

*First Special & Organizational Meeting*  
January 2, 2026

The First Special and Organizational Meeting of 2026 was called to order by the Legislative Clerk at 9:01 a.m.

Legislators representing Districts 1, 2, 3, 4, and 7 were present with Legislators representing Districts 5 and 6 being absent.

DISTRICT 1  
Ronald C. Ciotoli

DISTRICT 5  
Andrew F. Aronstam

DISTRICT 2  
Jo Ellen Rose

DISTRICT 6  
Raymond Bunce

DISTRICT 3  
David Cantella

DISTRICT 7  
Keith Flesher  
William H. Standinger III

DISTRICT 4  
W. Jake Brown  
S. Tracy Monell

There were 35 people in attendance.

Legislative Clerk Haskell spoke. "Good morning and Happy New Year. Welcome to the First Special and Organizational Meeting of the Tioga County Legislature for 2026."

The Clerk asked Legislator Monell to have a moment of Prayer. "Lord, we thank you for this day and for everything you have given to us. We pray that you will continue to bless this Legislature as we take care of the business of Tioga County and the citizens of this County. We pray that you will bless our time here today and give us wisdom and direction as we move forward."

Legislator Monell led all Legislators and those in attendance in the Pledge of Allegiance.

The Clerk welcomed and congratulated our incumbent Legislators on their election to a new three-year term of office: District 1 Legislator Ciotoli, District 4 Legislators Brown and Monell, and District 5 Legislator Aronstam.

The Clerk also welcomed and congratulated newly elected Legislator Rose representing District 2 for a three-year term of office and newly appointed Legislator Cantella representing District 3 for a one-year term of office.

County Clerk Klett swore in Legislators Brown, Ciotoli, Monell, and Rose for their new three-year term of office for 2026 and Legislator Cantella for his one-year term of office for 2026.

The Clerk reported that Legislator Aronstam representing District 5 is not here today, however, arrangements will be made with County Clerk Klett to administer his Oath of Office at a later time.

The Clerk recognized and congratulated incumbent District Attorney Kirk Martin on his new four-year term of office for 2026, newly elected County Treasurer Barbara Roberts for her three-year term of office, incumbent County Coroner Keith Lewis and newly elected County Coroner John Olsen for their new three-year term of office for 2026.

County Clerk Klett swore in District Attorney Martin for his new four-year term of office for 2026, County Treasurer Roberts for her new three-year term of office for 2026, and County Coroner Lewis for his new three-year term for 2026.

The Clerk reported that Coroner Olsen was unable to attend today's meeting, however, he has made arrangements with County Clerk Klett to administer his Oath of Office at a later time.

The Clerk announced the first order of business for the Tioga County Legislature is the election of Chair of the Legislature for 2026 for a one-year term. Legislator Ciotoli nominated Legislator Monell, seconded by Legislator Standingier. With no other nominations, Legislator Ciotoli moved to close the nominations, seconded by Legislator Brown. On roll call vote, all members voted Aye, the Clerk cast one ballot, and Legislator Monell was appointed Chair of the Tioga County Legislature for a one-year term for 2026.

County Clerk Klett swore in Legislator Monell as Chair of the Tioga County Legislature for 2026.

Legislative Chair Monell spoke. "I would like to thank the citizens of Tioga County and my fellow Legislators for their continued faith in me. I would also like to welcome our two new Legislators and thank you for your willingness to serve. I would like to thank my fellow Legislators for their support and trust in me that we will work together to continue the tradition of fiscal responsibility for our County. I would like to thank Legislative Clerk Haskell for all that she does and

County Administrator Bailey for his support and all that he does. I would also like to thank my wife, Lisbeth, for putting up with me in this endeavor. Happy New Year to everyone. Let's look forward to a great 2026. Thank you."

Legislative Chair Monell presided over the remainder of the meeting.

The Legislative Chair announced the next order of business is the nomination for Deputy Chair for a one-year term for 2026. Legislator Brown nominated Legislator Standinger, seconded by Legislator Ciotoli. With no other nominations, Legislator Brown moved to close the nominations, seconded by Legislator Ciotoli. On roll call vote, all members voted Aye, the Legislative Chair cast one ballot, and Legislator Standinger was appointed Deputy Chair of the Tioga County Legislature for a one-year term for 2026.

County Clerk Klett swore in Legislator Standinger as Deputy Chair of the Tioga County Legislature for 2026.

The Legislative Chair called for nominations for County Administrator. Legislator Ciotoli nominated Jackson D. Bailey II, seconded by Legislator Flesher. With no other nominations, Legislator Ciotoli moved to close the nominations, seconded by Legislator Brown. On roll call vote, all Legislators voted for Jackson D. Bailey II as County Administrator, the Legislative Chair cast one ballot, and Jackson D. Bailey II was appointed County Administrator for a three-year term commencing January 2, 2026 – December 31, 2028.

The Legislative Chair called for nominations for County Attorney. Legislator Standinger nominated Peter DeWind, seconded by Legislator Brown. With no other nominations, Legislator Flesher moved to close the nominations, seconded by Legislator Ciotoli. On roll call vote, all Legislators voted for Peter DeWind as County Attorney, the Legislative Chair cast one ballot, and Peter DeWind was appointed County Attorney for a three-year term commencing January 2, 2026 – December 31, 2028.

