

# **OVERVIEW OF TIOGA COUNTY LOCAL GOVERNMENTS**



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Tioga County in Conjunction with the  
Tioga County Council of Governments  
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## **INTRODUCTION**

The Purpose of this report is to provide citizens and newly elected officials with an “overview” of local governments and agencies in Tioga County, and to some extent help the reader understand the relationships between agencies, schools and governing units. Included in this document are Villages, Towns and County Governing bodies, School Districts, also quasi-governmental agencies, non-profit agencies and volunteer organizations that coordinate closely with governmental officials and services. If you need comprehensive information it is available from the agencies, departments and local governing units themselves. Numerous services available in Tioga County are included in this report. Editorial choices were exercised to keep this document at a readable length. It is the Tioga County Legislature’s, Tioga County Council of Governments, and my sincere hope that this information will prove useful to you.

For specific contact information refer to the Departments also the Towns and Villages connections on the home page of the County web site ([www.tiogacountyny.com](http://www.tiogacountyny.com)) or to locate telephone numbers click on the government icon and scroll down to phone numbers.

Ed VanDeMark

## **TAXING ENTITIES IN TIOGA COUNTY.**

This is a comprehensive listing of all of the local governmental taxing authorities in Tioga County. No property is subject to taxation by all of these entities.

1. Tioga County
2. Towns (9)
  - A. Barton
  - B. Berkshire
  - C. Candor
  - D. Newark Valley
  - E. Nichols
  - F. Owego
  - G. Richford
  - H. Spencer
  - I. Tioga
3. Villages (6)
  - A. Candor
  - B. Newark Valley
  - C. Nichols
  - D. Owego (includes Village of Owego Fire Department)

- E. Spencer
- F. Waverly

4. Primary School Districts (6)

These are the school districts that are largely or in whole located in Tioga County.

- A. Candor Central School District
- B. Newark Valley Central School District
- C. Owego/Apalachin Central School District
- D. Spencer/VanEtten Central School District
- E. Tioga Central School District
- F. Waverly Central School District

Note: Tioga County students attend three different BOCES (Broome, Chemung, and Tompkins) Districts BOCES (Board of Cooperative Educational Services) receive their funding from the participating School Districts and not by direct taxation.

5. Secondary School Districts (8)

These are the school districts that are primarily located in other Counties but do enroll students from Tioga County and do tax properties in Tioga County.

- A. Dryden Central School District
- B. Ithaca City School District
- C. Maine/Endwell Central School District
- D. Marathon Central School District
- E. Newfield Central School District
- F. Union/Endicott Central School District
- G. Vestal Central School District
- H. Whitney Point Central School District

6. Fire Districts (13)

- A. Apalachin Fire District
- B. Berkshire Fire District
- C. Candor Fire District (includes Candor and Weltonville Fire Departments)
- D. Halsey Valley Fire District
- E. Lockwood Fire District
- F. Lounsberry Fire District
- G. Newark Valley Fire District
- H. Nichols Fire District
- I. Richford Fire District
- J. Spencer Fire District

- K. Tioga Center Fire District
  - L. Town of Owego Fire District (includes Campville and Southside Fire Departments)
  - M. Waverly Barton Joint Fire District
7. Town of Owego Lighting Districts
  8. Town of Owego Sewer Extension Districts
  9. Town of Owego Water Extension Districts

State and Federal agencies also serve Tioga County. Some of the State and Federal services are seen directly as in the Federal Post Offices located throughout the County, and the New York State Department of Transportation Office located on Upper North Ave. in Owego. Some services are regional and administered from other Counties. Still others are joint local and state or local and federal operations supported by two or even three levels of governments. One such agency is the Tioga County Soil and Water Conservation District; another program that is supported by multiple levels of government is Cornell Cooperative Extension. In agencies of this type the funding is pooled and these agencies report to separate boards of directors. Other examples of quasi-local agencies are the Industrial Development Agency (IDA), and the Local Development Corporation (LDC) and Tourism Office.

## **PROPERTY TAX EXEMPTIONS**

### **VETERAN’S EXEMPTION**

These exemptions vary from one municipality to another. The County sets its rate, each Town sets its rate, as does each Village. Municipalities are able to opt to not offer this exemption. Municipalities may also opt for what form of this exemption they wish to offer. Rates can be up to but not exceeding 15% for veterans serving in time of war (as established by New York State) and 25% for veterans serving in a war zone. There is also an eligible fund veteran exemption, and a disability exemption. Disability exemptions are determined by a formula with a variable for the extent of the disability being taken into consideration. This affects only the property tax and is only available on the primary residence of the veteran. For an exemption to be effective it must be filed with the Town Assessor by March 1<sup>st</sup>. If the veteran moves the exemption must be reapplied for. For detailed information and on-line forms go to web site [www.ORPS.state.ny.us](http://www.ORPS.state.ny.us). This exemption is not available for school taxes.

### **BASIC STAR TAX EXEMPTIONS & ENHANCED STAR TAX EXEMPTIONS**

These exemptions apply only to school taxes and only on the primary residence of the taxpayer. Basic STAR Tax Exemptions apply to all New Yorkers that own their own one, two, or three family home, condominium, cooperative apartment or mobile home. The Enhanced STAR Tax Exemption applies to New Yorkers that

meet the above standard plus are age 65 or older and meet established income limits. The personal or husband/wife income may not exceed \$60,000 to be eligible for the Enhanced STAR Tax Exemption. Income verifications for the Enhanced program must be submitted annually with your Town Assessor not later than March 1<sup>st</sup>. There is however an exception to this requirement. The person applying for the Enhanced STAR Tax Exemption may sign an income verification form that permits the Town Assessor to gain access to your income information. This will avoid the necessity to reapply annually. The Basic STAR Tax Exemption need only be applied for one time or one time following a change of primary residence. For detailed information or forms go to web site [www.ORPS.state.ny.us](http://www.ORPS.state.ny.us).

## **TAXES OTHER THAN PROPERTY TAX**

### **SALES TAX**

Sales tax in Tioga County is 8 ¼%. New York State gets 4 ¼%, the County collects 4%. The County shares 1% of the Sales Tax with the County's nine Towns and six Villages. Of the 3% that the County retains for its own use 2 ½% goes to the General Fund and ½% goes to fund Capital projects such as the 1995 County Public Safety Building.

### **TRANSFER TAX**

This tax is on the transfer of property located in Tioga County from one owner to another. The tax is \$2.00 for every \$500.00. Part of this tax stays with the County and part of it is sent to New York State. The County Clerk collects this tax.

### **VEHICLE USE TAX**

This tax is \$10.00 or \$20.00 (depending on the weight of the vehicle) on every auto registration or renewal. The County License Bureau (DMV office) collects this tax. The money is sent to the State. The State keeps a small handling fee and returns the remainder (almost all of this tax) to the County. This money is put into the County General Fund. The County only receives this money if the registration or renewal takes place at the Owego License Bureau or if the person mailing this transaction to the State changes the Utica address to the Owego Address (56 Main St. Owego, NY 13827).

### **DMV SALES TAX RETENTION FEES**

DMV returns \$.50 or \$1.00 of the Sales tax collected by the Tioga County License Bureau to the County. Fifty cents is returned if the transaction is tax exempt and one dollar is returned if it is not tax exempt. This money goes into the County General fund. Again the same rule applies with regard to the County receiving funds as in the Vehicle Use Tax.

### **DMV RETENTION FEE**

The County gets 12.7% of all money collected by the County License Bureau at its Owego Office (or if the address on the mail in form is changed from Utica to Owego). This money goes to the County General Fund.

**NOTE: You help the Tioga County General Fund if you use the Owego License Bureau. If you do your transactions by mail (without changing the address) or in another County, Tioga County does not receive this money. You pay this tax or these fees regardless of where you conduct your business.**

### **HOTEL/MOTEL TAX**

This tax is 3% of the Hotel or Motel bill and the entire tax is used for tourism and recreation.

### **FEES**

Various departments within local municipalities charge fees for all or part of their services. These fees go toward offsetting the cost of delivering these services.

## **LOCAL GOVERNING BODIES**

### **VILLAGES**

Tioga County has numerous communities with recognizable names but only six incorporated villages. Incorporated villages can raise taxes and offer public services; they each elect a mayor and a village board (board members are known as trustees) to govern that village. With one exception Village Clerks are appointed. The Clerk in the Village of Owego is elected because Owego is one of less than two dozen Chartered Villages in NYS. Chartered Villages are set up and operated differently than merely Incorporated Villages. Services commonly offered by incorporated villages are police, justice courts (elected position), fire, public works, parks, water and sewer, also historian(s). While not every village offers all of these services they can be available under the auspicious of a village board. Tioga County's six incorporated villages are Candor, Newark Valley, Nichols, Owego, Spencer, and Waverly. Other communities such as Apalachin, Berkshire, Campville, Lockwood, Lounsberry, Richford, Tioga Center, Wilseyville etc. can not raise taxes, or elect officials, or offer services. These communities are part of a Township better known as a Town.

To better help you understand the above relationship consider the Town of Owego. The Town of Owego includes not just the Village of Owego, but it also includes Apalachin, Campville, Crestview Heights, Flemingville, Tioga Terrace and a large amount of rural land. The Town board governs all of these communities but in the case of an incorporated village such as the Village of Owego most but not necessarily all of the services are offered by the village rather than the Town. We have only used our largest Town as an example, but the reader should understand that this pattern exists to one degree or another in all of our

Towns. Note that most if not all Villages retain the services of an attorney that is appointed by the Village board to represent and advise them.

## **CITIES**

Tioga County has no Cities.

## **TOWNS**

Tioga County has nine Towns. Each Town elects a Town Supervisor, and Town Councilmen. Towns elect a Town Clerk (often acts as tax collector for the Town as well). All of the Towns in Tioga County also elect a Town Highway Superintendent. Note that the voters of a Town may choose to change the position of Highway Superintendent from an elected position to an appointed position, but in the absence of such an election to accomplish this the position remains an elected position. Each Town elects a minimum of one Town Justice. Some of our larger Towns elect two Town Justices. Towns are also responsible for assessments of properties for the purpose of taxation. Note: Over time property assessments can get out of alignment and the town board may decide to do a Town wide re-evaluation of property values, this is commonly known as a re-val. Towns are also responsible for Fire and Building Inspections (Code Enforcement), Zoning, Town Planning Boards and Dog Control. At present the Towns are responsible for raising taxes to pay for elections, but this may be shifting to the County with recent changes in State and Federal laws (Help America Vote Act). Towns may own and operate parks, and sewage treatment plants. Most appoint Historians to maintain the history of that township and assist people in searching the historic records of the Town. Note that as with the Villages, Town Boards appoint a Town attorney to represent and advise them in matters of law and policy.

## **COUNTY**

Tioga County has a Legislature consisting of nine elected Legislators. Legislative districts consist of a relatively similar number of citizens. The one-man one-vote rule of law requires that this be the case for legislative bodies. Some County's have a Board of Supervisors with each Town Supervisor also acting as a member of the County Board. The difference is that in the case of a County Legislature each legislator has a single vote on all issues, whereas with a Board of Supervisors each supervisor has a weighted vote depending on the size of the Town that he/she represents. Thus Supervisors representing the largest Towns have more power than those representing smaller Towns. The Town of Owego for example, has approximately 40% of Tioga County's population and if Tioga County had a Board of Supervisors the Town of Owego Supervisor would cast 40 of the 100 votes on every issue. As it is we have a County Legislature with each Legislator representing approximately the same number of people thus each has only one vote. This however requires that the County periodically move the boundaries of each of the nine districts due to shifting populations. This process is known as reapportionment. The nine County Legislators elect a chairman from among their members every January.

Other elected officials in Tioga County Government are as follows:

1. District Attorney whose responsibilities include prosecuting persons arrested of crimes.
2. Sheriff whose responsibilities include running a jail, being in charge of 911 dispatch, road patrol, investigators, a civil department and records.
3. County Clerk whose responsibilities include maintaining official records, and assisting County Court in various ways.
4. Treasurer whose responsibilities include investing County money, and supervising the accounting and payroll functions of County Government.
5. Coroners (4) whose responsibilities include official proclamation of death.

Note: The Tioga County Legislature does not have hiring or firing authority over elected officials but it does have authority over the budgets of the Departments that they manage.

6. Tioga County also elects a County Court Judge, but once elected the Judge is responsible to the State, not to the County, for the performance of his/her job and for his/her annual budget.

County government is the largest of all of the local governments within the County. There are numerous services that the County is mandated to provide by New York State and the Federal Government and others that are permitted by State and Federal law. In some cases the State and the Federal Governments share in the costs associated with these services. In other instances the County is responsible for the entire cost burden. The following is an alphabetical listing of Tioga County Departments and Divisions.

