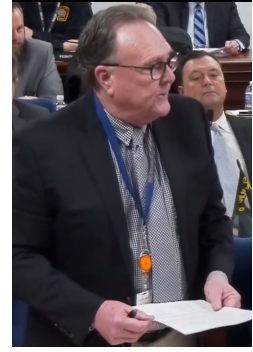


NIAGARA COUNTY REPORT

Rick Abbott, County Legislator — 13th District
Winter 2023



A Message from Legislator Rick Abbott



These uncertain economic times have every family carefully watching their family budget and how they spend every dollar. I want you to know Niagara County government is no different. This year, we unanimously adopted a bi-partisan budget that keeps taxes below the property tax cap and spending under control. The actual full tax rate is being reduced by nearly 10 percent. What I like to call “county-controlled spending” — programs that are not mandated by the state — is increasing by just 3.2 percent, which is well below the rate of inflation. The funds we are spending are going for things like new ambulance services that will supplement emergency medical care across the county; enhanced information technology equipment to improve the county’s cybersecurity; and replacing specific voting machines that helps those with disabilities vote while protecting the integrity of elections. I want to stress, these are not luxury items, but are key to keeping government functioning and providing the services taxpayers expect.



Our Community Partnership program gives small grants to not-for-profits that provide valuable services to our community and enhance our quality of life. I was proud to deliver funds to many city organizations like the VFW (pictured), Lockport in Bloom, Kenan Center, Challenger sports, Cornell Cooperative, and many other youth, cultural and civic groups. I want to sincerely thank all of our local organizations for all they do to make our community a great place to live.

Helpful Links

- [Directory of Public Officials](#)
- [Niagara County Job Postings](#)
- [County Website](#)
- [County Facebook Page](#)

Contact Information:

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Newslinks across Niagara County

- [Niagara County Seeking Purple Heart Veterans for Book of Honor](#)
- [Federal Government Delays Enforcement of REAL ID Requirements for 2 More Years](#)
- [Abbott Says Legislature Increases Tax Exemption for Seniors, People with Disabilities](#)
- [Residents Encouraged to Download Prepare Niagara App as part of Emergency Preparedness](#)

Legislature Makes Key Investments to Support Economic Development

The role of government in economic development is to create an environment to attract businesses and jobs to our community by making key investments and promoting our great quality of life. This effort is led by our great team at the Niagara County Center for Economic Development. Their work helped the county attract the proposed Amazon warehouse which represents a \$500 million investment in Niagara County, with 300 construction jobs and 1000 permanent jobs. Over the next 15 years, the Amazon project will yield \$49 million in payments to local governments. The Legislature has also been focused on helping small businesses, which are the backbone of economy. This past year, we created a façade program to provide \$5.2 million in matching grants to small businesses to rejuvenate the exteriors of their properties and bring vibrancy to our core business districts. More than 200 small businesses have been able to take advantage of this program. Plus, the construction work was done by local contractors, ensuring these funds stay local.



Gould's Flowers & Gifts in Lockport was one of more than 200 businesses across the county that received a grant through our Façade Program to help make improvements to their exterior. These grants were important in helping businesses recover from the pandemic by providing funds for important capital improvements.