



ULSTER COUNTY LEGISLATIVE NEWS

ULSTER COUNTY NEWS INFORMATION

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Ulster County Legislature Holds 2026 Organizational Meeting, Re-Elects Peter Criswell to Serve as Chair

(Kingston, NY) –In a party line vote, the Ulster County Legislature re-elected Legislator Peter Criswell to serve as the Chair of the Legislature during its organizational meeting this evening.

"It's an honor to continue serving as Chair of the Ulster County Legislature. I'm committed to supporting every member of this body, fostering collaboration, and ensuring that our work makes a real difference in the lives of the people we serve. Together, we will continue to tackle critical challenges—from housing and transportation to community health and safety, to environmental stewardship and infrastructure repairs. I look forward to building on the partnerships we've cultivated to address key challenges and continuing to serve Ulster County with integrity and care," **said Chair Peter Criswell.**

Chair Criswell was first elected to the Legislature in 2019, representing District 7 in the City of Kingston. Now in his third year as Chair of the Legislature, he previously served as Vice Chair and chaired the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Special Committee, where he led the equitable distribution of \$34 million in federal funding. He also served as Deputy Chair of the Health & Human Services Committee. His legislative priorities have focused on human rights, mental health, affordable housing, and championing the arts. In addition to his public service, Peter is a longtime nonprofit leader and currently serves as Executive Director of the Ulster County Historical Society. He serves on the Board of Governors of Bard College, the Board of Directors of Key of Q (the LGBTQ+ and allied a cappella singers of the Hudson Valley) and served for six years on the City of Kingston's Arts Commission. Peter holds a B.A. from Bard College and an M.S. in Leadership and Strategic Management from Manhattanville University.

Additionally, caucus leadership was announced with Legislator Abe Uchitelle (District 5 – City of Kingston) serving as Majority Leader and Legislator Kevin Roberts (District 12 – Town of Plattekill) serving as Minority Leader.

"Residents of Ulster County have resoundingly put their trust in the Democratic Caucus to solve some of biggest challenges our county has ever faced. Instability in Washington and foreign conflict continue to funnel resources away from constituents facing housing crisis, food insecurity, the opioid epidemic, and rising costs. This new class of Democratic legislators must work to solve these challenges locally, and I thank all my Democratic colleagues, new and returning, for stepping up to lead during such a turbulent time in our country," **said Majority Leader Uchitelle.**

"I thank my colleagues in the Republican Caucus for putting their faith in me to be the voice of the Minority. The Republican Caucus looks forward to providing critical oversight and careful consideration of spending as we seek alternatives to unsustainable use of County tax dollars and ensure their equitable distribution to Southern Ulster residents. I look forward to a productive and respectful relationship with Chair Criswell and Majority Leader Uchitelle," **said Minority Leader Kevin Roberts.**

All twenty-three members of the 30th Legislature were sworn in to their seat by Supreme Court Judge David Gandin and were joined by family, friends and loved ones as they took their oaths of office. New members joining the Ulster County Legislature are:

- Ann Peters (District 2 – Village & Town of Saugerties)
- Michael Berardi (District 4 – Town of Ulster), *previously served 2004-2007*
- Amy Dooley (District 9 - Town of Esopus, Town of Lloyd)
- Dominick Marino (District 10 - Town of Lloyd, Town of Marlborough)
- Laura Donovan (District 11 – Town of Marlborough)
- TJ Briggs (District 15 – Village of Ellenville, Town of Wawarsing), *previously served 2008-2017*
- Lindsey Grossman (District 19 – Town of Marbletown, Town of Rosendale)
- William Wheeler Murray (District 20 – Village & Town of New Paltz)

According to the Rules of the Legislature Committee assignments and a schedule of meetings are to follow within twenty days.

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