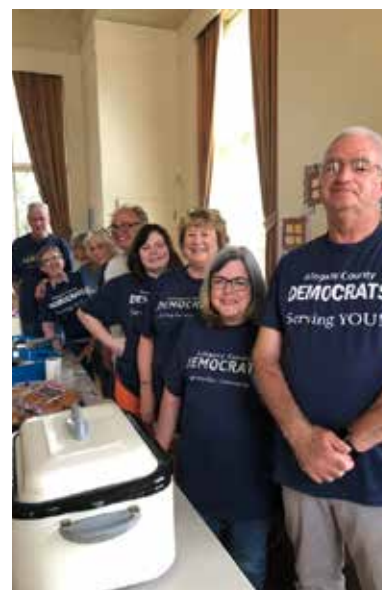
**Thomas Arida**  
for  
**NYS State Senate 62**  
*VoteArida.com*  
716-525-5443



**Devin Lander**  
for  
**NYS Senate District 43**  
*Devinlanderforsenate.com*



**Allegany County Democratic Committee proudly supports the DRC. THANK YOU for your LEADERSHIP!**



**RURAL DEMS ARE BETTER  
✓ TOGETHER!**



# BROOME COUNTY DEMOCRATIC COMMITTEE

**& CHAIR SARAH DINHOFER**

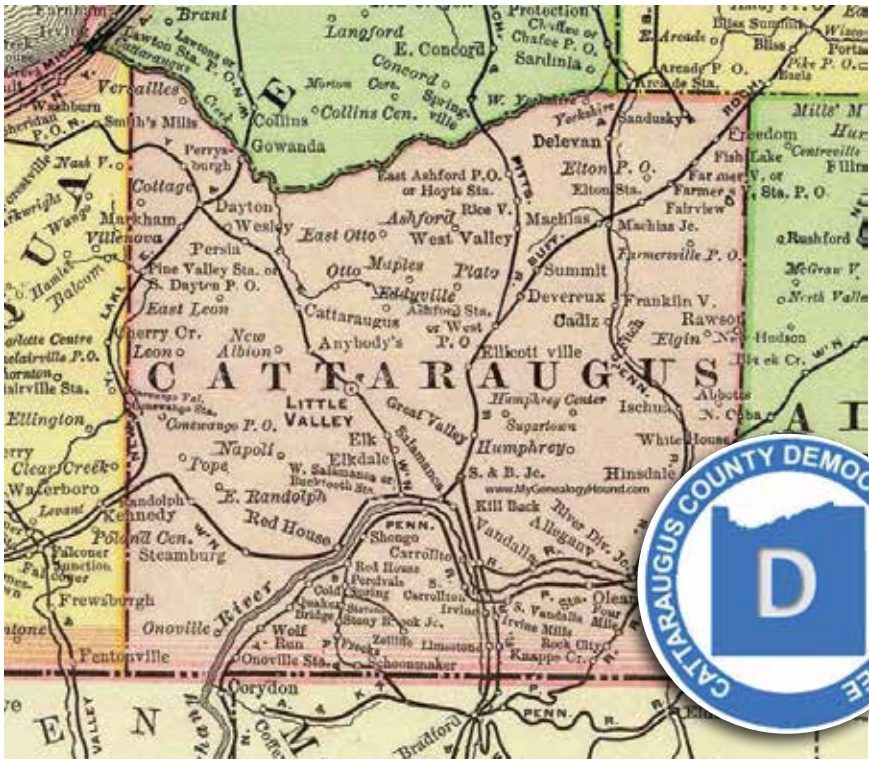
**THANKS THE  
DRC FOR  
ALL THEIR  
HARD WORK  
ACROSS  
NEW YORK.**

**Chair: Sarah Dinhofer  
Vice Chair: Mike Dundon  
Vice Chair: Debbie Saltzman  
Treasurer: Matt Wahila  
Secretary: Samantha Costello**



 [www.broomedems.org](http://www.broomedems.org)  
 **Broome County Democratic Committee**





Our purpose is to search and campaign for quality candidates that will put people before party and will benefit all their constituents equally. Progress for all, stronger together.

In the heart of the Finger Lakes...

“We Organize Everywhere, Win Everywhere”



2026

MOBILIZE FOR MIDTERMS!

**LET'S GET TO WORK!**



**Chair - Jamal A. Malik**  
**Vice Chair City- Willie M. Owens**  
**Vice Chair Towns - Halie Saunders**  
**Secretary - Meg Magunson**  
**Treasurer - Tina Kane**



[chemungdems.org](http://chemungdems.org)

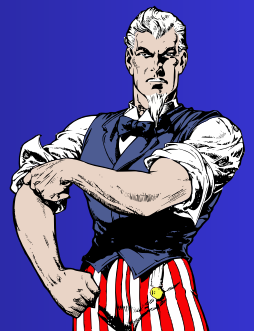


[chemungdems@gmail.com](mailto:chemungdems@gmail.com)



110 N. Main Street

Elmira, NY 14901



# MOBILIZE

Be Inclusive & Win



*by Jasper Jeanne*

## CHENANGO COUNTY DEMOCRATIC COMMITTEE

**WE SUPPORT THE  
DEMOCRATIC RURAL CONFERENCE**  
[www.chenangoconydems.com](http://www.chenangoconydems.com)  
*Patti Giltner - Committee Chairperson*



*Chautauqua County Democrats*  
working to create a future where our  
rural communities don't just survive...



