



COUNTY OF ERIE

ERIE COUNTY COUNCIL

Mary Rennie
County Council District 3

Monday July 24, 2023

I am hereby announcing my withdrawal from the General Election 2023 ballot in the race for County Council District 3. I am also announcing my resignation from County Council District 3, effective immediately.

I have always been passionate about all of Erie County, believing firmly in the value of every person as well as our many shared resources. I spent more than 30 years as a County employee, and worked as a team player to serve people of all ages and backgrounds. I led a number of initiatives and capital projects, and I remain proud of the work that I did in partnership with many others. I believe strongly in the value of hard work, professionalism, honesty and playing by the rules. I have seen first-hand the good that comes from expertly and carefully managed government services. Running for County Council four years ago seemed like a perfect fit for me to continue this service to our community.

It is often said that County Council has just one job, which is to look out for the taxpayers' interests. With so much money at stake, I knew from the beginning that there were bound to be disagreements over what was funded and what was not. I never expected that the "how" of County government business would become such an issue.

Erie County government has many 'bumper guards' in place to assure that taxpayer funds and resources are capably managed. The Home Rule Charter, Administrative Code, and Purchasing Code among others underscore again and again the importance of the "separation of powers," public transparency, accuracy, accountability, and adherence to accepted professional standards for the management and oversight of County budgets, departments and business. It has been observed many times that County government over the past 40+ years may not have always been pretty or perfect, but officials always came together in the end to do what was right and to protect the public interest. I don't believe the same can be said today.

This is not about political agendas. It's about the importance of public process—something I have fought to preserve. I have come to believe that it has been compromised and destabilized to such a degree in less than two short years that any end product will never make up for the damage done. In the final analysis, the actions of the majority of County Council do not represent me or my values. I do not wish for their legacy to be my legacy.

I would like to thank the voters of District 3 for their confidence in me over the past five years. I have done my best and I believe there are many positive things that were accomplished apart from this administration. I remain deeply committed to Erie County and intend to remain active. I will evaluate and explore other options for serving this community with the same care, professionalism and integrity that I have always brought to the table.

