

# Attendance Sheets

| District  | Last Name    | Present       | Absent    | Present/Late |
|---|--------------|---------------|-----------|--------------|
| District 25 - Amenia, Washington, Pleasant Valley & Millbrook     | Alexander    | ✓             |           |              |
| District 2 - LaGrange, Pleasant Valley & Town of Poughkeepsie     | Arnoff       | ✓             |           |              |
| District 9 - City of Poughkeepsie                                 | Atkins       |               |           |              |
| District 8 - City and Town of Poughkeepsie                        | Brendli      | ✓             |           |              |
| District 21 - East Fishkill                                       | Caswell      | ✓             |           |              |
| District 7 - Hyde Park and Pleasant Valley                        | Darrow       | ✓             |           |              |
| District 19 - North East, Stanford, Pine Plains, Milan & Red Hook | Drago        | ✓             |           |              |
| District 15 - Wappinger   | Faust        | ✓             |           |              |
| District 13 - East Fishkill and Wappinger                         | Giles        | ✓             |           |              |
| District 24 - Dover and Pawling                                   | House        | ✓             |           |              |
| District 10 - City of Poughkeepsie                                | Johnson      | ✓             |           |              |
| District 6 - Town of Poughkeepsie                                 | Kaul         | ✓             |           |              |
| District 11 - Clinton, Pleasant Valley, and Rhinebeck             | Kearney      | ✓             |           |              |
| District 4 - Hyde Park and Town of Poughkeepsie                   | Lawler       | ✓             |           |              |
| District 17 - Town and Village of Fishkill                        | McHoul       | ✓             |           |              |
| District 12 - East Fishkill                                       | Metzger      | ✓             |           |              |
| District 20 - Red Hook, Tivoli, and Rhinebeck                     | Munn         | ✓             |           |              |
| District 3 - LaGrange   | Polasek      | ✓             |           |              |
| District 1 - Town of Poughkeepsie                                 | Redl         | ✓             |           |              |
| District 18 - City of Beacon and Fishkill                         | Rhodes       | ✓             |           |              |
| District 23 - Pawling, Beekman and East Fishkill                  | Rolison      | ✓             |           |              |
| District 5 - Town of Poughkeepsie                                 | Shah         | ✓             |           |              |
| District 22 - Beekman and Union Vale                              | Tresca       | ✓             |           |              |
| District 16 - Fishkill and Beacon                                 | Valdés Smith | ✓             |           |              |
| District 14 - Wappinger and Town of Poughkeepsie                  | Winsby       | ✓             |           |              |
| <b>Present:</b>   | <u>25</u>    | <b>Total:</b> | <u>25</u> | <u>0</u>     |
| <b>Absent:</b>  | <u>0</u>     |               |           | <u>0</u>     |
| <b>Vacant:</b>  | <u>0</u>     |               |           |              |

Date: 1/5/2026

REORGANIZATIONAL MEETING  
OF THE  
DUTCHESS COUNTY LEGISLATURE

Monday, January 5, 2026, 6:00 p.m.

The Deputy Clerk of the Legislature called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

PRESENT: 25           ALEXANDER, ARNOFF, ATKINS, BRENDLI, CASWELL, DARROW,  
DRAGO, FAUST, GILES, HOUSE, JOHNSON, KAUL, KEARNEY,  
LAWLER, MCHOUL, METZGER, MUNN, POLASEK, REDL,  
RHODES, ROLISON, SHAH, TRESCA, VALDÉS SMITH, WINSBY

ABSENT: 0

PRESENT/LATE: 0

QUORUM PRESENT

**Presentation of the Colors by the Dutchess County Sheriff's Office**

**Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag, led by Dutchess County Sheriff Kirk A. Imperati**

**Star Spangled Banner, sung by Rosemerayah García**

**Special Musical Presentation of "Lift Every Voice and Sing," sung by Melvin Tunstall III**

**Invocation by Dr. Jesse Voyd Bottoms, Jr. of Beulah Baptist Church in Poughkeepsie,  
followed by a moment of silent meditation**

**Additional meditation and reflection by Rev. Dr. Heather Finck of Freedom Plains United  
Presbyterian Church.**

**Swearing-in ceremony of Legislators by Assemblyman Jonathan Jacobson**

**Election of Temporary Chairperson**

Majority Leader Atkins made a motion to elect Legislator Brendli as Temporary Chairperson of the Legislature, which was seconded by Assistant Majority Leader Munn.

There being no further nominations, the question was put to a vote. The Legislature unanimously elected Legislator Brendli as Temporary Chair of the Legislature

**Election of Chairperson**

Temporary Chair Brendli opened the floor for nominations for Chair of the Legislature.

Majority Leader Atkins made a motion, nominating Legislator Valdés Smith for Chair of the Legislature, which was seconded by Assistant Majority Leader Munn.

Assistant Minority Leader Metzger made a motion, nominating Minority Leader Polasek for Chair of the Legislature, which was seconded by Legislator House.

A roll call vote on the motion to elect a Chair of the Legislature proceeded as follows:

VALDÉS SMITH:     15     ALEXANDER,     ARNOFF,     ATKINS,     BRENDLI,  
   DRAGO,   JOHNSON, KAUL, KEARNEY, LAWLER, MUNN,  
   REDL, RHODES, SHAH, VALDÉS SMITH, WINSBY

POLASEK:                10     CASWELL, DARROW, FAUST, GILES, HOUSE, MCHOUL,  
   METZGER, POLASEK, ROLISON, TRESCA

Motion carried by a vote of 15-10. Legislator Valdés Smith was elected Chair of the Legislature.

# Roll Call Sheets

| District  | Last Name    | BRENDLI                           |
|---|--------------|-----------------------------------|
| District 16 - Fishkill and Beacon                                 | Valdés Smith | ✓                                 |
| District 9 - City of Poughkeepsie                                 | Atkins       | ✓                                 |
| District 20 - Red Hook, Tivoli, and Rhinebeck                     | Munn         | ✓                                 |
| District 3 - LaGrange   | Polasek      | ✓                                 |
| District 12 - East Fishkill                                       | Metzger      | ✓                                 |
| District 1 - Town of Poughkeepsie                                 | Redl         | ✓                                 |
| District 2 - LaGrange, Pleasant Valley & Town of Poughkeepsie     | Arnoff       | ✓                                 |
| District 4 - Hyde Park and Town of Poughkeepsie                   | Lawler       | ✓                                 |
| District 5 - Town of Poughkeepsie                                 | Shah         | ✓                                 |
| District 6 - Town of Poughkeepsie                                 | Kaul         | ✓                                 |
| District 7 - Hyde Park and Pleasant Valley                        | Darrow       | ✓                                 |
| District 8 - City and Town of Poughkeepsie                        | Brendli      | ✓                                 |
| District 10 - City of Poughkeepsie                                | Johnson      | ✓                                 |
| District 11 - Clinton, Pleasant Valley, and Rhinebeck             | Kearney      | ✓                                 |
| District 13 - East Fishkill and Wappinger                         | Giles        | ✓                                 |
| District 14 - Wappinger and Town of Poughkeepsie                  | Winsby       | ✓                                 |
| District 15 - Wappinger   | Faust        | ✓                                 |
| District 17 - Town and Village of Fishkill                        | McHoul       | ✓                                 |
| District 18 - City of Beacon and Fishkill                         | Rhodes       | ✓                                 |
| District 19 - North East, Stanford, Pine Plains, Milan & Red Hook | Drago        | ✓                                 |
| District 21 - East Fishkill                                       | Caswell      | ✓                                 |
| District 22 - Beekman and Union Vale                              | Tresca       | ✓                                 |
| District 23 - Pawling, Beekman and East Fishkill                  | Rolison      | ✓                                 |
| District 24 - Dover and Pawling                                   | House        | ✓                                 |
| District 25 - Amenia, Washington, Pleasant Valley & Millbrook     | Alexander    | ✓                                 |
| <b>Present:</b>   | <u>25</u>    | <b>Resolution:</b> <u>✓</u>       |
| <b>Absent:</b>  | <u>0</u>     | <b>Motion:</b> <u>✓</u>           |
| <b>Vacant:</b>  | <u>0</u>     | <b>Total :</b> <u>25</u> <u>0</u> |
|   |              | <b>BRENDLI</b>                    |
|   |              | <b>Abstentions:</b> <u>0</u>      |

ELECTION OF THE TEMPORARY CHAIR OF THE LEGISLATURE  
January 5, 2026



# Roll Call Sheets

| District  | Last Name    | VALDÉS SMITH        | POLASEK        |
|---|--------------|---------------------|----------------|
| District 16 - Fishkill and Beacon                                 | Valdés Smith | ✓                   |                |
| District 9 - City of Poughkeepsie                                 | Atkins       | ✓                   |                |
| District 20 - Red Hook, Tivoli, and Rhinebeck                     | Munn         | ✓                   |                |
| District 3 - LaGrange   | Polasek      |                     | ✓              |
| District 12 - East Fishkill                                       | Metzger      |                     | ✓              |
| District 1 - Town of Poughkeepsie                                 | Redl         | ✓                   |                |
| District 2 - LaGrange, Pleasant Valley & Town of Poughkeepsie     | Arnoff       | ✓                   |                |
| District 4 - Hyde Park and Town of Poughkeepsie                   | Lawler       | ✓                   |                |
| District 5 - Town of Poughkeepsie                                 | Shah         | ✓                   |                |
| District 6 - Town of Poughkeepsie                                 | Kaul         | ✓                   |                |
| District 7 - Hyde Park and Pleasant Valley                        | Darrow       |                     | ✓              |
| District 8 - City and Town of Poughkeepsie                        | Brendli      | ✓                   |                |
| District 10 - City of Poughkeepsie                                | Johnson      | ✓                   |                |
| District 11 - Clinton, Pleasant Valley, and Rhinebeck             | Kearney      | ✓                   |                |
| District 13 - East Fishkill and Wappinger                         | Giles        |                     | ✓              |
| District 14 - Wappinger and Town of Poughkeepsie                  | Winsby       | ✓                   |                |
| District 15 - Wappinger   | Faust        |                     | ✓              |
| District 17 - Town and Village of Fishkill                        | McHoul       |                     | ✓              |
| District 18 - City of Beacon and Fishkill                         | Rhodes       | ✓                   |                |
| District 19 - North East, Stanford, Pine Plains, Milan & Red Hook | Drago        | ✓                   |                |
| District 21 - East Fishkill                                       | Caswell      |                     | ✓              |
| District 22 - Beekman and Union Vale                              | Tresca       |                     | ✓              |
| District 23 - Pawling, Beekman and East Fishkill                  | Rolison      |                     | ✓              |
| District 24 - Dover and Pawling                                   | House        |                     | ✓              |
| District 25 - Amenia, Washington, Pleasant Valley & Millbrook     | Alexander    | ✓                   |                |
| <b>Present:</b>   | <u>25</u>    | <b>Resolution:</b>  | <u>✓</u>       |
| <b>Absent:</b>  | <u>0</u>     | <b>Motion:</b>      | <u>✓</u>       |
| <b>Vacant:</b>  | <u>0</u>     | <b>Total :</b>      | <u>15</u>      |
|   |              | <b>VALDÉS SMITH</b> | <u>10</u>      |
|   |              | <b>Abstentions:</b> | <u>0</u>       |
|   |              |                     | <b>POLASEK</b> |

ELECTION OF THE CHAIR OF THE LEGISLATURE  
January 5, 2026

## **Address by Chair Yvette Valdés Smith**

Wow, this is a full house. Good evening, everyone.

Welcome to our community members who have really come out tonight. Our County Executive Serino, thank you for being here. Our many commissioners, our Comptroller, Dan Aymar-Blair, thank you for being here. Our labor family, which is in the house. And so many of us, Dutchess County Government and government staff, thank you so much for being here.

I do want to say Happy New Year. <Feliz Año Nuevo a todos.> It is a very <Feliz Año> I will say, but there is a lot to do.