*they thrive!*



## Mobilizing for the Midterms

We're building momentum across rural New York — registering voters, supporting candidates, and strengthening our communities to ensure that our voices are heard and our values are represented at every level of government.



Join us in making a difference:  
[www.columbiacountydemocrats.org](http://www.columbiacountydemocrats.org)



# CLINTON COUNTY DEMOCRATIC COMMITTEE

*Proudly Representing  
New York's North Country*



## Rural Communities. Strong Voices. Democratic Values.

The Clinton County Democratic Committee is dedicated to supporting the values and priorities of Democrats across New York's North Country.


We work to elect strong leaders, support our communities, and ensure every voice is heard.

### Who We Are

Local Democrats working together to strengthen our communities, support working families, and **we stand shoulder to shoulder with labor unions!**

### Get Involved - Get Active!

 Clinton County Democratic Committee

 CountyDems@gmail.com

## Your Voice Matters!

\*\*\*\*\* Democrats Fighting for Progress \*\*\*\*\*

# CORTLAND COUNTY

DEMOCRATIC COMMITTEE



"You let one ant stand up to us, then they all might stand up! Those puny little ants outnumber us a hundred to one, and if they ever **figure that out...** there goes our way of life!"

— HOPPER · A BUG'S LIFE (PIXAR/DISNEY, 1998)

## Cortland County Democrats: We've Figured It Out.

Register. Organize. Vote. — Because they're counting on us not to.

### ★ STATEWIDE DEMOCRATS — 2022 ★

★ WON 2022 ★

✓ Re-Elected Governor

**Governor Kathy Hochul**

Governor of New York · 2022

★ WON 2022 ★

✓ Re-Elected Comptroller

**Comptroller Tom DiNapoli**

NYS Comptroller · 2022

✓ **Attorney General Letitia James** · Re-Elected 2022

### ★★★ OUR CONGRESSMAN — 2024 ★★★

★ ELECTED 2024 · CONGRESS NY-22 ★

# Congressman John Mannion

U.S. Representative · NY-22 · Onondaga, Cortland & surrounding counties

**50.3%**

Mannion  
Cortland Co.

**49.6%**

Williams (R)  
Cortland Co.

### ★★ STATE LEGISLATIVE CHAMPIONS — 2022 & 2024 ★★

SENATE 52ND · 2022 & 2024



**Senator Lea Webb**

NYS Senator · Broome, Cortland & Tompkins

2022 CORTLAND CO.

**~41%**

Webb vs David

**~59%**

David won county

2024 CORTLAND CO.

**46.1%**

Webb vs Sigler

**53.9%**

Sigler won county

ASSEMBLY 125TH · 2022 & 2024



**Assemblywoman Anna Kelles**

NYS Assemblywoman · Cortland & Tompkins

2022 CORTLAND CO.

**~100%**

Cortland Co.

—  
No opponent

2024 CORTLAND CO.

**99.2%**

vs write-in

**7,813**

Cortland votes

✓ **Cong. Josh Riley** · Congress NY-19 · Elected 2024 U.S. Rep. · NY-19 · Hudson Valley/Finger Lakes

**Cortland County's Junior Congressman**

### OUR LEADERSHIP

**Bekkie Bryan**

Chair

**Dean Corbin**

Vice Chair

**Kris Valentine-Behnke**

Secretary

**Adrienne Traub**

Treasurer



"Can't land anything if you won't cast a line." 🎣

Since 1876, Cortland Line has made world-class fishing gear right here. Patience. Precision. Never quit.

### WE BELIEVE IN

- ✓ Strong public schools for every child
- ✓ Affordable healthcare for all
- ✓ Protecting our farms and precious farmland
- ✓ Free school lunches for every Cortland County child — not sacrificed for a wealthy few protecting their private lakefront
- ✓ Protecting our environment while lowering energy prices
- ✓ Making sure that every vote is counted and protecting democracy
- ✓ Rural voices that get heard in Albany to offset policies more applicable to NYC than Upstate NY
- ✓ Good Paying, Stable Jobs and Sensible Economic Development

### NYS DEMOCRATIC COMMITTEE MEMBERS

**Bekkie Bryan**

125th Assembly District

**Dean Corbin**

125th Assembly District

**Hal McCabe**

131st AD · Exec. Cmte. 6th Judicial

**Angela Burchfield**

131st Assembly District



**CORTLAND COUNTY DEMOCRATIC COMMITTEE**

cortlanddemocrats.com · Proud Member, Democratic Rural Conference of New York State

getinvolved@cortlanddemocrats.com

(607) 218-2320

129 Port Watson St · Cortland, NY 13045

# **DEMOCRATIC** **RURAL** CONFERENCE



Working for **PEOPLE**

Compliments of the  
**DELAWARE COUNTY**  
DEMOCRATIC COMMITTEE

COUNTY CHAIR: **KATHLEEN HAYEK**

STATE COMMITTEE MEMBERS

AD101: **JOHN OGOZALEK • JOSEF SCHOELL**

AD102: **KATHY MARIO • TOM SCHIMMERLING**

AD121: **KEVIN GREENE • KATHY WALTERS**

**ERIE COUNTY**



**DEMOCRATS**

**Proud to support the DRC  
and its work to strengthen  
Democratic voices across  
New York State.**

As we **Mobilize for Midterms** and prepare for the work ahead, **Erie County Democrats** stand with our rural partners as we fight for our communities.