The Legislative Chair called for nominations for the Clerk of the Legislature. Legislator Standinger nominated Cathy Haskell, seconded by Legislator Brown. With no other nominations, Legislator Cantella moved to close the nominations, seconded by Legislator Ciotoli. On roll call vote, all Legislators voted for Cathy Haskell as Clerk of the Legislature, the Legislative Chair cast one ballot, and Cathy Haskell was appointed Clerk of the Legislature for a three-year term commencing January 2, 2026 – December 31, 2028.

The Legislative Chair called for nominations for Public Defender. Legislator Ciotoli nominated Michael Arcesi, seconded by Legislator Brown. With no other nominations, Legislator Cantella moved to close the nominations, seconded by

Legislator Ciotoli. On roll call vote, all Legislators voted for Michael Arcesi as Public Defender, the Legislative Chair cast one ballot, and Michael Arcesi was appointed Public Defender for a three-year term commencing January 1, 2026 – December 31, 2028.

County Clerk Klett swore in Jackson D. Bailey II, County Administrator, Peter DeWind, County Attorney, Cathy Haskell, Clerk of the Legislature for their new three-year term of office commencing January 2, 2026 – December 31, 2028 and Michael Arcesi, Public Defender for his new three-year term of office commencing January 1, 2026 – December 31, 2028.

The Legislative Chair called for nominations for Public Information Officer for a one-year term for 2026. Legislator Standinger nominated County Administrator Jackson D. Bailey II, seconded by Legislator Ciotoli. With no other nominations, Legislator Ciotoli moved to close the nominations, seconded by Legislator Brown. On roll call vote, all members voted Aye, the Legislative Chair cast one ballot, and County Administrator Jackson D. Bailey II was appointed Public Information Officer for a one-year term for 2026.

County Clerk Klett swore in County Administrator Bailey as the Public Information Officer for a one-year term for 2026.

The Legislative Chair called for nominations for Republican Majority Leader for a one-year term for 2026. Legislator Standinger nominated Legislator Brown, seconded by Legislator Ciotoli. With no other nominations, Legislator Flesher moved to close the nominations, seconded by Legislator Ciotoli. On roll call vote, all members voted Aye, the Legislative Chair cast one ballot, and Legislator Brown was appointed Republican Majority Leader for a one-year term for 2026.

County Clerk Klett swore in Legislator W. Jake Brown as Republican Majority Leader for a one-year term for 2026.

The Legislative Chair called for nominations for Democratic Minority Leader for a one-year term for 2026. Legislator Standinger nominated Legislator Rose, seconded by Legislator Brown. With no other nominations, Legislator Standinger moved to close the nominations, seconded by Legislator Brown. On roll call vote, all members voted Aye, the Legislative Chair cast one ballot, and Legislator Rose was appointed Democratic Minority Leader for a one-year term for 2026.

County Clerk Klett swore in Legislator Jo Ellen Rose as Democratic Minority Leader for a one-year term for 2026.

Chair Monell asked if there were any disclosures to be made.

Legislator Brown stated, "My only disclosure is that I work for Lockheed Martin."

Legislator Cantella stated, "My only disclosure is that I work for BAE Systems."

Legislator Ciotoli stated, "I have nothing to disclose."

Legislator Flesher stated, "I have nothing to disclose."

Legislator Monell stated, "I have nothing to disclose."

Legislator Rose stated, "I have nothing to disclose."

Legislator Standinger stated, "I have nothing to disclose."

Legislator Ciotoli moved for the adoption of the following resolution, seconded by Legislator Brown.

REFERRED TO: LEGISLATIVE WORKSESSION

RESOLUTION NO. 1-26 *TRIPS AUTHORIZED*

RESOLVED: That the Chair and the Clerk of the County Legislature, the County Attorney, County Administrator and County Legislators be, and they hereby are, authorized to make such trips as their duties may require and that their actual and necessary expenses for travel, meals and lodging incurred on such trips be a County charge.

ROLL CALL VOTE

Yes – Legislators Brown, Cantella, Ciotoli, Flesher, Monell, Rose, and Standinger.

No – None.

Absent – Legislators Aronstam and Bunce.

RESOLUTION ADOPTED.

Legislator Flesher moved for the adoption of the following resolution, seconded by Legislator Brown.

REFERRED TO: LEGISLATIVE WORKSESSION

RESOLUTION NO. 2-26 *DESIGNATION OF OFFICIAL DEPOSITORIES*

RESOLVED: That, pursuant to the powers vested in this Legislature by Section 212 of the County Law, as amended, the following Banks within New York State be, and they hereby are designated as depositories for the deposit of all monies

received by the County Treasurer, to an amount not to exceed the sum set opposite the name of each Bank as follows:

JP Morgan Chase Bank	\$35,000,000
Chemung Canal Trust Company	\$35,000,000
Community Bank, N.A.	\$35,000,000
M&T Bank	\$35,000,000
Tioga State Bank	\$35,000,000
National Bank and Trust Company, N.A.	\$35,000,000
M&T Government Securities, Inc.	\$35,000,000
NY Cooperative Liquid Assets Securities System	\$35,000,000

#### ROLL CALL VOTE

Yes – Legislators Brown, Cantella, Ciotoli, Flesher, Monell, Rose, and Standing.