- Board of Elections
- County Attorney
  - County Attorney DSS (Department of Social Services) Division
  - County Attorney JD (Juvenile Delinquent) & PINS (Persons in need of Supervision) Division
- County Clerk
  - DMV (Motor Vehicles)
- District Attorney
- Economic Development and Planning (ED&P)
- Fire
- Health Department
  - Environmental Health
  - Nursing Service
  - Health Education
  - Children with Special Needs
- Coroners

- Weights and Measurers
- Historian
- Information Technology
  - Geographic Information Systems (GIS)
- Legislature
- Mental Hygiene
  - Alcohol and Substance Abuse Services
- Personnel
  - Civil Service
  - Benefits/Workers Compensation/Safety
- Probation
- Public Defender
- Public Works (Highway)
  - Buildings and Grounds
  - Solid Waste
- Real Property
- Records Management
- Sheriff
  - Jail
  - Road Patrol
  - E-911 Dispatch
  - Civil
  - Records
  - Criminal Investigation Division (CID)
- Emergency Management Office
- Social Services
  - Accounting
  - Adult Protective Services
  - Child Abuse/Neglect Hotline
  - Child Support Enforcement Unit
  - Energy Assistance
  - Food Stamp Assistance
  - Foster Care/Adoption Services
  - Fraud
  - Long Term Care
  - Medical Assistance
  - Public Assistance
  - Support Collection Unit
  - Youth Bureau
- STOP DWI (Special Traffic Options Program for Driving While Intoxicated) & Traffic Safety Office
- TASAP (Tioga Allied Services Assessment Program)
- Tioga Employment Center
- Treasurer
  - Budget Manager
- Veterans' Service Agency

## **TIOGA COUNTY COMMITTEE AND POSITION APPOINTMENTS**

This list is made up of committees and positions that are both paid and unpaid. Some involve contracts, others do not. It is also made up of committees that are exclusively County employees or elected officials or volunteer or contractors or a combination of County employees, elected officials and/or volunteers etc. Some committees/positions require professional level skills or licensing, while interested parties may staff others. At a minimum a general knowledge in the field is usually necessary for appointment. Some are appointments of persons to represent Tioga County on boards that are not County Committees or Boards. For detailed information contact the Clerk of the Tioga County Legislature.

- ADA Coordinator (Americans with Disabilities Act)
- AG & Farmland Protection Board
- Assigned Counsel
- Benefits Manager
- Board of Ethics
- Board of Health
- Broome Tioga Workforce Development Board
- Budget Officer
- Capitol Projects Committee
- Cleaning Contracts
- Code Enforcement Official
- Commissioner of Public Works
- Commissioner of Social Services
- Committee on Pre-School Special Education
- Community Services Board
- Cornell Cooperative Extension Board
- Council of Governments (COG)
- County Attorney
- County Auditor
- County Clerk
- Court Committee
- Criminal Justice Advisory Committee
- CSEA (Civil Servant Employees Association) Negotiating Team
- Deferred Compensation Committee/Trustee
- Democratic Nomination Minority Leader
- Director of Community Services
- Director of Patient Services
- Director of Real Property Tax Service
- Director of Weights and Measurers
- District Attorney
- Donations Committee/Certified Home Health Agency
- Early Intervention Official
- Economic Development Director

Election Commissioners  
Empire Zone Administrative Board  
Employment & Training Director  
Environmental Management Council  
Finger Lakes Association  
Fire Advisory Board  
Fire Coordinator  
Fire Investigation Team  
Fish & Wildlife Management Board  
Freedom of Information Officer  
GIS (Geographic Information System) Advisory Board  
Gravel Mining Application Review Committee  
Handicapped Parking Education Program Coordinator  
Hazardous Materials Team  
Historian  
IDA (Industrial Development Agency)  
Information Technology & Communications Services Director  
    Geographic Information System  
    Purchasing  
    Records Management  
Legislature, Chair  
Legislature, Clerk  
Local Conditional Release Commission  
Local Development Corporation (LDC)  
Medical Advisory Committee  
Medical Director/Medical Consultant  
Mitigation Plan Committee  
Municipal Electric & Gas Alliance (MEGA)  
Non Union Salary Committee  
NYS GIS Data Sharing Cooperative (Geographic Information System)  
Officer of Disaster Preparedness Director  
Off Track Betting Board (OTB)  
Owego Apalachin Middle School Committee  
Personnel Officer  
Planning Director  
Pre-Tax Premium Plan  
Printer  
Probation Director  
Professional Advisory/Utilization Review Committee  
    Certified Home Health Agency  
Professional Advisory/Utilization Review Committee  
    Long Term Home Health Care Program  
Public Defender  
Public Health Director  
Public Information Officer  
Purchasing Coordinator

Rabies Donation Committee  
REAP Board (Rural Economic Area Partnership)  
Records Advisory Board  
Records Management  
Region 7 Forest Practices Board  
Republican Nomination Majority Leader  
Retirees Association Committee  
Rules of Procedure Committee  
Sheriff  
Soil & Water Conservation District  
Solid Waste Manager  
Southern Tier East Regional Planning Development Board  
STOP DWI School Associates  
STOP DWI Coordinator (Special Traffic Options Program for Driving While Intoxicated)  
Tioga County Planning Board  
Tioga County Right to Know Officer  
Tioga Opportunities, Inc. (TOP)  
Traffic Safety Board (TSB)  
Transportation Committee  
Treasurer  
Trustee, Law Library  
Twin Tiers River Corridor Council  
Veterans Director  
Youth Board  
Youth Director

**TIOGA COUNTY CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE’S OFFICE:**

This office serves both the administrative needs of the Tioga County Legislature and acts as a point of contact for the public with Tioga County Government.

This office processes all Tioga County purchase orders, but questions involving payments should be referred to the County Department that incurred the expense.

Resolutions that come before the Legislature come through this office, but questions concerning resolutions should be referred to the Department that originated the resolution or the Legislative Committee Chair that sponsored the resolution on the floor at a Legislative meeting.

This office schedules the Hubbard Auditorium and the Legislative Conference Room (both located in the County Office Building). Groups may contact the Legislative Office to reserve these rooms for public use. Other public meeting places in the County are scheduled by other offices. Cornell Cooperative Extension has two adjoining rooms (one has a kitchen) that they schedule. The Multi Purpose Room at the Public Safety Building is primarily used for EMT, Fire and Police training, but is available for other meetings by

contacting either of the Sheriff's Secretaries or the Fire Coordinators Secretary. Other smaller spaces exist and are the responsibility of the County Department in whose space they are located. The Information Technology Department has a small training facility for computer training; it is available to County Departments by contacting the Director of Information Technology.

The Legislative Office is responsible for initiating and following through with requests for information from citizens and/or public officials. This is commonly known as Freedom of Information. The more technically correct term is Freedom of Information Law (FOIL). It needs to be understood that many documents are available to the public under this law but not every document is included in this legislation. It is the responsibility of this department to determine which documents are available and which are not. Those that are available will be provided. Freedom of information, however, doesn't mean that the documents are free. This department charges for copies.

Two members of this staff are Notaries. The primary reason that this office has Notaries is to notarize documents for County Officials. They will however notarize documents for the public, but they do charge for their services.

The Legislative Office is the **most likely** office to be able to direct the public to the locations of various meetings held in the County Office Building (They however will probably not have information concerning meetings taking place in other County Buildings and may be unaware of some of the meetings being held in the County Office Building). They are usually the best resource for determining which functions are handled by which County Departments or which Public Officials. Again it must be noted that this office will not be able to answer all of these questions, as the possibilities are almost endless.

The Legislative office is responsible for maintaining minutes of Legislative Committee Meetings, The Journal of Proceedings (Resolutions and Minutes of Legislative Meetings). Budgets and Salary Listings are likewise maintained in this office. Many of the County's Legal Notices are generated from this office. This department generates finalized internal County Policies. They house Official County contracts entered into by every County department.

Finally the Legislative Office receives mail for and schedules meetings with County Legislators. The Chairman of the County Legislature is located in this space.

## **FIRE DISTRICTS**

Each Fire District elects five Fire Commissioners, each receives a five-year term. The elections are staggered so that one fire commissioner is elected each year. Elections are held on the second Tuesday of December and are open to all eligible voters within that Fire District. The Five Commissioners of that Fire District annually (in January) elect a Chairman of the Board, and a Treasurer from among their members. The Fire Commissioners establish the budgets and raise all of the taxes for the Fire Departments

within their District. Fire Departments are headed by a Fire Chief. The Fire Chief is in charge of policy for that Department and is in charge at all fire scenes. Fire Chief's are elected by their individual departments but must meet specific training and experience qualifications established by New York State before they are eligible to run for Fire Chief.

There is a Fire Coordinator appointed by The Tioga County Legislature whose responsibilities include coordinating training for fire fighters and emergency medical technicians from all 15 of the County's Fire Districts/ Fire Departments. The Fire Coordinator may also be on fire scenes to support the Fire Chief with things like mutual aid, equipment needs, food and water needs etc.

As in many matters there are exceptions. The Village of Owego Fire Department reports to a Fire Commissioner appointed annually by the Mayor of the Village of Owego from among the trustees elected to the Village of Owego Board. The Owego Fire Department is not a part of any fire district. The Village Board is responsible for all fiscal matters related to this department. The Lounsberry Fire District is likewise an exception to the information above. This Fire District has no Fire Commissioners and exists for the sole purpose of raising taxes so that fire services may be contracted from the Town of Owego Fire District. The Town of Nichols receives this tax revenue and contracts out the service to the Town of Owego Fire District.

## **EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES (EMS)**

A Deputy Fire Coordinator in charge of EMS heads up this service. With the exception of this person and Advanced Cardiac Life Support (ACLS) people hired for daytime coverage in Berkshire, Candor, Owego and Spencer this service is totally staffed by volunteers. Additionally there are ACLS people located through out the entire County. Every ambulance that transports a person to the hospital must have at least one Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) or one ACLS person on board. Certified First Responders (CFR) assist on many ambulance runs. All Drivers must be minimally certified in CPR. The level of training from top to bottom is ACLS, EMT, CFR, and CPR. Each of these persons has volunteered their time to obtain these levels of competency to perform a volunteer service for the residents of Tioga County.

The following nine (9) Emergency Medical Services (EMS) are fire based EMS units (that means tax supported): Apalachin, Campville, Halsey Valley, Lockwood, Nichols, Owego, South Side, Tioga Center, and Weltonville. You may receive a letter asking for a donation but no bill will be sent.

The following four (4) EMS units are independent non-profit services (not tax supported) Berkshire (also serves Newark Valley and Richford), Candor, Spencer, and Waverly/Greater Valley. Candor and Spencer sell annual subscriptions (insurance) and may not bill subscribers for their service. Where health insurance policies are in place, however, the insurance will be billed to help recover part of the cost of the service. Berkshire and Waverly/Greater Valley may send bills for their service.

E-911 dispatches to all thirteen EMS units and an ambulance will respond regardless of whether the service is tax supported or not.

## **TIOGA COUNTY EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT OFFICE**

This Department coordinates between the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and local County, Town, and Village Officials in times of emergencies. (FEMA reports to the Homeland Security Department). This department's function also includes keeping Tioga County in a constant state of readiness for emergencies by regular training of local officials and keeping current written procedures and protocols in place in the event of an emergency or natural disaster. Some examples of emergencies and natural disasters that this department would help coordinate in an effort to assure the safety of Tioga County citizens are: Chemical Spills, Power Outages, Bio-Terrorism, Plane Crashes, Blizzards, Floods, Tornadoes, and Ice Storms

## **MISCELLANEOUS AGENCIES**

These Agencies offer public services to Tioga County residents and many but not all receive some public financial support or in-kind services from various levels of government.

- Accord – dispute resolution services
- Catholic Charities of Tioga County – outreach
- Chamber of Commerce – promotes Tioga County
- Cornell Cooperative Extension – education plus numerous other services
- Council of the Arts – arts
- Industrial Development Agency (IDA) - promotes economic growth
- Local Development Corporation (LDC) – promotes tourism & economic growth
- Rural Economic Area Partnership (REAP- LDC) – promotes economic growth
- Soil and Water Conservation District – soil and water services
- Environmental Conservation Officers – fish & wildlife enforcement
- Tioga County Council on Alcoholism and Substance Abuse (TCCASA) alcohol & drug education
- Tioga/Chemung County Farm Services Agency (FSA)
- Tioga/Chemung Natural Resource Conservation Services (NRCS)
- Tioga County Tourism Office – promotes tourism
- Tioga Opportunities Inc.
  - Department of Aging Services
  - Department of Community Services
  - Department of Family Health Services
    - Family Planning
    - WIC (women, infants, children)
  - Head Start
  - Department of Housing Services

## **OUR TIOGA COUNTY COURT SYSTEM:**

### **JUSTICE COURTS**

There is a Justice Court located in every Town and most of the Villages in the County. The Towns of Barton, Newark Valley, Nichols and Owego each have two courts serving their community. The Villages of Newark Valley and Nichols do not have courts. The Justice is an elected official and does not have to be an attorney. Justice Courts are the lowest level courts in Tioga County. They are both criminal courts and civil courts. They handle arraignments on all criminal cases and keep cases through sentencing that are at the misdemeanor or violation level. These courts also handle vehicle and traffic matters such as speeding tickets. In cases where the evidence indicates that a felony charge is appropriate the Justice Court will either take a not guilty plea and refer it on to County Court or will convene a preliminary (also known as a felony) hearing to determine if this case should be referred on to County Court. On Civil matters Justice Courts hear such things as evictions and law suits for less than \$3,000.