*Thank you **Chair Bill Thickstun**  
for your leadership and best wishes  
for a successful conference!*

**Hon. Jeremy Zellner**

[ecdems.com](http://ecdems.com)  
[JeremyZellner.com](http://JeremyZellner.com)



Paid for by Zellner for ECDC Chair



# Phillips Lytle LLP

Craig R. Bucki  
PARTNER  
cbucki@phillipslytle.com

ONE CANALSIDE  
125 MAIN STREET  
BUFFALO, NY 14203

Phone 716 847-5495  
Fax 716 852-6100

VICE CHAIR  
Town of Amherst Democratic Committee  
Erie County



Thank you to the  
**Democratic Rural Conference** for  
championing rural communities  
across New York State. Your work  
is making a lasting impact for so  
many New Yorkers.

Let's build on this momentum as  
we **Mobilize for the Midterms!**

 [KENNEDYFORUSCONGRESS.COM](https://www.kennedyforcongress.com)

 [@KENNEDYFORNY26](https://twitter.com/KENNEDYFORNY26)

 [@KENNEDYFORNY26](https://www.instagram.com/KENNEDYFORNY26)

 [/KENNEDYFORCONGRESS](https://www.facebook.com/KENNEDYFORCONGRESS)

Paid for by Kennedy for Congress



**Best wishes to all the members at the  
Democratic Rural Conference of New York State  
on your 2026 Annual Conference!**

**BOOSTING  
FUTURE LEADERS  
ONWARD**



**Mark C. Poloncarz**  
Erie County Executive

*Founder, Boosting  
Future Leaders Onward*  
[boostingleaders.com](http://boostingleaders.com)

Paid for by Boosting Future Leaders Onward

**LP  
C Lipsitz, Ponterio  
& Comerford LLC**

**IN THE FIGHT WITH YOU.**

**Mesothelioma & Catastrophic Injury Attorneys**



**Anne E. Joynt, Partner**  
[aej@lipsitzponterio.com](mailto:aej@lipsitzponterio.com)

***Sharing in the vision for a stronger,  
more prosperous community.***

**(716) 849-0701**

**[www.lipsitzponterio.com](http://www.lipsitzponterio.com)**

The Liberty Building • 424 Main Street • Suite 1500 • Buffalo, NY 14202

In the Heart of the Adirondacks



PO Box 737, Elizabethtown, NY 12932

[essexcodems@gmail.com](mailto:essexcodems@gmail.com)

<http://essexcountynydemocrats.com>

“Democracy Begins Locally”



photo - Aaron Miller

Demonstrators in Support of Ukraine March 9, 2025 Keene, Essex County NY

**“CONGRATULATIONS TO THE  
DEMOCRATIC RURAL  
CONFERENCE OF  
NEW YORK STATE**

**FOR 31 YEARS OF ORGANIZING AND  
IMPACT. *THANK YOU* FOR YOUR  
LEADERSHIP.”**

**- CHUCK SCHUMER**  
U.S. Senator from New York  
& Senate Democratic Leader

PAID FOR BY FRIENDS OF SCHUMER



**Re-Elect Judge**

**Christine  
CLARK**

**Supreme Court Justice  
4th Judicial District**

**Serving on the bench for  
over 20 years**

**Experienced. Compassionate. Fair.**

**[www.JudgeClark.com](http://www.JudgeClark.com)**

**Paid for by JudgeClark2026**  





# FULTON COUNTY DEMOCRATIC COMMITTEE

**MOBILIZE  
FOR  
MIDTERMS  
2026**



**Edmund Jasewicz, County Chair**

**State Committee:**

Edmund Jasewicz

John Spaeth

Robin Wentworth

Barbara Spaeth

Donald Savoie

## GENESEE COUNTY DEMOCRATIC COMMITTEE



**Congratulations and best wishes to a stalwart leader of the DRC —Ted Young!**

**Michael Plitt—Chair**

**Nikki Calhoun— 1st Vice-Chair**

**Sarah Kohl — 2nd Vice Chair**

**Jennifer Keys—Treasurer**

**Judith Alberts—Secretary**

# Hamilton County Democratic Committee

Supporting your Democratic  
candidates in Hamilton County, NY.



**The Herkimer County  
Democratic Committee**

— ★ —  
looks forward to  
continuing to work with  
the Democratic Rural Conference  
in 2026 and beyond.  
— ★ —

**#RuralStandsTogether**





# JEFFERSON COUNTY DEMOCRATIC COMMITTEE



## EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS

**Corey Decillis**  
Chair

**Kreg Davis**  
Vice Chair

**Julie West**  
2nd Vice Chair

**Mary Hazelrigg-Draper**  
Secretary

**Michelle Lafave**  
Treasurer

**Joe Hart**  
Sergeant At Arms



**JCDCNY.ORG**



# Democrats Have Values!



## Livingston County Democratic Committee

Deborah Spratt - LCDC Chair

David DiPasquale - NYSDC Member

Judith Hunter - NYSDC Member

### Interested in Democratic Values Lawn Signs?

Please contact us at [LCDC@livingstonnydemocrats.com](mailto:LCDC@livingstonnydemocrats.com)

or visit [www.livingstonnydemocrats.com/signs](http://www.livingstonnydemocrats.com/signs)



# Best Wishes to the DRC

*from the*

## Madison County Democratic Committee

The Madison County Democratic Committee is dedicated to representing our rural towns and villages as we strive to protect our shared values: equality, inclusion, justice, and stewardship of our lands and waters.

