

October 1st, 2026, 5PM
2027 ONONDAGA COUNTY BUDGET HEARING

PLEASE PRINT ***ONLY IF YOU ARE SPEAKING***

Check Here If You Wanted To
Be Added to Email List

Name

Town

Email

①	JILL HURST-WAHL	SALINA		
②	Kevin Reviel	Syracuse / Meadowbrook		
③	Melissa Carr Rave	Manlius		
④	Aggie Lane	Syracuse		
⑤	Jared Parenti			
⑥	John Przepiora	Syr		
⑦	Maria Reveilles	Syracuse		
NS-	Emily Singleton	_____		
⑧	Lisa Warneke	Syr		
⑨	Shemica Amrady	Syr		
⑩	Evelle Williams	Syr		
⑪	Sam Gruber			
⑫	Donald Hughes			

Clerking / Sign-in

October 1st, 2026, 5PM
2027 ONONDAGA COUNTY BUDGET HEARING

**Check Here If You Wanted To
Be Added to Email List**

[illegible]

For the Public Hearing on the 2027 County Budget

My name is Jill Hurst-Wahl, and I am a member of the Onondaga County Public Libraries Board of Trustees. It is good to see you all again!

The budget that you all have been working on contains over \$16,779,000 for the Onondaga County Public Libraries. Thank you for the increased funding for OCPL. As you know, OCPL as a system includes the Central Library which is walking distance from here, 10 City of Syracuse libraries, and 21 independent libraries in suburban Onondaga County. I know that you are familiar with the libraries which serve your constituents, and I thank you for visiting them, cheering for them, and supporting them in any way possible.

The County Executive has said that we are in a once in a 100-year moment, because of the positive opportunities and changes coming to the County. As new residents and businesses move into the County, they will be looking for resources, events, and opportunities that are the hallmark of a truly livable area with a well-rounded environment. Our libraries and library system will be among the things on which they will focus.

The County is concentrating on the infrastructure these new businesses and residents will need. As you focus on all of those details, I want you to remember that public libraries and our library system are part of that infrastructure.

Quoting from 2026 research from the Knight Foundation and the National Opinion Research Center at the University of Chicago:

- A majority of adults in the United States – across every age, race, party affiliation and income group measured – view their local public library as an essential public service.
 - 93% of adults overall view libraries as an essential or valuable public service.
- Specific library services – including book access, internet access, classes and community space – are valued especially highly.
 - In a world with an abundance of free information, 81% cite the value of libraries giving people access to books, media and information.
 - Two-thirds or more see high value in other library services.

Other research continues to show that public libraries remain among the most highly trusted public institutions. Why?

- Libraries provide reliable and accurate information;
- Staff are seen as neutral, ethical, and honest;
- Libraries do not have profit motives; and
- Libraries respect patron privacy.

In your role as the primary policy-making, governing, and appropriating body for county government, I ask that in this once in 100-year moment that you give proper attention to the Onondaga County Public Libraries. Our library services are the windows through which many of our new residents will judge our community. With your help, our libraries will be prepared to give them the information, space, and experiences they desire.

Comments on Onondaga County's Budget

October 1, 2026

Submitted by Aggie Lane

Today, I want to address the Oak Orchard Wastewater Treatment Plant's budget, a budget based on a design that is inherently flawed. The effluent of a wastewater treatment plant should not damage the receiving waters. By the county accepting dangerous PFAS or forever chemicals from the Micron fabs and discharging them to the Oneida river and Lake Ontario is setting itself up for a liability suit. Onondaga County should remember the saga around Onondaga Lake and its cleanup.

In 1988 under the Clean Water Act, Atlantic States Legal Foundation sued Onondaga County for its pollution of Onondaga Lake. Atlantic States won. Over the next thirty years Onondaga County spent \$700 Million to upgrade its sewage system and correct its deficiencies. At the same time, the state sued Allied-Signal for the industrial waste it dumped into the Lake. Allied's successor Honeywell spent \$1 billion mitigating Onondaga Lake's pollution. Despite these expenditures, the Lake is "not whole" yet. It may never be.

Let's not repeat the past because much more is at risk – the pollution of Lake Ontario, the region's drinking water. Polluting it must not even be an option!

The budget for the upgrade of the Oak Orchard Wastewater Treatment Plant must ensure that it includes processes that prevent Micron's toxic chemicals from flowing into its receiving waters. And whatever the cost, it must be passed on to Micron.

10.1.26 Public Hearing

From Melissa Rowe <[REDACTED]>

Date Thu 10/1/2026 5:28 PM

To Office of the Onondaga County Legislature <legislature@onondaga.gov>

NOTICE: This email originated from outside of Onondaga County's email system. **Use caution** with links and attachments.

Good evening,

Please accept this copy of the statement provided this evening at the public hearing:

Good evening, Chair and members of the Legislature.

My name is Dr. Melissa Carr Rowe, and I'm the Executive Director of the Central New York Lyme & Tick-Borne Disease Alliance. I'm here tonight as a passionate advocate for the health of this community. On behalf of all impacted by Lyme and Tick-Borne Disease, I offer acknowledgement and appreciation of the county's support of this issue as a priority in the proposed 2027 county budget. You are leading the way and setting an important example for others around the country, where more than half a million people will be diagnosed with this life-changing illness each year.

Since our inception in 2019, and every single day in our work, we listen to countless neighbors, friends, and colleagues describe how a single tick bite - in a backyard, a local park, or at camp - turned into years of life-altering health struggles. Every case is different, complex, and challenging. While we can't stop every tick, we can give people the tools to protect themselves before illness strikes. We have educated more than 100,000 people in CNY since our inception in 2019, and we are ready. Ready to continue this work, to watch it grow, and to make a difference.