It is my absolute honor to be chosen as Chair of the Dutchess County Legislature. Serving in this body has been a tremendous experience and one that I will cherish throughout my life.

I have been Minority Leader, and I proudly represent the town of Fishkill as well as the City of Beacon. In my past two terms, we have accomplished a great amount of work together.

We do this for the people of Dutchess County.

We've accomplished much of that work through bipartisanship, through collaboration and respect, and I am confident that we will continue and build upon that as we deliver together across every district of Dutchess.

Together, we have kept taxes low, fought a sales tax increase, increased our housing trust fund, and have invested in climate smart goals, achieving a silver level certification in the New York State certified climate smart community program.

We've done a lot, but we all know there is much more to do.

Tonight, we welcome nine new Legislators. They are from every corner of our incredible county. They, and each of us, we love this place. We are fortunate enough to call Dutchess our home. I'm proud to say that we are a diverse body, and we do come from wide-ranging backgrounds, so to speak.

Some of us are teachers. Some are social workers, many of us. Small business owners, chefs, lawyers: so many different people in this room. But I will surprise you by saying we have more funeral directors than you could possibly believe in this body. [laughter from the chamber]

What we all have in common is our commitment to serving our neighbors, our friends, our families. No matter what party you belong to or don't belong to, we work for each of you. We are here to listen, we are here to govern, and we are to make all residents' lives better.

I welcome and congratulate each Legislator as they dedicate another year or their first year of serving their districts.

As we move into the majority as Democrats in this body, I do want to take a moment to reflect upon the tremendous work of our returning Democratic legislators. They've served in the minority for years and still got the job done. They truly work for the people in their districts, and I can tell you from firsthand experience that their doors are always open.

I've always felt lucky to work with them, experience their integrity and their work ethic. But I'm even luckier to be able to call them friends.

As we look to the year ahead, we have much to accomplish.

We will make Dutchess a County that works for all, not just for some. We deserve affordable, safe, equitable, and supportive communities throughout our great county. And we are committed to stewarding in an era of progress, growth, and sustainability.

Economic development will grow as we invest in our communities.

We've spoken to thousands of residents throughout our county and the message is clear: the County must do more to support our working families, seniors, veterans, and those struggling with mental health.

Affordability, housing, EMS, and transportation must be addressed at every level of government as we, your legislators, are committed to finding solutions and easing the burden so many of us have felt.

The uncertainty that is plaguing our country due to hurtful federal policies and a chaotic administration cannot be ignored or dismissed. But I promise you, your County Legislators will show up and stand up and do the work here at home.

Dutchess County: we hear you, we are here for you, and we are ready to work for you.

You know, swearing-in ceremonies serve as strong reminders that there's way more that connects us than can ever, ever divide us as Americans.

Swearing to uphold the Constitution of the United States of America and the Constitution of the State of New York is a tradition and a commitment that I use as a guiding principle in my heart and my mind.

It is really an honor to serve another term for my community, and now be Chair of this body.

I look forward to amazing collaboration with our County Executive, with our fellow legislators, with all of our commissioners, community members, and staff.

My door will always be open.

I will serve as everyone's Chair, and I am grateful, and I'm very honored to do so. Thank you for being here this evening.

I do want to thank my beautiful family, because without them, nothing is possible and you make everything better. I might be everyone's Chair, but to you guys, I'm just Mom.

<Pero, muchisimas gracias, mi gente>. This is an honor of a lifetime, but we need to get back to work.

**Privilege of the Floor with respect to printed agenda items**

None.

**Resolutions considered out of numerical order will be placed in numerical order for fluidity.**

**2026001 APPOINTMENT OF THE CLERK OF THE COUNTY LEGISLATURE**

Majority Leader Atkins moved the adoption of the Resolution, with Assistant Majority Leader Munn seconding.

Discussion: Legislator Brendli spoke in favor of the Resolution and joined in thanking outgoing Legislature staff. Legislator Kaul further spoke in favor of the Resolution and thanked outgoing staff.

The Resolution being duly moved and seconded, a vote was called. The Legislature adopted the Resolution unanimously.

**2026002 APPOINTMENT OF THE DEPUTY CLERK OF THE COUNTY LEGISLATURE**

Majority Leader Atkins moved adoption of the Resolution, with Assistant Majority Leader Munn seconding.

Discussion: Legislator Brendli spoke in favor of the Resolution.

The Resolution being duly moved and seconded, a vote was called. The Legislature adopted the Resolution unanimously

**2026003 ADOPTION OF THE TEMPORARY RULES OF THE DUTCHESS COUNTY LEGISLATURE**

Majority Leader Atkins moved the adoption of the Resolution, with Assistant Majority Leader Munn seconding.

Discussion: Assistant Majority Leader Munn invited input from the Legislature on the Rules of the Legislature, and encouraged Legislators with questions about the language and rules, or suggestions for changes thereto, to reach out to the Chair of the Legislature prior to the next meeting for the same to be given due consideration.

The Resolution being duly moved and seconded, a vote was called. The Legislature adopted the Resolution unanimously.

**2026004 ATTENDANCE AT CONVENTIONS AND CONFERENCES FOR THE YEAR 2026**

Majority Leader Atkins moved the adoption of the Resolution, with Assistant Majority Leader Munn seconding.

Discussion: None.

The Resolution being duly moved and seconded, a vote was called. The Legislature adopted the Resolution unanimously.

#### 2026005 ATTENDANCE AT CONFERENCES AND CONVENTIONS – BOARD OF ELECTIONS

Majority Leader Atkins moved the adoption of the Resolution, with Assistant Majority Leader Munn seconding.

Discussion: None.

The Resolution being duly moved and seconded, a vote was called. The Legislature adopted the Resolution unanimously.

#### 2026006 UNDERTAKINGS 2026

Majority Leader Atkins moved the adoption of the Resolution, with Assistant Majority Leader Munn seconding.

Discussion: None.

The Resolution being duly moved and seconded, a vote was called. The Legislature adopted the Resolution unanimously.

#### 2025007 DESIGNATION OF OFFICIAL NEWSPAPERS FOR THE PUBLICATION OF LOCAL LAWS, NOTICES, AND OTHER MATTERS REQUIRED BY LAW TO BE PUBLISHED PURSUANT TO SECTION 214 (2) OF THE COUNTY LAW

Majority Leader Atkins moved the adoption of the Resolution, with Assistant Majority Leader Munn seconding.

Discussion: None.

The Resolution being duly moved and seconded, a vote was called. The Legislature adopted the Resolution unanimously.

#### 2026008 CONFIRMATION OF MICHAEL TREYBICH AS COUNSEL TO THE DUTCHESS COUNTY LEGISLATURE

Majority Leader Atkins moved the adoption of the Resolution, with Assistant Majority Leader Munn seconding.

Discussion: Assistant Minority Leader Metzger asked if Legislative Counsel Lindars could provide a legal opinion.

Legislative Counsel Lindars said that he would be unable to render any legal opinions with respect to the Resolution at hand, due to a conflict of interest.

Assistant Minority Leader Metzger spoke against the Resolution, citing portions of the County Charter and noting ambiguity in the language, which could create conflict in procedure.

Assistant Majority Leader Munn replied to the concerns enumerated by Assistant Minority Leader Metzger, asserting that there is precedent for the Resolution at hand and offering a different opinion on the interpretation of the language of the Charter. Assistant Majority Leader Munn stated that the language of the Resolution was modeled on language used in 2010 for a similar circumstance.

Majority Leader Atkins spoke briefly in favor of the Resolution and asked Legislative Counsel Lindars to clarify his statement.

Legislative Counsel Lindars clarified his previous statement, asserting that he could not offer any legal opinion on the Resolution at hand.

Assistant Minority Leader Metzger clarified his own comments.

Assistant Majority Leader Munn asked Legislative Counsel Lindars if he believed that, should the Resolution be adopted, he would no longer be the Legislative Counsel.

Legislative Counsel Lindars replied that he could not answer the question without rendering a legal opinion about the Resolution.

Assistant Majority Leader Munn asked Legislative Counsel Lindars to confirm that his inability to offer a legal opinion was simply a question of procedure due to a conflict of interest since he is named in the Resolution, and that this decision does not imply that he has an opinion regarding the validity of the Resolution.

Legislative Counsel Lindars replied that he is unable to provide any legal opinion on a Resolution with which he has a conflict of interest.

Assistant Majority Leader Munn asked if Legislative Counsel Lindars had an opinion regarding certain professional codes of ethics and conduct, regarding the free will of entities to select their own legal counsel.

Legislative Counsel Lindars acknowledged professional rules of conduct, but could not offer an opinion on the question without rendering an opinion that could be interpreted as providing a legal opinion on the Resolution.

Assistant Majority Leader Munn stated for the record that a counsel shall withdraw from professional representation of a client when that counsel is discharged.

Minority Leader Polasek spoke against the Resolution, arguing that it violates the language of the Charter, offering disagreement with the opinion of Assistant Majority Leader Munn's interpretation of the language.

Minority Leader Polasek moved to table the Resolution, with Assistant Minority Leader Metzger seconding.



The motion to table being duly made and seconded, a roll call vote was called.

AYES: 10      CASWELL, DARROW, FAUST, GILES, HOUSE, MCHOUL, METZGER,  
POLASEK, ROLISON, TRESCA

NAYS: 15      ALEXANDER, ARNOFF, ATKINS, BRENDLI, DRAGO, JOHNSON, KAUL,  
KEARNEY, LAWLER, MUNN, REDL, RHODES, SHAH, VALDÉS SMITH,  
WINSBY

ABSENT: 0

Motion failed.

Chair Valdés Smith ruled to proceed directly to a vote on the Resolution.

Minority Leader Polasek called a point of order, challenging whether the Chair could call the question without a two-thirds vote, and asked Legislative Counsel Lindars for a procedural opinion.

Legislative Counsel Lindars offered a procedural opinion that calling the question would require a two-thirds vote.

Chair Valdés Smith opened the floor for further discussion.

Discussion: None.

The Resolution being duly moved and seconded, a roll call vote was called.

AYES: 15      ALEXANDER, ARNOFF, ATKINS, BRENDLI, DRAGO, JOHNSON, KAUL,  
KEARNEY, LAWLER, MUNN, REDL, RHODES, SHAH, VALDÉS SMITH,  
WINSBY

NAYS: 10      CASWELL, DARROW, FAUST, GILES, HOUSE, MCHOUL, METZGER,  
POLASEK, ROLISON, TRESCA

ABSENT: 0

Resolution passes.

RESOLUTION NO. 2026001

RE: APPOINTMENT OF THE CLERK OF THE COUNTY LEGISLATURE

Legislators VALDÉS SMITH, ATKINS, MUNN, KAUL and BRENDLI offer the following and move its adoption:

RESOLVED, that Julie Shiroishi be and hereby is appointed Clerk of the Dutchess County Legislature of the County of Dutchess.

STATE OF NEW YORK

SS:

COUNTY OF DUTCHESS

This is to certify that I, the undersigned Clerk of the Legislature of the County of Dutchess, have compared the foregoing resolution with the original resolution now on file in the office of said clerk, and which was adopted by said Legislature on the 5<sup>th</sup> day of January 2026, and that the same is a true and correct transcript of said original resolution and of the whole thereof.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and seal of said Legislature this 5<sup>th</sup> day of January 2026.