***Join us in Mobilizing for Midterms!***

<https://www.madisoncountynydem.org>

Chair: Liz Moran

Vice Chairs: Corey Mosher & Chris Rossi

Secretary: Sue Reymers

Treasurer: Suzy McRae



# Montgomery County Democratic Committee

.....

Let's get to work and elect  
more Democrats this fall!

Thank you to the DRC for the leadership,  
guidance and support.

*“The rural voice of New York State.”*

**Barbara Persico, Chair**  
**Mary Maines, Vice Chair**  
**Caroline Swartz, Secretary**  
**Douglas Sweet, Treasurer**

| nymcdc@gmail.com  
|

We are stronger together.



Montgomery County NY, Democratic Committee



Congressman  
**John Mannion**  
(NY-22)

**thanks you**  
for all of your work!

**MANNION**  
CONGRESS



*We obviously took this anyone can be president thing too far...*

**Let's get to work fixing this!**  
**Democracy matters.**



Montgomery County Democratic State Committeeperson

*Bethany Schumann-McGhee*  
ATTORNEY AT LAW

Bethany Schumann-McGhee

✉ [bethany@bsm.lawfirm.com](mailto:bethany@bsm.lawfirm.com)

📍 207 Wall as Carriers Road, Suite 402,  
Amsterdam, New York 12010

📞 518-842-4228

📍 1755 Union Street,  
Niskayuna, New York 12570

# LABOR . JUSTICE. FIRST RESPONDERS. PROGRESS.



ON BEHALF OF THE  
NIAGARA COUNTY  
DEMOCRATIC COMMITTEE,  
THANK YOU FOR THE  
LEADERSHIP AND  
DEDICATION OF THE  
DEMOCRATIC RURAL  
CAUCUS.

 Niagara County  
Democratic Committee

*Chairwoman Anita Mullane*



# Oneida County DEMOCRATS



**Proud partners of the Democratic Rural Conference**

**MITCHELL FORD, CHAIR**

117th Assembly District  
Maggie Peterson • Paul Phister

119th Assembly District  
Freddie Hamilton • Michael Monescalchi

118th Assembly District  
Kelli Samson • Tom Gehrig

122nd Assembly District  
Mona Perrotti • Bill Thickstun

Supporting Democratic candidates and rural communities across New York State.  
Find us at: [www.oneidacountydemocrats.org](http://www.oneidacountydemocrats.org)



# ONTARIO COUNTY DEMOCRATS

## A FORCE IN RURAL NEW YORK

- Raised \$100K in 18 months to support local races.
- Raised Democratic over Republican turnout in 62 of 92 districts.
- Flipped 5 county supervisor seats.
- Won majority Democratic councils in two major cities.
- Registered more Democrats than Republicans.

John Hurley, Chair, State Committee 133rd AD

Maria Bucci, Vice-Chair

Liz Yockel, Secretary

Lisa Colleen Moore, State Committee 133rd AD

Tommy White, Treasurer, State Committee 131st AD

Karen White, State Committee 131st AD

AJ Magnan, Commissioner of Elections

[www.ontariocountydemocrats.com](http://www.ontariocountydemocrats.com)



**Proud Democrat**  
**Running for Congress NY24**

*Experienced Leader*  
*Fighting for Families*  
*Fighting for Rural New York*



[DianaForNY24.com](http://DianaForNY24.com)  
**FIGHTING FOR YOU!**

SCOTT

**COMEGYS**

*Finger Lakes Forward!*

**NYS Senate**  
**District 54**



Paid for by Elect Scott Comegys



ENJOY ORLEANS COUNTY APPLES

## ORLEANS COUNTY DEMOCRATIC COMMITTEE

**Jeff Lewis, County Chair**

Jeanne Crane, Vice Chair

Jim Renfrew, Vice Chair

Beth Wood Secretary

Kriss Sniffen, Treasurer

Board of Elections

Jan Gabrowski, Commissioner

Abby Fitzwater, Deputy

Visit our website—[www.orleansnydemocrats.com](http://www.orleansnydemocrats.com)



# Oswego County Democratic Committee

The Oswego County Democratic Committee is comprised of representatives from election districts across Oswego County. Our goal is to help get Democrats elected to public office.

## Executive Officers

- Chair Christine Weisenberger
- First Vice Chair Tom Rinefield
- Second Vice Chair Shelby Potter
- Secretary Michelle Newvine
- Treasurer Connie Douglas

[Oswego County Democrats](#)



Donate Now!