The investment that Onondaga County is making in this important work will have a direct, meaningful impact. It will allow us to deliver hands-on prevention education and tick-removal kits to thousands of Onondaga County families, children, and outdoor workers. Awareness will grow as a result of your support. This powerful information will help to protect the important quality of life, and health, that we all hold so closely.

Tick-borne disease remains a critical public health issue in our region and will continue to be a problem for the future. Prevention is the key to breaking this cycle.

Thank you for your continued support and leadership, and we look forward to our ongoing dialogue as partners in protecting the health of Central New York.

Thank you.

Melissa Carr Rowe, EdD, MSc, CPH

Executive Director

 Home - CNY Lyme Alliance

Central New York Lyme & Tick-Borne Disease Alliance

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

Follow us on [facebook](#) | [instagram](#)

[Schedule a Meeting with Melissa](#)

Jared Shepard

Strong centers are walkable, people oriented places with a mix of jobs, housing, shopping, dining, culture, public spaces, entertainment, transportation, and services.

Why Plan for Strong Centers?

→ Strong community centers are essential to Onondaga County's economic competitiveness. Companies increasingly choose locations based on quality-of-life amenities that appeal to prospective employees.

Walkable, mixed-use environments attract young professionals, empty nesters, and seniors alike. Demand for these centers has expanded into suburban areas, where regional shopping malls are being redeveloped into "lifestyle centers" that combine residential, dining, entertainment, office, and recreational uses in walkable settings. Planning for these investments strengthens fiscal health, enhances competitiveness, responds to demographic shifts, preserves open space, improves affordability, and supports future transit service.

→ Goal 2: Provide Tools, Resources, and Partnerships for the Development of Strategic New Centers. In order to achieve long-term growth and development of strong centers within the County, it will be important to provide tools and resources for local municipalities to facilitate the adoption of best practices in local development processes. These resources will reinforce the capacity of local volunteer board members to oversee the development process, updates to comprehensive plans, and local zoning.

Draft proposal: County funds planning dept to
create model overlay zoning code to
that could be adopted by munis
then

More direct address inf.

Jared Shepard

Dir. Research & Planning

Comments:

- Zoning
- Housing dev. finance
- Based on E.T.B. org. by Chairwoman

1. Zoning

- Retain "why..."
- Goal 2 - "Provide tools"
- Draft proposal provides this guidance so County planning can work w. municipalities to develop accordingly

2. Housing Finance

permits ↑

- Over \$6B in proposals
- At least \$2B in Appraisal
- Rising costs & affordability

October 1, 2026

A statement by John Przepiora, Syracuse, NY Regarding the proposed 2027 Onondaga County Budget

A budget is a statement of priorities. There is a glaring lack of prioritization of the natural environment and the public's interest in the proposed 2027 county budget and it must not be adopted until the following are addressed.

- 1) **More funding for environmental protection.** A highly professional and independent Office of Environment is needed to play a leadership role in the face of a significant increase of greenhouse gas emissions and the use of hazardous chemicals for chip manufacturing.
- 2) **A full accounting of all county costs associated with Micron is needed-** for example the County through OCIDA is funding the natural gas pipeline and Micron should be paying its fair share of the Oak Orchard WWTP. According to the publicly available preliminary design report, the Oak Orchard sanitary WWTP expansion includes process components and phasing aspects intended solely for Micron's benefit.
 - a) **The county's 2027 budget and the proposed unit charge revision will increase cost to residents and businesses.** While the modification of the unit charge is likely justifiable, and it is sparing residential users, it does reflect a cost increase to county businesses and residents which can't be taken lightly. The increase in WEP revenue from users of the system is projected to be \$10,759,708 and based on the proposed unit charge increase of 2.9% and, taking into account the quantity reduction in 1 unit, amounts to an increase of 25% for customers using more than 1 unit who pay based on usage. **This is a glimpse of the future when the Oak Orchard debt service and operating costs are kicked in and when it will be imperative that Micron's share be allocated judiciously.**
- 3) **The dreadful lack of transparency around County decisions must end.** The public must be kept informed about critical policy choices which affect their health and wellbeing such as PFAS. The County must adopt policy objectives which provide assurances that hazardous forever chemicals will be kept out of our water bodies, off our land and out of our air.
- 4) **Finally, I support funding of Housing and Transportation programs, such as the \$2M for first-time homebuyer grants through Home HQ.** I support and urge the inclusion of housing and transportation initiatives intended to increase housing supply, make housing more affordable and promote safe and affordable alternative mobility options which deemphasize automobile travel.

My name is Maria Revelles, I am an organizer at Jobs to Move America (JMA) and a Syracuse resident. I have several outstanding concerns around the County's proposed budget. In particular I have concerns surrounding the massive funding and programmatic support for Micron Technology in addition to Micron's impact on the County's ability to realize its environmental goals. I encourage the County to be transparent about all funding and decisions surrounding Micron and related projects and pursue enforceable commitments that hold Micron accountable to being a good neighbor.

Large Increase in County Bonds Debts

- The County has taken on a significant amount of debt in order to fund many of the projects associated with Micron Technology's arrival, with the County. 90% of funding sources from 2027-2032 comes from bonds (46% from authorized bonds & 44% from proposed bonds). A significant portion of the bond debt is connected to the Micron project.

Full accounting of all county costs associated with Micron Project

- Given that a significant portion of the County's existing and proposed costs are directly or indirectly in support of Micron, the public deserves to know the full accounting of these costs.
- Can the County produce a consolidated accounting showing every dollar Onondaga County has spent, committed, or is expected to spend in connection to the Micron project, and any related infrastructure?

Takeaway: In view of the major deficiencies in the budget that I have identified, I urge the County Legislature to reject the budget as currently proposed. Amendments must be made.

