

NOTICE OF MEETING

Notice is hereby given that the Legislature of Rockland County will meet in its Chambers in the Allison-Parris Office Building, New City, New York on Thursday, January 8, 2026 at 7:00 P.M., for the purpose of organizing said Legislature and selecting a Chairperson and such other items as may be required by law, contract or financial necessity.

Very truly yours,

LAURENCE O. TOOLE
Clerk to the Legislature

Dated at New City, New York
This 5th day of January 2026

Laurence O. Toole, Clerk to the Legislature

The January 8, 2026 meeting of the Rockland County Legislature will please come to order.

Good Evening. Thank you for joining us tonight. My name is Larry Toole, Clerk to the Rockland County Legislature. It is my honor to Chair this meeting until the selection of the Chairperson for 2026.

At this time, I will recognize Deputy Clerk Mary Widmer to call the roll.

A Roll Call being taken at 7:02 p.m., the following Legislators were present and answered to their names:

Paul C. Cleary
Beth J. Davidson
Thomas F. Diviny
Toney L. Earl
Joel Friedman
Lon M. Hofstein
Jay Hood, Jr.
Moshe Hopstein
Douglas J. Jobson
Will J. Kennelly
Aney Paul
Philip Soskin
Dana G. Stillely
Alden H. Wolfe
Itamar J. Yeger

Absent: Legislators Jesse M. Malowitz, Raymond W. Sheridan III

Honorable Philip Soskin led in the Salute to the Flag.

Laurence O. Toole, Clerk to the Legislature, delivered the invocation.

SWEARING IN OF NEWLY ELECTED OFFICIALS

Larry Toole, Clerk, stated that this is a special agenda item that does not occur at every Organizational Meeting, but necessitated after former Legislator Aron. B. Wieder our Current New York State Assembly member vacated the District 13 seat, in early 2025.

We all warmly congratulate Legislator Moshe Hopstein on your recent election victory on November 4th and we wish you the best in representing the 13th District and the entire County.

For the purpose of Administering the Oath of Office to Honorable Legislator Moshe Hopstein, I would please ask Rockland County Clerk, Hon. Donna Silberman to join Legislator Hopstein at the Podium.

**RESOLUTION NO. 1 OF 2026
SELECTION OF CHAIRPERSON OF THE
ROCKLAND COUNTY LEGISLATURE**

EARL/CLEARY, FRIEDMAN: UNAN.

RESOLVED, that pursuant to NYS County Law Section 151 and Rockland County Charter Section C2.04 Hon. Jay Hood, Jr., Legislative District 3, be and is hereby selected Chairperson of the Rockland County Legislature for the year 2026.

Statement by Chairman Jay Hood, Jr.

Thank you all for your faith in me for giving me another year to work with the administration and all of us together. I think we've built up some really, really good relationships with the Minority, even Lon Hofstein, Ed Day, and with Steve Powers and Pat working together, it really makes things run relatively smoothly. That doesn't mean we agree on everything, but we've been working together very well. So, let's have another year of that.

**RESOLUTION NO. 2 OF 2026
SELECTION OF VICE CHAIRPERSON OF THE
ROCKLAND COUNTY LEGISLATURE**

EARL/WOLFE: UNAN.

RESOLVED, that pursuant to NYS County Law Section 151 and Rockland County Charter Section C2.04, Hon. Aney Paul, Legislative District 14, be and is hereby selected Vice Chairperson of the Rockland County Legislature for the year 2026.

**RESOLUTION NO. 3 OF 2026
APPOINTMENT OF CLERK TO THE
ROCKLAND COUNTY LEGISLATURE**

WOLFE/HOOD, JR.: UNAN.

RESOLVED, that pursuant to NYS County Law Section 475 and Rockland County Charter Section C2.05, Laurence O. Toole, Town of Ramapo, be and is hereby appointed Clerk to the Rockland County Legislature for the year 2026 at a salary to be established by the Legislature.

Assemblyman Aron Wieder presented Larry Toole with an official proclamation by the New York State Assembly in honor of Lawrence O. Toole for his distinguished and exemplary service as Clerk to the Rockland County Legislature.

Statement by Laurence O. Toole

It is my honor to again appoint Ms. Mary Widmer, from Garnerville as Deputy Clerk to the Rockland County Legislature, for the 2026 Legislative Session. Mary has served as Deputy Clerk to the body since January 2001 with distinction and honor. She's done an amazing job for decades.

It is fitting for me to acknowledge the legislative staff continuing in 2026, who are dedicated, hardworking and supremely professional in providing assistance to all. They are a fantastic team, dedicated to public service and support to our County. I am so pleased that Mary and our staff will serve in these roles again for the coming year

**RESOLUTION NO. 4 OF 2026
AUTHORIZING THE CLERK TO THE LEGISLATURE
TO APPOINT A DEPUTY CLERK**

HOOD, JR./CLEARY: UNAN.

RESOLVED, that pursuant to the Laws of Rockland County Section 149-1 (c) the Clerk to the Legislature be and is hereby authorized to appoint Mary Widmer, Town of Haverstraw, Deputy Clerk to the Legislature for the year 2026 at a salary to be established by the Legislature.

**RESOLUTION NO 5 OF 2026
PROVIDING FOR BLANKET BOND FOR ALL
PUBLIC OFFICERS OF ROCKLAND COUNTY
AND FIXING AMOUNT OF COVERAGE**

YEGER/HOPSTEIN: UNAN.