### **COUNTY COURT**

This Court hears both criminal and civil matters. On the criminal side this court hears felony cases. On the criminal side this court hears felony cases that are prosecuted via a Grand Jury Indictment or a Superior Court Indictment. A defendant can waive a grand jury proceeding and have his/her case presented to the court via a Superior Court Indictment. County Court jurisdiction over civil matters is limited to cases where the amount in controversy does not exceed \$25,000.

### **FAMILY COURTS**

These courts hear cases that involve matters such as Juvenile Delinquency (JD), Persons in need of Supervision (PINS), Child Abuse and/or Neglect as well as Custody and Support.

### **SURROGATE COURT**

These courts hear cases involving matters such as Guardianship, Adoptions, Estates, and Competency.

### **SUPREME COURT**

This is a Statewide Court. In large population areas of the State this court will hear criminal cases but in rural counties like Tioga. the Supreme Court doesn't hear criminal cases. In Tioga County this court presides over divorce proceedings, and cases involving civil matters that exceed \$25,000. These cases include such things as auto accidents, contractual disputes, and slander.

### **APPELLATE DIVISION OF THE SUPREME COURT**

Tioga County is in the 3<sup>rd</sup> Department. This court hears appeals of civil matters and criminal convictions that occur in County Court. These proceedings take place in Albany, NY.

## **COURT OF APPEALS**

This is New York State's highest court and is located in Albany, NY.

## **DRUG COURT**

Tioga County does not have a Drug Court at this point in time. Work is in progress to establish a Tioga County Drug Court and is expected to be operational by October of 2005. Drug Court is an alternative to conventional court for persons arrested of drug or alcohol offenses. This is a program for a small number of persons. A contract is signed between the offender, the offender's immediate family and the court whereby the offender can ultimately receive a reduced sentence if a specific treatment plan including curfews is strictly adhered to. If the offender fails to meet every aspect of this contract for one year that person will be sentenced to a harsher sentence than would have been imposed had he/she never entered the Drug Court Program.

## **TIOGA COUNTY JURY COMMISSIONER**

The Jury Commissioner is responsible for developing a jury pool. This pool is developed using Real Property, Voting, and Motor Vehicle Records.

## **TIOGA COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY**

The District Attorney tries cases in Justice Court, County Court, and in the Appellate Division of the Supreme Court 3<sup>rd</sup> Department.

## **TIOGA COUNTY PUBLIC DEFENDER**

The Public Defender represents defendants that are financially unable to retain an attorney to represent them in criminal cases in Justice and County Courts.

## **ACCORD**

**(NOTE):** *This is not a governmental agency* but it offers a valuable service to the County and the Court system. The County contributes to Accord by providing Office Space at no cost, beyond that Accord receives no local governmental financial support. Accord is a statewide organization, under the New York State (NYS) Unified Court System. There is at least one Accord Office in every County in NYS. Accord mediates family disputes for the Family Court System, and Small Claims for the Justice Courts (they also mediate disputes that have not become a part of the court system so called off the street cases, neighbor vs. neighbor etc.). Accord small claim decisions are considered a Contract and violations of these contracts can be contested in court. Accord can not mediate for a third party (i.e. a child) thus decisions in Family Court matters only become binding if the court makes these decisions a court order. Accord is an effective means of keeping cases out of the courts and thus reducing the time it takes to get court cases heard. Accord does **not** charge for its services.

## **TIOGA COUNTY PROBATION DEPARTMENT**

Probation provides three services to the community: Intake, Investigation and Supervision. The Probation Department serves the County Court and Surrogate Court. Each county in NYS is mandated to have a Probation Department. Probation performs Intake services for individuals seeking Person in Need of Supervision (PINS) petitions against children and for Juvenile Delinquency (JD) appearance tickets by police. Under the PINS program Probation delivers adjustment services for youth under age 18 in an effort to adjust habitual behaviors to avoid Family Court intervention and expensive out-of-home placements. The JD Program provides mandated and voluntary services to suitable 7-15 year olds that have committed acts that would be a crime if they had been an adult. Electronic monitoring is employed in selected cases as a means of home detention to reduce detention costs.

The Department completes hundreds of investigations each year that are ordered by all the courts listed above. These investigations aid the judge in making decisions regarding sentencing. Adults and children that are sentenced to or placed on probation are supervised by the department for a proscribed period of time depending on their conviction or adjudication. This includes Intensive Supervision for high-risk offenders. With adult high-risk offenders frequent contact is maintained and quick returns to court for individuals who fail to comply with the conditions of probation. Intensive Supervision means daily contact for the unemployed and twice-weekly contact for employed persons and includes two home visits per month.

Probation also collects fines and restitution that are imposed by County Court. In an average year \$90,000 is collected in restitution, \$60,000 in DWI fines and \$10,000 in DWI supervision fees. The Probation Department additionally runs two alternative to incarceration programs for all criminal courts: Pre-Trial Release and Community Service. In the Pre-Trial Release Program newly arrested persons are interviewed daily at the jail to see if they are eligible for release on their own recognizance (ROR) while their case is pending in court. If the defendant is determined eligible under standards established by the State, the Probation Department presents this finding to the presiding judge. If the judge agrees the defendant is released and must call the Probation Department weekly until sentenced. There is however no mandate that the judge release the defendant. The Community Service Program allows judges to sentence defendants to performance of community service hours in lieu of jail time. The completion of these hours is monitored by Probation. Probation and the Sheriff's Office combine forces to operate a program where defendants complete community service hours on the weekends doing projects for municipal and non-profit agencies while under the direct supervision of a Corrections Officer.

Some Probation Officers have specialized caseloads for DWI or sexual offenders. These defendants are mandated to attend treatment programs and often have restrictive conditions such as random drug and alcohol testing, ignition interlock program and strict residency requirements.

Terms of probation are PINS one year, JD two years, Felony five years, Sex Offender Felony ten years, "A" Misdemeanor three years, Sex Offender "A" Misdemeanor six years and "B" Misdemeanor one year.

New York State law requires that DNA samples be taken from defendants that are convicted of most felonies and some misdemeanors. The Probation Department obtains buccal cell samples from defendants under their supervision. NYS law also requires that sex offenders convicted of specific crimes be registered with the NYS Division of Criminal Justice Service (DCJS). The sentencing court does this if the defendant is sentenced to probation or to jail and probation. Probation registers all convicted sex offenders transferring into New York State. Probation Officers fingerprint all defendants transferring into Tioga County from out of state. All adult probationers are photographed.

Probation is authorized under the Executive Law of the State of New York. Probation Officers are Peace Officers with responsibilities including public safety, successful rehabilitation and re-integration of offenders into the community.

### **TIOGA COUNTY ALCOHOL AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE SERVICES**

This clinic of the Tioga County Mental Hygiene Department conducts evaluations of defendants to determine alcohol dependency and substance abuse for any court requesting them. This agency also does out patient treatment of persons sentenced to treatment as a condition of their court-imposed sentence. Outpatient addictions treatment services are also offered to individuals who voluntarily seek help for addiction issues.

### **TIOGA COUNTY POLICE AGENCIES:**

Police agencies with a local presence in Tioga County include The New York State Police, Tioga County Sheriff's Department, Village police departments in Candor, Owego, and Waverly and a Town police department in Spencer. Note that the Candor and Spencer police departments are part-time police departments. The NYS Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) has two enforcement officers permanently assigned to Tioga County.

#### **THE NEW YORK STATE POLICE**

The NYS Police presence in Tioga County is a sub-station that is connected to Troop C headquarters located in Sidney NY. While a full array of police services are provided by Troop C the Owego sub-station personnel are primarily responsible for traffic enforcement and answering complaints.

#### **TIOGA COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE**

The Sheriff is responsible for a full compliment of policing services throughout the County. This Office has a road patrol, responsible for handling traffic enforcement, accident investigation, traffic control and answering complaints. The Sheriff's Office has a part-time water patrol maintaining safe boating activities. E-911 dispatch is responsible for dispatching all of the County police

agencies, emergency medical, and fire services. The Criminal Investigation Division investigates all felony complaints. The Jail Division operates a 102 cell (this is the number of inmates that may be legally housed at any one time) jail facility that houses inmates sentenced to local jail time (local jail is generally one year or less in duration). It also houses State ready inmates who are awaiting an opening in a State prison facility. When ever this facility is not filled to capacity the jail division houses inmates from other NYS Counties whose facilities are full. The Sheriff's Office has a Civil Division and a Records Division as well. The Sheriff and his personnel cooperate with all local and State agencies, also agencies from other states and the Federal Government. Federal agencies include the Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA), Alcohol Tobacco and Firearms (ATF), the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), and the Secret Service. The Sheriff and the County's Emergency Manager advise the Chairman of the Tioga County Legislature with regard to traffic advisories, road closings, and states of emergencies, environmental and terrorist threats and incidents. The Chairman is responsible for making these declarations. The Sheriff is an elected official.

#### **TOWN AND VILLAGE POLICE DEPARTMENTS**

These police departments are responsible for traffic enforcement within their jurisdiction. Additionally they handle complaints, including domestic disturbances, burglaries, break ins, noise complaints, suspicious person investigations, accident investigations, traffic control and fights.

#### **FIRE POLICE**

Fire police are well-trained volunteers that handle traffic control at accident and fire scenes.

#### **TIOGA COUNTY STOP DWI (SPECIAL TRAFFIC OPTIONS PROGRAM FOR DRIVING WHILE INTOXICATED):**

The purpose of this office is to determine and implement the best means of reducing incidents of crashes caused by drinking drivers in Tioga County.

STOP DWI is funded in its entirety from fines collected from convicted drunk drivers (There are no tax dollars involved in the STOP DWI Program). The program funds such things as police equipment i.e.: breathalyzers and radars, overtime police patrols, prosecutors, law books, computer programs for courts, probation officers, alcohol and drug counselors, blood alcohol testing supplies, and equipment, funding for school programs, chemical free after prom parties, training for those involved in the DWI process, advertising and program administration.

STOP DWI and numerous agencies and courts work closely with the **Tioga County Victim Impact Panel** which is operated by the **New Hope Center**.

## **TIOGA COUNTY STREETS AND HIGHWAYS:**

Tioga County has a network of streets, roads and highways.

### **NEW YORK STATE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION (DOT)**

NYS DOT maintains state highways. Tioga County has a local DOT facility in Owego headed up by a Resident Engineer. This Resident Engineer reports to the Regional DOT Office in Hornell NY. The Resident Engineer and staff are responsible for maintaining NYS highways and bridges that are a part of that system in Tioga County. This includes patching and paving, snow removal, tree and brush removal where necessary and mowing. Some examples of state highways in Tioga County include the Route 17 expressway, Routes 17C, 96, 96B, 38, 38B, 79, 34, and 434. The Hornell office is responsible for all regulatory signage (i.e.: Stop Signs, Yield Signs, Rail Road Crossing Signs), all traffic lights, and establishing speed limits. This office is responsible for these regardless if they occur on a State highway, a County or Town road, or a Village Street. Only Towns of 50,000 or more people can establish their own regulatory signage. Tioga has no Towns of 50,000 people. The process for making a change to regulatory signage i.e. speed limits, stop signs, yield signs, is to convince the Town Board of that particular Town to pass a resolution requesting that the State make a change. That resolution is sent to the County Highway Commissioner to sign off on if he/she agrees with it and forward it to the Hornell office of DOT. (NOTE while our Towns are not permitted to change speed limits or other regulations they can and do change regulatory signage. They replace worn out or damaged signs, and they post changes in signage that are authorized by the State). Sometimes the Town Board will ask the Tioga County Traffic Safety Board to review the request and report back to the town board prior to considering the resolution. Paper work to begin this process begins with the Tioga County Highway Commissioner. The Hornell Office is also responsible for major upgrades and repairs to State highways, major bridge repairs and replacements on the State Highways. The Hornell office contracts most of its major bridge and highway construction to private contractors. It also contracts for line painting on State highways. State Highways run through other municipalities and the State is responsible for them. There are however services such as water, sewer, gas and electric lines buried below State highways as they pass through a village. In such cases the Village picks up the responsibility for those services.

