



Robert E. Antonacci II, CPA  
Comptroller

COUNTY OF ONONDAGA

Office of the  
*County Comptroller*

*John H. Mulroy Civic Center, 14th Floor  
421 Montgomery Street  
Syracuse, New York 13202-2998  
(315) 435-2130 • Fax (315) 435-2250  
www.ongov.net*

James V. Maturo  
Deputy Comptroller/Accounting

Thomas R. Schepp II  
Deputy Comptroller/Audit

**Is it true our governments are 200 years old?**

**No, our governments are not 200 years old. What perpetuates this belief is the fact Onondaga County was founded in 1794. Yet the County would not get its final shape until decades later after parts were split off to become Cayuga, Cortland, and Oswego Counties. Onondaga County was governed by a Board of Supervisors for most of its existence. Many counties in New York State, including neighboring Madison County, continue to use this form of government.**

**In 1961, voters approved the Onondaga County Charter, giving rise to our current form of government (<http://www.ongov.net/forms/images/charter.pdf>).**

**In 1960, the voters of the City of Syracuse approved a new charter for city government. ([https://www.municode.com/library/ny/syracuse/codes/code\\_of\\_ordinances?nodeId=PTCCHSY1960\\_ARTIINFOGO](https://www.municode.com/library/ny/syracuse/codes/code_of_ordinances?nodeId=PTCCHSY1960_ARTIINFOGO).) Some of our villages have yet to see 200 years. The Village of North Syracuse was incorporated in 1925. Our villages' boundaries continue to fluctuate to this day. In the Village of Fayetteville, the 2003 Parade of Homes took place in the newly annexed neighborhood of Briar Brook. Our villages are hardly static and have grown in many ways.**

**All local governments saw a dramatic change in how they operated with the 1963 amendment to the New York State Constitution (<https://www.dos.ny.gov/info/constitution.htm>). Building upon earlier grants of municipal home rule, the new Article IX expanded local control of government affairs. Often times before the amendment, if a local government desired a change in power or even a change in their local law, an act of the State Legislature was required. After 1963, this was no longer the case and local governments were fundamentally changed.**

**Any local government entity regardless of age, be it a county, city, town, village, or otherwise, would ultimately be empowered and limited by the New York State Constitution and the New York State government via laws and regulations.**