



**Cortland County  
Legislature  
Legislative Session  
~ Minutes ~**

Legislative Chambers  
60 Central Ave.  
Cortland, NY 13045  
[www.cortlandcountyny.gov](http://www.cortlandcountyny.gov)

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**Friday, January 2, 2026**

**10:00 AM**

**Legislative Chambers**

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**Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 10:00 AM by Clerk of the Legislature, Savannah Hempstead.

**Salute to the Flag**

**Roll Call**

|                 |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
|-----------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>PRESENT:</b> | Legislator Douglas Bentley, Legislator Beau Harbin, Legislator Cathy Bischoff, Legislator Ronald VanDee, Legislator Jason Prentice, Legislator Dominick Mantella, Legislator Keith VanGorder, Chair of the Legislature Kevin Fitch, Legislator Linda Jones, Legislator Reed Cleland, Legislator Christopher Newell, Legislator Joseph Nauseef, Minority Leader Sandra Price, Legislator William McGovern, Legislator Paul Heider, Legislator Mitchel Eccleston |
|-----------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

**ABSENT:**

|                 |                             |
|-----------------|-----------------------------|
| <b>EXCUSED:</b> | Legislator Eugene Waldbauer |
|-----------------|-----------------------------|

**Resolutions**

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|------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>RESULT:</b>   | <b>ADOPTED (16 TO 0)</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| <b>MOVER:</b>    | Legislator Linda Jones                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| <b>SECONDER:</b> | Legislator Paul Heider                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| <b>AYES:</b>     | Douglas Bentley, Beau Harbin, Cathy Bischoff, Ronald VanDee, Jason Prentice, Dominick Mantella, Keith VanGorder, Kevin Fitch, Linda Jones, Reed Cleland, Christopher Newell, Joseph Nauseef, Sandra Price, William McGovern, Paul Heider, Mitchel Eccleston |
| <b>NAYS:</b>     | None                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| <b>EXCUSED:</b>  | Eugene Waldbauer                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| <b>ABSENT:</b>   |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |

**ON MOTION OF**

**RESOLUTION NO. 1-26**

**Selecting Chair of the County Legislature and Setting Official Undertaking**

WHEREAS, in accordance with County Law §151, Local Law No. 2 for the year 1972, Article II, Section 202, as amended by Local Law 13 of 2025, and the Rules of Order of the Cortland County Legislature, the County Legislature shall meet on the first business day of January at 10:00 a.m., for the purposes of organization and for election of the Chair of the County Legislature; AND

WHEREAS, County Law, Section 450 requires the Chair of the County Legislature to file an official undertaking in such an amount as may be required by the County Legislature; AND

WHEREAS, Cortland County presently has a policy covering employees for wrongful acts; NOW THEREFORE BE IT

RESOLVED, that Kevin Fitch be and hereby is selected as Chair of the County Legislature to serve from January 2, 2026 - December 31, 2027; AND BE IT FURTHER

RESOLVED, that the amount of the Chairman's undertaking be zero.

|                  |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
|------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>RESULT:</b>   | <b>ADOPTED (16 TO 0)</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| <b>MOVER:</b>    | Legislator Cathy Bischoff                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| <b>SECONDER:</b> | Legislator Linda Jones                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| <b>AYES:</b>     | Douglas Bentley, Beau Harbin, Cathy Bischoff, Ronald VanDee, Jason Prentice, Dominick Mantella, Keith VanGorder, Kevin Fitch, Linda Jones, Reed Cleland, Christopher Newell, Joseph Nauseef, Sandra Price, William McGovern, Paul Heider, Mitchel Eccleston |
| <b>NAYS:</b>     | None                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| <b>EXCUSED:</b>  | Eugene Waldbauer                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| <b>ABSENT:</b>   |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |

ON MOTION OF

**RESOLUTION NO. 2-26**

### **Designate Bank Depositories for 2026**

WHEREAS, County Law Section 212 and General Municipal Law Section 10 requires that the Cortland County Legislature designate one or more banks or trust companies for the deposit of public funds received by the County Treasurer; AND

