

CHAUTAUQUA COUNTY
MOTION NO. ____ -24

TITLE: Calling on Elected Officials in New York State to Support the Local Journalism Sustainability Act

AT THE REQUEST OF: Legislator Niebel:

WHEREAS, there has been a drastic reduction in the number of local Newspapers over the past 20 years; and

WHEREAS, in 2004 there were 501 Newspapers in New York State, and in 2024 there are 260 Newspapers in New York State; and

WHEREAS, of these Newspapers, there are nearly 50 daily Newspapers, including Chautauqua County's Post Journal and the Dunkirk Observer; and

WHEREAS, local Newspapers serve as an important source of information regarding local and national issues, as well as community, school, and sporting events; and

WHEREAS, local Newspapers offer community members an opportunity to express their First Amendment rights; and

WHEREAS, a Free and Open Press is the cornerstone of a democratic republic; and

WHEREAS, the Local Journalism Sustainability Act, which is currently under consideration by the New York State Assembly, provides tax credits for compensation of journalists to news organizations for the employment of local news journalists and tax credits to consumers for subscription to local news outlets; therefore let it be

KNOWN, that the Chautauqua County Legislature wholeheartedly supports the Local Journalism Sustainability Act; and be it further

MOVED, that the Clerk of the Legislature is directed to send copies to this Motion to Governor Kathy Hochul, New York Senate Majority Leader Andrea Stewart-Cousins, Senate Minority Leader Robert Ort, Senator George Borrello, New York Assembly Speaker Carl Heastie, Assembly Majority Leader Crystal Peoples-Stokes, Assembly Minority William Barclay, and Assemblyman Andrew Goodell.