### **TIOGA COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT**

DPW is responsible for Tioga County Highway Department, the Buildings and Grounds Department that maintains County owned buildings and property and the Tioga County Solid Waste Department with a transfer station located at 1216 Route 17C in the Town of Barton. The transfer station receives solid waste from citizens, private and public haulers for a fee.

#### **Tioga County Solid Waste Department**

Solid Waste manages the Transfer Station in the Town of Barton. In addition to normal solid waste they accept:

Scrap metal (no charge)  
Refrigerators, Freezers, Air Conditioners etc.(with or without Freon)  
(\$10.00 per unit)  
Household Batteries (no charge)  
Tires (on or off the rim) (call office for more information)  
Ballast containing PCBs (no charge)  
Florescent light bulbs and CFLs (Mercury vapor light bulbs) (no charge)  
Used motor oil (no charge)

The Transfer Station hours are as follows:

Tuesday and Thursday	8AM to 6PM
Wednesday and Friday	8AM to 2PM
Saturday	8AM to 1PM

The Solid Waste Department contracts with Broome County for the disposal of **Hazardous Waste**. Three dates are established each month from April through November. Hazardous waste including electronic equipment can be delivered to the Broome County Nanticoke Landfill located near the Broome County Airport on these dates. These dates are advertised in the newspaper and can also be acquired by calling the Solid Waste Department toll free at (800) 927-2323. This Department will also answer all questions concerning what constitutes hazardous waste as opposed to solid waste.

The Solid Waste Department manages the County **Recycling Program**. They contract this service out to Taylor Garbage (Southern Tier Recyclers), but the Solid Waste staff receives all reports, of missed pick-ups, requests for recycling bins and complaints toll free at (800) 927-2323 involving the program. There are recycling pick-ups on all holidays except Christmas or New Year's Day. The recycling will however be picked up on the Saturday following these holidays.

The **Tioga County Highway Department** maintains all County roads and bridges. Some examples of County roads are Glen Mary Drive, Halsey Valley Road, Ellis Creek Road, Day Hollow Road and West Creek Road. There are numerous other roads that are the responsibility of this department as well. Where a road, such as Day Hollow Road, crosses into another County, Tioga County's responsibility ends at the County line. Where a Town Road intersects with a County Road the County is responsible for that intersection. An appointed Public Works Commissioner who is a Licensed Civil Engineer heads the County Highway Department. The Commissioner is responsible for providing engineering services for Tioga County bridges and provides assistance and oversight on town and village bridges as well. New York State inspects all bridges. The County Highway Department occasionally builds a road, but is primarily responsible for maintaining County roads, including, paving, patching, guide rail, snow removal, tree and brush removal, mowing, center line painting,

making and installing road signage and deer removal. (This department also maintains its machinery and the Tioga County motor vehicle fleet).

### **TOWN HIGHWAYS**

Town Highway Departments have similar responsibilities to those of the County, except they are not responsible for bridge engineering. An elected Superintendent is the person responsible for roads designated as Town roads. When a Town road crosses a municipal boarder it becomes the responsibility of the other municipality. Town highway departments become involved in stream cleaning where necessary to maintain their roads. Some Town highway departments offer brush removal and tire removal.

### **VILLAGE STREET DEPARTMENTS (PUBLIC WORKS)**

Village Public Works maintain the streets within their jurisdiction. This often includes sidewalks and parks as well the streets themselves. These departments become involved with services below the street. Services included in this category may be gas, electric, sewer, storm drains, water and fire hydrants. In many cases however other agencies such as New York Electric and Gas or a private water company are responsible for these services. Snow removal becomes the responsibility of the Village except where a State Highway passes through that Village. Some Villages require residents to remove snow from sidewalks in front of their property and others offer (in whole or in part) this service. (Trash collection is sometimes the responsibility of Village Street Departments but is not necessarily always the case. Recycling is handled for all Tioga County municipalities by a contract with a private recycling company. The recycling contract is the responsibility of Tioga County). Some Villages provide street cleaning, some also offer leaf removal. Brush removal, furniture and appliance removal and tire removal are sometimes offered in various Villages. Street signage also falls to these departments.

**Cooperation** between highway and street departments is fairly wide spread. From September through April or May the various department heads meet monthly to discuss issues of common interest, and needs for sharing personnel and equipment. The County and most of the Towns and Villages have entered into an inter-municipal agreement that spells out the terms of such sharing arrangements.

Random Drug and Alcohol Testing is required by State and Federal Governments of all persons holding a commercial drivers license who are required by their employer to operate equipment that exceeds 26,000 lbs. Mechanics that work on such equipment are also subject to this regulation. All municipalities with employees in these categories must be involved in a program of this nature. Ten Tioga County municipalities have banded together to meet this responsibility jointly. This program is the result of cooperation established by the Tioga County Council of Governments (COG) and is managed by the Tioga County Personnel Department.

## **TIOGA COUNTY DEPT. OF SOCIAL SERVICES:**

This agency address numerous human needs, what follows is a brief alphabetical explanation of some of those programs.

### **ADULT PROTECTIVE SERVICES (APS)**

Services to adults 18 years and older that are unable to care for themselves, also adult victims of neglect or adult/elder abuse, This includes investigation, counseling, arranging for support systems, alternative living, medical care, legal services, receipt of entitlement, and coordination services.

### **CHILD PROTECTIVE SERVICES (CPS)**

Provides services to all families reported to the NYS Child Abuse/Neglect Hotline regardless of income level. NYS Hotline toll free number is 1 (800) 342-3720. This number is available 24/7 for reporting abused and neglected children.

### **CHILD SUPPORT PROGRAM**

Provides assistance in obtaining child support orders on public assistance related and non public assistance related child support cases. Provides location services for the purpose of securing support. Assists in establishment of paternity.

### **FOOD STAMPS**

Designed to increase nutrition level of low-income households by supplementing food purchase power. Allotment amounts vary by family size and income.

### **FOSTER PARENTING AND ADOPTION**

Supervises children placed in out-of-home placements. This program also supervises recruitment and certification of foster care homes and adoptive homes in the County. Counseling and referral services are available for unwed mothers and/or families regarding social, emotional, and economic problems with no regard to income.

### **INCOME MAINTENANCE UNIT**

Determines eligibility for grant-in-aid programs of public assistance, Medicaid, food stamps and energy assistance (HEAP). They are responsible for case maintenance in these areas. During heating season agency workers are available on an on-call basis for fuel emergencies at non-working hours. County residents that find themselves without fuel and funds after hours call the Sheriff's Department and leave their name and phone number, the on-call worker will contact the caller.

### **PREVENTIVE SERVICES**

Services provided to families whose children are at risk of foster care placement.

### **TASA – TEENAGE SERVICES ACT**

This program focuses on pregnant and parenting teens. It also assists with GED to complete education.

### **TIOGA COUNTY EMPLOYMENT CENTER (TEC):**

This is one of two one-stop Employment Centers in the Broome-Tioga Workforce NY System. There is no cost for these services; The Center is a fully federally funded service.

The two purposes of TEC are:

- To serve as a starting point for people seeking employment or a better job and who may need improved skills to find and perform that job.
- To function as the focal point for businesses needing employees and information about other labor related issues as they pertain to running a business.

TEC offers services through the following sources:

- NYS Dept of Labor (including Veteran's Representative)
- Work force Investment Act - Office of Employment and Training
- NYS Department of Education's Vocational & Educational Services for Individuals with Disabilities (VESID)
- Tioga County Department of Social Services Employment Programs

The following are available at the Tioga County Employment Center:

- Resource room with computers for job search activities
- Phone, fax, copier for job search activities.
- Employment counselors for job search assistance
- **Assistance with resumes, cover letters, applications**
- Job order processing for businesses needing workers.
- Job Fairs
- Employee pre-screening for businesses.
- Skills, aptitude and interest assessment.
- Post - Secondary and Vocational Training assistance.
- Financial Aid information.
- On the Job Training (OJT)
- The full resources of partners in the Broome – Tioga Workforce NY System.

## **TIOGA COUNTY YOUTH BUREAU**

The Tioga County Youth Bureau is a planning and granting agency for youth and families. The primary goal is delinquency prevention for all youth (up to 21 years old). The Youth Bureau addresses the goal of Delinquency Prevention by:

- Conducting ongoing needs assessment activities
- Funding programs that meet existing needs
- Coordinating and promoting existing resources
- Fostering resources to meet unmet needs

. The Youth Bureau does not provide direct services but rather provides funding to programs run by community based organizations, schools and municipalities. Funded programs address the priorities identified in the Youth Bureau planning process. The Youth Bureau operates with an advisory board consisting of youth and adults from throughout the County. Oversight of the Youth Bureau is done by the Tioga County Department of Social Services. The Youth Bureau distributes the “Fun in the Sun” summer activity brochure and provides information and referral for those looking for activities, programs and services for youth.

## **TIOGA COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT**

Attached is a brief overview of the functions of the various divisions within the Health Department.

### **CERTIFIED HOME HEALTH AGENCY**

Provides skilled nursing assessments, develops plans of care for people that are homebound and works with the Long Term Home Health Care Program.

### **LONG TERM HOME HEALTH CARE**

Provides nursing services for patients with long term disabilities or chronic illness that are medically eligible for nursing home placement.

### **PRIMARY AND PREVENT PROGRAM**

The services offered include:

- Well Child Clinics
- Immunization Clinics
- HIV Counseling
- STD (sexually transmitted diseases) Clinics
- Dental Education in Schools and Community Settings
- Lead poisoning prevention, education and follow-up
- Respiratory Clinic
- Prenatal, post-partum home visits
- First time parents visits
- High risk/ at risk home visits
- Facilitated Enrollment Site
- Adult Immunization
- Referrals and Outreach

### **Dental**

Dental Education in Schools and Community settings  
School Base Dental Health Care Program

**EARLY INTERVENTION PROGRAM**

Provides services for children with developmental delay, disability or condition, from birth to three years to enhance child's development. Services include:

- Child Find
- 3-5 Program
- Physically Handicapped Children's Program
- Children with special health care needs

**HEALTH EDUCATION**

Services include:

- Tobacco Awareness and Education
- Healthy Living Partnership Program
  - Breast, cervical colorectal and prostate health
- Community Health Information
  - (888) 369-0700
  - [www.tiogacountyny.com](http://www.tiogacountyny.com)
- Healthy Heart and Physical Activity Promotion
- Injury Prevention and Safety
- Emergency Preparedness

**PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY RESPONSE PROGRAM**

**ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH**

Services include:

- Rabies Program
- Public Water Supply
- Environmental Radiation
- Community Sanitation and Protection
- Environmental/Occupational Health
- Tobacco Compliance
- Weights and Measures

**TIOGA COUNTY MENTAL HYGIENE:**

The Mission of the Department of Mental Hygiene is to assure that Tioga residents affected by mental/emotional, chemical dependency and/or developmental problems have affordable access to those services and support that will assist them to live, work, learn and pursue healthy, caring responsible lifestyles.

To meet its mission the department provides direct services, contracts for additional services and plans in cooperation with other State and Local agencies for mutual assistance.

The Mental Hygiene Department provides 24-hour 7 day-a-week crisis coverage.

#### **MENTAL HEALTH CLINIC TREATMENT SERVICES**

Services available in both Owego and Waverly

The Clinic works with people of all ages that present a need for counseling or evaluation services. Professional intake workers assist clients by helping them identify problem areas and setting goals for treatment. The consumer is then referred to appropriate services that could include individual, group, marital or family therapy, case management services or medication treatment by a psychiatrist.

#### **CHILDREN AND YOUTH SERVICES**

Evaluation, consultation and counseling services are provided at Waverly, Newark Valley, and Spencer VanEtten school districts.

#### **MICA**

These services provide treatment and support for persons with dual diagnosis of mental illness and chemical addictions. Services include individual and group sessions. Treatment is tailored to meet the individual's needs and emphasizes a team approach to afford clients the best chance to recover from both addiction and mental illness.

The Mental Hygiene Dept. provides 24-hour crisis coverage. This is primarily a phone service but same day appointments can be made for emergency situations.

#### **ALCOHOL AND DRUG SERVICES**

The Owego and the Waverly sites are both licensed to offer services) Services include evaluation, treatment and referral. Treatment services include individual and group counseling and may range from classroom education to psychotherapy and from Intensive Outpatient Program to Relapse Prevention and Aftercare. Specialized services for adolescents, women and families and for persons affected by a current or past relationship with a substance abuser are available. The Alcohol and Drug Services coordinates services with the NYS Dept of Motor Vehicles, the Courts, Probation, Parole, Social Services Mental Health, and Medical Providers. The ADS Staff conduct evaluations and support to inmates of the Tioga County Jail on a weekly basis. Alcohol and Drug services can be provided on a court mandated or voluntary basis.