WHEREAS, in accordance with Section 2.01 (h) of the Charter, all officers, clerks or employees of the County of Rockland shall be included in a blanket bond issued in accordance with the provisions of County Law Section 40 and Public Officers Law Section 11; and

WHEREAS, in accordance with Section C3.02 (d) of the Rockland County Charter, the County Executive shall examine and approve or disapprove the sufficiency of sureties on official bonds and undertakings; and

WHEREAS, the coverage for said blanket bond has previously been reviewed by the Rockland County Department of Law, the Rockland County Insurance Department and the Rockland County Legislature in 2025; and

WHEREAS, sufficient funds exist within the 2026 Budget to fund the premium for said blanket bond, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Legislature of Rockland County hereby approves a blanket bond to provide faithful performance, blanket bond coverage in the amount of \$5,000,000, including the following positions are hereby fixed at \$5,000,000:

1. County Executive
2. Commissioner of Finance
3. Budget Director
4. Deputy Budget Director
5. Deputy Commissioner of Finance
6. Commissioner of Social Services
7. County Clerk
8. Director of Purchasing
9. Assistant Director of Purchasing
10. Commissioner of Mental Health
11. Commissioner of Personnel
12. Commissioner of Health
13. Commissioner of Planning
14. District Attorney
15. Director of Insurance & Risk Management
16. Executive Director Sewer Operations & Engineering
17. Sheriff
18. Rockland Community College President
19. Rockland Community College Vice President of Finance and Administration
20. Rockland Community College Associate Vice President of Finance/Controller
21. Rockland Community College Director of Finance
22. Rockland Community College Bursar
23. All other Commissioners, Department Heads, and Directors, and anyone acting in their capacity

and; be it further

RESOLVED, that the Legislature of Rockland County hereby approves a blanket bond to provide faithful performance, blanket bond coverage in the amount of \$5,000,000, and; be it further

RESOLVED, that the Clerk to the Legislature is directed to send a copy of this resolution to the Rockland County Director of Insurance and Risk Management, and; be it further

RESOLVED, that the County Executive is hereby requested to endorse his approval on said blanket bond and to sign any and all documents in furtherance of this resolution.

**RESOLUTION NO. 6 OF 2026
DESIGNATION OF THE OFFICIAL NEWSPAPERS AND SUPPLEMENTAL
PUBLICATIONS OF THE COUNTY OF ROCKLAND**

STILLEY/CLEARY: UNAN.

WHEREAS, the Legislature of Rockland County having heretofore appointed the *Rockland Journal News* as the official newspaper of the County of Rockland; and

WHEREAS, the Legislature of Rockland County has previously designated several newspapers as supplemental publications; and

WHEREAS, the Legislature of Rockland County having determined that the due process rights of the people of Rockland County will be enhanced by the occasional supplemental publication of legal advertising of the County of Rockland in supplemental publications, as aforesaid; and

WHEREAS, the publication of Rockland County legal notices in said supplemental publication shall be discretionary and for informational purposes only, said papers are not designated as an official publication of the county and need not be used in every instance of the County giving official notice; now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that for the year 2026 the *Rockland Journal News* is designated the official newspaper of the County of Rockland for the purpose of publishing all local laws, notices and other matters required by law to be published and that the following:

El Sol de New York
Hamodia

are appointed as supplemental publications, for informational purposes of the County of Rockland for the purpose of discretionary publication of legal advertising for the County of Rockland and all its departments and any other advertising authorized by the Legislature.

**RESOLUTION NO. 7 OF 2026
ELECTION OF MAJORITY LEADER
(TO BE VOTED ON BY MAJORITY MEMBERS ONLY)**

DAVIDSON/HOOD, JR.: UNAN.

RESOLVED, that pursuant to the Laws of Rockland County Section 149-7 that Hon. Alden H. Wolfe, Legislative District 6, be and is hereby elected Majority Leader of the Rockland County Legislature for the year 2026.

Statement by Hon. Alden H. Wolfe

Majority Leader, Hon. Alden H. Wolfe appoints Hon. Dana G. Stilley as Deputy Majority Leader.

It's my honor to designate my esteemed colleague Dana Stilley as the Deputy Majority Leader for 2026. She is someone who has tremendous intellect and is thoughtful and very willing to serve. She has really embraced her position as a public official, and I look forward to working with her.

Statement by Hon. Dana G. Stilley

I just want to thank our Chairman, and of course, thank the Majority Leader, and thank all my colleagues for your support. I will do my very best in this position.

**RESOLUTION NO. 8 OF 2026
ELECTION OF MINORITY LEADER
(TO BE VOTED ON BY MINORITY MEMBERS ONLY)**

JOBSON/KENNELLY: UNAN.

RESOLVED, that pursuant to the Laws of Rockland County Section 149-7, that Hon. Lon M. Hofstein, Legislative District 5, be and is hereby elected Minority Leader of the Rockland County Legislature for the year 2026.

Statement by Hon. Lon M. Hofstein

I look forward to another year of trying to work with Alden, but I will rise above once again. In all seriousness, I think we've had a very good relationship between the two sides, and I look forward to working together again this year. We've managed to try to put aside what goes on in the Federal and State government and concentrate on what's happening here locally. I think that it proves by the work that we've carried out here in the Legislature and by the idle banter that goes along, that could only be done by people that truly consider each other friends. So, thank you all and I look forward to another year.

Minority Leader Hon. Lon M. Hofstein appoints Hon. Raymond W. Sheridan III as Deputy Minority Leader.

ADJOURNMENT IN MEMORY OF ANTHONY "TONY" J. DEFECIANI

Moved by Chairman Jay Hood, Jr./Seconded by Legislator Paul C. Cleary

**RESOLUTION NO. 9 OF 2026
ADJOURNMENT**

Mr. Jobson offered the following resolution, which was seconded by Mr. Hopstein and was unanimously adopted (7:31 p.m.)

RESOLVED, that the meeting of the Legislature is hereby adjourned to Wednesday, January 21, 2026 at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Darcy Shapin-Greenberg
Legislative Operations Coordinator