



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

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COUNTY EXECUTIVE BELLO ANNOUNCES OVERWHELMING BIPARTISAN PASSAGE OF 2026 COUNTY BUDGET

The \$1.5 billion spending plan again reduces the County tax rate to a historic low

ROCHESTER, NY — Monroe County Executive Adam Bello today announced that the County Legislature has overwhelmingly approved (27-2) the 2026 Monroe County Budget – a resounding, bipartisan vote that serves as a reminder that collaboration in government is still possible. The roughly \$1.5 billion spending plan continues the Bello administration’s commitment to fiscal discipline and critical investments in public safety and public health, all while lowering the property tax rate to its lowest point in recorded County history.

“This year’s budget is a reminder of what responsible, collaborative government looks like,” **said County Executive Bello**. “At a time when much of our nation is defined by division and stalemates, Monroe County is proving that government can still come together, put residents first, and govern with discipline and purpose. I am grateful to the Legislature for its overwhelming support of the 2026 County spending plan.”

The 2026 budget was adopted amid significant uncertainty surrounding future federal support and the possibility of funding rescissions. Despite those challenges, the plan protects Monroe County taxpayers, safeguards long-term financial stability, and maintains the County’s strong fiscal position.

Financial highlights:

- Total Spending: \$1.57 billion — a 1.9% increase over the 2025 adopted budget.
- Full value tax rate falls by \$0.36, to \$5.67 per \$1,000 of assessed value – a historic low. Including this budget, the Bello administration has reduced the tax rate by \$3.12 or 35% over the past six years. (2020 rate was \$8.79 per \$1,000)
- Continues to build on the sound financial practices that have resulted in the county’s sixth credit rating upgrade since 2021. Fitch Ratings noting that their most recent bond rating affirmation of AA can be attributed to the county’s strong financial performance, conservative budgeting, and strong fiscal controls.

Public Safety:

The 2026 budget funds several major public safety and emergency response initiatives, including:

- **MonroeAlert:** A new mass public emergency alerting system that will send urgent notifications to residents via text message, phone call, and email during life-threatening situations.

- **EMS Dashboard:** A first-of-its-kind system to help 911 dispatchers and EMS agencies share real-time data, improve response coordination, and enhance patient care.
- **Body-Worn Cameras for Probation Officers:** A significant step forward in transparency and accountability that will strengthen community trust and officer safety.
- **A 9% increase in County support in the Monroe County Sheriff's Office** to help recruit and retain qualified law enforcement professionals.

Public Health and Support for Families:

The proposed budget also expands investments in public health and substance use prevention, including continued funding for the IMPACT Team, 24/7 Opioid Crisis Hotline, community Naloxone distribution boxes, and the second year of the County's "Call to Action" public education campaign.

The Office of Mental Health will also pilot a **Peer Support Services Transportation Program**, providing safe, supportive transport for residents in crisis to diversion services rather than emergency rooms.

Monroe County's 2026 budget continues to support working families and community well-being through major human services initiatives:

- **Childcare Expansion:** An additional \$11.2 million for daycare services to meet increased demand and ensure more families have access to reliable childcare. It also maintains the 1% parent fee and presumptions certificate program.
- **Anti-Poverty and Workforce Initiatives:** Continued implementation of Project Prosper and the Monroe Ladder Demonstration Project, funded through \$28 million in state grants received in 2025, to drive economic opportunity and upward mobility.

Bello added, "This budget is more than a financial plan—it's a roadmap for responsible governance during unpredictable times. It protects taxpayers, preserves core services, and strengthens the foundation of our community. By balancing investment with restraint, we're positioning Monroe County to weather potential challenges without sacrificing the services residents depend on every day."

The overwhelming support for the 2026 County budget underscores a shared commitment by County Executive Bello and members of the County Legislature to move Monroe County forward, and is proof that local government can still deliver results through cooperation, civility, and a focus on the needs of residents.

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