  
CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE

# Roll Call Sheets

| District  | Last Name    | YES | NO |
|---|--------------|-----|----|
| District 16 - Fishkill and Beacon                                 | Valdés Smith | ✓   |    |
| District 9 - City of Poughkeepsie                                 | Atkins       |     |    |
| District 20 - Red Hook, Tivoli, and Rhinebeck                     | Munn         |     |    |
| District 3 - LaGrange   | Polasek      |     |    |
| District 12 - East Fishkill                                       | Metzger      |     |    |
| District 1 - Town of Poughkeepsie                                 | Redl         |     |    |
| District 2 - LaGrange, Pleasant Valley & Town of Poughkeepsie     | Arnoff       |     |    |
| District 4 - Hyde Park and Town of Poughkeepsie                   | Lawler       |     |    |
| District 5 - Town of Poughkeepsie                                 | Shah         |     |    |
| District 6 - Town of Poughkeepsie                                 | Kaul         |     |    |
| District 7 - Hyde Park and Pleasant Valley                        | Darrow       |     |    |
| District 8 - City and Town of Poughkeepsie                        | Brendli      |     |    |
| District 10 - City of Poughkeepsie                                | Johnson      |     |    |
| District 11 - Clinton, Pleasant Valley, and Rhinebeck             | Kearney      |     |    |
| District 13 - East Fishkill and Wappinger                         | Giles        |     |    |
| District 14 - Wappinger and Town of Poughkeepsie                  | Winsby       |     |    |
| District 15 - Wappinger   | Faust        |     |    |
| District 17 - Town and Village of Fishkill                        | McHoul       |     |    |
| District 18 - City of Beacon and Fishkill                         | Rhodes       |     |    |
| District 19 - North East, Stanford, Pine Plains, Milan & Red Hook | Drago        |     |    |
| District 21 - East Fishkill                                       | Caswell      |     |    |
| District 22 - Beekman and Union Vale                              | Tresca       |     |    |
| District 23 - Pawling, Beekman and East Fishkill                  | Rolison      |     |    |
| District 24 - Dover and Pawling                                   | House        |     |    |
| District 25 - Amenia, Washington, Pleasant Valley & Millbrook     | Alexander    |     |    |

Present: 25  
Absent: 0  
Vacant: 0

Resolution: ✓  
Motion: —

Total : 25 0  
Yes No  
Abstentions: 0

2026001 APPOINTMENT OF THE CLERK OF THE COUNTY LEGISLATURE

JANUARY 5, 2026

RESOLUTION NO. 2026002

RE: APPOINTMENT OF THE DEPUTY CLERK OF THE COUNTY  
LEGISLATURE

Legislators VALDÉS SMITH, ATKINS, and MUNN offer the following and move its adoption:

RESOLVED, that Gregory Totino be and hereby is appointed Deputy Clerk of the Dutchess County Legislature of the County of Dutchess.

STATE OF NEW YORK

SS:

COUNTY OF DUTCHESS

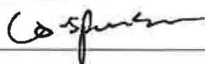
This is to certify that I, the undersigned Clerk of the Legislature of the County of Dutchess, have compared the foregoing resolution with the original resolution now on file in the office of said clerk, and which was adopted by said Legislature on the 5<sup>th</sup> day of January 2026, and that the same is a true and correct transcript of said original resolution and of the whole thereof.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and seal of said Legislature this 5<sup>th</sup> day of January 2026.



CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE

# Roll Call Sheets

| District   | Last Name    | YES | NO |
|--|--------------|-----|----|
| District 16 - Fishkill and Beacon  | Valdés Smith | ✓   |    |
| District 9 - City of Poughkeepsie  | Atkins       |     |    |
| District 20 - Red Hook, Tivoli, and Rhinebeck  | Munn         |     |    |
| District 3 - LaGrange  | Polasek      |     |    |
| District 12 - East Fishkill  | Metzger      |     |    |
| District 1 - Town of Poughkeepsie  | Redl         |     |    |
| District 2 - LaGrange, Pleasant Valley & Town of Poughkeepsie  | Arnoff       |     |    |
| District 4 - Hyde Park and Town of Poughkeepsie  | Lawler       |     |    |
| District 5 - Town of Poughkeepsie  | Shah         |     |    |
| District 6 - Town of Poughkeepsie  | Kaul         |     |    |
| District 7 - Hyde Park and Pleasant Valley   | Darrow       |     |    |
|  District 8 - City and Town of Poughkeepsie | Brendli      |     |    |
| District 10 - City of Poughkeepsie   | Johnson      |     |    |
| District 11 - Clinton, Pleasant Valley, and Rhinebeck  | Kearney      |     |    |
| District 13 - East Fishkill and Wappinger  | Giles        |     |    |
| District 14 - Wappinger and Town of Poughkeepsie   | Winsby       |     |    |
| District 15 - Wappinger  | Faust        |     |    |
| District 17 - Town and Village of Fishkill   | McHoul       |     |    |
| District 18 - City of Beacon and Fishkill  | Rhodes       |     |    |
| District 19 - North East, Stanford, Pine Plains, Milan & Red Hook  | Drago        |     |    |
| District 21 - East Fishkill  | Caswell      |     |    |
| District 22 - Beekman and Union Vale   | Tresca       |     |    |
| District 23 - Pawling, Beekman and East Fishkill   | Rolison      |     |    |
| District 24 - Dover and Pawling  | House        |     |    |
| District 25 - Amenia, Washington, Pleasant Valley & Millbrook  | Alexander    |     |    |

Present: 25  
Absent: 0  
Vacant: 0

Resolution: ✓  
Motion:     

Total : 25  
Yes  
Abstentions: 0  
No

RESOLUTION NO. 2026003

RE: ADOPTION OF THE TEMPORARY RULES OF THE DUTCHESS COUNTY  
LEGISLATURE

Legislators VALDÉS SMITH, ATKINS, and MUNN offer the following and move its adoption:

RESOLVED, that the 2024-2025 Rules, as attached hereto, be and they hereby are adopted as the  
Temporary Rules of the Dutchess County Legislature, effective January 1, 2026.

STATE OF NEW YORK

ss:

COUNTY OF DUTCHESS

This is to certify that I, the undersigned Clerk of the Legislature of the County of Dutchess, have compared the foregoing resolution with the original resolution now on file in the office of said clerk, and which was adopted by said Legislature on the 5<sup>th</sup> day of January 2026, and that the same is a true and correct transcript of said original resolution and of the whole thereof.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and seal of said Legislature this 5<sup>th</sup> day of January 2026.



  
CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE

# Roll Call Sheets

| District  | Last Name    | ✓ YES | NO |
|---|--------------|-------|----|
| District 16 - Fishkill and Beacon                                 | Valdés Smith | ✓     |    |
| District 9 - City of Poughkeepsie                                 | Atkins       |       |    |
| District 20 - Red Hook, Tivoli, and Rhinebeck                     | Munn         |       |    |
| District 3 - LaGrange   | Polasek      |       |    |
| District 12 - East Fishkill                                       | Metzger      |       |    |
| District 1 - Town of Poughkeepsie                                 | Redl         |       |    |
| District 2 - LaGrange, Pleasant Valley & Town of Poughkeepsie     | Arnoff       |       |    |
| District 4 - Hyde Park and Town of Poughkeepsie                   | Lawler       |       |    |
| District 5 - Town of Poughkeepsie                                 | Shah         |       |    |
| District 6 - Town of Poughkeepsie                                 | Kaul         |       |    |
| District 7 - Hyde Park and Pleasant Valley                        | Darrow       |       |    |
| District 8 - City and Town of Poughkeepsie                        | Brendli      |       |    |
| District 10 - City of Poughkeepsie                                | Johnson      |       |    |
| District 11 - Clinton, Pleasant Valley, and Rhinebeck             | Kearney      |       |    |
| District 13 - East Fishkill and Wappinger                         | Giles        |       |    |
| District 14 - Wappinger and Town of Poughkeepsie                  | Winsby       |       |    |
| District 15 - Wappinger   | Faust        |       |    |
| District 17 - Town and Village of Fishkill                        | McHoul       |       |    |
| District 18 - City of Beacon and Fishkill                         | Rhodes       |       |    |
| District 19 - North East, Stanford, Pine Plains, Milan & Red Hook | Drago        |       |    |
| District 21 - East Fishkill                                       | Caswell      |       |    |
| District 22 - Beekman and Union Vale                              | Tresca       |       |    |
| District 23 - Pawling, Beekman and East Fishkill                  | Rolison      |       |    |
| District 24 - Dover and Pawling                                   | House        |       |    |
| District 25 - Amenia, Washington, Pleasant Valley & Millbrook     | Alexander    |       |    |

Present: 25  
Absent: 0  
Vacant: 0

Resolution: ✓  
Motion:     

Total : 25  
Yes      No       
Abstentions: 0

2026003 ADOPTION OF THE TEMPORARY RULES OF THE DUTCHESS COUNTY LEGISLATURE

JANUARY 5, 2026



Permanent Rules of the  
Dutchess County Legislature  
2024-2025



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***PERMANENT RULES OF THE  
DUTCHESS COUNTY LEGISLATURE  
FOR 2024-2025***

***ARTICLE I***

***ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING OF THE COUNTY LEGISLATURE***

***RULE 1.1        ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING:***

The Dutchess County Legislature shall annually, by resolution duly adopted during the month of December, fix the date, time, and place of the meeting to organize the board.

***RULE 1.2        NOTICE OF ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING:***

The Clerk of the County Legislature shall serve upon each member of the Legislature a written notice stating the date, time, and place of meeting pursuant to Section 151 of the County Law. In the event of a vacancy in the Office of the Clerk of the Legislature, or his/her inability or failure to act in accordance with this provision, notice shall be given by the Deputy Clerk. If the offices of Clerk and Deputy Clerk of the Legislature are vacant, notice shall be given by the County Clerk.

***RULE 1.3        ELECTION OF CHAIR OF THE LEGISLATURE  
AND LEADERSHIP:***

A. A Chair of the County Legislature shall be elected by a roll call vote from the membership of the County Legislature at its Organizational Meeting, or at an adjourned meeting thereof, who shall serve as Chair for the balance of the calendar year.



**In the event of a vacancy, the County Legislature shall fill the office of Chair in the manner provided by its rules. Should the County Legislature fail to select a Chair within thirty (30) days after the office shall become vacant for any reason, the County Executive shall appoint a member of the County Legislature to serve as its Chair for the balance of the calendar year, as provided in Section 302 (j) of the Dutchess County Charter.**

**B. Prior to the commencement of the Legislative Term, Members of the two political parties which shall have polled the largest vote in the past general election for the County Legislature shall elect leaders of their respective parties. The leader of the political party whose membership constitutes a majority shall be known as Majority Leader; the leader of the other political party shall be known as Minority Leader. The assistant leader of the political party whose membership constitutes a majority shall be known as Assistant Majority Leader; the assistant leader of the other political party shall be known as the Assistant Minority Leader.**

#### ***RULE 1.4      APPOINTMENT OF CLERK OF LEGISLATURE***

**A Clerk of the Legislature shall be appointed by the Legislature at its Organizational Meeting, or at an adjourned meeting thereof, in the manner provided by its rules. The Clerk shall be and remain an elector of the County, and he/she shall serve at the pleasure of the Legislature and until his/her successor shall be appointed and shall qualify. A vacancy in the Office of the Clerk shall be filled by the County Legislature. The Legislature may appoint such Deputy Clerks and employees as it may require.**

***RULE 1.5      APPOINTMENT OF COUNSEL TO THE  
LEGISLATURE:***

**A Counsel to the Legislature shall be appointed in accordance with the provisions of Section 2.14 of the Dutchess County Charter.**

***RULE 1.6      CONFIRMATION OF APPOINTMENTS:***

**Confirmation of appointment, where required by the Dutchess County Charter, shall be by affirmative roll call vote of a majority of the members of the County Legislature, except that if the Legislature shall fail to act within sixty (60) days after the filing of written notification of appointment with the Clerk of the Legislature such appointment shall be deemed approved.**

***ARTICLE II***

***MEETINGS OF THE LEGISLATURE***

***RULE 2.1      GENERAL PROVISIONS OF MEETINGS:***

**The County Legislature shall, in addition to its Organizational Meeting, hold regular meetings at stated intervals and special meetings as herein provided, all of which shall be public and may be adjourned from time to time. All such meetings shall be held at the Legislative Chambers in the Dutchess County Office Building, City of Poughkeepsie, Dutchess County, New York, and shall begin at the hour specified in these Rules unless a different time and place shall be provided by a motion for adjournment, or by notice of a special meeting. All meetings - regular, adjourned, or special - shall begin with the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag. The time of convening and adjournment of each meeting shall be recorded in the Proceedings of the County Legislature.**