REAL FELLOW 1

INVESTMENT -> RESULTS

Approx. length: 125 words | Speaking time: 1:00-1:10

Good evening. My name is _____, and I am a REAL Advocacy Fellow with Restoreforlife, Inc.

We have been learning how to use lived experience and data to better understand our child welfare system.

We learned that the 2027 County budget adds six child-welfare caseworkers. The County has said these positions are intended to reduce caseloads and allow earlier intervention with families.

We believe an investment should be connected to results.

Our one ask is this:

Please publicly report whether this investment reduces caseloads and leads to earlier, more effective support for children and families - and include families with lived experience when evaluating those results.

We want to know:

Are children and families better off because of this investment?

Thank you.

REAL FELLOW 2

FAMILY VOICE

Approx. length: 105 words Speaking time: 50-60 seconds
--

Good evening. My name is _____, and I am a REAL Advocacy Fellow with Restoreforlife, Inc.

You just heard about the County's investment in additional child-welfare caseworkers.

I want to focus on the families behind the numbers.

When we talk about earlier intervention and better outcomes, families should be able to tell us whether they received help earlier, understood what was happening, and felt heard in decisions affecting their children.

Our ask remains the same: when the County measures the results of this investment, please include families with lived experience.

Numbers tell part of the story.

Families tell the rest.

Thank you.

Evette Williams

REAL FELLOW 3

ACCOUNTABILITY

Approx. length: 95 words Speaking time: 45-55 seconds

Good evening. My name is _____, and I am a REAL Advocacy Fellow with Restoreforlife, Inc.

Tonight, you've heard about the County's investment in additional child-welfare caseworkers and the importance of including families.

I want to focus on accountability.

If additional caseworkers are expected to reduce caseloads and provide earlier support to families, we should be able to measure whether that happens.

Our ask is simple: publicly report the results of this investment so families and the community can see what changed.

A year from now, we should be able to answer:

Are children and families better off?

Thank you.

Latrelle Dunbar

REAL FELLOW 4

WHAT HAPPENS NEXT

Approx. length: 120 words | Speaking time: 55-65 seconds

Good evening. My name is _____, and I am a REAL Advocacy Fellow with Restoreforlife, Inc.

Tonight, my fellow REAL Fellows have talked about investment, family voice, and accountability.

I want to focus on what happens next.

Adding resources is a beginning. We need to know whether those resources create meaningful change.

Are families receiving help earlier? Are fewer families falling through the cracks? Are families being heard and supported?

Our ask remains the same: measure the results, include families with lived experience, and publicly share what is changing.

REAL stands for Restore, Educate, Advocacy, and Leadership.

We are here because people with lived experience should have a voice in conversations about systems that affect their families.

Thank you.

Remarks for Onondaga County Public Hearing on annual budget for 2027, Onondaga County"

October 1, 2026

Good evening, my name is Don Hughes and I am one of the leaders in the SustainCNY coalition. I work primarily as a volunteer for the Sierra Club, with the Central & Northern NY group, and the statewide Atlantic Chapter. I have a doctorate in environmental chemistry. My masters and bachelor's degrees are in environmental and chemical engineering, respectively. I'm also a retired professional engineer. I have lived in Onondaga County since 1985 and raised two children here.

I want to talk to you about the proposed budget that sits before you, not just the dollar numbers, but the underlying context. Onondaga County is hosting the largest economic development project in the history of New York State. It is already straining our transportation system, and will soon increase demands for good housing, medical care, emergency services and schools. Today, Gov. Hochul put out a press release saying that upwards of 76,000 people will be moving into Central New York due to the Micron project. The county needs to put serious money--several million dollars at least--into planning agencies such as the Syracuse-Onondaga Co Planning Agency, to hire competent, professional staff who will develop comprehensive plans to address this growth.

Looking at the budget for the County's Office of Environment and Office of Planning, it is pretty much business-as-usual. There are no substantial increases for staffing. That has to change. We know that the environmental implications of this project are huge: tremendous water usage, emissions of chemicals to the air, threats to our drinking water, and enormous appetite for electricity. Here's what I propose to address that: reinstate an Environmental Management Council for Onondaga County. We used to have one. Make it answerable to both the county executive and the county legislature. Provide staffing so that the EMC can do due diligence addressing environmental impacts, not just of Micron, but other issues, like lead poisoning. According to the ACLU, children in Syracuse have the highest rates of lead poisoning in the nation.

The county executive has invested resources into looking into the merits and liabilities of building AI centers. A similar approach should be applied to Micron. Make no doubt: Micron is here to stay. They are building at the site in Clay as we speak. In about three years the first fabrication factory will be up and running. Thus it is incumbent upon the county to invest time and effort to create some good thinking about how Micron's construction and operation will best be accommodated in central NY.

Another major concern I have centers around the bonding for wastewater facilities in Clay that serve Micron. The county budget includes big ticket items for wastewater infrastructure at Oak Orchard. Some of these items are solely for the benefit of Micron. They should be paid for by Micron, not by county taxpayers. Micron is already getting over \$20 billion in subsidies from the state and Federal governments. The company also is making record profits.

Case in point: On December 29, 2025, the county legislature authorized a \$515 million bond to cover upgrades and completely new municipal treatment systems at the Oak Orchard Wastewater Treatment facility¹ - by far the largest capital investment project in the county's capital budget.² Let's be clear about this bond: it covers only the municipal side of Oak Orchard. It has nothing to do with the Industrial treatment plant which is in design now.

As I testified before this body on December 29th, "This project is the most expensive endeavor ever contemplated by the county, surpassing the \$164 million Waste-to-Energy plant constructed in the 1990s, and the \$200+M improvements to the county's Metropolitan Syracuse STP in the mid-2000s. While the waste-to-energy plant and Metro projects were vetted with numerous opportunities for

¹ Robertson, Laura, "Onondaga County lawmakers approve \$550M plan to upgrade wastewater treatment plant amid concerns about sewer rates," *Central Current*, December 29, 2025, <https://centralcurrent.org/onondaga-county-lawmakers-approve-550-million-plan-to-upgrade-wastewater-treatment-plant-amid-concerns-about-sewer-rates/>.

