

Ulster County Executive Michael Hein

Innovator. Reformer. Effective Leader. Ulster County Executive Mike Hein has been called all of these and for good reason. He has cut property taxes to below 2012 levels, cut spending by \$32 million in just the past four years, the unemployment rate is down, private sector job growth is up, and the County provides access to more services than ever before.

Since taking office in 2009, the successes of his Administration have earned him a national reputation as a leader, and in 2014, *Governing Magazine*, the premier publication and authoritative voice on government policy and management, named him among the top nine government officials in America.

After being elected by his peers to serve as the President of the New York State County Executives Association in 2013, County Executive Hein toured the state to share ideas and bring leaders together to develop solutions to common problems. It was this type of innovative thinking that led to an invitation to speak at the Harvard School of Government in December 2014 at a conference hosted by the National Association of Counties.

As a result of County Executive Hein's reform based agenda, Ulster County has led the way in environmental stewardship, resulting in a formal recognition by the United States Environmental Protection Agency as a leader in green power use and environmental sustainability, ranking Ulster County 23rd nationally among local governments and the only County in New York State to obtain 100% of its electricity from renewable sources which helped earn it a net carbon neutral designation.

Executive Hein has created model programs which create innovative solutions to difficult issues such as the Patriots Project which addresses the national tragedy of homeless Veterans on a local level by providing transitional housing and other essential services. The S.T.R.I.V.E. Project (Strategic Taxpayer Relief through Innovative Visions in Education) repurposed a vacant elementary school into a satellite community college adjacent to the high school in the City of Kingston, expanding the opportunity to access to higher education to inner-city youth. This project was recognized by *American City & County Magazine* in January 2016 as a "Financing Success" due to its strategic partnerships and green infrastructure practices, with no burden on the County taxpayers. In addition, the Patriots Project and the S.T.R.I.V.E. Project both won Achievement Awards from the National Association of Counties (NACo).

In 2015, County Executive Hein began his major road and bridge infrastructure improvement initiative with a then unprecedented \$15 million investment. 2016 saw the continuation of the historic program with an additional \$15 million investment. The \$30 million program continues to create safer roads, bridges and school zones for children and improved pedestrian access. For each year this investment doubled the amount of regularly scheduled road paving, improving economic opportunity and safety for our residents and visitors.

Ulster County Executive Mike Hein was able to accomplish all of this while protecting the property taxpayers and delivering more essential services than ever before, providing Ulster County residents with a more transparent, efficient, accountable and fiscally and socially responsible government - making Ulster County one of the finest places anywhere to live, work, play and raise a family.