For More Information, checkout our **newsletter**

# Rural New York Is Organizing

otsegodemocrats.com



PUTNAM COUNTY  
DEMOCRATS  
THANK THE  
**NY DRC**

**2025 WE WON LOCALLY...**

**2026 WE WILL WIN NY-17  
AND THE COUNTRY!**

JENNIFER COLAMONICO, COUNTY CHAIR  
RICK GELL, LINDA TAFAPOLSKY, ALAN LEVY  
STATE COMMITTEE MEMBERS

WWW.PUTNAMDEMOCRATS.COM

PAID FOR BY THE PUTNAM COUNTY DEMOCRATIC COMMITTEE

**Best Wishes to the  
Democratic Rural Conference  
of New York State  
for a successful**

# **2026 SPRING CONFERENCE**



**RENSSELAER COUNTY DEMOCRATIC COMMITTEE**

**MARK STREB • CHAIR**

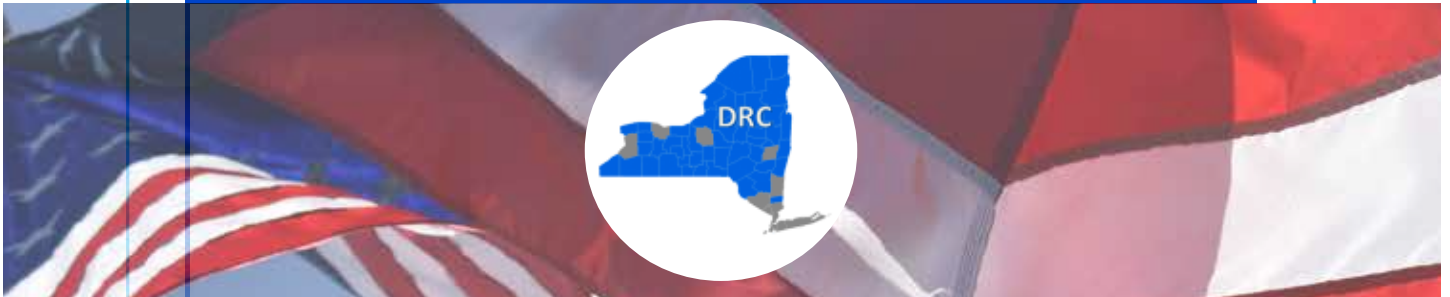
**P.O. Box 846 • Troy, NY 12181**

**[www.renssdems.com](http://www.renssdems.com)**



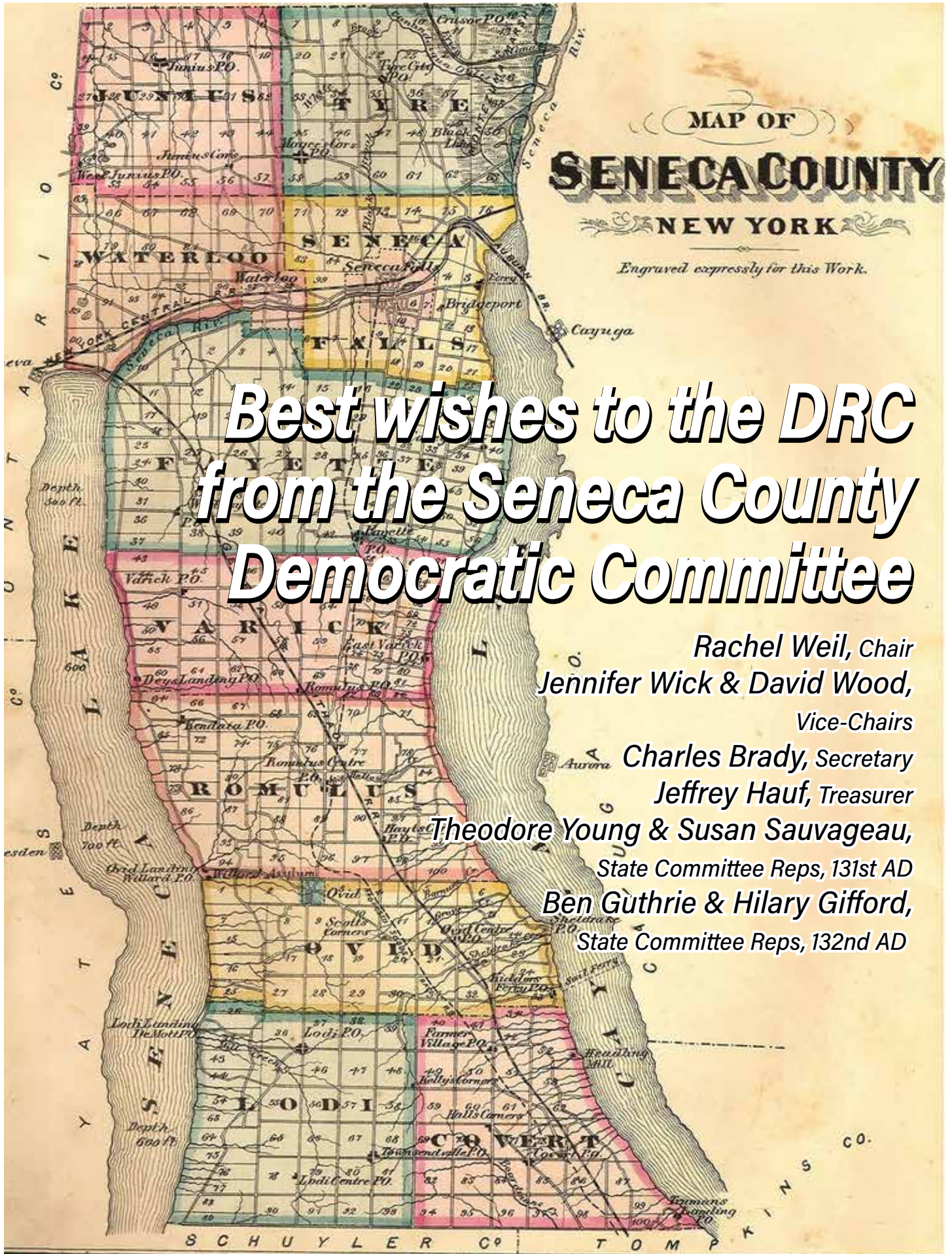
**SARATOGA**  
— COUNTY —  
**DEMOCRATS**  
**CHANGE THAT MATTERS**

*Proudly supporting  
the Democratic  
Rural Conference.*



Together we seek and support candidates who defend democracy, protect natural resources, and deliver economic solutions to improve the quality of life for every citizen.