***RULE 2.2        REGULAR MONTHLY MEETINGS:***

**A. Regular monthly meetings of the County Legislature shall commence at 6:30 pm on the second Monday in each month during the year, except when the second Monday of a month shall fall on a legal holiday, in which case, such regular monthly meeting shall be held on the following day at the same hour and place, except in the month of January when the regular monthly meeting shall be on the fourth Monday of the month. Meetings of the Legislature may be established by resolution at the December meeting for the ensuing year.**

**B. The Clerk of the County Legislature shall serve upon each member of the Legislature electronic notice or if requested written notice stating the date, time, and place of the meeting at least forty-eight (48) hours before the date of the meeting, stating the subject matter of all resolutions, ordinances, and local laws to be voted on at such meeting, except as otherwise provided in Rule 4.5. Such meeting may be postponed for up to 24 hours by the Chair of the Legislature.**

***RULE 2.3        SPECIAL MEETINGS:***

**Special meetings shall be held at the Call of the Clerk or Deputy Clerk of the Legislature upon direction of the Chair or upon written request signed by a majority of the members of the Legislature; notice in writing stating the time, place, and purpose of the special meeting shall be served either personally or by electronic mail upon each legislator's official county email by the Clerk of the Legislature.**



**Such service shall be made at least forty-eight (48) hours in advance of such meeting, upon each member of the Legislature by the Clerk of the Legislature or his/her designee, who is competent to execute service of process in the State of New York.**

**Service either personal or by electronic mail shall be evidenced by a notarized affidavit of service duly executed by the person making service. A member may waive the service of notice of such meeting by a waiver signed by the member. Such meeting may be postponed for up to 24 hours by the Chair of the Legislature.**

***RULE 2.4        DUTIES OF THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE:***

**The Clerk of the Legislature shall keep a record of all acts and proceedings of the Legislature and be the custodian of the records, vouchers and other papers required or authorized by law to be deposited in his/her office. The Clerk's responsibilities will include, but are not limited to, forwarding to all Legislators committee reports and draft minutes of all committee meetings and full Legislature meetings. He/she shall perform such additional and related duties as may be prescribed by law and/ or directed by the County Legislature.**

## ***ARTICLE III***

### ***ORDER OF BUSINESS***

#### ***RULE 3.1 ORDER OF BUSINESS:***

**The Order of Business at each meeting of the County Legislature shall be as follows:**

- a) Roll Call by the Clerk of the Legislature;**
- b) Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag, Invocation, and a Moment of Silent Meditation;**
- c) Proclamations, Commendations and Presentations;**
- d) Privilege of the Floor with respect to printed agenda items; (Limited to three minutes)**
- e) Approval of prior month's meeting minutes;**
- f) Reports of standing committees, special committees, and liaisons to other committees and boards;**
- g) Resolutions**
  - 1) Consent Resolutions**
  - 2) All Other Resolutions**
  - 3) Resolutions for Unanimous Consent;**
- h) Other County business;**
- i) Announcements; (limited to three minutes)**
- j) Privilege of the Floor with respect to agenda and non-agenda County business; and**
- k) Adjournment.**

**Condolence resolutions shall be permitted as part of the "adjournment" when they relate to a current or former Dutchess County employee or Dutchess County elected official.**

## ***ARTICLE IV***

### ***RULES OF ORDER AND PROCEDURE***

#### ***RULE 4.1      ROLL CALL:***

**The members of the County Legislature shall be called to order by the Chair at every meeting of the Legislature and it shall be the duty of the Clerk of the Legislature to call roll and record names of those members who are present or absent. Any member arriving after the roll call has been completed shall report to the Clerk and shall be recorded "Present, Late."**

#### ***RULE 4.2      ATTENDANCE AND QUORUM:***

**A. A Majority of the whole of the members of the County Legislature shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business, but a lesser number may adjourn.**

**B. A member of the County Legislature who has answered roll call at any meeting of the Legislature shall not be permitted to absent himself/herself from such meeting without notifying the Clerk.**

**C. Any legislator failing to be properly seated at any regular or special meetings of the Legislature shall be recorded absent by the Clerk.**

***RULE 4.3      POWERS AND DUTIES OF THE CHAIR:***

**A. It shall be the duty of the Chair of the Dutchess County Legislature:**

- a) to become familiar with the property, function, and fiscal affairs of the County; and**
- b) to see that the statutes, local laws and resolutions of the County Legislature and directions of County officers empowered to make the same are faithfully executed and report to the Legislature any neglect of duty; and**
- c) to make recommendations to the County Legislature on legislation and such other matters deemed material and advisable.**

**B. The Chair shall preside at all meetings of the Legislature at which he/she is present; shall preserve order and decorum and in the event of disruption or disorderly conduct in the chamber, gallery, or hallway the Chair may cause the same to be cleared until order is restored; shall decide all questions of order subject to appeal to the Legislature; and shall perform such duties as are provided by Law and these Rules.**

**C. If the Chair fails to appear within fifteen (15) minutes of the time fixed for a meeting of the Legislature, it shall be the duty of the Clerk of the Legislature to call the meeting to order and the Legislative members present, by a majority vote, shall select a member of the Legislature as Chair who shall have and exercise all the duties and powers of the Chair as temporary Chair for said meeting.**

**D. The Chair shall designate a Legislator as acting Chair to preside when the Chair desires to speak from the floor on any pending matter. Such designation shall be effective until the question on the floor is disposed of or the Chair elects to return to the Chair.**

**E. The Chair shall in all cases, have the right to vote, except on appeals to the Legislature from decisions of the Chair; on all other questions, when the vote is equally divided, including the vote of the Chair, the question shall be lost.**

**F. The Chair shall have the power to:**

**a) determine what officers and employees of the Legislative Branch may attend conferences and schools conducted for the betterment of County government.**

**b) perform such other duties as the Legislature may determine to be necessary to give full effect to the provisions of the County Law or these Rules.**

**G. The Chair may declare an emergency and adjourn a regular or special meeting to a date not to exceed seven (7) days beyond the meeting so adjourned.**

**H. After the Organizational Meeting of the Legislature, the Chair shall establish a seating plan. Such plan shall be observed at all regular and special meetings of the Legislature.**

**I. The Chair will notify, in a timely fashion, the sponsors of any resolutions, including those resolutions submitted by the Executive Branch, petitions, reports, or local laws which may have conformed to all other requirements of the Legislative rules but have been pulled by the Chair. This notification will be accompanied by a written explanation from the Chair.**



***RULE 4.4      PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR:***

**Persons not members of the County Legislature may, on motion to suspend the rules, be permitted to speak regarding matters pending before the Legislature or in the process of being presented to said Legislature.**

***RULE 4.5      PETITIONS, REPORTS, MOTIONS,  
RESOLUTIONS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS:***

**A. All petitions, reports, and resolutions shall be reduced to writing, sponsored by at least two members of the Legislature, and filed with the Clerk.**

**B. Any Legislator who wishes to be a sponsor of any resolution shall notify the Clerk, at any time prior to the taking of the vote, and the Clerk with the permission of the sponsors(s) shall add the Legislator's name to the resolution as a sponsor.**

**C. Petitions, reports, and communications may be presented to the County Legislature by the Chair or any member of the Legislature and the same or a summary thereof shall be read by the Clerk.**

**D. All petitions, reports, motions, resolutions, and communications requiring action of a committee shall be referred by the Chair without motion to the committee having in charge matters relating to the same.**

**E. All resolutions, to be presented at a regular, adjourned, or special meeting of the County Legislature shall be filed with the Clerk of the County Legislature not later than 4:45 pm on the resolution deadline date established annually except that this requirement may be waived by the Chair of the Legislature.**

**F. All resolutions amending the adopted budget or directing a capital expenditure must be submitted with a fiscal impact statement. If the chair determines that the estimate or estimates contained in the fiscal impact statement are inaccurate or unsupported by specific budgetary data, such inaccuracies shall impair or invalidate such resolution and such resolution can be pulled by the chair in the same manner set forth in Rule 4.3(I).**

**G. All resolutions authorizing the bonding of expenditures of \$500,000 or more shall be presented at a meeting of the relevant Committee no later than seven (7) calendar days prior to the regularly scheduled legislative committee day and copies thereof shall be emailed immediately thereafter to each legislator's official county email. This requirement may be waived by the Chair of the Legislature.**

**H. No resolution except those subject to Rule 4.5 (G) shall be considered by a committee unless the same shall have been emailed to each legislator's official county email at least three (3) calendar days prior to the legislative committee day. This requirement may be waived by the Chair of the Legislature or in his/her absence by the Chair of the relevant Committee.**

**I. A proposed local law may be introduced by a member of the Legislative body at a meeting of the Legislature by laying it on the desks of each Legislator. No such local law shall be passed until it shall have been in its final form and placed upon the desks or tables of the members of the Legislative body at least seven (7) calendar days, exclusive of Sunday, prior to its final passage.**

**1. As an alternative means of introduction:**

**a. Any member of the Legislative body may introduce a Local Law by mailing copies to each Legislator in a postpaid,**



properly addressed and securely closed envelope or wrapper in a post box or post office of the United States Post Office, at least ten (10) calendar days, exclusive of Sunday, prior to a meeting of the Legislative body and, at the same time, placing copies in the mailbox of each Legislator at the Legislative office, or

b. Any member of the legislative body may e-mail to the official county e-mail in-box of each Legislator in the Portable Document Format (PDF) at least ten calendar days, exclusive of Sunday, prior to its final passage, provided that:

(i) the local government has documented that each member of the legislative body has an official county e-mail address, and

(ii) the local government has published such official county e-mail address on the bulletin board of the local government clerk, and

(iii) the legislative body has unanimously adopted a resolution authorizing such electronic delivery.

J. The Clerk will notify, in a timely fashion, the sponsors of any resolutions, including those resolutions submitted by the Executive Branch, petitions, reports, or local laws which have conformed to all other requirements of the Legislative rules which have been pulled by the Committee Chair.

K. A Consent Agenda may be presented by the Chair of the Legislature at the beginning of a meeting. Any item of business requiring action by the Legislature but considered to be routine or not controversial in nature, may be presented as part of the Consent Agenda. The Consent Agenda shall be introduced by a motion "to approve the Consent Agenda" and shall be considered by the Legislature as a single item. The motion to approve the Consent

**Agenda is not debatable. Upon objection by any Legislator to inclusion of any item on a Consent Agenda, that item shall be removed from the Consent Agenda. Such objections may be recorded any time prior to the taking of a vote on a motion to approve the Consent Agenda. Any item removed from the Consent Agenda shall be considered as part of all other resolutions portion of the agenda. The approval of motion to approve the Consent Agenda shall be fully equivalent to approval, adoption, or enactment of each such motion or resolution or other item of business thereon, exactly as if each had been acted upon individually.**

**L. The Legislature can discharge from committee a matter that has been referred to it upon which the committee has not reported back to the Legislature, or which has been defeated in committee, by a majority vote of the Legislature as fully constituted, or a majority of those present and voting if previous notice of intent to discharge from said committee is given.**

**M. A memorialization resolution is used to make any statement that asks another government official or body to act or intended to encourage support or opposition to an action by or being considered by another government official or body. Any memorialization shall require at least four sponsors and must have a direct impact on Dutchess County Government and provide a fiscal impact statement and other supporting documentation for such proposed action. Any memorialization to the NYS Legislature or the US Congress must have bill numbers in both houses and the bills must be referred to and attached to the resolution.**

**N. With respect to Rule 3.1 (h) "Announcements", all such announcements must be submitted to the Clerk of the Legislature by 5:00 p.m. on the day of the Board Meeting and will be announced by the Clerk.**

***RULE 4.6      PRIORITY OF BUSINESS:***

**All questions relating to the priority of business under the same order of business shall be decided by the Chair without debate.**

***RULE 4.7      WHEN DEBATE IN ORDER:***

**No debate shall be in order until the pending questions shall be stated by the Chair.**

***RULE 4.8      ADDRESSING THE CHAIR:***

**A member rising to debate, to give notice, to make a motion, or report, or to present a petition on other Legislative business, shall address the Chair and shall not proceed until recognized by the Chair. When two or more members rise to speak at the same time, the Chair shall decide and determine which member is entitled to the floor.**

***RULE 4.9      CALLS TO ORDER:***

**If a member shall breach or violate the Rules of the County Legislature or *Robert's Rules of Order* (newly revised), the Chair shall call him/her to order, in which case the member so called shall yield the floor and observe order and decorum until recognized by the Chair. A point of order can be made by the chair or any member of the Legislature who thinks that the rules of the Legislature are being violated. A point of order takes precedence over any pending question out of which it may arise. It is in order when another has the floor who can be interrupted by a member or the chair making the point of order. A point of order does not require a second. It is not debatable but must be explained, if necessary and with the chair's consent, and must be ruled on by the chair before debate can resume.**

#### ***RULE 4.10      FLOOR MOVEMENT***

To preserve the order, decorum and security of the Legislature, the floor of the Legislative Chamber will be restricted during meetings to Legislators, Legislature Staff, Countywide Elected Officials, Administration Representatives, Department heads, and those granted permission by the Chair.

