

Town of Harpersfield

Resolution No. 016

A Resolution In Support of the New York Association of Towns Bill of Rights

Introduced by Patrick F. Funk; seconded by Donna VanSickell.

WHEREAS, town government provides services essential 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 towns of New York are partners in shaping the State's future, and a true partnership between the state and its local government will propel the New York State forward to the benefit of all New Yorkers; and

WHEREAS, the New York Association of Towns 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 Harpersfield shares and affirms those principles, namely:

1. **Protection and defense of municipal home rule**, recognizing that towns, as the level of government closest to the people, are best positioned to balance 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 **Modernized transparency, accessibility, and engagement**, including reform of outdated public-notice requirements that consume scarce municipal dollars on print notices often missed by the public; and
5. **A meaningful voice in State decisions** affecting the hometowns that towns govern, so that town government is treated as a true partner rather than an afterthought or a hurdle to clear; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the Town Board of the Town of Harpersfield hereby endorses and adopts the New York Association of Towns Bill of Rights and affirms its commitment to the principles set forth therein; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Town Board calls upon 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 towns; and be it further

RESOLVED, that 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 Harpersfield, and the New York Association of Towns

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this resolution be entered in the minutes of this Board.

With the vote as follows:

Adopted:	Supervisor	Aye.
	Councilmember	Aye.
	Councilmember	Aye.
	Councilmember	Aye.
	Councilmember	Aye.

THE RESOLUTION WAS THEREUPON DECLARED DULY ADOPTED.

STATE OF NEW YORK }

COUNTY OF DELAWARE }

TOWN OF HARPERSFIELD }

I, Heidi R. Stevens, Town Clerk for the Town of Harpersfield, do hereby certify that the above is a true and correct copy of a resolution adopted by said Board on the 8th day of July 2026 and the whole thereof.

Witness my hand and seal of the Town of Harpersfield, this 13th day of July, 2026.



Heidi R. Stevens, Town Clerk

Town of Harpersfield
