Candidate: Mike Hein

Political Affiliation and Endorsements: Democrat and Working Families Candidate for Ulster County Executive

Occupation: Ulster County Administrator

Education and Experience:

B.A. Business Management Eckerd College
11 years in banking and management in the private sector
Former Deputy Ulster County Treasurer
Currently the Ulster County Administrator

If elected, you will be Ulster County’s first Executive. What are your short term and long term goals in the way Ulster County conducts business?

My short term goals will be to continue to identify and implement every conceivable, and realistic, cost saving measure and to continue to build on the substantial reforms that I have implemented over the last two years; reforms that have resulted in millions of dollars in savings for taxpayers. These reforms have included a renegotiation of employee health benefits, consolidation of departments with overlapping responsibilities, a county contract management system, a shared services program in cooperation with our local communities and an effective system to manage the county’s building and real estate assets.

On a long term basis, I want to deliver a county government that is lean, effective, smart and fully accountable to the people. I also want to be a County Executive who delivers results by proactively facilitating the creation of the high value, local job and business opportunities that will benefit all of our residents - and move Ulster County forward into the 21st century.

To accomplish my goals, I have developed a comprehensive Economic Revitalization plan for Ulster County that places primary accountability and responsibility for economic development squarely within the County Executive’s Office. It is a call to leadership and a message to the business community that Ulster County is open for business - and ready to be an effective strategic partner.

My plan specifically calls for the creation of 1000 new, high pay “green collar” jobs by the end of my first term and I also have developed a business retention strategy that is designed to ensure that we keep our existing businesses and jobs here in Ulster County.
What measures would you support, if any, to attract new businesses to Ulster County and what types of businesses would you pursue?

I think that a successful economic development program starts at the top, with leadership that is fully committed to results and to sending an unambiguous message that Ulster County is open for business.

For many years, economic development in Ulster County placed an emphasis on trying to attract a corporate giant to come in and fill the void left by the departure of IBM. The problem with this approach is that the world has changed and Ulster County is now competing in a global economic environment where literally every community in the world is competing to attract the same, relatively small number of elusive corporate entities.

My vision is to focus on attracting high value, low environmental impact businesses, such as the alternative energy companies that are part of the Hudson Valley Solar Energy Consortium. We also have tremendous potential in creating a strong and comprehensive network that supports our local entrepreneurs and businesses who are engaged in eco and agri-tourism, creative services, fine and performing arts and the innovative and idea driven industries that will define our future.