WHEREAS, Local Law 10 of 2022 for the County of Cortland abolished the elected position of County Treasurer, and transferred the duties of the County Treasurer to the existing position of Director of Finance; AND

WHEREAS, such designation must specify the maximum amount which may be kept on deposit at any time in each bank designated by the Cortland County Legislature; NOW THEREFORE BE IT

RESOLVED, that the Cortland County Legislature hereby designates the following banks and trust companies for the deposit of public funds received by the Director of Finance and that the Director of Finance is authorized to utilize these institutions for said purpose not to exceed maximum amounts listed below:

| <b><u>BANK NAME</u></b>       | <b><u>MAXIMUM AMOUNT</u></b> |
|-------------------------------|------------------------------|
| NBT BANK                      | \$35,000,000                 |
| First National Bank of Dryden | \$2,500,000                  |
| Key Bank of New York          | \$2,000,000                  |
| Tompkins Trust Co.            | \$35,000,000                 |
| NYCLASS                       | \$60,000,000                 |
| JPMorgan Chase & Co.          | \$2,000,00                   |

; AND BE IT FURTHER

RESOLVED, that collateral agreements, municipal funds protection and bank acknowledgements of the understanding of New York State Municipal and Finance Law be established with said banks during the term of this agreement which will be for a period not to exceed December 31, 2026.

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|------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>RESULT:</b>   | <b>ADOPTED (16 TO 0)</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| <b>MOVER:</b>    | Minority Leader Sandra Price                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| <b>SECONDER:</b> | Legislator Linda Jones                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| <b>AYES:</b>     | Douglas Bentley, Beau Harbin, Cathy Bischoff, Ronald VanDee, Jason Prentice, Dominick Mantella, Keith VanGorder, Kevin Fitch, Linda Jones, Reed Cleland, Christopher Newell, Joseph Nauseef, Sandra Price, William McGovern, Paul Heider, Mitchel Eccleston |
| <b>NAYS:</b>     | None                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| <b>EXCUSED:</b>  | Eugene Waldbauer                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| <b>ABSENT:</b>   |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |

ON MOTION OF

RESOLUTION NO. 3-26

### **Designate Official Newspaper**

WHEREAS, Section 214 of County Law requires the Legislature to select an official newspaper; NOW THEREFORE BE IT

RESOLVED, that the Cortland Standard, published by the Cortland Standard Newspaper, 50 Main Street, PO Box 150, Cortland, New York 13045, be and hereby is designated as the official newspaper fairly representing the Cortland County Legislature, for the period of January 1, 2026 through December 31, 2026; AND BE IT FURTHER

RESOLVED, that the Clerk of the Legislature in conformance with County Law 214 shall forward this designation to be filed with the Secretary of State no later than January 10, 2026.

## Receive and File

|                  |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
|------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>RESULT:</b>   | <b>RECEIVE &amp; FILE (16 TO 0)</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| <b>MOVER:</b>    | Minority Leader Sandra Price                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| <b>SECONDER:</b> | Legislator Beau Harbin                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| <b>AYES:</b>     | Douglas Bentley, Beau Harbin, Cathy Bischoff, Ronald VanDee, Jason Prentice, Dominick Mantella, Keith VanGorder, Kevin Fitch, Linda Jones, Reed Cleland, Christopher Newell, Joseph Nauseef, Sandra Price, William McGovern, Paul Heider, Mitchel Eccleston |
| <b>NAYS:</b>     | None                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| <b>EXCUSED:</b>  | Eugene Waldbauer                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| <b>ABSENT:</b>   |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |

|                  |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
|------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>RESULT:</b>   | <b>RECEIVE &amp; FILE (16 TO 0)</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| <b>MOVER:</b>    | Legislator Beau Harbin                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| <b>SECONDER:</b> | Legislator Ronald VanDee                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| <b>AYES:</b>     | Douglas Bentley, Beau Harbin, Cathy Bischoff, Ronald VanDee, Jason Prentice, Dominick Mantella, Keith VanGorder, Kevin Fitch, Linda Jones, Reed Cleland, Christopher Newell, Joseph Nauseef, Sandra Price, William McGovern, Paul Heider, Mitchel Eccleston |
| <b>NAYS:</b>     | None                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| <b>EXCUSED:</b>  | Eugene Waldbauer                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| <b>ABSENT:</b>   |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |

## Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 10:22 AM.