² Onondaga County, Capital Improvement Plan 2027-2032, 2026, pg. 29, https://docaccess.com/docviewer.html?url=https%3A%2F%2Fonondaga.gov%2Ffinance%2Fwp-content%2Fuploads%2Fsites%2F193%2F2026%2F09%2F2027-2032-EXECUTIVE-CIP.pdf&url_hash=fbce26be72b7bbca0fd6af2574285d35&domain=onondaga.gov&site=fb2a504b-61a1-48bb-9012-21da28a035ca&found_on=https%3A%2F%2Fonondaga.gov%2Ffinance%2Fbudget-documents%2F.

public input, this Oak Orchard project has been cloaked in secrecy, with no opportunity for the public to comment. One 5-minute information session was conducted on Nov. 5, 2025 in these chambers, with little description of the project. And no public information meetings were conducted by the state Department of Environmental Conservation.

The Oak Orchard municipal upgrade is estimated to cost a total of \$549 million. Included in that upgrade is a new 4 million gallon-per-day water reuse facility with ultra filtration and reverse osmosis equipment. These expensive technologies are included to provide Micron with extra-clean water for re-use in their industrial process. So I ask: why should county ratepayers be paying for a treatment system which is solely for the use of Micron? And why have the costs for these treatment systems been hidden from the public and from you, the county legislature? We deserve to know what we are paying for.

Conclusion: In view of the major deficiencies in the budget that I have identified, I urge the County Legislature to reject the budget as currently proposed. Significant amendments must be made.

From: Peter King, Syracuse.

To: The Onondaga County Legislature.

Re: Comments on the Onondaga County Budget Process, 2026<>2027.

I have several comments on the budget process.

I will begin with echoing and agreeing with several comments submitted so far, concerning what should be the County's due diligence on Micron's overall impact from constructing and operating a fabrication plant here.

The most pressing concern with Micron's impacts are, the problems with Onondaga County's Oak Orchard wastewater treatment plant plans.

1) The plans currently lack adequate filtration methods for Micron's expected wastewater effluent, which will likely contain toxic materials, at least including many varieties of Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances aka 'PFAS'. The filtration methods need to include some PFAS-destroying technology, for example the 'Zero-Liquid Discharge' methods mentioned in recent community discussions, plus whatever 'polishing' methods would actually complete PFAS removal. The receiving waters of Lake Ontario are already known as having the most PFAS contamination among the Great Lakes (Bernstien 2025, Remucal 2019). The County's current Wastewater plans county frames the County as highly liable to future litigation about PFAS levels. Simply stated, we do not want to replicate the chain of events which polluted Onondaga Lake. We must learn from the past.

2) The Oak Orchard Wastewater plans regarding Micron's reuse are opaque to we the public. The questions around who will pay an estimated \$549 million for the waters undergoing ultra filtration and reverse-osmosis for Micron's reuse remains unclear. Who will actually pay for the industrial reuse at Oak Orchard?

Beyond the water quality concerns, we understand Micron will also likely emit PFAS as air emissions. At the very least, the County can and should support existing local air monitoring efforts. As I commented to the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) in their review on Micron's air permit here, stagnant air patterns can develop in the summertimes, concentrating local air pollutants. Stagnant air patterns can become especially notable during exceptional hazardous air quality events, for example the Canadian wildfire smoke episodes in recent years. However, Micron's projected air emissions including PFAS may also concentrate in local areas, including the City of Syracuse. It seems wise to at least closely track air pollution throughout our region, for informing public health decisions.

> 'AIRaCuse' is a currently operating air monitoring project set up and operated through the Onondaga Environmental Institute aka OEI (OEI 2026). 'AIRaCuse' has so far been grant-funded, and owns their own equipment. The operating budget for 'AIRaCuse' is roughly \$11k <> \$15k annually, mostly for their online dashboard services which openly inform the public. I strongly recommend the County consider some contribution to the currently active 'AIRaCuse' air monitoring in Syracuse. As well, the County could discuss with 'AIRaCuse', the possibility of placing more air monitors throughout the County, for monitoring Micron's emissions.

More broadly, I strongly urge the county include some flexibility in its budget for environmental and comprehensive land planning concerns. The county has at least three pressing forces at the door. One is the extensive development connected with Micron and other projects. Another critical question is global climate change. The impacts from climate change are not stopping for anyone. Both of these

forces are hitting us at the same time. The County budget needs to be flexible and adaptive, for matching new pressures and changing methods for problem-solving.

For a quick example, the County currently has a housing shortage. However development in the county so far has tended to be laissez-faire and spread out. The county's current plan calls for more compact, town style development. This is an essential goal, as climate forcings may continue to cause problems with water and wastewater conveyance, recalling this year's OCWA water main break. As well, transportation is a challenge for many throughout this county. Compact development located near active transit lines, Goes a long way to solving both problems, by reducing the overall area needed for development, and correspondingly the overall water, sewer and road infrastructure investments needed. So spending a little more money up front on certain initiatives might save much money in the longer run. Start with the county's current housing and transportation task force, and also create an actual community climate action plan, such as the city of Syracuse and the town of Dewitt are now engaging. The county's climate action plan is solely focused on the county governments on energy use, while Syracuse and Dewitt offer a more comprehensive approach including the entire community. If the county has a community climate action plan, the towns and Syracuse will find forming and implementing their climate plans easier. A 'whole of government' approach seems the best way for stretching our thinning infrastructure dollars.

Thank you for reading my comments.