#### ***RULE 4.11      BANNER, SIGNS AND PLACARDS***

Banners, signs, and placards are disruptive to the deliberative process. Any display of banners, signs, or placards in the Legislative Chambers is prohibited.

#### ***RULE 4.12      PUBLIC CONDUCT***

A. All visitors and spectators in the Dutchess County Legislature must be respectful and obey the rules of order promulgated by the Legislature

B. Except for during commendations and proclamations applause from the public is prohibited.

#### ***RULE 4.13      MEMBERS ENTITLED TO VOTE:***

A. Any member who shall be present when the Chair announces a vote shall vote unless he/she has obtained permission of the chair to abstain. A member who refuses to cast a vote or who does not obtain permission to abstain, shall be deemed to have voted with the prevailing side on the motion. In the event of a tie vote, the vote shall be deemed to be a nay vote.

1. A member may be allowed to abstain from voting aye or nay on the adoption of minutes of legislative meetings that transpired prior to the member's election to the Legislature.

**2. A member may be allowed to abstain from voting aye or nay on the adoption of minutes of legislative meetings wherein that member was not in attendance.**

**B. A member has the right to change his/her vote up to the time the vote is finally announced by the Clerk.**

**C. A member who declares a conflict or an intent to abstain may not participate in the discussion of the question. A member with an actual conflict as defined in the Dutchess County Code of Ethics shall obtain permission to recuse themselves and shall remove themselves from the Chambers during deliberations.**

**D. Any member who shall leave the Legislative Chambers without permission from the Chair shall be considered an unauthorized absence and they shall be deemed to have voted with the prevailing side on any motion during their unauthorized absence. In the event of a tie vote, the vote will be deemed to be a nay vote.**

***RULE 4.14 APPEAL FROM DECISION OF CHAIR:***

**A. Any member of the Legislature may appeal from any decision of the Chair, except when another appeal is pending, but it can be made only at the time the ruling is made. If any debate or business has intervened, it is too late to appeal.**

**B. When a member wishes to appeal from the decision of the Chair, he/she shall do so as soon as the decision is made, even though another has the floor and without waiting to be recognized by the Chair, saying, "Madame/Mr. Chair, I appeal from the decision of the Chair." If this appeal is seconded, the Chair should clearly state the question at issue and his reasons for the decision if he/she thinks it necessary and then state the question. If there is a tie vote, the Chair is sustained.**

**C. An appeal cannot be debated when related to indecorum, transgression of rules of speaking, priority of business or while the immediately pending question is undebatable. When debatable, no member is allowed to speak more than once except the Chair, who may at the close of the debate answer the arguments against the decision.**

***RULE 4.15 VOTE REQUIRED FOR ADOPTION OF RESOLUTIONS:***

**A. It shall require a majority vote of all members of the Legislature to adopt a resolution; however, any procedural matter may be adopted by a majority of the members present, except where these rules expressly provide to the contrary and where otherwise required by law.**

**B. Once the County Budget in any given fiscal year has been adopted it shall require 2/3 affirmative vote of all members of the Legislature to adopt resolutions authorizing the transfer of funds from any contingency line in the adopted County Budget or from the fund balance.**

***RULE 4.16 EFFECTIVE DATE OF RESOLUTIONS***

**All resolutions shall become effective as provided by law.**

***RULE 4.17 POWER TO AMEND OR REPEAL RESOLUTIONS, ORDINANCES AND LOCAL LAWS:***

**Except as otherwise expressly provided by law or these Rules, the Legislature shall have the power to amend, repeal or supersede any local laws, ordinances or resolutions theretofore adopted.**



***RULE 4.18      ROLL CALL VOTE TAKEN:***

The roll call vote shall be taken on any questions when required by statute or these Rules, or upon demand by any member of the Legislature at any time prior to stating the next question.

***RULE 4.19      WITHDRAWAL OF A MOTION:***

A motion for leave to withdraw a motion may be made by the mover at any time before voting on the question has commenced, even though the motion has been amended and it requires no second. After the question has been stated, it is in possession of the Legislature, and a member can neither withdraw nor modify it without the consent of the Legislature.

***RULE 4.20      MOTIONS WHEN RECEIVABLE:***

When a question is under debate, no motion shall be entertained unless:

- 1) for an adjournment;
- 2) to lay on the table;
- 3) for the previous question;
- 4) to postpone;
- 5) to refer to a committee;
- 6) to amend.

These motions shall have preference in the order in which they are here stated; the first four motions are neither amendable nor debatable.

***RULE 4.21      ADJOURNMENT:***

A motion to adjourn may be made by a member who has the floor; it cannot be made during a roll call or when the Legislature is

engaged in voting, and it shall be decided without debate.

***RULE 4.22      MOVING THE QUESTION:***

**A. The Chair shall not close debate so long as any member who has not exhausted his/her right to debate desires the floor, except by order of the Legislature, which requires a 2/3 majority of those present and voting.**

**B. The form of this motion is “I move (or demand or call for) the question on (here specify the motion on which it is desired to be ordered).” It cannot be debated or amended and must be voted on immediately. When the Legislature shall order the question and amendments are pending, the questions shall first be taken upon such amendments in reverse order and then upon the main question without further debate or amendment.**

***RULE 4.23      POSTPONEMENT OF CONSIDERATION:***

**A. A motion to lay a question on the table shall be decided without amendment or debate. This motion cannot be applied to anything except a question pending.**

**B. A motion to postpone to a day certain or to make the consideration of the question a special order for a day certain shall until it is decided to preclude all amendments to the main question. A question cannot be postponed beyond the next regular session of the Legislature.**

***RULE 4.24      REFERENCE TO COMMITTEE:***

**The motion to commit or refer to a committee shall, until it is decided, preclude all amendments to the main question.**



***RULE 4.25 RECONSIDERATION GENERALLY:***

**No motion for reconsideration shall be in order unless made on the same day, or the meeting, regular or special, next succeeding that on which the decision proposed to be reconsidered took place, it must be made by a member who voted with the prevailing side on the vote of the motion or resolution proposed to be reconsidered.**

***RULE 4.26 MINUTES OF MEETINGS OF THE LEGISLATURE:***

**A. All resolutions, reports of committees of this Legislature, reports of County Officers, notices and communications from State Officers directing the levy of any tax shall be included in the proceedings of the Legislature.**

**B. The minutes of the Clerk shall record the reading of other communications with sufficient description to show their nature and purpose, but they need not be printed in full in the proceedings except upon the order of this Legislature. Public comment shall be included in the minutes, which will include the name of the person who speaks.**

**C. In all cases where a resolution or motion is entered on the minutes the Clerk shall enter the name of the moving members.**

**D. A draft of the previous regular monthly meeting's minutes shall be given to Legislators, either by e-mail or in their mailboxes, no later than five days before the next regularly scheduled monthly meeting. Accepted minutes shall be made available to Legislators no more than seven days after the meeting at which they were accepted. Accepted minutes to the meetings of the County Legislature's committees shall be added to the County Legislature's website separately titled as Committee Meeting Minutes with appropriate**

date. The same requirements shall apply to the minutes of any special meeting conducted by the Legislature.

***RULE 4.27      WHERE NO EXPRESS RULE IS PROVIDED:***

Except as herein otherwise provided, *Robert's Rules of Order* (newly revised), shall be applicable and shall govern.

***RULE 4.28      STATE STATUTE OR COUNTY CHARTER SHALL GOVERN:***

A. In the event that any Rules herein, or portion thereof, is inconsistent or in conflict with any State Statute or County Charter, the said State Statute or County Charter shall govern.

B. In the absence of any rule or in the event of an inconsistency of any rules of this Legislature with respect to any requirement of the statutes of the State of New York or the County Charter, such statutory provision or requirement shall be deemed to be a part of these Rules and such statute shall govern.

***RULE 4.29      AMENDMENT TO RULES:***

The Legislature shall have the power to amend these Rules by affirmative vote of a majority of the whole Legislature.

***ARTICLE V***

***COMMITTEES***

***RULE 5.1      CREATION OF COMMITTEES:***

For the purpose of aiding or assisting the Legislature in the transaction of its business, the Legislature shall create Standing and Special Committees. The local law or resolution creating such

**Standing or Special Committee shall specify the power, duties, and number of such committee members.**

***RULE 5.2        GENERAL DUTIES AND FUNCTIONS OF COMMITTEES:***

**Every committee shall have actual or implied authority to do whatever is necessary to carry out the functions of the committee or whatever is reasonably incidental thereto and shall do things as may be necessary or advisable to comply with the requirements of the law and of this Legislature.**

***RULE 5.3        TIME AND MANNER OF APPOINTMENT COMMITTEES:***

**Except as specifically required by law, all committees of this Legislature shall be appointed from its membership by the Chair within thirty (30) days from the date of the Organizational Meeting by filing with the Clerk a list showing the name of the committee and the membership thereof and all vacancies shall be filled in like manner. The Clerk shall, upon receipt of such list, email a copy to each member of the Legislature. Those committees specifically required to be appointed pursuant to law shall be created as directed by Statute. The Chair of the Legislature, Majority Leader, Assistant Majority Leader, Minority Leader, and Assistant Minority Leader shall be ex officio members of each of said Committees.**

***RULE 5.4        TERM OF COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP:***

**A member of any Standing or Special Committee shall serve until the end of the year of his/her appointment unless sooner replaced by the Chair for stated written cause. Each member of any Special Committee shall serve for a period specified in the resolution appointing him/her unless sooner replaced by the Chair, provided, however, no committee member shall serve longer than the term of**

which he/she shall have been elected as Legislator.

