



NEWS FROM THE OFFICE OF
ADAM J. BELLO
MONROE COUNTY EXECUTIVE

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COUNTY EXECUTIVE BELLO PRESENTS PROPOSED 2023 BUDGET

The \$1.3 billion proposal funds key initiatives while lowering the county tax rate by \$.90 per \$1,000 of assessed value, resulting in the county's lowest full value rate since the 1940s

ROCHESTER, NY — Monroe County Executive Adam Bello today submitted his 2023 budget proposal to the County Legislature. The \$1.34 billion proposal is a common-sense spending plan that funds the county's ongoing initiatives, recognizes the economic pressures faced by county residents and maintains the Bello administration's focus on public safety, public health and wellness, economic and workforce development and infrastructure.

"My proposed 2023 Budget protects our taxpayers while ensuring we provide the important services and programs our residents expect," **said County Executive Bello**. "With this proposed budget, we look to the future, a re-envisioned future that lifts every resident in every corner of Monroe County, makes Monroe County a destination for entrepreneurs and businesses, ensures equitable opportunities for our residents and positions Monroe County as the best place to live, work and raise a family."

Financial Highlights:

- Year-to-year spending increase is more than 3 full percentage points below inflation
- Full value tax rate falls by \$.90 cents to \$7.56 per \$1,000 – the largest single property tax decrease in 30 years and the lowest rate since 1947
- Tax levy increase of 1.2% is the lowest in nearly a decade, and is more than \$10 million less than allowed under the state's Property Tax Cap

Public Safety — This Budget:

- Invests more in public safety with a \$14 million, or 8.6%, increase in the Sheriff's Office budget that will more than double the staffing of the Tactical Unit, including 11 additional road patrol deputies.
- Adds \$700,000 to expand the Rochester Threat Advisory Committee, or ROCTAC, a collaborative coalition of businesses, schools and colleges, social service agencies, mental health professionals and local and federal law enforcement that partner to prevent acts of targeted violence and online radicalization. This provides for an additional three deputies, bringing the total increase in deputies for 2023 to 14.

- Provides an additional four Assistant District Attorneys who will help expedite the prosecution of non-violent felony cases like retail store and catalytic converter thefts.
- Increases the laboratory budget of the Medical Examiner's Office by 12.5% to add two full-time toxicologists, provide competitive wages and create a career ladder for experienced staff. A \$500,000 increase in funding for the crime lab will add two forensic firearms examiners.

Public Health — This Budget:

- Allocates \$1.5 million in opioid settlement funds to expand the Improving Addiction Coordination Team and continues our push to provide Naloxone distribution boxes throughout the community to help prevent overdose deaths.
- Provides \$175,000 to expand the successful TRYBE Ecotherapy program for veterans. This program offers nature-based therapy to promote health, healing and recovery. So far, data shows a 70% reduction in PTSD symptoms for participants. The additional funding will allow us to double the number of veterans able to participate in the program
- Provides additional funding for Early Intervention Services and Preschool Special Education and adds two bilingual health service coordinators to assist families navigate getting children the services they need. Additionally, Preschool Special Education reimbursement rates will increase by 5% for the third consecutive year, fulfilling this administration's commitment to increase those rates by a total of 15%.
- Further invests \$1.4 million in our community integration model, so people will be able to access support services through trusted partner organizations right in their own neighborhoods – a key recommendation of the Commission on Racial and Structural Equity.

Economic Development — This Budget:

- Funds the construction of a new Applied Technology Center at Monroe Community College, increasing opportunity for students to receive training for high-demand skilled trades.
- Continues the county's in-house Minority and Women-owned business certification program offered by the Department of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion. This successful program — another key recommendation of the RASE commission — increases opportunity for MWBE's to bid on local and county contracts.
- Continues the modernization of the County of Monroe Industrial Development Agency through its support for workforce training programs such as the Young

Manufacturing Training Program, or YAMTEP, and through the Multi-Craft Apprenticeship Training Program, or MAPP.

- Continues this administration’s commitment to increasing support for small- and mid-sized arts groups by doubling county funding for these organizations and providing \$60,000 in annual support for Hochstein School of Music, Garth Fagan Dance and the Avenue Black Box Theatre.

Community Infrastructure — This Budget:

- Continues renovations at Seneca Park Zoo, for the new front entry and tropics complex.
- Continues ongoing renovations to accommodate MLB-mandated upgrades and improve fan experiences at Frontier Field – soon to be Innovative Field.
- Invests in the county’s human infrastructure of dedicated employees by funding an across-the-board pay increase for all employees, retention bonuses and pay increase for social services workers including caseworkers, examiners, child protective services staffers, child detention staffers and probation employees.
- Creates an Environmental Quality Office to oversee and coordinate efforts to implement Phase I of the County’s Climate Action Plan, which calls for an 80% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions stemming from county operations.
- Provides for a new Chief Information Security Officer to safeguard against cyber hacking and secure the confidentiality and integrity of county data, networks and all critical computer-linked infrastructure.

“This proposed 2023 budget is a smart, fiscally-responsible plan that continues our work to Bring Monroe Back, funds our police and makes key investments in public safety, public health and wellness, economic and workforce development and in restoring and rebuilding the critical community infrastructure that contributes to our quality of life,” said County Executive Bello. “This plan continues the sound financial practices that spurred the three major credit ratings agencies to recently assign Monroe County its highest ratings in two decades and supports the recovery agenda I laid out in my 2022 State of the County address.”

The Monroe County Legislature will consider the spending plan for adoption at its meeting on December 13.

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Media inquiries:

Gary Walker, Director of Communications
GaryWalker@MonroeCounty.gov
(585) 753-1064

Meaghan M. McDermott, Deputy Director of Communications
MeaghanMcDermott@MonroeCounty.gov
(585) 469-4365