

My question is, we are declared a constitutional county. I'm glad, but help me understand how it changes things that are happening...I truly don't see it...mandates to our kids and employees....seems to me it didn't help us.

My response to this important question...

The resolution is the first step on a long journey back toward liberty. It is the symbolic framing of the ideals we hold precious and dear. It is the reminder we need when we grow weary. Words matter, and thus the resolution is the expression of a worldview in which we uphold liberty, truth, and our Founding Documents.

We have allowed local government to become nearly powerless. Most of us don't even know the names of our local elected officials on school boards, town councils and county legislatures. We have bought into the idea that it's ok to have funding flow through Albany and Washington, nodding our heads in approval when our elected officials and schools secure grants and funding, forgetting that such funding comes with chains. So, part of the blame is ours. Over the decades, we have surrendered our duty to stay involved and have embraced the idea of centralized funding sources... and here we are, what shall we do?

I think we must start by acknowledging that there will be no easy fix. If we expect one law or one resolution to make it all better, then we will very quickly become discouraged and frustrated and angry with those who are actually on our side. The Cattaraugus County legislature is on your side... the problem is their power has been decimated much as ours. The resolution was step number one, it framed the ideals. Step number two for the legislators was litigation. They sued NYS over the vaccine mandates for health care workers. The lawsuit was consolidated with other lawsuits, and they lost. In addition to losing, they faced the ire of Albany...but they bravely endured the ire of Albany with a willingness to communicate to the beast of centralized, authoritarian government that they do not agree and that they will, within their jurisdiction, resist.

The problem is that their jurisdiction is small. That is what we fail to understand. We think local government has power that it no longer has – and that's partly our fault – because we stopped being involved and we – through our silence and lack of involvement – accented to the funding that has now become bondage. What we now need to do is figure out what the specific jurisdiction and powers of our local elected officials are, and then challenge them to resist in the ways that they successfully can... then you build on that. If you ask them to resist in ways that they do not have jurisdiction or power over, then they will fail, and we will despise them... which is exactly what the state and feds want.... People and local elected officials at each other's throats.

In addition to becoming better educated about what the jurisdiction of local officials is, we need to make sure local elected positions are populated with good people who hold the ideals of liberty in high esteem and who will be loyal and friendly to the citizens of their jurisdiction within the limited power they have. The more resolutions we can get passed – at the town and county levels – and the more good people we elect, the more likely it will be that they can and will then take steps that are more practical in resisting the authoritarianism that is coming our way from Albany and D.C. We need to find ways to cultivate local gardens of liberty in what is fast becoming a tyrannical country.

Yes, I understand your frustration. I have experienced it myself. But I also understand the nature of the moment: they (the tyrants) want us frustrated and defeated. We must not let them manipulate us in that way. We must not let them steal our long view of the ideals we hold dear. We must look realistically at our local situation and take the first, symbolic step (the resolution) and then get others to take that same first symbolic step. We must educate ourselves about the jurisdiction of our local elected officials. We must run for office. We must get good people in local government. We must ask local officials to do what they can, aware that what they can do is less than what we would hope, but also aware that small steps and small successes will energize and encourage others to do the same. Ultimately, it is God alone who will save us... and so as we fight this good fight... we must begin and end by everyday looking to Him, walking in the truth and light, worshiping Him as we live our lives and raise our children, remembering that He is sovereign over nations and the affairs of mankind and His Kingdom will prevail. Meanwhile, we have the privilege of participating in His unfolding of history and of resisting evil in the ways we can. He is our true hope...and in Christ we are free indeed.

I know this is probably an unsatisfactory response to your heartfelt post. When our lives are being shaken and everything we hold dear is being turned upside down, it is hard to have the long vision that is necessary to persevere. My heart and mind are both heavy with sorrow for all that my fellow citizens are experiencing. I pray for each of us to have a grand vision and to press on.