# ***Best wishes to the DRC from the Seneca County Democratic Committee***

*Rachel Weil, Chair  
Jennifer Wick & David Wood,  
Vice-Chairs  
Charles Brady, Secretary  
Jeffrey Hauf, Treasurer  
Theodore Young & Susan Sauvageau,  
State Committee Reps, 131st AD  
Ben Guthrie & Hilary Gifford,  
State Committee Reps, 132nd AD*

*For the People*



*Town of Waterloo  
Democratic Committee*



**St. Lawrence County  
Democratic Committee  
Salutes the DRC for  
their continued hard  
work and success!**

**Mike Zagrobelny**

*Chair*

**Ginger Storey Welch**

*First Vice-Chair*

**Cortney Deshaise**

*Second Vice Chair*

**Barbara Finnie**

*Treasurer*

**vacant**

*Secretary*

**State Committee Members:**

*Ronald McDougall*

*Barbara Finnie*

*Mike Zagrobelny*

*Jennie Bacon*

**DRC**

**CONGRATULATIONS ON THE 31 YEARS  
OF A GREAT POLITICAL  
ORGANIZATION**

**THANK YOU TO OUTGOING EXECUTIVE  
BOARD MEMBER TED YOUNG FOR  
YOUR YEARS OF CIVIC SERVICE.**

**RON MCDOUGALL,  
NORTHERN REGIONAL VICE-CHAIR  
AND MAYOR  
VILLAGE OF GOUVERNEUR**

**PAID FOR BY THE COMMITTEE TO RE-ELECT RON MCDOUGALL**

2026 DRC  
Annual Conference



# Schuyler County Democratic Committee

Proud members of the Democratic Rural Conference

## **Executive Committee**

Michael Lausell, *Chair*

Gail Walker, *1st Vice-Chair*

Erich Asperschlager, *2nd Vice-Chair*

Jackie Eschenlohr, *Treasurer*

Elena Deustua, *Secretary*

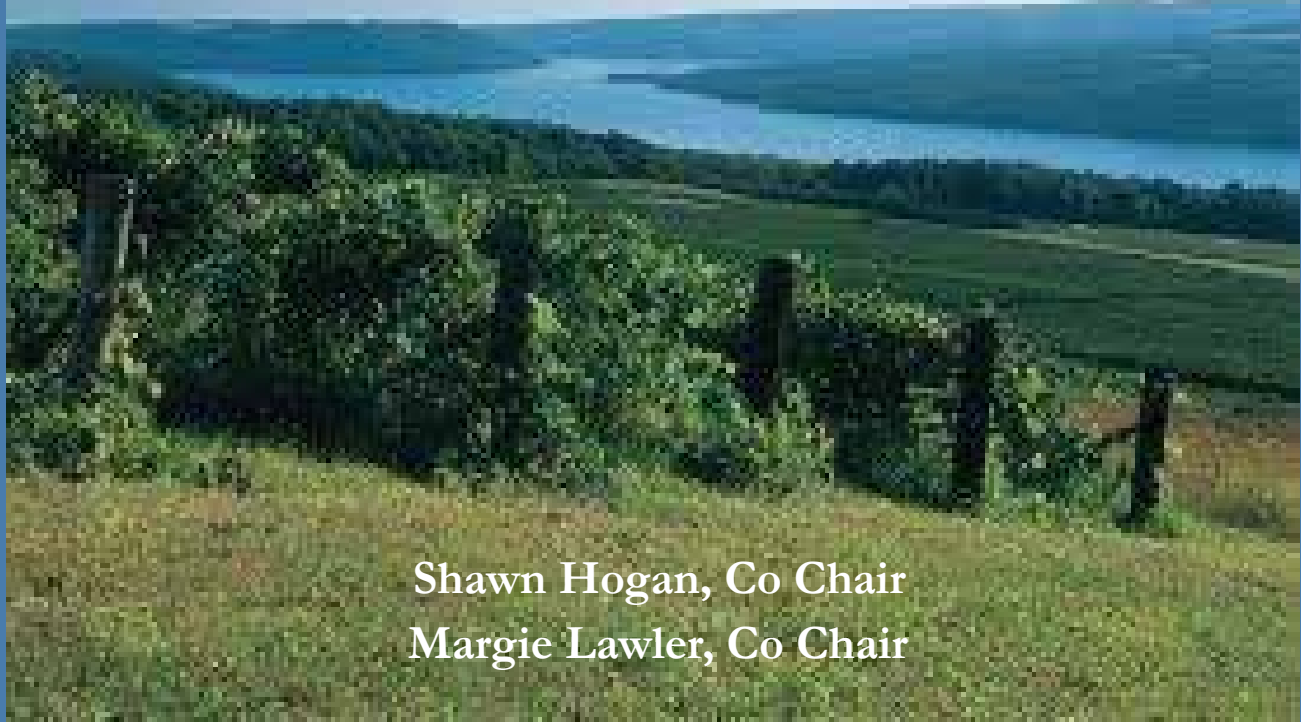
**SchuylerDemocrats.org**

SchuylerDemsNY@gmail.com

Facebook.com/SCDComm/

Instagram.com/SchuylerDems

# STEUBEN DEMOCRATIC COMMITTEE



Shawn Hogan, Co Chair  
Margie Lawler, Co Chair

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## Celebrating Success. Keep It Going!