Cortland County Legislature  
60 Central Avenue  
Cortland, NY 13045

**Designation of Office of Majority Leader of the Republican Legislators, pursuant to Resolution No. 170-06, and the Cortland County Rules of Order**

WHEREAS, Resolution No. 170-06 established the Offices of Majority Leader and Minority Leader and set forth a term of office, AND

RESOLVED, that the undersigned Cortland County Legislators, constituting a majority of said party, hereby elect Paul Heider as Majority Leader of the Cortland County Legislature for a term commencing upon the filing of this form with the Clerk of the Legislature.

Jason Prentice  
Jason Prentice (LD-5)

Keith VanGorder  
Keith VanGorder (LD-7)

Kevin Fitch  
Kevin Fitch (LD-8)

Linda Jones  
Linda Jones (LD-9)

Christopher Newell  
Christopher Newell (LD-11)

Joseph Nauseef  
Joseph Nauseef (LD-12)

Eugene Waldbauer  
Eugene Waldbauer (LD-13)

William McGovern  
William McGovern (LD-15)

Paul Heider  
Paul Heider (LD-16)

Mitchel Eccleston  
Mitchel Eccleston (LD-17)

Submitted to the Clerk of the Legislature

Date: 12/19/25

Journal

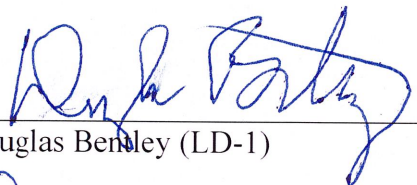


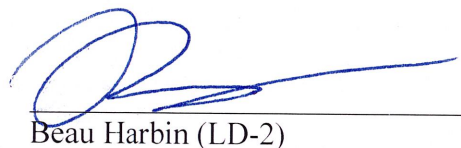
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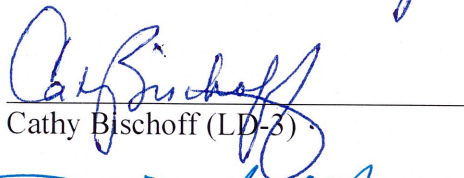
**Designation of Office of Minority Leader of the Democrat Legislators, pursuant to Resolution No. 170-06, and the Cortland County Legislature Rules of Order**

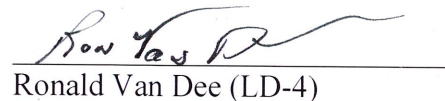
WHEREAS, Resolution No. 170-06 established the Offices of Majority Leader and Minority Leader and set forth a term of office, NOW THEREFORE BE IT

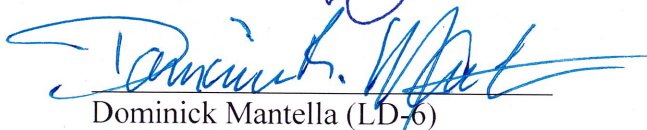
RESOLVED, that the undersigned Cortland County Legislators, constituting a majority of said party, hereby elect Sandy Price as Minority Leader of the Cortland County Legislature for a term commencing upon the filing of this form with the Clerk of the Legislature.

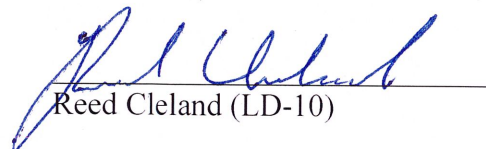
  
Douglas Bentley (LD-1)

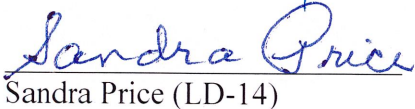
  
Beau Harbin (LD-2)

  
Cathy Bischoff (LD-3)

  
Ronald Van Dee (LD-4)

  
Dominick Mantella (LD-6)

  
Reed Cleland (LD-10)

  
Sandra Price (LD-14)

Submitted to the Clerk of the Legislature

Date: 12/19/25