### **TIOGA COUNTY PERSONNEL AND CIVIL SERVICE DEPARTMENT**

This agency provides services to the general public, municipalities and School Districts within Tioga County as well as the various County Departments. An overview of the primary program areas follows:

- **Civil Service Administration**

Civil Service examinations are conducted throughout the year and resulting Eligible Lists are maintained to provide Appointing Authorities candidates for consideration when hiring in the County, Towns, Villages, School Districts and Special Districts. Compliance with Civil Service regulations is monitored and annual payroll certification is performed on each municipality/District.

- **Benefits Administration**  
Orientations for new County employees are conducted bi-weekly and assistance to all County employees on all aspects of fringe benefits is provided.
- **Workers Compensation**  
All municipalities within Tioga County participate in a self-insured Worker's Compensation consortium, which is managed by the County Personnel Department.
- **Tioga County Consolidated Municipal Health Insurance Program**  
Most municipalities within Tioga County participate in a Premium Credit health insurance program, which is managed by the County Personnel Department.

## **ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND PLANNING (ED&P):**

A basic look at the ED&P function of County Government shows us that we plan for our economic and social future. The Economic & Planning Departments are consolidated to offer an approach to business that is more complete and responsive.

### **PLANNING**

The Planning Department offers research, technical assistance and advice to municipalities on such matters as comprehensive planning, local laws, zoning ordinances, planning and zoning reviews, and storm water compliance. Additional services offered by the Planning section of ED&P include agricultural district reviews and staff support to the Tioga County Planning Board, the Tioga County Agricultural & Farmland Protection Board and the Tioga County Planners' Association.

### **Planning Boards**

The County has a County Planning Board and all municipalities except the Village of Candor, have Planning Boards made up of chiefly volunteers. At least one Town pays Planning Board members a small stipend. While planning boards have largely advisory authority on zoning and land use issues most do have site plan review authority and make recommendations that are usually followed by the appropriate governing boards.

### **ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

The mission of Tioga County Economic Development and Planning is to increase the number of job opportunities, reduce the local per-capita tax burden and facilitate the highest quality of life for our residents. From

planning to community development to structuring your next business venture, we are a one-stop shop of professionals dedicated to finding solutions. We provide planning outreach; networking with municipal, state and federal officials; and work with new and existing businesses.

For in-depth information regarding ED&P services and resources, visit [www.developtioga.com](http://www.developtioga.com).

### **The Tioga County Industrial Development Agency (TCIDA)**

NYS General Municipal Law permits Counties, Towns and Villages to sponsor Public Benefit Corporations for the purpose of actively promoting, attracting, encouraging, and developing recreation, economically sound commerce and industry. In Tioga County, the County Legislature acts as the appointing body for the Tioga County Industrial Development Agency (TCIDA) which was created in 1969 to serve this purpose.

To learn more about the TCIDA, their policies and procedures, past and current activities, members of the Board of Directors, their duties and responsibilities, and more, visit [www.developtioga.com](http://www.developtioga.com)

### **The Tioga County Local Development Corp. (TCLDC)**

The Tioga County Local Development Corporation (TCLDC) consists of a nine member Board of Directors that is appointed by the County Legislature. The **Tioga County Tourism Office**, an office of the TCLDC is dedicated to growing the tourism industry of Tioga County by promoting its attractions, the rural character, quality of life, and charm of the county to attract out-of-county visitors.

To learn more about the TCLDC and the Tioga County Tourism Office, visit [www.developtioga.com](http://www.developtioga.com)

### **Tioga County Empire Zones**

The Tioga County Empire Zone (EZ) was designated on 6/6/98. The Mission of the EZ is to support both public and private sector activities that increase job opportunities and private investment in local businesses. The EZ program is an important economic development tool to retain and attract businesses. Using the EZ incentive program we have added tools to retain our existing expanding businesses and help new businesses with startup within the zone area. There are six subzone areas contained within the designated two square mile zone area allowed. These areas are the most populous, have existing or expanding infrastructure and are located

in strategic transportation areas. These areas are within the main industrial and commercial areas of Apalachin, Village of Owego, Town of Owego, Village of Waverly and Town of Barton areas. There are currently over 75 businesses certified in the Tioga County Empire Zone.

### **Tioga County Rural Economic Area Partnership (REAP)**

Tioga County received federal designation as a REAP Zone in 1999. This community based organization identifies projects in communities and county-wide that will improve the infrastructure, capacity, diversity, economic viability, competitiveness and overall quality of life in rural Tioga County. Identified REAP Zone projects which apply for USDA funding may receive a competitive advantage by competing for money designated to be used only in REAP Zones. Members of the REAP Board of Directors represent every town and village in Tioga County as well as a representative for county-wide issues – agriculture, emergency services, housing, human services, infrastructure and youth – and a County representative. REAP works with communities to provide technical assistance with grant writing, facilitation of community forums, connections to regional, state and federal resources and assistance in benchmark projects. REAP strategic goals and identified benchmarks as well as other information is available on the REAP website@ [www.tiogareap.org](http://www.tiogareap.org). Contact information for REAP: 56 Main St., Owego, NY 13827, (607) 687-8258, [reap@co.tioga.ny.us](mailto:reap@co.tioga.ny.us).

## **TIOGA COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS**

Town and County Elections manages Town and County Elections. The Help America Vote Act will eventually have some impact on the process as listed below, however it is not expected to change the process extensively. Currently the cost of Town, County, State and National elections is covered in the Board of Elections budget. Meaning no charge backs to the towns.

The Board of Elections Office is made up of two Election Commissioners (one Democrat and one Republican) appointed by their respective political parties and paid by Tioga County. Two Deputy Election Commissioners (one Democrat and one Republican) are appointed by their respective Election Commissioner.

Other election officials include two re-canvassers (one each Democrat and Republican). These officials review the election the day following the election. Each Town has two Election Custodians (one each Democrat and Republican). These officials are dispatched to a site as situations require on Election Day. These persons maintain, set up and take down the voting machines. There are four Election Inspectors in each of the County's 48 Election Districts (one Democrat and one Republican) for the eighteen Voting Devices.

**Note:** When listing the two parties it is proper to list the party of the current Governor first.

**PRIMARY ELECTIONS**

Occur on the first Tuesday after the second Monday of September (except when this conflicts with Jewish Holiday).

**GENERAL ELECTIONS**

Occur on the first Tuesday after the first Monday of November.

**PRESIDENTIAL PRIMARIES**

Occur in March once every four years as needed.

**FEDERAL ELECTION**

Include President/ Vice President, two Senators, and Congressmen/women

Tioga County is divided between two Congressional Districts.

- The 22<sup>nd</sup> Congressional District includes the following areas in Tioga County: Towns of Barton, Nichols, Spencer and the entire Town of Owego except Districts 3, 4, and 10.
- The 24<sup>th</sup> Congressional District includes The Towns of Berkshire, Candor, Newark Valley, Richford, Tioga, and Election Districts 3, 4, and 10 in the Town of Owego.

**STATEWIDE ELECTIONS**

Include Governor/ Lieutenant Governor, Comptroller, Attorney General, State Senator, Assemblymen/women and various Judgeships.

\*Tioga County in its entirety is in the 52 Senatorial District.

Tioga County is split between two Assembly District as follows:

\*Assembly District 123 includes the Towns of Berkshire, Candor, Newark Valley, Owego, Richford and Spencer

\*Assembly District 137 includes the Towns of Barton, Nichols and Tioga.

**COUNTYWIDE ELECTIONS**

Include nine County Legislators from seven election districts, County Court Judge, District Attorney, County Clerk, County Treasurer, Sheriff and four Coroners.

**TOWN ELECTIONS**

Include Town Supervisor, four Town Councilmen/women, Town Clerk, Town Justice (one or two depending on local decision), and Highway Superintendent. Assessors may be appointed or elected per town law.

## **VILLAGE ELECTIONS**

Include Mayor, Trustees (the number varies between Villages), Village Justice in Candor, Owego, Spencer, and Waverly, and Clerk Treasurer in Owego. The Village Clerk is in charge of Village elections, which occur on the third Tuesday of March and may request poll books, lists of voters and the use of multiple voting machines.

## **FIRE DISTRICT ELECTIONS**

Occur on the second Tuesday in December. Every Fire District except Lounsberry elects five Fire Commissioners. Fire Districts may request poll books, lists of voters and the use of voting machines.

## **SCHOOL BOARD AND SCHOOL BUDGET ELECTIONS**

Are Held on the third Tuesday of May. The Number of School Board Members varies from School District to School District. The School Board members elect their own President from among their members. School Districts may request a list of voters, poll books and the use of multiple voting machines.

## **COUNTY CLERK**

This office is located in Owego and performs numerous functions. The Department of Motor Vehicle also comes under the direction of the Tioga County Clerk.

Some of the services that are offered by the Clerks Office are the following:

- \* Record real estate transactions and maintain the records for public research and viewing.
- \* File judgments and liens and maintain the records
- \* File civil actions for both County and Supreme Court
- \* Passport applications
- \* Swear in elected and appointed officials and maintain record of the oaths of office
- \* Issue DBA (doing business as) for sole owners and partnerships
- \* Swear in notaries and authenticate signatures
- \* File and maintain military discharge records
- \* File and maintain coroner's reports

NOTE: this office no longer handles Sporting Licenses, or Pistol Permits. Town Clerks handle Sporting Licenses, and the Sheriff's Department is responsible for Pistol Permits.

Some of the services offered by the Tioga County Department of Motor Vehicles are:

- \* Learners permits and CDL test given
- \* Driver's License renewals
- \* Vehicle, boat, snowmobile, and tractor trailer registrations
- \* Non-driver ID issued

## **TOWN CLERKS**

Note that not every Town Clerks Office offers all of these services but most of them handle most of these services and can direct residents to the appropriate place for the services listed below that are not covered by that office:

- \* Issue Marriage Licenses
- \* Dog Licenses
- \* Sporting Licenses (Hunting and Fishing)
- \* Maintain Birth/Death and Marriage Certificates
- \* Issue Building Permits (some towns have separate offices for this service)
- \* Are the Receiver of Town and County Taxes
- \* Maintain minutes of Town Meetings
- \* Act as the Freedom of Information Law (FOIL) Officer for the Town (**Note:** The County Freedom of Information Law (FOIL) Officer is the Clerk of the Tioga County Legislature not the County Clerk).

## **VILLAGE CLERKS**

Not all Village Clerks offices operate exactly the same way. Listed below is a general list of some of the services that Village Clerks are responsible for.

- \* Some are both Clerk and Treasurer
- \* Some act as the Village Assessor (in others this is a separate function)
- \* Send out Village Tax Bills
- \* Receive Village Taxes
- \* Maintain Assessment Tax Rolls
- \* Prepares and Presents Village Budget
- \* Prepares Legal Notices for the Village
- \* Issues Business Licenses for the Village
- \* Issues Building Permits for the Village
- \* Runs Village Elections
- \* Hands out paperwork for Code Enforcement
- \* Acts as the liaison between citizens and Village elected officials
- \* Acts as Secretary for the Village Board

## **REAL PROPERTY**

This office is the local office that mediates between the Assessors and the public, also between the Assessors and the State. They work with Lawyers, Abstracters, Realtors, Oil Officials and the Public to name a few. They answer Assessment Questions, Tax Questions, and Tax Map Questions. They maintain the tax rolls for Schools, County, Towns and Villages. They maintain the Tentative Rolls and Files from the Assessing Offices. They generate all local tax bills. This office maintains GIS maps, Pictometry DOQQ (Pictometry with tax boundary lines overlaid), and the State RPS system.

