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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

January 7, 2026

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## Newly Elected Officials Training Webinar January 28

**WATERTOWN, NEW YORK** – Experts from the NY Association of Towns will lead an online webinar for newly elected local officials on Wednesday, January 28 from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. This free training opportunity is designed to help prepare newly elected officials for their new roles. Topics to be covered will include conflicts of interest, code of ethics and boards of ethics, financial disclosure requirements, typical town offices and their roles, oath of office, and preparing for your first meeting. Current officials are also welcome to attend. Register at [tinyurl.com/2026newlyelected](https://tinyurl.com/2026newlyelected).

This webinar is sponsored by the NYS Tug Hill Commission and the region's five councils of governments: the Cooperative Tug Hill Council, Northern Oneida County Council of Governments, River Area Council of Governments, North Shore Council of Governments and Salmon Rivers Council of Governments.

The evening's speakers will be Sarah Brancatella and Lori Mithen-DeMasi. Sarah has been with the Association of Towns for twelve years and is currently the deputy director. Prior to that she served as legislative director and counsel. Sarah leads the Association of Towns' advocacy efforts pertinent to local governments at the state and federal level, assists municipal officials on multiple different issues, and presents and publishes extensively on municipal matters. Lori is the organization's chief counsel, and a member of their legal staff since 1993 where she provides training and legal assistance to town officials and works with the legislature and state agencies to improve town governance and efficiency.

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*The New York State Tug Hill Commission is a non-regulatory state agency charged with helping local governments, organizations, and citizens shape the future of the region, especially its environment and economy. The commission uses a grassroots approach to build local capacity and provide technical assistance in land use planning, community development, and natural resource management.*

*Helping local governments and citizens shape the future of the Tug Hill region.*