RESOLUTION No. 28 of 2026

SUPPORTING THE NEW YORK ASSOCIATION OF TOWNS BILL OF RIGHTS

Introduced by Jeffrey Hoch, Supervisor— Town of Watson

WHEREAS, local municipal governments provide essential services to the vitality of New York State, including but not limited to maintaining and repairing roads, protecting neighborhoods and businesses, guiding economic development, and serving as the first line of defense, communication, and safety for residents every day of the year; and

WHEREAS, the 933 towns of New York State are home to more than 9.1 million New Yorkers and are diverse in population, geography, and demographics, such that decisions affecting daily life are best made at the local level by the government that best understands each community's character, challenges, and needs; and

WHEREAS, the Town, Village, and County governments of the State of New York are partners in shaping the State's future, and a true partnership between the State and its local governments will propel the State forward to the benefit of all New Yorkers; and

WHEREAS, the New York Association of Towns has adopted a Bill of Rights articulating the core principles that should govern the relationship between the State and its Towns; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Watson shares and affirms those principles, namely:

1. Protection and preservation of municipal home rule, recognizing that local municipal governments are best equipped to weigh competing interests and make decisions that shape daily life;
2. Local control of land use and zoning, free from statewide zoning rules that override the voice of resident taxpayers and the officials they elect;
3. Freedom from unfunded mandates, so that local taxpayers are not made to bear the cost of orders imposed by State and federal authorities without the resources to carry them out;
4. Modernized transparency, accessibility, and engagement, including reform of outdated public notice requirements that consume scarce municipal dollars on print notices are often missed by the public; and 5. A meaningful voice in State decisions affecting the residents, so that Towns, Villages and County governments are treated as true partners rather than an afterthought or a hurdle to clear;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED as follows:

Section 1. The Town of Watson — Town Board hereby endorses the New York Association of Towns Bill of Rights and affirms its commitment to the principles set forth therein.

Section 2. The Town of Watson —Town Board calls upon the Governor and the New York State Legislature to respect and uphold these principles in the enactment of legislation and the administration of State programs affecting local municipal governments.

Section 3. The Town Clerk is hereby directed to transmit certified copies of this resolution to the Governor of the State of New York, the Temporary President of the Senate, the Speaker of the Assembly, the State Senator(s) and Member(s) of the Assembly representing the Town of Watson.

Section 4. The within resolution shall take effect immediately.

Upon motion by Board Member Jeff Lyng and seconded by Board Member Shawn Freeman the foregoing resolution was adopted on the 12th day of August 2026.

Michelle Ward

_____ August 12, 2026

Town of Watson, Town Clerk