References

AIRaCuse (2026) Onondaga Environmental Institute. <https://www.oei2.org/airacuse/>

Bernstien J., CBC News (2025) PFAS in the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence River. CBC News <https://newsinteractives.cbc.ca/features/2025/pfas-great-lakes/>

Remucal, C. K. (2019). Spatial and temporal variability of perfluoroalkyl substances in the Laurentian Great Lakes. *Environmental Science: Processes & Impacts*, 21(11), 1816-1834. <https://mejo.us/wp-content/uploads/2020/02/2019-Remucal-Environ.-Sci.-Processes-Impacts-2019-1.pdf>

10-1-26 Budget Hearing

From Sequoia Kemp <[REDACTED]>

Date Thu 10/1/2026 11:59 PM

To Office of the Onondaga County Legislature <legislature@onondaga.gov>

NOTICE: This email originated from **outside** of Onondaga County's email system. **Use caution** with links and attachments.

Good evening, Legislators.

My name is SeQuoia Kemp, and I am a registered nurse, community doula, and health care consultant.

Community health and well-being is one of the legislature's stated budget priorities, and I'd like to ask whether it would be possible to hold funding in contingency for community-based organizations that are building programs to address maternal health and nutrition needs in our county.

We have seen the legislature allocate funding to organizations like SOFSA, which does important work around food access. Other organizations are doing equally vital work. Many families on the south side of Syracuse have limited access to affordable, healthy food, and nearly one in three city households has no vehicle. For those families, getting good food and prenatal care is a daily barrier.

One organization meeting that need is Sankofa Reproductive Health and Healing Center, which provides comprehensive support to our neighbors on the south side of Syracuse and hosts its programming at Cafe Sankofa. Through Sankofa Village, a maternal health clinic, participants can receive free food, perinatal health support, clothing, and other necessities for their families.

The health department offers valuable programs focused on maternal health and nutrition. Community-based organizations, however, operate from different models of care and reach people in different ways. Rather than choosing one approach over the other, I'd encourage the legislature to consider a two-pronged strategy: pairing the county's existing programs with the work of trusted messengers who live and work on the south side. Together, these efforts can do more to improve the health and well-being of our community.

With gratitude,

SeQuoia Kemp, BSN

Certified Community-Based Doula

Sankofa Reproductive Health & Healing Center

Sankofa Doula Collective

[REDACTED]

Syracuse, NY 13205

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

From: Susan M.H. Flick, Syracuse, NY

Re: PFAS and Water Treatment

If we accept the current plan to allow water containing PFAS to be discharged from Micron to our facilities, then we will have accepted responsibility for either the cost to remove them or the inevitable health and environmental consequences of not doing so.

Micron's dilution of the chemicals increases the amount of water used, but does not mitigate PFAS problems because PFAS persist in the environment and accumulate in living organisms.

Industries in the past, when confronted with regulations, have used new technologies, adapted them for their own benefit, and improved health and safety outcomes. An example is the removal and reuse of monomers in plastics. The current plan with Micron is that they will treat only the water they will reuse. They know how to do this.

Prevention is better than the cure, especially true for many of the consequences of releasing PFAS into the environment, after which there are no "take backs". This is the highest order of conservation.

The decision about who pays, if anyone, to remove these dangerous forever chemicals from the public waste stream is yet to be determined.

I believe we owe all residents and industries of our Great Lakes' watershed a healthy future.

Respectfully,
Susan M.H.Flick

My comments are solely my own, and do not represent any other group or person.

Anna Smith

October 1, 2026

Onondaga County Legislature
401 Montgomery Street
Room 407 Court House
Syracuse, New York 13202

Submitted via: onondagacountylegislature@ongov.net

Re: Onondaga County 2027 Proposed Budget

Dear Onondaga County Legislators,

On behalf of Jobs to Move America (JMA) we respectfully submit the following letter to share our concerns with Onondaga County's 2027 proposed budget.

We have several outstanding concerns around the County's proposed budget. In particular we have concerns surrounding the massive funding and programmatic support for Micron Technology in addition to Micron's impact on the County's ability to realize its environmental goals. We encourage the County to be transparent about all funding and decisions surrounding Micron and related projects and pursue enforceable commitments that hold Micron accountable to being a good neighbor.

Jobs to Move America is a strategic policy center that works to transform public spending and corporate behavior using a comprehensive approach that is rooted in racial and economic justice and community organizing. We seek to advance a fair and prosperous economy with good jobs and healthier communities for all. JMA is a member of [CNY United for Community Benefits](#) which is an alliance of Central New York workers, community leaders, educators, and environmentalists working to ensure that public subsidies given to Micron translate to real benefits for the communities in our region. We are calling on Micron to negotiate a community benefits agreement (CBA) to ensure the project provides enforceable and transparent benefits for the community and workers.

Increase in County Bonds Debts

The County has taken on a significant amount of debt in order to fund many of the projects associated with Micron Technology's arrival, with the County acknowledging that, "The spike in 2025 bond resolutions primarily reflects the Oak Orchard municipal expansion. Expenses in 2025 supported various EFC-related sewer projects, the STEAM School, and engineering for the Oak Orchard municipal expansion. The 2026 amounts are year-to-date through July and are

expected to increase as the County issues new bonds. All values are net amounts, factoring in any adjustments/transfers.”¹ 90% of funding sources from 2027-2032 comes from bonds (46% from authorized bonds & 44% from proposed bonds). As discussed further below in the Public Transparency and Accountability section, the public deserves a full accounting of all costs associated with Micron as well as clarity around what portions of Micron related projects Micron will pay for versus the County.