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Joe Bob, 1st Vice President  
Hilda Lando, 2nd Vice President  
Kathy Green, Treasurer  
John Bradley, Secretary



### STATE COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

Shawn Hogan  
Hilda Lando  
Kathy Green  
Joshua Keller  
Margie Lawler  
Marshall Hyde

As the United States celebrates 250 years of what our Founding Fathers coined the "Great Experiment," let us never forget our why.

# Mobilize FOR MIDTERMS

*We the People*

THE WE THE PEOPLE

**Sullivan County Democratic Committee**

— Proud Members of the —  
**Democratic Rural Conference**



# WE DID IT, Y'ALL!

In 2025, we did what many believed couldn't be done: we elected Democrats to the Tioga County Legislature and the Owego Town Council for the first time in over 30 years — and won four additional seats. In a county where Democrats are outnumbered nearly three to one, that's not just a win. It's the end of decades of single-party rule.

We made over 10,000 phone calls. We knocked over 2,000 doors. We did it for less than \$4,000 across six campaigns: rack cards, auto-dialer, and yard signs included.

Counties like ours aren't a lost cause. We just proved these fights are winnable. If we did this on our own, imagine what could happen with more support: field offices, full-time paid regional organizers, and a commitment that doesn't disappear after Election Day.

Transforming victories like ours into lasting power requires a permanent presence. The potential is there.

**The question is whether we'll invest in it.**

## NYS DACCC

NEW YORK STATE DEMOCRATIC ASSEMBLY CAMPAIGN COMMITTEE

ASSEMBLY SPEAKER

**CARL E. HEASTIE**

*and the*

**MEMBERS OF THE NYS ASSEMBLY MAJORITY**

*would like to wish the* New York State Democratic Rural Conference  
*and* our fellow Democrats a successful 2026 election year!

**Hon. Carl E. Heastie**  
*DACC Honorary Chair*

**Hon. Jeffrey Dinowitz**  
**Hon. Pamela J. Hunter**  
*DACC Co-Chairs*

# TOMPKINS COUNTY

THE HEART  
OF THE  
FINGER LAKES

## SUPPORTS THE DEMOCRATIC RURAL CONFERENCE

WE TAKE  
ACTION!



ContactUs@TCDemocrats.org



TCDemocrats.org

# WARREN COUNTY



**Gateway to the Adirondacks!**



**Lynne Boecher**, Chairman

**John Reilly**, Vice Chair

**Kim Ross**, Vice Chair

**Elizabeth McLaughlin**, Secretary

**Jackson LaSarso**, Assistant Secretary

**Christian Bruce**, Treasurer

**Damaris Martinez-Baird**, Assistant Treasurer

**Elizabeth McLaughlin**, Commissioner of Elections

**Kimberly Ross**, Deputy Commissioner of Elections

State Party Representatives:

**Margaret Farrell, John Reilly,**

**Jean Lapper, Richard Larkin**

WASHINGTON  
COUNTY

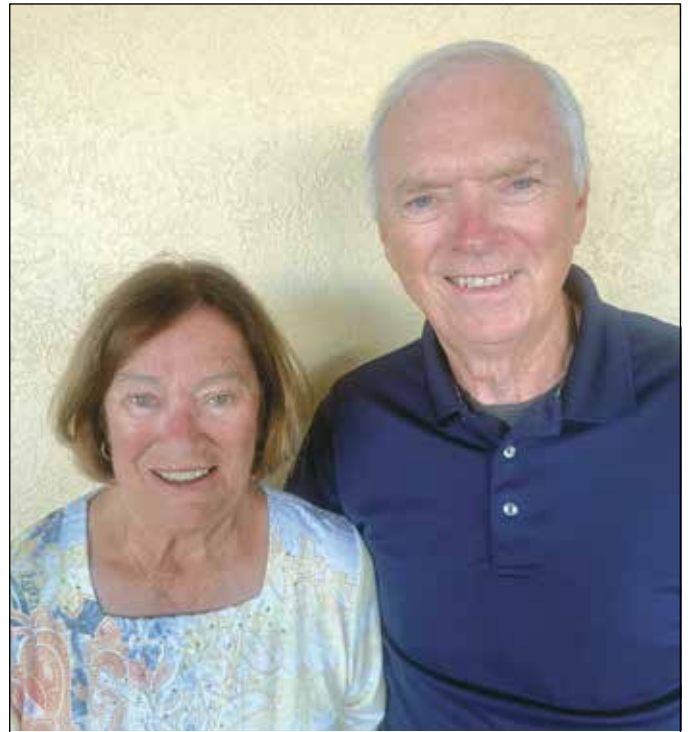


**DEMOCRATIC  
COMMITTEE**  
working with  
the  
**DEMOCRATIC  
RURAL  
CONFERENCE**

*to Save  
our  
Democracy*



[www.WashingtonCounty  
NewYorkDemocrats.com](http://www.WashingtonCountyNewYorkDemocrats.com)



## *Thanks*

to Bill Thickstun and  
the DRC Board for their  
hard work in leading our  
great organization.