***RULE 5.5        RULES OF PROCEDURE FOR COMMITTEES:***

**A. The Chair of each committee shall be the Presiding Officer and shall cause the members thereof to be notified twenty-four (24) hours in advance of each meeting and call all necessary and required meetings. Upon his/her refusal or neglect to call any meeting, the Clerk of the Legislature upon written request signed by a majority of the committee shall call such meetings. Each committee shall perform the duties assigned to it by the Legislature and such other duties as may be required by law.**

**B. The Order of Business at each meeting of Committees of the County Legislature shall be as follows:**

- a) Roll Call by the Clerk**
- b) Presentations and Reports**
- c) Privilege of the floor with respect to printed agenda items, except during budget review sessions of the Budget, Finance & Personnel Committee subject to Rule 5.13 (A) and the review session of the Capital Project Plan during Public Works and Capital Projects Committee**
- d) Consideration of Resolutions with respect to printed agenda items**
- e) Other Business**
- f) Adjournment**

**C. A quorum shall be defined as a majority of the members of any given committee including the Chair of the Legislature, the Majority Leader, the Minority Leader, the Assistant Majority Leader, and the Assistant Minority Leader.**

**For the purpose of conducting the business of any given committee, a quorum must be maintained. Except as provided in**

**Rule 4.13, once a quorum has been established all voting shall be decided by a majority of those present and voting, including the Chair of the Legislature, the Majority Leader, the Minority Leader, the Assistant Majority Leader, and the Assistant Minority Leader. Except as provided in Rule 4.13, all committee determinations shall be on recorded roll call vote of a majority of those present and voting. All votes shall be cast in person in open session of the committee.**

**D. The chair of a committee shall not close debate so long as any member of the committee who has not exhausted his/her right to debate desires the floor, except by order of the committee, which requires a 2/3 majority of those members present. Every member of the committee present shall have the opportunity to speak at least once for a period not to exceed ten minutes.**

**E. No report shall be made by any committee on any subject referred to it in the absence of approval by a majority of the said committee unless a majority of the Legislature so orders or directs.**

**F. All committee meetings shall be open to the public, except as otherwise provided by law.**

**G. The Chair of each committee shall appoint a standing subcommittee for the purpose of reviewing and making recommendations regarding appointments submitted for confirmation by the Legislature. Such appointments to the standing subcommittee will be provided to the Majority and Minority leaders by February 1st along with any changes that are made during such term.**

***RULE 5.6      COMMITTEE AUTHORIZED TO ACCEPT HELP  
FROM NON-MEMBERS***

**Any committee of this Legislature is authorized to accept advice and counsel from citizens who are not members of the Legislature.**

***RULE 5.7      POWERS AND DUTIES OF THE LEGISLATURE  
NOT BE DELEGATED:***

**Except when expressly authorized by law, nothing herein shall be deemed to authorize the delegation of the power, duties, or responsibilities of the legislature, or of any officer.**

***RULE 5.8      REFERENCE TO COMMITTEES:***

**A. No action shall be taken by the Legislature upon any matter or resolution on the same day on which it is presented, except for the election or appointment of the Chair, Clerk, and Deputy Clerk of the County Legislature, members of committees whose terms have expired, resolutions directing the Chair and the Clerk of the Legislature to sign tax rolls and affix the seal of the Legislature thereto, resolutions ratifying and confirming the tax rolls and directing the collection of taxes, and matters or resolutions which have theretofore been considered by and reported out of committee.**

**B. Except by unanimous consent of the Legislature in attendance, no matter, except the election or appointment of the Chair, Clerk, and Deputy Clerk of the County Legislature, shall be acted upon by the Legislature until after reported out by the proper committee.**

**C. Any resolution considered by a committee shall be considered by any subsequent committee in the form reported out**



by the prior committee. The resolution considered or amended by the last committee to consider or amend such resolution shall be the version of such resolution listed on the Legislature's meeting agenda.

***RULE 5.9      REFERENCE TO SPECIAL COMMITTEE:***

Upon the majority vote of all members of the Legislature, any matter entrusted to any committee may be withdrawn from the consideration of such committee and referred to a special committee appointed in such manner as the resolution withdrawing such matter shall direct.

***RULE 5.10      RESIGNATION FROM COMMITTEE:***

No member shall be entitled to resign from any Committee to which he/she has been appointed unless said application has been approved by the Chair of the Legislature.

***RULE 5.11      PRESIDING OFFICER OF THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE:***

In forming a Committee of the Whole Legislature, the Chair shall leave the Chair and appoint another Legislator to preside.

***RULE 5.12      RULES FOR THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE:***

A. The Rules of the Legislature shall be observed by this Committee so far as they may be applicable except limiting the number of times of speaking and except that the yeas and nays shall not be taken on substantive matters and except that a motion to rise and report progress shall always be in order and decided without debate.

**B. The Committee of the Whole shall be open to the public, except as otherwise provided by law, with no public comment.**

***RULE 5.13      STANDING COMMITTEES OF THE  
LEGISLATURE:***

***A.    BUDGET, FINANCE, AND PERSONNEL***

**This committee shall consist of twelve (12) members of the Legislature inclusive of ex officio members.**

**Except as to matters specifically assigned to other committees, this committee shall have referred to it all matters relating to or arising out of the requirements of the law and the action of the Legislature with respect to:**

- 1) Annual Budget Review**
- 2) Arts, History, Tourism**
- 3) County Comptroller**
- 4) Dutchess Community College**
- 5) Economic Development Corporation**
- 6) Economic Development Zone**
- 7) Employee Contracts**
- 8) Finance**
  - Real Property Tax**
- 9) Grants**
- 10) Human Resources**
  - Risk Management**
- 11) Industrial Development Agency/Local Development Council**
- 12) Leases**
- 13) Merit Awards**
- 14) Off-Track Betting**
- 15) Taxes - hotel/motel, property, sales**



#### **16) Above Department Budget Amendments**

**Notwithstanding Rule 5.5 (B)(c) it is intended that public comment on the Tentative Budget and Capital Project Plan and the reports by these committees will be reserved for a public hearing(s) on said budget and capital project plan.**

#### ***B. ENVIRONMENT***

**This committee shall consist of twelve (12) members of the Legislature inclusive of ex officio members.**

**Except as to matters specifically assigned to other committees, this committee shall have referred to it all matters relating to or arising out of the requirements of law and the action of the Legislature with respect to:**

- 1) Cooperative Extension**
- 2) Environmental Impact Statements**
- 3) Environmental Management Council**
- 4) Fish & Wildlife**
- 5) Grants**
- 6) Forest Practice Board**
- 7) Planning and Development, Department of**
- 8) Resource Recovery Agency**
- 9) Soil Conservation Board**
- 10) Solid Waste Agency**
- 11) Water and Natural Resources**
- 12) Above Department Budget Amendments**

### ***C. FAMILY AND HUMAN SERVICES***

**This committee shall consist of twelve (12) members of the Legislature inclusive of ex officio members.**

**Except as to matters specifically assigned to other committees, this committee shall have referred to it all matters relating to or arising out of the requirements of law and the action of the Legislature with respect to:**

- 1) Aging**
- 2) Community Action Agency**
- 3) Community and Family Services**  
**Department of Youth Services**
- 4) Family Court**
- 5) Grants**
- 6) Health Department**  
**Weights and Measures**
- 7) Veterans Affairs**
- 8) Mental Hygiene Department**
- 9) Voluntary Action Agency**
- 10) Above Department Budget Amendments**

### ***D. GOVERNMENT SERVICES AND ADMINISTRATION***

**This committee shall consist of twelve (12) members of the Legislature inclusive of ex officio members.**

**Except as to matters specifically assigned to other committees, this committee shall have referred to it all matters relating to or arising out of the requirements of law and the action of the Legislature with respect to:**

- 1) Board of Elections**

- 2) **Board/Code of Ethics**
- 3) **Central and Information Services, Office of  
Central Services**
- 4) **County Attorney**
- 5) **County Charter**
- 6) **County Clerk**
- 7) **County Executive**
- 8) **County Legislature**
- 9) **Grants**
- 10) **Local Laws**
- 11) **Above Department Budget Amendments**

***E. PUBLIC SAFETY***

**This committee shall consist of twelve (12) members of the Legislature inclusive of ex officio members.**

**Except as to matters specifically assigned to other committees, this committee shall have referred to it all matters relating to or arising out of the requirements of law and action of the Legislature with respect to:**

- 1) **Commissioner of Jurors**
- 2) **County of Courts (except Family Court)**
- 3) **County Sheriff**
- 4) **District Attorney**
- 5) **Emergency Response, Department of**
- 6) **Grants**
- 7) **Homeland Security**
- 8) **Probation & Community Correction, Department of**
- 9) **Public Defender**
- 10) **STOP-DWI**
- 11) **Traffic Safety**
- 12) **Above Department Budget Amendments**

***F. PUBLIC WORKS AND CAPITAL PROJECTS***

**This committee shall consist of twelve (12) members of the Legislature inclusive of ex officio members.**

**Except as to matters specifically assigned to other committees, this committee shall have referred to it all matters relating to or arising out of the requirements of law and the action of the Legislature with respect to:**

- 1) Capital Budget**
- 2) Capital Projects**
- 3) Grants**
- 4) Public Works, Department of**
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  - Buildings and Grounds**
  - Dutchess Stadium**
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- 5) Above Department Budget Amendments**
- 6) Transportation**

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RESOLUTION NO. 2026004

RE: ATTENDANCE AT CONVENTIONS AND CONFERENCES FOR THE YEAR  
2026

Legislators VALDÉS SMITH, ATKINS, and MUNN offer the following and move its adoption:

RESOLVED, that pursuant to Section 77-b of the General Municipal Law the Clerk and the Deputy Clerk of the County Legislature be and hereby are authorized to attend the official and unofficial conferences and conventions of the New York State Association of Counties and the official and unofficial conferences and conventions of the Association of Clerks of the Board of Supervisors, and, be it further

RESOLVED, that the members of the Dutchess County Legislature are hereby authorized to attend the official and unofficial conventions and conferences of the Association of Supervisors and County Legislators, the official and unofficial conferences and conventions of the New York State Association of Counties, the official and unofficial conferences and convention of the New York State Conference of Mayors and other Municipal Officials, the official and unofficial conferences and conventions of the Association of Towns, and the official and unofficial conferences and conventions of the National Association of Counties, and, be it further

RESOLVED, that this Legislature does hereby ask members of the County Legislature to notify the Chairman of the County Legislature when attending aforesaid meetings, conferences, and conventions.

STATE OF NEW YORK

ss:

COUNTY OF DUTCHESS

This is to certify that I, the undersigned Clerk of the Legislature of the County of Dutchess, have compared the foregoing resolution with the original resolution now on file in the office of said clerk, and which was adopted by said Legislature on the 5<sup>th</sup> day of January 2026, and that the same is a true and correct transcript of said original resolution and of the whole thereof.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and seal of said Legislature this 5<sup>th</sup> day of January 2026.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "John Smith", is written over the printed title "CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE".

CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE



# Roll Call Sheets

| District  | Last Name    | YES | NO |
|---|--------------|-----|----|
| District 16 - Fishkill and Beacon                                 | Valdés Smith | ✓   |    |
| District 9 - City of Poughkeepsie                                 | Atkins       |     |    |
| District 20 - Red Hook, Tivoli, and Rhinebeck                     | Munn         |     |    |
| District 3 - LaGrange   | Polasek      |     |    |
| District 12 - East Fishkill                                       | Metzger      |     |    |
| District 1 - Town of Poughkeepsie                                 | Redl         |     |    |
| District 2 - LaGrange, Pleasant Valley & Town of Poughkeepsie     | Arnoff       |     |    |
| District 4 - Hyde Park and Town of Poughkeepsie                   | Lawler       |     |    |
| District 5 - Town of Poughkeepsie                                 | Shah         |     |    |
| District 6 - Town of Poughkeepsie                                 | Kaul         |     |    |
| District 7 - Hyde Park and Pleasant Valley                        | Darrow       |     |    |
| District 8 - City and Town of Poughkeepsie                        | Brendli      |     |    |
| District 10 - City of Poughkeepsie                                | Johnson      |     |    |
| District 11 - Clinton, Pleasant Valley, and Rhinebeck             | Kearney      |     |    |
| District 13 - East Fishkill and Wappinger                         | Giles        |     |    |
| District 14 - Wappinger and Town of Poughkeepsie                  | Winsby       |     |    |
| District 15 - Wappinger   | Faust        |     |    |
| District 17 - Town and Village of Fishkill                        | McHoul       |     |    |
| District 18 - City of Beacon and Fishkill                         | Rhodes       |     |    |
| District 19 - North East, Stanford, Pine Plains, Milan & Red Hook | Drago        |     |    |
| District 21 - East Fishkill                                       | Caswell      |     |    |
| District 22 - Beekman and Union Vale                              | Tresca       |     |    |
| District 23 - Pawling, Beekman and East Fishkill                  | Rolison      |     |    |
| District 24 - Dover and Pawling                                   | House        |     |    |
| District 25 - Ardenia, Washington, Pleasant Valley & Millbrook    | Alexander    |     |    |

Present: 25

Resolution: ✓

Total: 25

Absent: 0

Motion:     

Yes

No

Vacant: 0

Abstentions: 0

2026004 ATTENDANCE AT CONVENTIONS AND CONFERENCES FOR THE YEAR 2026

JANUARY 5, 2026

RESOLUTION NO. 2026005

RE: ATTENDANCE AT CONFERENCES AND CONVENTIONS – BOARD OF ELECTIONS

Legislators VALDÉS SMITH, ATKINS, and MUNN offer the following and move its adoption:

RESOLVED, that the two Election Commissioners of Dutchess County be, and they hereby are authorized to attend conventions of the County Officers Association, and, be it further

RESOLVED, that the two Election Commissioners of Dutchess County and their Deputies be, and they are authorized to attend conventions of the Election Commissioners Association of the State of New York, State Board of Elections Commissioners seminars and training programs, and Downstate Region I Meetings.