No – None.

Absent – Legislators Aronstam and Bunce.

#### RESOLUTION ADOPTED.

Legislator Ciotoli moved for the adoption of the following resolution, seconded by Legislator Flesher.

REFERRED TO: LEGISLATIVE WORKSESSION

RESOLUTION NO. 3-26 *DESIGNATE OFFICIAL NEWSPAPERS*

RESOLVED: That the Tioga County Courier and the Morning Times are hereby designated official newspapers for the publication of all local laws, notices and other matters required by law to be published pursuant to County Law §214, Subd. 2; and be it further

RESOLVED: That the Press and Sun Bulletin, a daily newspaper, is hereby designated as the official newspaper for purposes of publishing all local laws, notices and other matters required by law to be published at such times that there is insufficient time to publish in the above two newspapers.

#### ROLL CALL VOTE

Yes – Legislators Brown, Cantella, Ciotoli, Flesher, Monell, Rose, and Standing.

No – None.

Absent – Legislators Aronstam and Bunce.

RESOLUTION ADOPTED.

Legislator Brown moved for the adoption of the following resolution, seconded by Legislator Ciotoli.

REFERRED TO: LEGISLATIVE WORKSESSION

RESOLUTION NO. 4-26      *DESIGNATION OF NEWSPAPER FOR  
REPUBLICAN PARTY*

RESOLVED: That the Morning Times is hereby designated as the newspaper published in the County of Tioga for the Republican Party to publish the Election notices issued by the Secretary of State, and to publish the official canvass pursuant to County Law §214, Subd. 1.

ROLL CALL VOTE

Yes – Legislators Brown, Cantella, Ciotoli, Flesher, Monell, Rose, and Standing.

No – None.

Absent – Legislators Aronstam and Bunce.

RESOLUTION ADOPTED.

Legislator Rose moved for the adoption of the following resolution, seconded by Legislator Brown.

REFERRED TO: LEGISLATIVE WORKSESSION

RESOLUTION NO. 5-26      *DESIGNATION OF NEWSPAPER FOR  
DEMOCRATIC PARTY*

RESOLVED: That the Tioga County Courier is hereby designated as the newspaper published in the County of Tioga for the Democratic Party to publish the Election notices issued by the Secretary of State, and to publish the official canvass pursuant to County Law §214, Subd. 1.

ROLL CALL VOTE

Yes – Legislators Brown, Cantella, Ciotoli, Flesher, Monell, Rose, and Standing.

No – None.

Absent – Legislators Aronstam and Bunce.

RESOLUTION ADOPTED.

Legislator Ciotoli moved for the adoption of the following resolution, seconded by Legislator Flesher.

REFERRED TO: LEGISLATIVE WORKSESSION

RESOLUTION NO. 6-26 *SET SALARY OF CHAIR*

RESOLVED: That the salary of the Chair of the Tioga County Legislature be set at \$56,512 per year, which includes the salary received as County Legislator of \$13,394 and an additional \$43,118 to serve as Chair.

ROLL CALL VOTE

Yes – Legislators Brown, Cantella, Ciotoli, Flesher, Monell, Rose, and Standing.

No – None.

Absent – Legislators Aronstam and Bunce.

RESOLUTION ADOPTED.

Legislator Flesher moved for the adoption of the following resolution, seconded by Legislator Ciotoli.

REFERRED TO: LEGISLATIVE WORKSESSION

RESOLUTION NO. 7-26 *FIX DATES AND TIMES OF  
TIOGA COUNTY LEGISLATIVE MEETINGS*

RESOLVED: That the Tioga County Legislature during 2025 shall meet regularly in the Edward D. Hubbard Auditorium of the Ronald E. Dougherty County Office Building, 56 Main Street, Owego, New York at 12:00 P.M. on the Tuesday following Legislative Standing Committees which are held during the first full work week of the month.

ROLL CALL VOTE

Yes – Legislators Brown, Cantella, Ciotoli, Flesher, Monell, Rose, and Standing.

No – None.

Absent – Legislators Aronstam and Bunce.

RESOLUTION ADOPTED.



Legislator Brown moved for the adoption of the following resolution, seconded by Legislator Flesher.

REFERRED TO: LEGISLATIVE WORKSESSION

RESOLUTION NO. 8-26 *ANNUAL REVIEW OF PROCUREMENT POLICY*

WHEREAS: General Municipal Law §104-b requires an annual review of Tioga County's procurement policy and procedures; therefore be it

RESOLVED: That the Tioga County Legislature affirms its annual review of its Procurement Policy.

ROLL CALL VOTE

Yes – Legislators Brown, Cantella, Ciotoli, Flesher, Monell, Rose, and Standinger.

No – None.

Absent – Legislators Aronstam and Bunce.

RESOLUTION ADOPTED.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:31 a.m.