Special thanks to our  
longtime friend Ted Young  
who brought wisdom,  
dedication and a great sense  
of humor from the infancy  
of the DRC until this  
annual meeting.  
Ted represents the best  
in all of us.

Mike Schell, founding chair, DRC;  
Jacki Schell, former member NYSDC  
(Jefferson County)



# WCDC

**Wayne County Democratic Committee**



**Working Together  
Protecting Our Rights  
Strengthening Communities**



**DEMOCRATS  
TAKING BACK  
RURAL NEW  
YORK!**

Scott Comegys, Chair  
Kenan Baldrige, Vice Chair  
John Spiegel, Treasurer

[www.waynecountynydemocrats.org](http://www.waynecountynydemocrats.org)



**If you want to change minds,  
you have to turn heads.**



Find out what we can do for you: [ruralfreedomnetwork.org](http://ruralfreedomnetwork.org)

PAID FOR BY RURAL FREEDOM NETWORK, RURALFREEDOMNETWORK.ORG. NOT AUTHORIZED BY ANY CANDIDATE OR CANDIDATE'S COMMITTEE.



Thanks the Democratic Rural Conference for their continued support for Democratic candidates across rural NY, in elections big and small.

Last Fall, Alissa knocked doors across the district, volunteering in local elections and meeting so many incredible people along the way. We love to see rural organizing in action!



Paid for by Ellman for Congress



Thank you to the DRC for continuing to work with and support our rural communities across New York.

Thank you for being awesome.

**Tim Allers**

Candidate for  
NYS Assembly District 120

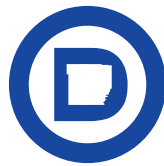
TimAllers.com





WyCoNY Indivisible Rally March 14, 2026, Warsaw, NY

# MOBILIZE FOR DEMOCRACY



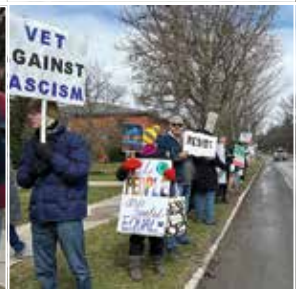
## WYOMING COUNTY DEMOCRATIC COMMITTEE

CYNTHIA M. APPLETON  
COMMITTEE CHAIR

DRC WESTERN REGION VICE CHAIR  
STATE COMMITTEE MEMBER

HAROLD (HANK) J. BUSH  
COMMISSIONER

STATE COMMITTEE MEMBER



Don't let the sun go down on democracy.  
Mobilize for the Midterms.



[www.yatesnydemocrats.com](http://www.yatesnydemocrats.com)

*Red Jacket Park  
Penn Yan, NY*

Thank you to the Democratic Rural Conference for their continuing support.



**JON LIPE**

New York State Assembly

**Wishing my fellow  
DRC Democrats all  
the best in 2026!**

[LipeForAssembly.com](http://LipeForAssembly.com)



Paid for and authorized by Paul Tonko for Congress

from Paul Tonko

For decades, the DRC has been the heartbeat of our party in every corner of the Empire State. You understand that our strength does not just come from our cities, but from the farms, the main streets, and the hardworking families of our rural communities.

As we look toward the critical midterms, your work is more vital than ever. While we face significant challenges—from protecting our environment and lowering energy costs to defending our very democracy—I am inspired by your persistence.

Thank you for your tireless organizing, your unshakeable integrity, and your commitment to building a New York that works for everyone.

*Best Wishes*

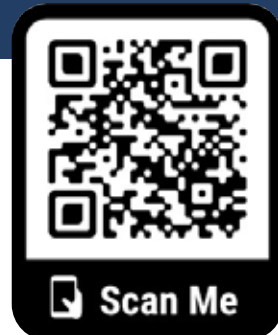
**to Chairman Bill Thickstun & all our friends  
of the Democratic Rural Conference**



**NEW YORK STATE FEDERATION  
of DEMOCRATIC WOMEN**

Look for our **candidate endorsement process this spring** - open to all members. Join us today!

**President Denise Murphy McGraw  
Presidentnysfdw@gmail.com**





# Eleanor's Legacy is celebrating 25 years!

**We are grateful to the DRC for your partnership as we work together to champion Democratic candidates and values in New York's rural counties.**

Eleanor's Legacy recruits, trains, and helps to elect Democratic women across New York State who protect reproductive freedom, advance equity, and strengthen our democracy. At a time when our fundamental rights are under attack, we are inspired by former first lady Eleanor Roosevelt's belief that women must be at the center of democracy. We are committed to building a bench of courageous leaders who are prepared to govern, safeguard healthcare access and move New York forward toward a more just future.

**When women run, we all win.**

**Join us in Buffalo on May 9th for a free, all-day Campaign Academy. This training is for pro-choice candidates, the candidate-curious, and campaign staffers. Sign up on our website at [www.eleanorslegacy.com](http://www.eleanorslegacy.com).**

# Letitia James

for NEW YORK

**I'm proud to stand with members of the DRC as we Mobilize for Midterms!**

**I will continue to stand up to the powerful and fight for you, as the People's Lawyer, and together we will build the future of our party.**

*Letitia James*



**Thank you to the  
Democratic Rural  
Caucus for your  
tireless efforts.**

**We are a stronger party because of you!**

**MCDC is proud of our work together, and look  
forward to continuing our work together!**



**Monroe County  
Democratic Committee**

Stephen DeVay, Chairman  
[monroedemocrats.com](http://monroedemocrats.com)