APPROVED:

*Susan J. Serino*

SUSAN J. SERINO  
COUNTY EXECUTIVE

Date *Jan. 21, 2026*

STATE OF NEW YORK

SS:

COUNTY OF DUTCHESS

This is to certify that I, the undersigned Clerk of the Legislature of the County of Dutchess, have compared the foregoing resolution with the original resolution now on file in the office of said clerk, and which was adopted by said Legislature on the 5<sup>th</sup> day of January 2026, and that the same is a true and correct transcript of said original resolution and of the whole thereof.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and seal of said Legislature this 5<sup>th</sup> day of January 2026.



*[Signature]*  
CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE

# Roll Call Sheets

| District  | Last Name    | YES | NO |
|---|--------------|-----|----|
| District 16 - Fishkill and Beacon                                 | Valdés Smith | ✓   |    |
| District 9 - City of Poughkeepsie                                 | Atkins       |     |    |
| District 20 - Red Hook, Tivoli, and Rhinebeck                     | Munn         |     |    |
| District 3 - LaGrange   | Polasek      |     |    |
| District 12 - East Fishkill                                       | Metzger      |     |    |
| District 1 - Town of Poughkeepsie                                 | Redl         |     |    |
| District 2 - LaGrange, Pleasant Valley & Town of Poughkeepsie     | Arnoff       |     |    |
| District 4 - Hyde Park and Town of Poughkeepsie                   | Lawler       |     |    |
| District 5 - Town of Poughkeepsie                                 | Shah         |     |    |
| District 6 - Town of Poughkeepsie                                 | Kaul         |     |    |
| District 7 - Hyde Park and Pleasant Valley                        | Darrow       |     |    |
| District 8 - City and Town of Poughkeepsie                        | Brendli      |     |    |
| District 10 - City of Poughkeepsie                                | Johnson      |     |    |
| District 11 - Clinton, Pleasant Valley, and Rhinebeck             | Kearney      |     |    |
| District 13 - East Fishkill and Wappinger                         | Giles        |     |    |
| District 14 - Wappinger and Town of Poughkeepsie                  | Winsby       |     |    |
| District 15 - Wappinger   | Faust        |     |    |
| District 17 - Town and Village of Fishkill                        | McHoul       |     |    |
| District 18 - City of Beacon and Fishkill                         | Rhodes       |     |    |
| District 19 - North East, Stanford, Pine Plains, Milan & Red Hook | Drago        |     |    |
| District 21 - East Fishkill                                       | Caswell      |     |    |
| District 22 - Beekman and Union Vale                              | Tresca       |     |    |
| District 23 - Pawling, Beekman and East Fishkill                  | Rolison      |     |    |
| District 24 - Dover and Pawling                                   | House        |     |    |
| District 25 - Amenia, Washington, Pleasant Valley & Millbrook     | Alexander    |     |    |

Present: 25

Resolution: ✓

Total : 25

Absent: 0

Motion:     

Yes      No     

Vacant: 0

Abstentions: 0

**2026005 ATTENDANCE AT CONFERENCES AND CONVENTIONS – BOARD OF ELECTIONS**

JANUARY 5, 2026

RESOLUTION NO. 2026006

RE: UNDERTAKINGS 2026

Legislators VALDÉS SMITH, ATKINS, and MUNN offer the following and move its adoption:

WHEREAS, by Resolution No. 87 of 1973, the County Legislature authorized a blanket undertaking in lieu of individual undertakings in accordance with Section 11, Subdivision 2 of the Public Officers Law of the State of New York, and

WHEREAS, Section 2.02 (1) of the Dutchess County Charter requires that the County Legislature shall establish the amount of bonds of officers and employees, now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the blanket undertaking be continued in force and that the amount of the bond shall be \$100,000 for each covered officer and employee.

APPROVED

*Susan J. Serino*

SUSAN J. SERINO  
COUNTY EXECUTIVE

Date Jan. 21, 2026

STATE OF NEW YORK

ss:

COUNTY OF DUTCHESS

This is to certify that I, the undersigned Clerk of the Legislature of the County of Dutchess, have compared the foregoing resolution with the original resolution now on file in the office of said clerk, and which was adopted by said Legislature on the 5<sup>th</sup> day of January 2026, and that the same is a true and correct transcript of said original resolution and of the whole thereof.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and seal of said Legislature this 5<sup>th</sup> day of January 2026.



*[Signature]*  
CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE



# Roll Call Sheets

| District  | Last Name    | YES | NO |
|---|--------------|-----|----|
| District 16 - Fishkill and Beacon                                 | Valdés Smith | ✓   |    |
| District 9 - City of Poughkeepsie                                 | Atkins       |     |    |
| District 20 - Red Hook, Tivoli, and Rhinebeck                     | Munn         |     |    |
| District 3 - LaGrange   | Polasek      |     |    |
| District 12 - East Fishkill                                       | Metzger      |     |    |
| District 1 - Town of Poughkeepsie                                 | Redl         |     |    |
| District 2 - LaGrange, Pleasant Valley & Town of Poughkeepsie     | Arnoff       |     |    |
| District 4 - Hyde Park and Town of Poughkeepsie                   | Lawler       |     |    |
| District 5 - Town of Poughkeepsie                                 | Shah         |     |    |
| District 6 - Town of Poughkeepsie                                 | Kaul         |     |    |
| District 7 - Hyde Park and Pleasant Valley                        | Darrow       |     |    |
| District 8 - City and Town of Poughkeepsie                        | Brendli      |     |    |
| District 10 - City of Poughkeepsie                                | Johnson      |     |    |
| District 11 - Clinton, Pleasant Valley, and Rhinebeck             | Kearney      |     |    |
| District 13 - East Fishkill and Wappinger                         | Giles        |     |    |
| District 14 - Wappinger and Town of Poughkeepsie                  | Winsby       |     |    |
| District 15 - Wappinger   | Faust        |     |    |
| District 17 - Town and Village of Fishkill                        | McHoul       |     |    |
| District 18 - City of Beacon and Fishkill                         | Rhodes       |     |    |
| District 19 - North East, Stanford, Pine Plains, Milan & Red Hook | Drago        |     |    |
| District 21 - East Fishkill                                       | Caswell      |     |    |
| District 22 - Beekman and Union Vale                              | Tresca       |     |    |
| District 23 - Pawling, Beekman and East Fishkill                  | Rolison      |     |    |
| District 24 - Dover and Pawling                                   | House        |     |    |
| District 25 - Amenia, Washington, Pleasant Valley & Millbrook     | Alexander    |     |    |

Present: 25

Resolution: ✓

Total : 25

Absent: 0

Motion:     

Yes

No

Vacant: 0

Abstentions: 0

2026006 UNDERTAKINGS 2026

JANUARY 5, 2026

RESOLUTION NO. 2026007

RE: DESIGNATION OF OFFICIAL NEWSPAPERS FOR THE PUBLICATION OF LOCAL LAWS, NOTICES, AND OTHER MATTERS REQUIRED BY LAW TO BE PUBLISHED PURSUANT TO SECTION 214 (2) OF THE COUNTY LAW

Legislators VALDÉS SMITH, ATKINS, and MUNN offer the following and move its adoption:

WHEREAS, pursuant to Section 214 (2) of the County Law at least two newspapers published within the County shall annually be designated by the Legislature to be official newspapers for the publication of all local laws, notices, and other matters required by law to be published, now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the Dutchess County Legislature does hereby designate the Poughkeepsie Journal and Southern Dutchess News Group as the official newspapers for the year 2026 for the publication of all local laws, notices, and other matters required by law to be published pursuant to Section 214 (2) of the County Law.

APPROVED

*Susan J. Serino*

SUSAN J. SERINO  
COUNTY EXECUTIVE

Date Jan. 21, 2026

STATE OF NEW YORK

ss:

COUNTY OF DUTCHESS

This is to certify that I, the undersigned Clerk of the Legislature of the County of Dutchess, have compared the foregoing resolution with the original resolution now on file in the office of said clerk, and which was adopted by said Legislature on the 5<sup>th</sup> day of January 2026, and that the same is a true and correct transcript of said original resolution and of the whole thereof.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and seal of said Legislature this 5<sup>th</sup> day of January 2026.



*Julia Smith*  
CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE

# Roll Call Sheets

| District  | Last Name    | YES | NO |
|---|--------------|-----|----|
| District 16 - Fishkill and Beacon                                 | Valdés Smith | ✓   |    |
| District 9 - City of Poughkeepsie                                 | Atkins       |     |    |
| District 20 - Red Hook, Tivoli, and Rhinebeck                     | Munn         |     |    |
| District 3 - LaGrange   | Polasek      |     |    |
| District 12 - East Fishkill                                       | Metzger      |     |    |
| District 1 - Town of Poughkeepsie                                 | Redl         |     |    |
| District 2 - LaGrange, Pleasant Valley & Town of Poughkeepsie     | Arnoff       |     |    |
| District 4 - Hyde Park and Town of Poughkeepsie                   | Lawler       |     |    |
| District 5 - Town of Poughkeepsie                                 | Shah         |     |    |
| District 6 - Town of Poughkeepsie                                 | Kaul         |     |    |
| District 7 - Hyde Park and Pleasant Valley                        | Darrow       |     |    |
| District 8 - City and Town of Poughkeepsie                        | Brendli      |     |    |
| District 10 - City of Poughkeepsie                                | Johnson      |     |    |
| District 11 - Clinton, Pleasant Valley, and Rhinebeck             | Kearney      |     |    |
| District 13 - East Fishkill and Wappinger                         | Giles        |     |    |
| District 14 - Wappinger and Town of Poughkeepsie                  | Winsby       |     |    |
| District 15 - Wappinger   | Faust        |     |    |
| District 17 - Town and Village of Fishkill                        | McHoul       |     |    |
| District 18 - City of Beacon and Fishkill                         | Rhodes       |     |    |
| District 19 - North East, Stanford, Pine Plains, Milan & Red Hook | Drago        |     |    |
| District 21 - East Fishkill                                       | Caswell      |     |    |
| District 22 - Beekman and Union Vale                              | Tresca       |     |    |
| District 23 - Pawling, Beekman and East Fishkill                  | Rolison      |     |    |
| District 24 - Dover and Pawling                                   | House        |     |    |
| District 25 - Amenia, Washington, Pleasant Valley & Millbrook     | Alexander    |     |    |

Present: 25  
Absent: 0  
Vacant: 0

Resolution: ✓  
Motion:     

Total : 25  
Yes      No       
Abstentions: 0

**2026007 DESIGNATION OF OFFICIAL NEWSPAPERS FOR THE PUBLICATION OF LOCAL LAWS, NOTICES, AND OTHER MATTERS REQUIRED BY LAW TO BE PUBLISHED PURSUANT TO SECTION 214 (2) OF THE COUNTY LAW**

JANUARY 5, 2026



## **Other County Business**

Majority Leader Atkins welcomed all new County Legislators to the chamber.