Greenhouse Gas Emissions & Renewable Energy

The Office of Environment’s mission is listed as, “To protect and restore Onondaga County’s natural resources, ensuring a healthy and sustainable environment for all.” and lists protecting Onondaga Lake and reducing Greenhouse gas emissions as two of its stated goals. However, the Micron project is projected to release 881,699 metric tons CO₂e/year from process gases.² Micron’s plan to purchase Renewable Energy Credits (RECs) is not effective mitigation for GHGs resulting from all these emissions sources, including the electricity generation necessary to supply the plant’s electricity demand. Instead, Micron must bring new renewable energy generation online. The project will consume ~15,674 GWh/year (≈11% of NY’s total 2023 electricity use),³ requires the construction a new natural gas line,⁴ and the massive increase in greenhouse gas emissions from electricity generation, induced development, and on-site emissions raise serious concerns around Micron's impact on the County’s overall greenhouse gas emissions.

The massive increases in greenhouse gas emissions that will be created due to electricity generation and induced development: construction of new homes and new infrastructure, increased traffic, increased population which leads to consumption of even more energy, and on-site emissions raise serious concerns around Micron's impact on the County’s overall greenhouse gas emissions.

Addressing climate change should obviously be a significant part of The County’s mission. This is particularly important given the enormous climate impacts posed by the Micron project.

¹ Onondaga County, Capital Improvement Plan 2027-2032, 2026, pg. 34, https://docaccess.com/docviewer.html?url=https%3A%2F%2Fonondaga.gov%2Ffinance%2Fwp-content%2Fuploads%2Fsites%2F193%2F2026%2F09%2F2027-2032-EXECUTIVE-CIP.pdf&url_hash=fbce26be72b7bbca0fd6af2574285d35&domain=onondaga.gov&site=fb2a504b-61a1-48bb-9012-21da28a035ca&found_on=https%3A%2F%2Fonondaga.gov%2Ffinance%2Fbudget-documents%2F.

² DOC, et al. “Micron Semiconductor Manufacturing Project, Clay, NY Final Environmental Impact Statement.” November, 2025. P. 3-62; DOC, et al. “Micron Semiconductor Manufacturing Project, Clay, NY Final Environmental Impact Statement” November, 2025. P. 3-215.

³ DOC et al, “Micron Semiconductor Manufacturing Project, Clay, NY Final Environmental Impact Statement,” November 2025, P. 3-269.

⁴ DOC, et al, “Micron Semiconductor Manufacturing Project, Clay, NY Final Environmental Impact Statement,” November, 2025, P. 2-26.

Unfortunately Onondaga has not seriously addressed climate change. The county's Climate Action Plan was last updated in 2017. This outdated plan only concerns itself with Onondaga County's operations, not with the community at large.

Onondaga County needs to develop a comprehensive climate action plan which considers the total impacts of Micron's historic investment in central New York. According to the Environmental Impact Statement for the Micron semiconductor complex,

Protection of Onondaga Lake & Lake Ontario

The Office of Environment's mission is listed as, "To protect and restore Onondaga County's natural resources, ensuring a healthy and sustainable environment for all" and lists protecting Onondaga Lake as one of its stated goals. Similarly, the Office of Water and Environmental Protection's mission is listed as "To responsibly improve the water environments in our community." However, Micron's usage of hazardous and persistent chemicals such as PFAS, pose a significant risk to the Oneida River and Lake Ontario, which serves as the drinking water supply for 500,000 residents of Onondaga County, and Oswego and Oneida Counties. The permit issued by NYSDEC for the Oak Orchard treatment operations (municipal and industrial) do not impose any limits on PFAS or other persistent organic compounds used by the semiconductor industry. PFAS released from the Oak Orchard sewage plant may bioaccumulate and persist in Lake Ontario, contaminating drinking water, fish and wildlife. New York State regulations do not address the hundreds of persistent and toxic PFAS found in the semiconductor industry's wastewater, which means we must seize every opportunity we have to install protections. Micron's proposed treatment methods (reverse osmosis, nanofiltration, activated carbon, ion exchange) filter but do not destroy PFAS. Testing methods required by New York state only detect 40 PFAS types, while hundreds will be present. Micron should use advanced treatment methods that actually destroy PFAS.

Wastewater treatment risks

The proposed biological treatment system in the industrial treatment plant does not destroy or even remove PFAS. Data from similar operations demonstrates that the measured PFAS compounds simply pass through the treatment system. Furthermore, the permit issued for this wastewater plant is not protective of the environment because they do not address the hundreds of persistent and toxic PFAS found in the semiconductor industry's wastewater. We have outstanding questions including:

1. Has the County made any commitments to use the best available technologies for the destruction of PFAS in its wastewater treatment facility?
2. How will the county protect the environment and the public from the forever chemicals

(PFAS in particular) that Micron will send to the Oak Orchard treatment plant?

Onondaga County must budget for an advanced type of wastewater treatment which dependably removes PFAS to nontoxic levels, to be operational when Micron's first fabrication plant goes into operation. The reliability of treatment must be verifiable through robust monitoring of the wastewater effluent. We also recommend that the County commit to using technologies which permanently destroy PFAS that accumulate in wastewater residuals like biosolids and other solids.

Public Transparency and Accountability

Lack of transparency around County decisions

The public deserves full transparency around the decisions the county makes. This is especially true as the County invests in major projects related to Micron and around the Oak Orchard Municipal Wastewater Treatment Plant.

Transparency and breakdown of costs associated with upgrading the Oak Orchard Municipal Wastewater Treatment Plant

On December 29, 2025, the county legislature authorized a \$515 million bond to cover upgrades and completely new treatment systems at the Oak Orchard Wastewater Treatment facility.⁵ A major component of this project is the installation of a "reuse facility" using ultrafiltration and reverse osmosis technology to supply ultra-pure water back to Micron. This is, by far, the largest capital investment project in the county's capital budget.⁶ Given the massive scale of the project and the public funds invested, the public needs clarity on the total anticipated costs to the county over the life of the project. Moreover, if parts of the project are principally to serve Micron, how much of these costs has Micron committed in a legally binding agreement to cover? How much are county ratepayers being asked to pay for this project?