The following is a comprehensive listing of services offered by the Real Property Tax Department with an indication of the beneficiary of each of these services:

### **County**

- A.) Assist other County Departments
- B.) Produce County Tax Bills and Tax Rolls
- C.) Maintain County taxable assessments on their computer for all Towns and Villages (as provided by the assessing units)
- D.) Title Searches and Deed Releases for Highway Takes
- E.) Appraisals for Social Services (DSS)
- F.) Act as Expert Witness for Fair Hearings for Social Services
- G.) Consultant to other Counties in Tax Foreclosure Proceedings
- H.) E 911 contact information for the public
  
- I.) Assists the County Treasurer's Office with Tax Foreclosure and Auction
- J.) Dispose of County and DSS Surplus Property

### **Towns**

- A.) Provide up-to-date Tax Maps
- B.) Take their Assessor Field Books
- C.) Produce Assessor Annual Reports\*
- D.) Maintain Real Property System
- E.) Maintain County Wide Bank Coding System as kept by Tax Collectors
- F.) Provide New Assessors Orientation\*
- G.) Provide Training & Certification to Members of Board of Assessment Review\*
- H.) Produce Assessor Exemption Reports\*
- I.) Produce Town Totals for Town Purposes
- J.) Produce Town Tax Rolls and Tax Bills
- K.) Investigate Town Tax Errors\*
- L.) Entering Relevy of Tax Special District Charges into System
- M.) Maintain Town Special District Benefit Districts
- N.) Maintain Special Franchise, State land & Public Utilities Assessment

**Note:** services designated by a \* are required by law.

### **Schools**

- A.) Produce School Tax Totals
- B.) Produce School Tax Rolls & Tax Bills (18 School Districts)
- C.) Investigate School Tax Errors\*
- D.) Supply Information Regarding Exemptions to School Districts
- E.) Advise School Districts as to Property Tax Administration Matters
- F.) Advise School Districts as to Town to Town Status on Equalization Rates, i.e. Special, Tentative & Final

Note: services designated by a \* are required by law.

### Villages

- A.) Produce Village Tax Assessment Rolls
- B.) Produce Village Tax Rolls & Tax Bills (6 Villages)
- C.) Produce Village Assessors Annual Report
- D.) Produce Village Assessors Exemption Reports
- E.) Produce Village Tax Totals for Non-Assessing Unit Villages
- F.) Input Village Return Relevies into System, i.e. Water, Sewer

### Public

- A.) Investigate Tax Error Problems
- B.) Provide Public with Information Regarding Exemptions & Assessments
- C.) Answer Legal Questions Regarding Property Taxes
- D.) Answer Legal Questions Regarding Tax Foreclosures
- E.) Public Relations, Speeches, Etc.
- F.) Provide Information Regarding E911 Problems/Addresses
- G.) Answer Questions Regarding Information on Owners Names and/or Addresses, Tax Map Numbers, Etc.

### New York State

- A.) Provide Real Property Systems Files Copies
- B.) Provide Data for Equalization Rate Surveys
- C.) Provide Tax Maps as Needed
- D.) File Tape Copies of Tax Rolls
- E.) Provide Information Regarding Changes in Assessors & Board of Assessment Review Members
- F.) Help Investigate Assessor Complaints
- G.) Teach Tax Collection & Enforcement Component of County Director Training

## **TIOGA COUNTY RECORDS MANAGEMENT OFFICE**

This Office is under the management of **Information Technology and Communication Services (ITCS)**. This office preserves official records for the County in accordance with NYS Law. The department also keeps an up to date accounting of the County's fixed assets. The public generally comes into contact with this office when people are doing genealogical work. They have census reports and old deeds on microfilm. They additionally have records of surnames and cemetery records.

## **HISTORIAN**

The County Historian studies the history of the County and prepares articles for print concerning County history. The historian also does public speaking, with schools and community groups.

All nine Townships also have historians, as do the Villages of Candor and Spencer. The Village of Owego has a Historic Preservation Commission.

## **TIOGA COUNTY INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY AND COMMUNICATIONS SERVICES (ITCS):**

This department exists primarily to service the internal flow of information and communications for County Government, but to do so it sometimes reaches out into other areas of government and the community. The department also keeps up-to-date accounting of the County fixed assets. Four areas this department touches that go beyond the internal workings of the County are Geographic Information Systems (GIS), Real Property Tax, Records Management and ITCS maintains the County Web Page with links to Tioga County Towns and Villages.

The work of this department affects many aspects of community life ranging from Public Safety and Public Health to printing tax notices. The department however seldom interacts with the public. The public should rarely find a need to contact this department directly as their responsibilities chiefly include servicing other County departments. It is usually more appropriate for the public to contact the other department(s) directly.

## **TIOGA COUNTY LAW DEPARTMENT:**

The Law Department consists of three separate functions. It consists of the County Attorney, and two separate divisions each headed by an Assistant County Attorney. Those divisions are the DSS (Department of Social Services) Division and the JD & PINS (Juvenile Delinquent and Persons in Need of Supervision) Division. The Assistant County Attorneys report to the County Attorney, but are on the Department of Social Services payroll.

### **THE COUNTY ATTORNEY**

The Attorney represents the corporation of Tioga County and its employees and officials in legal matters pertaining to County affairs. The County Attorney also advises County Elected Officials and Department Heads in matters of law. All contracts signed by County officials must be reviewed and approved by the County Attorney prior to being signed. The Chairman of the County Legislature will not sign any Official County document until it has been reviewed and approved by the County Attorney.

### **DSS DIVISION**

Deals largely with issues involving child welfare and child support and contractual matters for the Department of Social Services.

### **JD & PINS DIVISION**

Prosecutes juvenile offenses.

## **Tioga County Safety Office**

The Tioga County Safety Officer is responsible for some functions that are exclusive to the County while others include services to Towns and Villages. The Safety Officer is a part time employee and works alone.

Responsibilities include: ensuring compliance with federal and state safety standards. This includes developing and implementing hearing conservation policies and programs. Additionally policies and programs in the following areas: lock out- tag out, respiratory protection, personal protective equipment, work place violence prevention and numerous others.

The Safety Officer also administers the federally mandated Commercial Drivers License (CDL) drug and alcohol testing program for the County and ten municipalities. Testing takes place in three locations throughout the County.

The Safety Office maintains the License Event Notification System (LENS) for employees who are required to drive on County business as part of their County job duties.

The Safety Officer is responsible for the accessibility portion of the American's with Disabilities Act (ADA) for the County.

The Safety Officer also serves as the County's Right to Know Officer, Handicapped Parking Education Coordinator and coordinates the County's annual safety and blood borne pathogens training as well as the driver safety training course which every County employee who drives on County business is required to complete once every three years.

## **TIOGA COUNTY TREASURER'S OFFICE:**

Our County Government's financial life is centered in this office. They perform numerous functions. The functions covered here are chiefly those that intersect with the public and public officials.

Financial records are kept and maintained in this office. These records are subject to frequent audits. The Deputy Treasurer is the person mainly responsible for maintaining accounting records. The Treasurer doubles as the County Budget Officer and is responsible for assembling and drafting the annual County budget that is reviewed and eventually ratified by the County Legislature.

The Treasurer's Office handles County payroll and retirement reporting. They collect delinquent taxes, processes residency certificates for college students and others requiring residency certificates. They perform tax searches; maintain records for persons doing research on tax properties, collect dog funds from Towns and once a year distribute excess dog funds that have not been paid out in dog claims back to the Towns. They also collect bail money when directed to do so by the Court. The Treasurer keeps other count funds, abandoned property received from Coroners and surplus funds from mortgage foreclosure auctions.

The Treasurers Office distributes sales and mortgage tax back to Towns and Villages. They process Town budgets for inclusion in the Town and County tax bills.

The Treasurer is the property tax enforcement officer. Annually the Treasurer forecloses on properties on which the taxes have not been paid for the previous two years. These properties are returned to the tax rolls by means of a public auction. Information concerning these properties is usually available from this office in July of each year. (NOTE: when taxes are not collected on a property, the schools, the towns/villages and the fire districts are paid in full while the County bears the burden of the unpaid taxes. The sale of these properties goes toward making the County whole).

The County Treasurer invests County money, manages cash flow, pays down debt from bonding, and is the Surrogate Court appointed Administrator for the estates of persons that die without a will.

## **VETERANS SERVICES**

This County Veterans Services Department works with US Veterans on many issues. Some examples are as follows:

Assistance filing claims and referrals for:

- \* Exposure to Agent Orange
- \* Persian Gulf hazards
- \* Medical treatment for women
- \* Service-connected disability
- \* Non-service pension
- \* Education benefits
- \* Vocational rehabilitation
- \* Medical & dental benefits
- \* Employment rights
- \* Home Loan Guaranty
- \* Insurance
- \* Civil Service credits
- \* Chemical dependency treatment
- \* Veteran status for Merchant Marines

Burial benefits:

- \* U.S. Flag

- \* Headstone or marker
- \* Burial/plot allowance

Survivors Benefits:

- \* Dependency & Indemnity Compensation (DIC)
- \* Pension
- \* Champus/Champva (**Note:** Tri-Care prime and standard are for active duty personnel [www.tricare.osd.mil](http://www.tricare.osd.mil)).
- \* VA Insurance claims

Completion of annual Eligibility Verification Reports

Replacement of lost discharge documents

Application for medals (NYS & Federal)

Tioga County War medal

Assistance upgrading or correcting military discharge

Assistance applying for the following NYS benefits

- State Veterans Home placement
- Blind Annuity
- Real Property Tax Exemption
- Reduced fee Hunting and Fishing License
- Free NYS Park Access Passes

VA Pensions for 100% disabled veterans are only available to veterans that served during wartime. There are two different wartime definitions that relate to different programs or services.

Federal/ State Definition of Wartime is as follows:

Indian War	January 1, 1817 to December 31, 1898
Civil War	April 12, 1861 to May 26, 1865
Spanish American War	April 21, 1898 to July 4, 1903
Mexican Border War	May 9, 1916 to April 5, 1917
World War I	April 6, 1917 to November 11, 1918
World War II	December 7, 1941 to December 31, 1946
Korean Conflict	June 27, 1950 to January 31, 1955
Vietnam War	August 5, 1964 to May 7, 1975
	February 28, 1961 to May 7, 1975
	(In Country Veterans)
Persian Gulf	August 2, 1990 to Present

State Dates for Wartime Definition tax purposes are:

Vietnam War	December 22, 1961 to May 17, 1975
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Lebanon  
Grenada  
Panama

August 25, 1982 to February 26, 1984  
October 23, 1983 to November 21, 1983  
December 20, 1989 to January 31, 1990

## **SPECIAL DISTRICTS**

### **TOWN OF OWEGO LIGHTING DISTRICT**

Street lighting is provided by the Town in eleven separate areas of the Town called lighting districts. It is funded by means of tax on the real property situated within each district.

### **TOWN OF OWEGO SEWER DISTRICT**

This is the area in the Town of Owego (outside the Village of Owego) that is served with public sewer. Town of Owego Route 38 Sewer District: this is the area of the Town that includes Route 38 Industrial Park, the Tioga County Public Safety Building (including the jail) and the Department of Social Services Buildings. This is funded by a fee charged to properties that benefit from this service.

### **TOWN OF OWEGO WATER DISTRICT**

This is the area in the Town of Owego That is serviced by public water. This district is funded by a fee charged to properties that benefit from this service. The Town of Owego Route 38 Water District is the area of the Town of Owego that includes the Route 38 Industrial Park, The Public Safety Building (including the jail), and the Department of Social Services Buildings.

## **TOWN AND VILLAGE CODE ENFORCEMENT**

Town and Village Code Enforcement Officials enforce the regulations that are contained in the New York State Uniform Fire Prevention and Building Code. These officials will generally try to help citizens understand the applicable codes if they are asked for clarification. Building Permits are issued by some of the Code Enforcement Offices.

In addition to the Universal Code there may be local codes such as zoning laws, sub divisions, and site plans. While the Code Enforcement Office can inform people concerning the local codes in their jurisdiction, the Tioga County Planning Office would be best equipped to explain these local codes for the County as a whole.

The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) and the NYS Department of Health have additional rules that are enforced by the Tioga County Environmental Health Department.

Some municipalities require that water and septic systems be designed by a Licensed Professional Engineer, others don't. Some municipalities require building permits for siding work and window replacement and others don't. There are other variations as well.

Town Code Enforcement Officials cover the entire Township except for the incorporated Villages (Candor, Newark Valley, Nichols, Owego, Spencer, and Waverly), which have their own Code Enforcement Officials. The recommendation is that your local Code Enforcement Office is your best first step in your process of understanding what applies to your situation.

## **TOWN AND VILLAGE SEWAGE TREATMENT**

There are five sewage treatment and wastewater plants in Tioga County. The Village of Waverly and the Village of Owego each operate one facility. The Town of Nichols operates one plant and the Town of Owego operates two facilities. The two village facilities cover village residents and businesses. The Town of Nichols facility provides sewage treatment for the Best Buy facility. The Town of Owego's two plants are located in Owego and Apalachin. The Apalachin and the Village of Owego facilities accept septage that has been pumped from private septic tanks. The Owego plant services the Town's two main employers (Lockheed Martin and Sanmina) the Route 17C Business District (including the Owego Treadway Inn) and the sub-division near Lockheed Martin. The Apalachin plant services most of residential Apalachin and parts of Campville and Crestview Heights.

