

## 2024 BUDGET MESSAGE FROM DANIEL P. Mc COY

As County Executive, one of my top priorities is to work diligently to provide, protect and preserve the finances of Albany County. The success of these efforts has been recognized by the New York State Comptroller in the annual Fiscal Stress Monitoring System that shows Albany County's stress rating has fallen to an unprecedented low level, as it has for the last several years. The 2024 budget proposal furthers this commitment.

This is the third straight year we have not increased the County levy, continuing the trend of lowering the effective tax rate for all Albany County residents. The consistent efforts to improve fiscal management and financial reserves have allowed greater investment in economic development and the enhancement of services. The Advance Albany County Alliance has secured major early successes by working with major local employers like Plug Power and Regeneron and they will continue these efforts for years to come. Meanwhile, we now are able to reinvest and enhance essential human services such a mental health programming, services for the homeless, and alternatives to incarceration.

Challenges continue that will require commitment and perseverance, the most pressing being the need to staff our departments with qualified and dedicated employees to serve the constituents and visitors of Albany County during this nationwide staffing shortage crisis. In order to do this, and after settling contracts for nearly all of our collective bargaining units, we are proposing a budget with staffing changes to make county government more dynamic and effective.

I would like to thank the Legislature and the other elected officials of Albany County for their cooperation during the budget process. When we work together we are able to provide the highest level of services at one of the lowest tax rates in the state. It has not always been easy, but we have remained disciplined and stayed the course. This budget continues to utilize best practices in governmental accounting and finances and firmly positions ourselves for prosperity in the future.