County Regional Meeting on PFAS

⁵ Robertson, Laura, "Onondaga County lawmakers approve \$550M plan to upgrade wastewater treatment plant amid concerns about sewer rates," *Central Current*, December 29, 2025, <https://centralcurrent.org/onondaga-county-lawmakers-approve-550-million-plan-to-upgrade-wastewater-treatment-plant-amid-concerns-about-sewer-rates/>.

⁶ Onondaga County, Capital Improvement Plan 2027-2032, 2026, pg. 29, https://docaccess.com/docviewer.html?url=https%3A%2F%2Fonondaga.gov%2Ffinance%2Fwp-content%2Fuploads%2Fsites%2F193%2F2026%2F09%2F2027-2032-EXECUTIVE-CIP.pdf&url_hash=fbce26be72b7bbca0fd6af2574285d35&domain=onondaga.gov&site=fb2a504b-61a1-48bb-9012-21da28a035ca&found_on=https%3A%2F%2Fonondaga.gov%2Ffinance%2Fbudget-documents%2F.

On September 8th, the County convened a group of outside experts to discuss PFAS research technology and industry collaboration.⁷ While we appreciate the County's work in organizing this convening, the public was excluded from this meeting with no public notice or access to an agenda, meeting minutes, or to understand the outcomes of this meeting.

Full accounting of all county costs associated with Micron Project

Given that a significant portion of the County's existing and proposed costs are directly or indirectly in support of Micron, the public deserves to know the full accounting of these costs. We are asking the County to produce a consolidated accounting showing every dollar Onondaga County has spent, committed, or is expected to spend in connection to the Micron project, and any related infrastructure.

Relatedly, The Onondaga County Industrial Development Agency board recently voted to pay \$12.6 million to reimburse National Grid to cover the cost of a gas line construction to service Micron Technology's campus.⁸ The County will use the funds from the \$30 million that Micron paid to OCIDA to purchase the at White Pine Commerce Park (WPCP). If the County spends these funds from Micron's WPCP purchase solely on infrastructural projects intended to service Micron, what independent value does the community derive from the sale of these lands? OCIDA assembled WPCP lands using taxpayer dollars. We are concerned that the structure of this deal allows Micron to avoid truly and meaningfully compensating the County.

Additional Staffing and Funding is needed to plan for the arrival of Micron

Micron Technology's arrival in Central New York represents the largest single project in New York State history. Despite the increase in programs and capital projects in process and proposed to help service Micron's arrival and related services, the County has not increased staffing to plan for the environmental and community impacts that will befall Central New York as a result of Micron's arrival. In particular, the proposed 2027 budget does not show any staffing increases for the Office of Environment or the Department of Planning. In order to meet the County's expanded needs particularly around environmental, water safety, economic development, and

⁷ Onondaga County, "Onondaga County Hosts Regionals Convening to Advance PFAS Research, Technology and Industry Collaboration," September 8, 2026, <https://onondaga.gov/communications/2026/09/09/onondaga-county-hosts-regionals-convening-to-advance-pfas-research-technology-and-industry-collaboration/>.

⁸ Rick Moriarty, "County agency to pay nearly \$13 million to run gas pipeline to Micron site in Clay,"

[Syracuse.com](https://www.syracuse.com), September 23, 2026.

https://www.syracuse.com/micron/2026/09/county-agency-to-pay-nearly-13-million-to-run-gas-pipeline-to-micron-site-in-clay.html?utm_source=facebook&utm_medium=social&fbclid=IwZnRzaAUg0HhwZG9mBWZkaWQWUO8wWILQMFiyvkrWenh926C6e5GzmGV4dG4DYWVtAjExAHNvdGMGYXBwX2lkCjY2Mjg1NjgzNzkAAAR6VmHGgDNPorJoLP56Dqe6W2u9trZOkpZDmUhk-ScLeOilkY0Jq8mogH2H9gw_aem_bqoVScYAaXdAx3upicOv9g.

community development it is crucial that the County increase staff to ensure these projects and programs are properly supported.

Re: My perspective on Tonight hearing. I was in attendance. marlund

From Marlund Chottiner <[REDACTED]>

Date Thu 10/1/2026 9:20 PM

To Office of the Onondaga County Legislature <legislature@onondaga.gov>

NOTICE: This email originated from outside of Onondaga County's email system. **Use caution** with links and attachments.

I may actually be very wrong about the assumption that New York State is putting any real money into the Micron development. I think you have many smart people on your side, including myself.

The shortage of housing is really a New York State problem to be honest in general, plus housing construction cost inflation has created this things called low supply in relation to demand. It is completely economics 101.

Good luck, and you may not know this but I received my Masters in Business Admin degree in Management Science, (aka also called Operations Research) at the University of Buffalo back in the day, in the mid 1990's.

Marlund

From: Marlund Chottiner <[REDACTED]>

Sent: Thursday, October 1, 2026 9:07 PM

To: legislature@onondaga.gov <legislature@onondaga.gov>

Subject: My perspective on Tonight hearing. I was in attendance. marlund

Dear Legislatures,

I have to say that there were a lot of mentioned needs at tonights public meeting. I do not really know myself what the breakout should be for the capital expenditures necessary to get Oak Orchard sewage treatment expansion. It does to me seem evident at this time that Micron has NOT agreed to pickup a portion of the Waste Treatment Center expansion, but then again I believe that will happen as I heard. How much Micron covers is a question that people want to know.