## **TOWN AND VILLAGE PUBLIC WATER**

The Towns of Owego and Nichols provide municipal water. The villages of Waverly, Newark Valley and Candor also provide municipal water. Public water is available in the villages of Nichols and Owego as well but it is handled by a privately owned company (United Water of Owego). The Town of Nichols public water system services the Best Buy facility. The Town of Owego has water service available to Lincolnshire, Tioga Terrace, and Crestview Heights Developments, also to the P&C area of NYS Route 17C, and parts of Apalachin. (The same areas as the sewer covers except that United Water services Lockheed Martin and Sanmina).

## **TOWN AND VILLAGE PARKS**

Many Tioga County Towns and Villages have parks for public use. They range in size and function from very small grassy areas to large parks with numerous uses. This is a simple listing of the parks by municipality without regard to their function. Small parks will not be designated in any way, medium size parks are designated by \* and large parks by \*\*.

- Town of Barton
  - Barton Pavilion
  - Lockwood Pavilion
- Town of Berkshire
  - Baseball Field
- Town of Candor
  - Upper Dam
- Town of Newark Valley
  - Alexander Park
- Town of Owego
  - Campville Commons \*

Hickories Park \*\*  
 Muth Park \*  
 Tioga Blvd. Park  
 Eric Alzate Memorial Park  
 Woodside Road W. Park  
 Marshland Road Boat Access  
 Town of Richford  
     Rawley Park  
 Town of Tioga  
     Ransom Park\*  
 Village of Candor  
     Hull Park  
     McCarty Park\*  
     McNeil Pavilion  
     Moyer Park  
 Village of Newark Valley  
     Trout Ponds\*  
     Village Green  
 Village of Nichols  
     Kirby Park\*  
 Village of Owego  
     Bolland Park  
     Court House Square  
     Draper Park  
     Hyde Park\*  
     Hallstead Park  
     Livingston Park  
     Marvin Park \*\*  
     Mayor's Park  
 Village of Spencer  
     Nichols Park \*  
     Spencer Youth Association Sports Center  
 Village of Waverly  
     East Waverly Park \*  
     Mini Park  
     Muldoon Park  
     Palmer Park  
     Pershing Point  
     Shepard Park  
     Waverly Glen\*  
 Apalachin Fire District  
     Field Day Grounds\* (only available to public if rented)  
 All Tioga County School Districts have extensive athletic fields,  
 additionally Owego Apalachin, Tioga Central and Waverly Schools have  
 swimming pools.

## **TOWN AND VILLAGE RECREATION PROGRAMS**

The following municipalities run recreation programs for youth: Town of Owego, Village of Waverly/Town of Barton, Town of Tioga/Village of Nichols, Village of Newark Valley/Towns of Berkshire/Richford/Newark Valley, Town and Village of Candor, Village of Owego, and Village of Spencer.

## **TOWN AND VILLAGE CEMETERIES**

Several of our towns and villages maintain public cemeteries (some are very large). Additionally the County has one small cemetery located next to the Social Services department.

## **TOWN DOG KENNEL**

Town of Candor maintains its own dog kennel to benefit the Town of Candor only. All the other Towns pay a fee to existing non-governmental kennels for housing dogs that they are responsible for.

## **TIOGA COUNTY COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS (COG)**

The COG was formed in the early 1990's for the purpose of having elected legislative and executive personnel meet on a regular basis to discuss topics of common interest and concern. Numerous projects in sharing resources as well as ideas have resulted. Most of the Towns and many of the Villages send representatives to this meeting. The County also participates and additionally provides staff support to the COG. Speakers are commonly invited to share their expertise. The COG meets most months on the third Thursday at 7:00 PM in the Tioga County Office Building, however some meetings travel to other locations. The COG rarely meets in July or December. For detailed information call the Tioga County STOP DWI Coordinator. Every participant volunteers his or her time to serve on the COG.

## **TIOGA COUNTY TRAFFIC SAFETY BOARD (TSB)**

The TSB is a ten member body appointed by the Tioga County Legislature to discuss traffic safety and traffic flow issues. The TSB makes recommendations to units of government and private enterprise with regard to ways to improve both highway safety, and traffic flow. The TSB also reviews various grant applications involving highway safety issues and makes recommendations for approval or rejection. All of the TSB members are volunteers. Meetings are generally held quarterly. For detailed information contact the Tioga County STOP DWI Coordinator.

## **TIOGA COUNTY SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT**

The mission of the Tioga County Soil and Water Conservation District is to assist individual landowners, groups and units of government with any natural resource concern that is brought before it. This may take the form of technical advice, technical assistance, or finding a solution from another source. The Tioga County Soil and Water

Conservation District's main goal is to provide technical assistance relative to natural resources and water quality conservation to residences of the county. The assistance is available on a one on one basis and may include soils info, drainage, water conservation, critical area seeding, tree planting for reforestation, erosion and sediment control assistance, and pond /lake management and protection. This District also provides soils classification data to landowners applying for Agricultural exemptions on their property tax assessments as well as supplying best management practices to farmland operators to reduce soil loss through erosion and protect and promote water quality within the watersheds in Tioga County. Tioga County SWCD will develop and implement programs and services necessary to address the needs of the county. . SWCD will further assist in implementation of decisions by seeking and coordinating technical and financial assistance from federal, state and local governments and private sources.

This agency receives 69% of its funding from Tioga County, 13% from New York State, with the remainder coming from grants and Earned Income Programs including their Conservation Planting Program (sale of trees and shrubs). They report to a separate board of directors and not to the Tioga County Legislature.

Services and programs offered by the Soil and Water Conservation Department include:

- Agricultural Assessments
- Agricultural Environmental Management
- Envirothon
- Hydroseeding
- Aerial Photos and Map Resources
- No Till Drill
- Nutrient Management Plans
- Pond Management Advice
- Stream Cleanup Assistance
- Stream Permit Assistance
- Storm water Phase II
- Timber Stand Improvement
- Tire Cutter
- Tree/Shrub Program
- Trout Stream Stocking
- Water Testing
- Wetland Monitoring
- Wildlife Information

## **CORNELL COOPERATIVE EXTENSION OF TIOGA COUNTY**

(NOTE: Cornell Cooperative Extension is a non-profit educational agency that is an extension of Cornell University. According to the 2002 Annual Report 49% of

Cooperative Extensions budget came from New York State, 18% from Tioga County, 17% from Volunteers, 12% from the Federal Government and 4% from other sources). A Local Board of Directors directs the activities Cornell Cooperative Extension Tioga County. Web site [tioga@cornell.edu](mailto:tioga@cornell.edu).

The Objectives of Cooperative Extension are: To provide education and information to residents of Tioga County in cooperation Cornell University, USDA (United States Department of Agriculture), and the state of New York.

- To extend the educational resources of Cornell University and New York State Colleges of Agriculture and Life Sciences, Human Ecology, and Veterinary Medicine to the people of Tioga County to foster economic, social and environmental improvements.
- To enable people to improve their lives and communities through partnerships that put experience and research knowledge to work.

Cooperative Extensions objectives are realized through four major program areas and the programs that make up these program areas.

#### 1.) FAMILY & 4-H YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

- Family Development with locations in Owego and Waverly
- 4-H Program for youth ages 5-19
- Safety Education and Awareness
- Prudential Youth Leadership Institute
- Reality Check

#### 2.) COMMUNITY HEALTH & WELLNESS

- Food \$marts
- Master Gardener Program
- Growing Communities through Community Gardens
- Food Security and Nutrition Coalition
- The Pumpkin Patch – Elementary School Gardens
- The Grow-Line

#### 3.) AGRICULTURE PROGRAM

- Two teams serving five Counties Chemung, Cortland, Tioga, Tompkins, and Schuyler (CCTTS).
  - A. South Central Agriculture
  - B. CCTTS Dairy and Field Crops
- Goals for Local Agriculture

#### 4.) COMMUNITY RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT

- Land Use
- REAP (Rural Economic Area Partnership).

Note that these programs change to meet the developing and changing needs of the County.

## **TIOGA OPPORTUNITIES INC. (TOI)**

(NOTE: Tioga Opportunities is a *private not for profit* multi-purpose inter-generational human services agency that emerged from the Kennedy/Johnson era “War on Poverty”. Under the Reagan Presidency it came under the Community Services Block Grants (CSBG) which is administered by the states. In New York State these programs come under administrative purview of the NYS Dept. of State. The Dept. of State receives federal allocations and uses these funds to carry out its mission consistent with national goals that deal with over coming poverty. TOI receives its funding from the Dept. of State yet TOI is not a governmental agency.

TOI Departments include:

### **DEPARTMENT OF AGING**

(Note this Department is a County Agency in most Counties but Tioga County signed over the Rights to operate this program to TOI).

- Alzheimer’s Services
- Elder Care Support Program
- Expanded In-Home Services for Elderly Program (EISEP)
- Friendly Visiting/Telephone Reassurance Program
- Health Insurance Information, Counseling & Assistance Program (HIICAP)
- Health Promotion
- Home Energy Assistance Program (HEAP)
- Information and Assistance
- Legal Services
- Ombudsman Program
- Outreach
- Personal Emergency Response System (PERS)
- Power Partners
- Public Information
- Senior “SCOOP”
- R.U.O.K.
- Title V Senior Community Service Employment Program
- Volunteers
- Weatherization Referral and Packaging Program (WRAP)
- Nutrition
  - Congregate Dinning Centers (Dinner Bell)
  - Blizzard Boxes
  - Home Delivered Meals
  - Nutrition Education and Counseling Services
  - USDA (United States Dept. of Agriculture) Farmers Market Coupon Program
  - Entertainment Grants

## Tioga County Senior Citizens Foundation

### **DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY SERVICES**

- Countryside Community Center
- Food Pantries and Soup Kitchens
- Kid's Café
- Home Energy Assistance Program (HEAP)
- Youth Employment Program
- Greater Owego Community pool (in conjunction with the Owego Apalachin School District).

### **DEPARTMENT OF EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT**

- Pre-Kindergarten Program
- Newark Valley Program
- Owego Apalachin Program
- Head Start

### **DEPARTMENT OF FAMILY HEALTH SERVICES**

- Family Planning Program
- School Programming
- Outreach to Communities
- WIC (Women, Infants Children) Program
- Child Passenger Safety Seat Loan Program

### **HOUSING SERVICES**

- Section \* Rental Assistance
- Rural Preservation Program
- Housing Rehabilitation
- Energy Services Programs
- Housing Management
- Property Maintenance and Improvement

### **TIOGA COUNTY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE**

**(NOTE: This is not a governmental organization and does not receive municipal funding).** The Chamber is, however, an important partner to Tioga County Government. The County partners with the Chamber in areas of Economic Development and Planning. Additionally the Chamber is very knowledgeable of governmental services and is frequently asked where one municipal service or another can be reached. While this is not their primary mission they do perform valuable referral services that benefit the entire community (including the public and local governments).

### **TIOGA COUNTY COUNCIL on ADDICTIONS and SUBSTANCE ABUSE INC.**

The Tioga County Council on Addictions and Substance Abuse (TCCASA) is a private non-profit corporation that operates with funding from New York State, the Tioga County Youth Bureau and other private funders. TCCASA provides prevention, education, advocacy and referral services for Tioga County individuals, families and communities who are affected by alcohol, drugs and compulsive gambling.

## **TIOGA COUNTY COUNCIL ON THE ARTS**

**(NOTE: This is a private non-profit agency not a governmental organization but it does offer services to various government entities and does receive funding from NY State, Tioga County, Town of Owego and the Village of Owego. This funding comes in the way of State and Local Governmental Grants (also private grants), operating funds, and contracts for services).** Some of the programs that benefit the public and have a connection to local and State Governments include: Concerts in the Park (Hickories Park), Kids Night Out (Village of Owego), Cultural Tourism (architectural tours, home tours, agricultural tours, and river tours), the Mural Program, Events, Classes, Bank Shows, plus the Council operates a Gallery.

## **TIOGA COUNTY TOURISM**

**(NOTE: This is not a Governmental agency but it is funded by the County's 3% hotel/motel tax).** The connection to County Government is through the Local Development Corporation (LDC), and the County's Economic Development and Planning Office. The Tioga County Tourism office is officially designated the Tourism Promotion Agency (TPA) for the County in the State of New York, being the primary contact with the State in all matters relating to tourism promotion and marketing. Currently office space is leased in the Tioga County Chamber of Commerce building at 188 Front St. Owego.

The goals of the Tourism office are to 1.) Increase the number of visitors to Tioga County, 2.) Raise the public and community's awareness of the tourism assets and cultural contributions of Tioga County, 3.) Ensure that the visitor experiences a friendly, fun and service oriented visit after arrival and while here, 4.) Create a team atmosphere for tourism industry to develop our County to its true tourism potential, 5.) Encourage orderly growth and development of tourism.

