

# Tompkins County Legislature Mission and Vision Statements

JANUARY, 1997

**MISSION.** The mission of the Tompkins County Board of Representatives [County Legislature] is to collectively meet the needs of our residents and communities and to realize the Boards' articulated vision. County government will perform those functions not provided as well by individuals, the private sector, other levels of government, or the not-for-profit sector. County activities will be designed to protect and enhance the lives of the county's diverse residents and communities in ways that are compassionate, ethical, and creative within the limits of what residents financially support.

To this end we will:

- Allocate fiscal resources consistent with our vision, goals, policies, and community needs
- Foster open and honest communication among governments and county residents and employees, County government will initiate dialogue on the community needs, the appropriate role of County government, and satisfaction with the County's direction, initiatives, and services
- Create and implement policies that:
  - enhance the economic opportunity and well-being of all county residents
  - safeguard the health, safety, and rights of our residents and employees
  - protect the natural environment for future generations and maintain the built environment
  - prevent the need for more costly future services
- Encourage and support programs that:
  - achieve the County's goals
  - deliver needed services
  - serve vulnerable populations
  - strengthen families and communities
  - enhance our quality of life
- Operate a well-run organization by:
  - using a well trained, diverse workforce of employees, qualified contractors, and volunteers
  - providing adequate personnel, financial, facility, and informational support to approved programs
  - producing a balanced budget that supports the County's vision, mission, and goals and has appropriate reserves for future uncertainties
  - carrying out the mandates of state and federal governments
  - acting as a resource and partner for other local governments
  - responding flexibly and responsibly to emerging needs and changing mandates

**VISION.** The vision of the Tompkins County Board of Representatives [County Legislature] is a county where our residents' social and economic well-being flourishes in an environment that is physically safe and supportive.

- We see a community where all people are physically safe, financially secure, and able to enjoy physical, social and mental well-being,
  - where residents of all ages are valued and included and feel that way;
  - where families of all kinds are considered important and strengthened;
  - where those most vulnerable are cared for respectfully and fairly;
  - where all people appreciate diverse cultures and opinions, take personal responsibility for their actions and treat each other with civility;
  - where freedom of expression and privacy are respected and protected;
  - where individual learning and growth opportunities abound and full participation in civic life is fostered;
  - where arts and cultural resources are supported as important community assets.
- We see a community where diverse economic enterprises prosper and are in harmony with the natural and built environment,
  - where everyone can learn job skills and have employment opportunities;
  - where all residents share equitably in the wealth of the community and support the community in accordance with their ability to pay;
  - where all residents can support themselves, their families, and their community from generation to generation.
- We see a community where all people respect the land, and historic and cultural sites, and act as wise stewards or our finite resources and the beauty of the landscape,
  - where land-use decisions reflect this stewardship;
  - where our historic and cultural heritages are respected and protected by all;
  - where people, goods, and information travel easily and safely on networks that are well-integrated into the environment.
- We see a community where local governments, educational institutions, places of worship, businesses, and community organizations work together to provide high-quality, cost-effective services easily available to all.