

Investing in *Our* Future



Lackawanna
County

Commissioners

Patrick M. O'Malley • Jerry Notarianni • Laureen A. Cummings

Budget Message – Commissioner Laureen A. Cummings

This Budget Message comes with great anticipation of our move to the newly renovated Lackawanna County Government Center at The Globe.

While this was a multimillion project, fiscal responsibility and the overall health and safety of our residents continue to be my top priorities. Cutting costs, eliminating wasteful spending, doing more with less, and getting the best value for every taxpayer dollar are the elements that I have advocated since I took office.

Once again I am very pleased to report that there will be no tax increase in 2019, alleviating any additional burden on our residents.

I also want to reaffirm my “No” vote commitment on reassessment. That has been my stance, and it always will remain that way.

On a related subject – appeals process – I have implemented transparent policies by publicizing online all of the appeals hearing dates along with the results after the Board renders its decision. Our Community Relations staff is also collecting building permits from all of the municipalities so that we are able to track development projects that are eligible to be added to the tax rolls.

I was also able to make some inroads into union contracts involving part-time staffing at the prison. While I didn't secure the positions I was looking for, I did get temporary staffing jobs, which will generate savings that will become fully apparent in 2020. I want to thank those who were involved with this. Additional cuts will be realized with the move to The Globe, such as rents, office services and supplies, and telephone charges to note a few.

I was very involved in the preparation of the County's 2019 fiscal plan by attending budget hearings and participating in deliberations with our Revenue & Finance Department. This document is the outcome of the 2019 budget process. I want to thank everyone for all of their efforts.

I am still reviewing it and the overtime expenditures that I believe can be significantly reduced. My goal is to continue to work to provide tax relief in some way to help people who are struggling or may be on the verge of losing their homes. I also pledge that our consolidation efforts, beyond The Globe, will continue for all facets of government in an attempt to save even more money, which would reduce the impact on our families.

I encourage the general public to take a look at the union contracts that I have requested to be posted on our website and offer any insights.

Please review the budget, participate in our hearings, and make suggestions that may be of assistance to us. We have the opportunity to do so until it is voted on for approval and implementation.

This budget is funded by your hard earned tax dollars. We are your stewards. Please take the time to look, digest and offer any advice that you deem appropriate.

Thank you for your support.

*This Budget Message is respectfully submitted this 15th day of October 2018 pursuant to
Section 1.12-1203 of the Lackawanna County Home Rule Charter.*
