



SUPERVISOR LAVIN DELIVERS INAUGURAL STATE OF THE TOWN ADDRESS

'Clearing the Path: Respect, Results & Removing Red Tape'

Supervisor Shawn Lavin, the 48th Supervisor for the Town of Amherst, delivered his first State of the Town Address on Friday, January 30, 2026, in coordination with the Amherst Chamber of Commerce Annual Meeting. Supervisor Lavin's presentation, "Clearing the Path: Respect, Results & Removing Red Tape," focused improving government efficiency and building community engagement.

"I want to thank the Amherst Chamber of Commerce President AJ Baynes and the hundreds of members who attended my first State of the Town address. I have already had numerous meaningful conversations with the business community on ways we can streamline town government and processes. There are always opportunities to improve efficiency and remove red tape. This starts with simple steps, such as eliminating defunct town committees and bringing the first meaningful change in more than 40 years to the town's rules of order," said Supervisor Lavin.

Upon taking office, the Supervisor spoke with municipal partners across the country to gain insight into their operations to see how Amherst can adjust policies to improve delivery of services. Each municipality, all with populations comparable to Amherst, indicated more efficient timelines for their planning review process. The Town is hopeful it can emulate aspects of these processes to help eliminate unnecessary delays.

In a candid conversation with attendees, Supervisor Lavin shared struggles from his childhood and how that shaped his path. Growing up with a single mom, Supervisor Lavin and his family relied on government assistance to keep the heat on and food on the table.

"There are many reasons I share my story. I want to eliminate stigma and shame associated with needing help, and I want to give hope to children and families who are struggling. In my State of the Town, I talked about the 8,793 kids in Amherst who receive some form of assistance. But more than just mentioning a statistic, I shared this number to urge all our business partners to join together in finding solutions and to help our neighbors in need," said Supervisor Lavin. "I ran for this office to make a positive impact on our community and to bring us all together to build a stronger Amherst. There are 8,793 kids in Amherst who are dealing with some of the same issues I dealt with as a child, and I want to help them succeed, no matter their current circumstance."

Supervisor Lavin specifically recognized a program that provided him with an opportunity to attend college. The Educational Opportunity Program (EOP), which was founded in Western New York in 1967 by former Assemblymember Arthur O. Eve and former Erie County Legislator Roger Blackwell, provides a broad range of services to New York State residents who, because of educational and economic circumstances, would otherwise be unable to attend a post-secondary educational institution.

"Since its founding, the EOP has assisted more than 60,000 students who have become teachers, lawyers, FBI agents, and as of January 1, Town of Amherst Supervisor. This program literally changed my life and allowed me to pursue a path that would otherwise not have been accessible. I was honored to recognize Mr. Eve and Mr. Blackwell's family who attended in their honor and thank them for the difference their family has made," added Supervisor Lavin.

Supervisor Lavin encourages anyone who wants to learn more about the EOP to visit the SUNY Educational Opportunity Program (EOP) website, www.suny.edu/attend/academics/eop.

Emphasizing the importance of community engagement, Supervisor Lavin announced the launch of a new initiative to recognize all the good that is happening daily throughout the Town. The Good Deeds website went live on Friday morning with the goal of receiving 500 good deed submissions this year.

"This is a simple but important initiative. I fully believe that recognizing that good deeds, big and small, that are happening throughout our town will directly counter social media efforts to continuously divide us. The algorithms on our feeds want division, but I am promoting inclusion and unity. I expect that we will hit our goal of 500 good deeds in no time at all because Amherst has great residents. Even small acts can have a big impact," said Supervisor Lavin.

Submitting a good deed is simple. Visit [Amherst Good Deeds](http://AmherstGoodDeeds) website and follow the prompts.

"I ran for the Office of Supervisor because local government matters. Long before I was a board member, deputy supervisor and supervisor, I was a member of the Air National Guard. Now in my 23rd year, serving as a Major, I can say it was one of the best decisions I made in my life because it has allowed me to give back to a community that gave so much to me. Whenever we have been assigned to help another community, whether in Manhattan during the COVID pandemic or Yancey County, North Carolina for devastating flooding, the common theme in any mission was the passion and drive of local responders to help. I see the same thing in the Town of Amherst every day, from plow drivers, building inspectors, police officers and every other office that is responding to the needs of our residents. My first priority is delivering high quality services that residents deserve and respect and doing so as efficiently as possible," added Supervisor Lavin.

The Supervisor's Office is also asking anyone who has an idea on how to improve the Town of Amherst, how to help children in need or how to reduce unnecessary regulations, to share your thoughts by emailing townsupervisor@amherst.ny.us.