I think it might help people in general if they knew the timeline of when Micron anticipates the first of three "chip fab facilities" to be operational. For all the Republicans out here, I would say the County is left in a bad position actually by New York State and the Federal Govt and the people have spoken up to say environmental safeguards have to be an assurance given to those in the direct surrounding of the massive plant(s). The thing that I get as an attendee to all the meetings which goes unnoticed by all those in attendance tonight, is the bonds to be authorized for the water sewer treatment expansion is going to be subsidized by New York State due to exclusion rules on sewage capital improvement

projects. I would caution the county as well to go lower on the overall ambitions of the Oak Orchard plan.

I am assuming that Micron and New York State said let's leave this to Onondaga County? Because New York State does cover the issuance of bonds to fund new sewage treatment facilities of major consequence. I just don't know about all that, and yet people want more for services when money is strictly limited. As Brian May said to me, Onondaga County has a AA rating as a bond issuer. I myself see how large this project is because I actually drove up there today just to check things out. Assurances that there won't be toxic effluent or whatnot from Micron, is something that someone as in New York government I would assume would take responsibility for, but of course lots of money, tons of it, is pouring in from New York State tax allocations to get this thing off the ground. In the suburbs, we fork over a lot of the taxes levied for property taxes over to the County, though much more to our towns, and it is unbearable to people who are even wealthy, and believe me many of us feel the crunch in the suburbs.

I do think assurance will have to be made in terms of environmental, and I gather that is in the proposed 2027 budget.

Marlund Chottiner

10.1.26 Public Hearing.

From catherine cullivan <[REDACTED]>

Date Thu 10/1/2026 9:40 PM

To Office of the Onondaga County Legislature <legislature@onondaga.gov>

NOTICE: This email originated from outside of Onondaga County's email system. **Use caution** with links and attachments.

Sent from my iPhone

I was not able to attend tonight's public hearing, but I would appreciate an answer to the following question:

If sales tax revenue is enough to help lower the property tax rate, can you show exactly how much of that reduction is coming from the increase in sales tax revenue?

I would appreciate seeing the actual numbers behind this, rather than just the change in the tax rate.

Thank you.

Catherine Cullivan

October 1, 2026

Onondaga County Legislature

401 Montgomery Street

Room 407 Court House

Syracuse, New York 13202

Submitted via: onondagacountylegislature@ongov.net

Re: Onondaga County 2027 Proposed Budget

Dear Onondaga County Legislators,

As a person born here, raised here, educated here and who has set up my retirement living here, I am deeply concerned about what this county and region is about to experience. We are told that the Micron development project in Clay, NY is the largest industrial development in the history of New York State. I pause to contemplate the implications of this statement.....

It will consist of 4 fabrication facilities, each with clean rooms the size of 11 football fields. 11 “Carrier Domes” x 4 = 44 “Carrier Domes” in all, in Clay! What do 44 Carrier Domes in a mile long stretch look like? Well, from a fact published in the FEIS, the tallest extent of each Fab will be 130 feet high (x4)...in a row a mile long. 11 football fields in one building means a very big building. 9,000 people working on site? Will that be the case? Lots of people means lots of noise, lots of debris, lots of traffic, lots of waste, lots of needs, including emergencies and accidents, and on the list goes. Of course, it won't happen all at once but it's still a lot of proposed change over the next 16-20 years (to build) and then beyond for ? How much toxic material will be brought to Clay over the life of this manufacturing operation and where will it all end up?

If Onondaga Lake is an example of how the Onondaga County Legislature, the NYSDEC and the EPA handle matters, in the words of the Onondaga County Office of Environment's mission “To protect and restore Onondaga County's natural resources, ensuring a healthy and sustainable environment for all.”..well, it sure seems like we are doomed to a disaster destined to be the largest toxic superfund site in the history of the State of New York.

I'm not trying to discourage us in the face of what lies ahead. Rather, I want us to “WAKE UP!” Let's learn from where we've been and don't let the flash of Micron Money blind us to the reality of what is to come. We must seriously prepare for an industry we have no experience with while recognizing that we are simply not armed with the knowledge we need! In every aspect of this development we need help! This budget before us does not show that the county is recognizing the needs that lie ahead.

Please recognize the need to bring in outside expertise to educate and advise us about what we are facing so that good decisions can happen before disasters! Do not allow Micron to inspect its own work, its own plans, and to convince us that they are doing everything to our benefit. BS! (You all know this deep down.) There must be adequate and proper oversight, including citizens! We have a region with one of the greatest concentrations of environmentalists in the world. Use this as a strength!

There is much experience throughout the world with what happens to areas where semiconductor manufacturing occurs. The workers are at risk. You are responsible for their health and safety! “WAKE UP!” Don’t be bamboozled. Get smart now because these rich overlords take you guys for hicks; I guarantee it. But you’re only hicks if you don’t do due diligence and stand up for the strengths in our community, which is our people! They would not be here if this region did not have all the valuable assets they needed to profit off of! We need to get a fair deal from this situation which really means an **enforceable community benefits agreement**. Frankly, without this in hand, there is no reason for Micron to be here.

Community oversight is a must! We cannot settle for less! The cost to us, to our loved ones will be far too great. We cannot tolerate hidden agendas, private meetings of experts behind closed doors and even NDAs. If it is as good as they say it is, then it will shine in the light of day, for all to see! If information is not able to be freely shared then what are they hiding? This company would not be here if this was not a place that brought together all the elements for their success. That must be a mutual situation. We are a community of great value, deserving of being treated fairly and with respect. Please allow this community to level set with the behemoth Micron. We have what it takes here. Put your trust in the People and demand that Micron treat us properly. Buying our silence by pushing their money around is not demonstrating respect for us. Support our demand for an **enforceable community benefits agreement** and a **citizen’s oversight board!**

Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely and in Peace,

Bonita Siegel, MD, President, Neighbors for a Better Micron