## **Privilege of the Floor for Agenda and Non-Agenda Items**

Dave Siegel of LaGrange offered congratulations to all Legislators and to the Chair of the Legislature, and spoke in opposition to the Town Center project planned in Lagrange.

Hon. Giancarlo Llaverias of the City of Poughkeepsie spoke welcoming the new Legislators and commented on his time in the Legislature, and the rise of female leadership in the Legislature.

City of Poughkeepsie Councilmember Daniel Atona spoke about a number of local and national issues, and the need for fare-free buses in Dutchess.

Hon. Walter Dietrich of Amenia congratulated the Legislators and asked the Legislature to remember residents east of the mountains in Dutchess.

Hon. Kenya Gadsden of Fishkill spoke about gun violence prevention, the importance of housing and food security in Dutchess.

City of Poughkeepsie Councilmember Terricena Brown recognized Mayor Yvonne Flowers and called for unity.

Chair Valdés Smith paused to recognize elected officials in the room.

City of Poughkeepsie Mayor Yvonne Flowers congratulated the Legislators and spoke about cooperation between the City and the County and asked the Legislature to keep the City of Poughkeepsie in their minds.

Roy C. Ketcham High School student Leila congratulated the Legislators and Clerk Shiroishi, and asked the Legislature to remember its constituents.

There being no further business, Chair Valdés Smith adjourned the meeting at 7:32p.m.

We, the undersigned Caucus members of the Dutchess County Legislature,  
support Legislator Yvette Valdés Smith for Chairman of the Legislature for  
the year 2026.



ERIC ALEXANDER




BRENDAN LAWLER



EMMA ARNOFF



KRISTOFER MUNN



BARRINGTON R. ATKINS



TREVOR REDL



CRAIG BRENDLI

 (proxy)

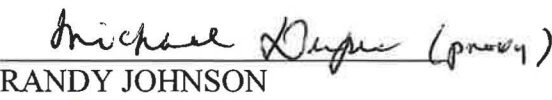
MOLLY RHODES



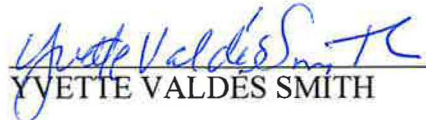
CHRIS DRAGO



ANNA SHAH

 (proxy)

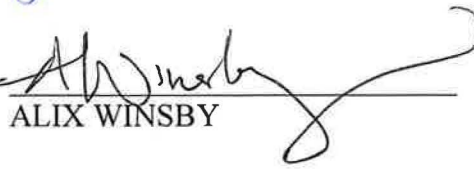
RANDY JOHNSON



YVETTE VALDÉS SMITH



LISA KAUL



ALIX WINSBY



BRENNAN KEARNEY

DATE: December 4, 2025

We, the undersigned Caucus members of the Dutchess County Legislature,  
support Legislator Barrington R. Atkins for Majority Leader of the Legislature for  
the years 2026-2027.

  
ERIC ALEXANDER

  
BRENDAN LAWLER

  
EMMA ARNOFF

  
KRISTOFER MUNN

  
BARRINGTON R. ATKINS

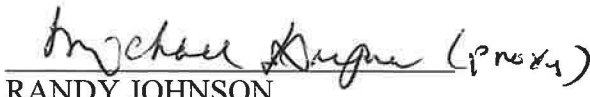
  
TREVOR REDL

  
CRAIG BRENDLI

  
MOLLY RHODES

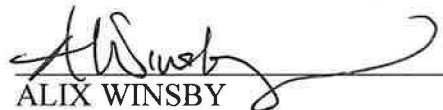
  
CHRIS DRAGO

  
ANNA SHAH

  
RANDY JOHNSON

  
YVETTE VALDES SMITH

  
LISA KAUL

  
ALIX WINSBY

  
BRENNAN KEARNEY

DATE: December 4, 2025

We, the undersigned Caucus members of the Dutchess County Legislature, support  
Legislator Kristofer Munn for Assistant Majority Leader of the Legislature  
for the years 2026-2027.



ERIC ALEXANDER



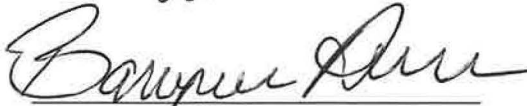
BRENDAN LAWLER



EMMA ARNOFF



KRISTOFER MUNN



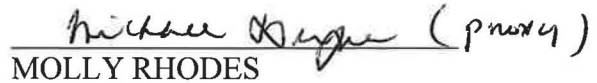
BARRINGTON R. ATKINS



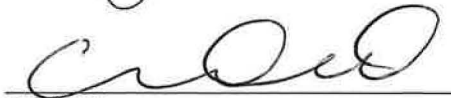
TREVOR REDL



CRAIG BRENDLI



MOLLY RHODES



CHRIS DRAGO



ANNA SHAH



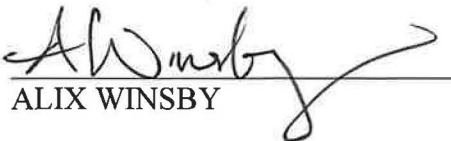
RANDY JOHNSON



YVETTE VALDÉS SMITH



LISA KAUL



ALIX WINSBY



BRENNAN KEARNEY

DATE: December 4, 2025

We, the undersigned Caucus members of the Dutchess County Legislature,  
support Tulie Shiroishi for Clerk of the Legislature for the years  
2026-2027. ✓

  
ERIC ALEXANDER


  
EMMA ARNOFF

  
BARRINGTON R. ATKINS

  
CRAIG BRENDLI

  
CHRIS DRAGO

  
RANDY JOHNSON

  
LISA KAUL

  
BRENNAN KEARNEY

  
BRENDAN LAWLER

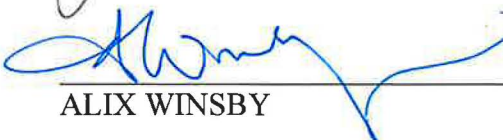
  
KRISTOFER MUNN

  
TREVOR REDL

  
MOLLY RHODES

  
ANNA SHAH

  
YVETTE VALDES SMITH

  
ALIX WINSBY

DATE: December 18, 2025



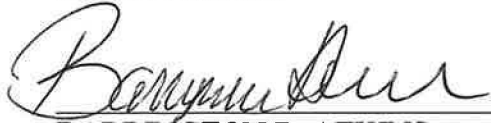
We, the undersigned Caucus members of the Dutchess County Legislature,  
support Gregory Totino as Deputy Clerk of the Legislature for the  
years 2026-2027.



ERIC ALEXANDER



EMMA ARNOFF



BARRINGTON R. ATKINS



CRAIG BRENDLI



CHRIS DRAGO



RANDY JOHNSON



LISA KAUL



BRENNAN KEARNEY



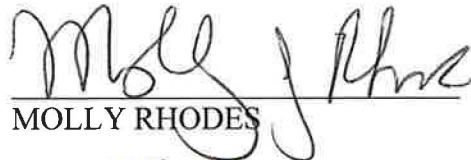
BRENDAN LAWLER



KRISTOFER MUNN



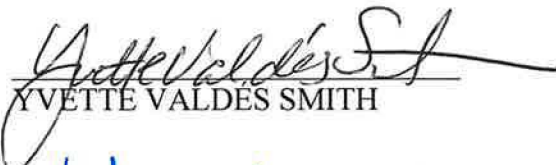
TREVOR REDL



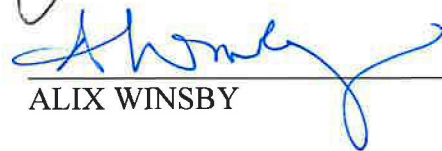
MOLLY RHODES



ANNA SHAH



YVETTE VALDES SMITH



ALIX WINSBY

DATE: December 18, 2025

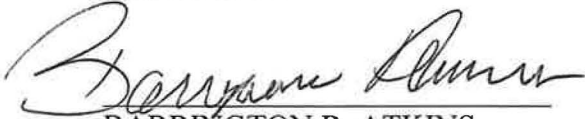
Pursuant to Section 214 (1) of the County Law, a majority of the Caucus members of the Dutchess County Legislature hereby affix their signatures designating the Poughkeepsie Journal as the official political newspaper for the year 2026.



ERIC ALEXANDER



EMMA ARNOFF



BARRINGTON R. ATKINS



CRAIG BRENDL



CHRIS DRAGO



RANDY JOHNSON



LISA KAUL



BRENNAN KEARNEY



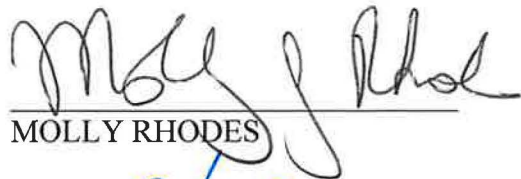
BRENDAN LAWLER



KRISTOFER MUNN



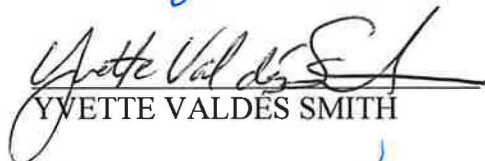
TREVOR REDL



MOLLY RHODES



ANNA SHAH



YVETTE VALDES SMITH




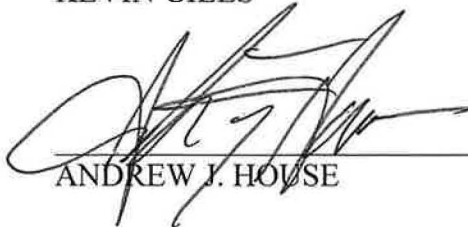


ALIX WINSBY

DATE: December 17, 2025




Pursuant to Section 214 (1) of the County Law, a majority of the Republican members of the Dutchess County Legislature hereby affix their signatures designating the Southern Dutchess News Group as the official political newspaper for the year 2026.


  
STEPHEN M. CASWELL  
DOUG MC HOUL  
LEW DARROW  
JOHN D. METZGER  
ROBERT S. FAUST  
MICHAEL POLASEK  
KEVIN GILES  
CHRIS ROLISON  
ANDREW J. HOUSE  
JOSEPH TRESCA

DATE: December 17, 2025

We, the undersigned Republican members of the Dutchess County Legislature,  
support Michael Polasek as Minority Leader of the Legislature for  
the years 2026-2027.

  
STEPHEN M. CASWELL

  
DOUG MC HOUL

  
LEW DARROW

  
JOHN D. METZGER

  
ROBERT S. FAUST

  
MICHAEL POLASEK

  
KEVIN GILES

  
CHRIS ROLISON


  
ANDREW J. HOUSE

  
JOSEPH TRESCA

DATE: December 17, 2025

We, the undersigned Republican members of the Dutchess County Legislature,  
support John Metzger as Assistant Minority Leader of the Legislature  
for the years 2026-2027.

  
STEPHEN M. CASWELL

  
DOUG MC HOUL

  
LEW DARROW

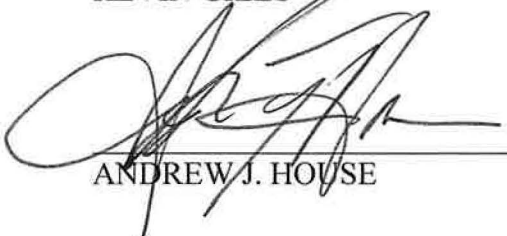
  
JOHN D. METZGER

  
ROBERT S. FAUST

  
MICHAEL POLASEK

  
KEVIN GILES

  
CHRIS ROLISON

  
ANDREW J. HOUSE

  
JOSEPH TRESCA

DATE: December 17, 2025