Tioga County Tourism initiatives and publications include: 1.)Tioga Advantage Card 2.) River Country Visitor's Guide, 3.) Calendar of Events, 4.) Welcome bags for group tours and convention attendees 5.) Tioga Journeys Bus/Walking Tours 6.) tourism literature distribution 7.) administration of the "I Love NY" matching grant marketing program and numerous other projects..

More can be learned from these resources: [www.visittioga.com](http://www.visittioga.com), and to receive or publicize your event through "This Week in Tioga" write to [events@visittioga.com](mailto:events@visittioga.com).

## **PUBLIC LIBRARIES**

The County, each Town and some Villages contribute a minor portion of the operating budgets of the Public Libraries within the County.

## **TIOGA COUNTY PUBLIC TRANSIT**

(NOTE: *This is a private for profit company*). They are under contract with the County to provide public transportation. They are also under contract with the Department of Social Services to provide transportation to Medicaid Clients, and with the Public Health Department to transport Pre-K (Pre-Kindergarten) Clients, and provides fixed route and dial-a-ride public transit services.

## **SCHOOL DISTRICTS**

Tioga County students attend one of 14 school districts. Six of these districts have facilities that are located exclusively or extensively in Tioga County (Candor, Newark Valley, Owego/Apalachin, Spencer/VanEtten, Tioga, and Waverly). The remaining eight draw students and taxes from the County but their facilities are located exclusively or extensively in other Counties. Tioga County students attend one of three BOCES (Board of Cooperative Educational Services) Districts. There are no BOCES facilities located in Tioga County (Broome, Delaware, Tioga BOCES is located in Binghamton, Chemung BOCES is located in Horseheads, and Ithaca BOCES is located near Ithaca).

The NYS Education Department has centralized all our School Districts. Each public school district offers a full range of educational opportunities from Pre-K through 12. All districts provide food service, and transportation. In addition to transporting students between home and school, the districts are also mandated to transport students to and from BOCES and private schools located in the County. Bussing for athletic and music programs also field trips as well as other activities are common place.

The School Districts offer distance learning and Internet opportunities for students. Three districts have swimming pools that are shared with the community (Owego/Apalachin, Tioga, and Waverly). The community uses school buildings and grounds for numerous community functions. Working relations between our school districts and local community colleges is common place; this frequently includes adult as well as high school students. BOCES offers staff development services for our schools.

Five districts hire non-professional staff from the Tioga County Civil Service list. Spencer/VanEtten uses the Chemung County Civil Service list. Security of faculty, students, the public and the school facilities is the responsibility of the district. Some districts contract this security from local police departments. Each district is responsible for its own negotiations with labor organizations.

Each district elects (non-paid) School Board Members to establish the policies for that district and to establish a school budget for voter approval. Public school budgets annually go to the public for approval on the third Tuesday of May. Each district

manages its own elections for budget and school board members. A School Superintendent manages all aspects of the operation of the district.

## **PRIVATE SCHOOLS, HOME SCHOOLS AND CHARTER SCHOOLS**

Tioga County has several Private Schools (church run schools) and numerous students are home schooled. Tioga County does not have any Charter Schools. The School Districts are responsible for transporting students to and from Private Schools, and home school students are permitted to participate in extra curricular school activities such as sports.

## **BROOME COMMUNITY COLLEGE (BCC)**

Courses are offered in Owego at the Tioga County Office Building. Courses are offered both days and evenings. Registration for these courses can be done at the BCC main campus on Front Street in Binghamton or at the Tioga County Chamber of Commerce.

## **THE CONSTITUTION OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK**

### **ARTICLE IX**

#### **Bill of Rights For Local Governments**

Section 1. Effective local self-government and intergovernmental cooperation are purposes of the people of the state. In furtherance thereof, local governments shall have the following rights, powers, privileges, and immunities in addition to those granted by other provisions of this constitution.

- (a) Every local government, except the county wholly included within a city, shall have a legislative body elective by the people thereof. Every local government shall have power to adopt local laws as provided by this article.
- (b) All officers of every local government whose election or appointment is not provided for by this constitution shall be elected by the people of the local government, or of some division thereof, or appointed by such officers of the local government as may be provided by law.
- (c) Local governments shall have power to agree, as authorized by the act of the legislature, with the federal government, a state or one or more other governments within or without the state, to provide cooperatively, jointly or by contract any facility, service, activity or undertaking which each participating local government has the power to provide separately. Each such local government shall have the power to apportion its share of the cost thereof upon such portion of its area as may be authorized by act of the legislature.
- (d) No local government or any part of the territory thereof shall be annexed to another until the people, if any, of the territory proposed to be annexed shall have consented thereto by majority vote on a referendum and until the

governing board of each local government, the area of which is affected, shall have consented thereto upon the basis of a determination is in the over-all public interest. The consent of the governing board of a county shall be required only where a boundary of the county is affected. On or before July 1<sup>st</sup>, nineteen hundred sixty-four, the legislature shall provide, where such consent of a governing is not granted, for adjudication and determination, on the law and the facts, in a proceeding initiated in the supreme court, of the issue of whether the annexation is in the over-all public interest.

- (e) Local governments shall have power to take by eminent domain private property within boundaries for public use together with excess land or property but no more than is sufficient to provide for appropriate disposition or use of land or property which abuts on that necessary for such public use, and to sell or lease that not devoted to such use. The legislature may authorize and regulate the exercise of the power of eminent domain and excess condemnation by a local government outside its boundaries.
- (f) No local government shall be prohibited by the legislature (1) from making a fair return on the value of the property used and useful in its operation of a gas, electric or water public utility service, over and above the cost of operation and maintenance and necessary and proper reserve, in addition to an amount equivalent to taxes which such service, if privately owned, would pay to such local government, or (2) from using such profits for payment of refunds to consumers or for any other lawful purpose.
- (g) A local government shall have the power to apportion its cost of a government service or function upon any portion of its area, as authorized by act of the legislature.
- (h) Counties, other than those wholly included with a city, shall be empowered by general law, or by special law enacted upon county request pursuant to section two of this article, to adopt, amend or repeal alternative forms of county government provided by the legislature or by local law, may transfer one of more functions or duties of the county or of the cities, towns, villages, districts or other units of government wholly contained in such county to each other or when authorized by the legislature to the state, or may abolish one or more offices, departments, agencies or units of government provided, however, that no such form or amendment, except as provided in paragraph (2) of this subdivision, shall become effective unless approved on a referendum by a majority of the votes cast thereon in the area of the county outside of cities, and in the cities of the county, if any, considered as one unit. Where an alternative form of county government or any amendment thereof, by act of the legislature or by local law, provides for the transfer of any function or duty to or from any village or the abolition of any office, department, agency or unit of government of a village wholly contained in such county, such form or amendment shall not become effective unless it shall be approved on a

referendum by a majority of the votes cast thereon in all the villages so affected considered as one unit.

(2) After the adoption of an alternative form of county government by a county, any amendment thereof by act of the legislature or by local law which abolished or creates an elective county office, changes the voting or veto power of or the method of removing an elective county officer during his or her term of office, abolishes, curtails or transfers to another county officer or changes the form or composition of the county legislative body shall be subjected to a permissive referendum as provided by the legislature. (Amended by vote of the people November 7, 2001.)

**Powers and duties of legislature; home rule power of local governments; stature of local governments.**

§ 2 (a) The Legislature shall provide for the creation and organization of local governments in such manner as shall secure to them the rights, power, privileges and immunities granted to them by the constitution.

(b) Subject to the bill of rights of local governments and other applicable provisions of this constitution, the legislature:

(1) Shall enact, and may from time to time amend, a statute of local governments granting to local governments powers including but not limited to those of local legislation and administration in addition to the powers vested in them by this article. A power granted in such statute may be repealed, diminished, impaired or suspended only by enactment of a statute by the legislature with the approval of the governor at its regular session in one calendar year and the re-enactment and approval of such statute in the following calendar year.

(2) Shall have the power to act in relation to the property, affairs or government of any local government only by general law, or by special law only (a) on request of two-thirds if the total membership of its legislative body or on request of its chief executive officer concurred in by a majority of such membership, or (b) except in the case of the city of New York, on certificate of necessity from the governor reciting facts which in the judgment of the governor constitute an emergency requiring enactment of such law and in such latter case, with the concurrence of two-thirds if the members elected to each house of the legislature.

(3) Shall have the power to confer on local government powers not relating to their property, affairs or government including but not limited to those of local legislation and administration, in addition to those otherwise granted by or pursuant to this article, and to withdraw or restrict such additional powers.

(c) In addition to powers granted in the statute of local governments or any other law,

(i) every local government shall have power to adopt and amend local laws not inconsistent with the provisions of this constitution or any general law relating to its property, affairs or government and (ii) every local government shall have power to adopt and amend local laws not inconsistent with the provisions of this constitution or any general law relating to the following subjects, whether or not they relate to the property, affairs or government of such local government, except to the extent that the legislature shall restrict the adoption of such a local law relating to other than the property, affairs or government.

(1) The powers, duties, qualification, number, mode of selection and removal, terms of office, compensation, hours of work, protection, welfare and safety of its officers and employees, except that cities and towns shall not have such power with respect to members of the legislative body of the county in their capacity as county officers.

(2) In the case of a city, town or village, the membership and composition of its legislative body.

(3) The transaction of its business.

(4) The incurring of its obligations, except that local law relating to financing by the issuance of evidence of indebtedness by such local government shall be consistent with laws enacted by the legislature.

(5) The acquisition of its transit facilities and the ownership and operation thereof.

(6) The acquisition, care, management and use of its highways, roads, streets, avenues and property.

(7) The acquisition of its transit facilities and the ownership and operation thereof.

(8) The levy, collection and administration of local taxes authorized by the legislature and of the assessment for local improvements, consistent with laws enacted by the legislature.

(9) The wages or salaries, the hours of work or labor, and the protection, welfare and safety of persons employed by the contractor or sub-contractor performing work, labor or services for it.

(10) The government, protection, order, conduct, safety, health and well-being of persons or property therein.

(d) Except in the case of a transfer of function under an alternative form of county government, a local government shall not have the power to adopt local laws, which impair the power of any other local government.

(e) The rights and powers of local governments specified in this section insofar as applicable to any county within the city of New York shall be vested in such city.

(Amended by vote of the people November 7, 2001)

## **ARTICLE XI\***

### **Education**

#### **[Common schools]**

Section 1. The legislature shall provide for the maintenance and support of a system of free common schools, wherein all the children of this state may be educated (Formerly §1 of Art. 9 Renumbered by constitutional Convention of 1938 and approved by vote of the people November 8, 1938.)

#### **[Regents of the University]**

§2. The corporation created in the year one thousand seven hundred eighty-four, under the name of The Regents of the University of the State of New York, is hereby continued under the name of The University of the State of New York. It shall be governed and its corporate powers, which may be increased, modified or diminished by the legislature, shall be exercised by not less than nine regents. (Formally §2. of Art. 9. Renumbered and amended by Constitutional Convention of 1938 and approved by vote of the people November 8, 1938.)

#### **[Use of public property or money in aid of denominational schools prohibited; transportation of children authorized]**

§3. Neither the state nor any subdivision thereof, shall use its property or credit or any public money, or authorize or permit either to be used, directly or indirectly, in aid or maintenance, other than for examination or inspection, of any school or institution of learning wholly or in part under the control or direction of any religious denomination, or in which any denominational tenet or doctrine is taught, but the legislature may provide for the transportation of children to and from any school or institution of learning. (Formally §4. of Art. 9. Renumbered and amended by Constitutional Convention of 1938 and approved by vote of the people November 8, 1938. Formerly §4, renumbered §3 without change by amendment approved by vote of the people November 6, 1962; former §4 replaced by same amendment)

#### **Existing laws to remain applicable; construction; definitions.**

§3. (a) Except as expressly provided, nothing in this article shall restrict or impair any power of the legislature in relation to:

(1) The maintenance, support or administration of the public school system, as required or provided by article XI of this constitution, or any retirement system pertaining to such public school system,

(2) The courts as required or provided by article VI of this constitution, and

(3) Matters other than the property, affairs or government of a local government.

(b) The provisions of this article shall not affect any existing valid provisions of acts of the legislature or of local legislation and such provisions shall continue in force until repealed, amended, modified or superseded in accordance with provisions of this constitution.

(c) Rights, powers privileges and immunities granted to local governments by this article shall be liberally construed.

(d) Whenever used in this article the following terms shall mean or include:

(1) "General law." A law which in terms and in effect applies alike to all counties, all counties other than those wholly included within a city all cities, all towns or all villages.

(2) "Local government." A county city, town or village

(3) "People." Persons entitled to vote as provided in section one of article two of this constitution.

(4) " Special law." A law which in terms and in effect applies to one or more, but not all, counties, counties other than those wholly included within a city, cities, towns or villages.