

County Advocacy Day February 3rd, 2026

We had meetings with Assemblyman Matt Simpson at 9am, Assemblywoman Carrie Woerner at 10am, and Senator Dan Stec at 1pm. The major issues facing Warren County:

1. Address Unintended Impact of Even Year Election Law: Advocating to amend County Law to clarify that the **term of the Board of Supervisors will begin and end only when there is a change in the majority voting power of the Board**. This would minimize some of the unintended consequences caused to Warren County and the six sister counties which have an incorporated city within its boundaries. As it now stands, since we have a city in the County and the constitution says cities elect representatives in odd numbered years, the Supervisors from the City of Glens Falls will continue to be elected in odd numbered years thus making every year an election year for the Board of Supervisors.
2. Support A.9287 AK Brown. AN ACT to amend the public health law and the penal law, in relation to **criminalizing certain sales and possessions of nitrous oxide**. This would enable us to control the sale of nitrous oxide cannisters at our smoke shops and gas stations, etc.
3. Support NY Senate Bill S.784 **Elimination of the tax Cap Requirement for Raise the Age (RTA) reimbursement**. Counties who stay below the 2% tax cap are reimbursed 100% for RTA funding. Counties that exceed the 2% tax cap are at risk for 100% reimbursement making them cover the costs at the county level.
4. Support Bills Senate 1004 Brouk and Assembly 5567 Simon While it is no secret that a certain percentage of our Public Defender Office clients suffer some form of mental health challenges, recently the number of defendants who appear incapacitated (unable to appreciate the nature of the proceedings against them or to aid in their defense) are being referred for psychological evaluation. There has been a shocking increase in defendants who are found incapacitated and referred to the custody of the State Commissioner of Mental Health or State Commissioner of the Office for People with Developmental Disabilities. Once referred, they undergo "restoration" services designed to restore the defendant to competency. The cost of these restoration services is \$1,600 per day and can continue up to two-thirds of the maximum sentence for which the defendant stands charged. This \$1,600 per day charge is borne 100% by the county. These costs have jumped to a near crippling 60% year over year. These are Warren County's costs the past six years.

2020	\$42,170
2021	\$222,075
2022	\$498,000
2023	\$845,614
2024	\$1,654,550
2025	\$1,139,350

5. Clean Energy Initiatives hurt the North Country. Electrical infrastructure is insufficient without extremely expensive modernization, the costs of which will be passed on to our taxpayers. Battery operated vehicles will not operate effectively and efficiently in our area.
6. Second item for Raise the Age legislation. When the was passed into law it placed the responsibility for the transportation of adolescent offenders on Sheriff's Offices without any reimbursement or compensation. New York State lacks sufficient housing to secure adolescent offenders requiring transport across New York State. The transport diverts officers from core public safety duties creating significant impacts on operations, public safety and fiscal stability.
7. Additional RTA. Public defenders and assigned counsels often receive better funding and staffing than DA offices. This disparity leaves DAs carrying larger caseloads and managing the substantial "burden of proof" and discovery responsibilities with fewer attorneys. Furthermore, under current law, all prosecutors are now subject to the Commission on Prosecutorial Conduct. The Commission is reportedly seeking to expand its authority to include former prosecutors, which raises critical questions regarding who will provide legal representation for those summoned and how those costs will be covered.
8. NYS should explore partnerships with counties to repurpose underused state-owned facilities for the development of secure youth detention and/or rehabilitative treatment facilities. This is in response to the lack of secure detention beds in the state.
9. SNAP funding decreases and additional Federal funding cuts to Medicaid and other social programs will place more burden on counties. Help protect counties from Federal cost shifts.
10. Expanding the County Partnerships Program to unlock economic development, housing, and infrastructure investment statewide.
11. Investing in water infrastructure through predictable, dedicated state support to protect public health.
12. Investing in affordable housing initiatives.
13. Maintain Childcare funding.
14. Keeping the cap on Medicaid.

