

Chautauqua County Executive

Name as it will appear on the ballot: Vince Horrigan

Endorsements: Republican and Conservative Parties of Chautauqua Count

Age: 64

Family: Barbara (wife); 2 grown children with 4 grandchildren.

Current Employment (if retired, please describe your previous career):
Chautauqua County Legislator

Education: BA Degree, Kent State University, MS Degree, Troy State University

Civic Involvement: Rotary Club of Jamestown; United Way; Chautauqua Opportunities; American Red Cross; South and Center Sewer Board; Chautauqua County Visitors Bureau

Elected Offices Held: Chautauqua County Legislator; Bemus Point Village Trustee

Please give a short biography of yourself:

Born In Cleveland Ohio and summer resident in Bemus Point until entering the United States Air Force in 1971. Served 27 years around the world in operational, NATO and Pentagon assignments retiring in the grade of Colonel in 1998. Moved back home with my wife, Barbara, to Chautauqua County and served 10 years as Executive Director of the American Red Cross in Chautauqua County and Southwestern NY. Elected to the Chautauqua County Legislature in January 2012.

Why Did You Choose To Run For Office?

My life has been one of service in senior leadership positions. I am confident that I have the right leadership skills at the right time with a vision to return our County to a Growing community with strong families and good jobs.

What would you like to accomplish during your term if elected?

Return our County to a growing community and year round destination attracting businesses, visitors, and investors to support good jobs and thriving families.

What do you believe is the biggest challenge in Chautauqua County government now and what can you, as county executive, do about it?

The structure, size and cost of government in Chautauqua County is a barrier to growth and economic development. I will implement lean government through privatization of non-essential services and welfare reform; create opportunity through workforce development initiatives, and grow our economy by focusing on infrastructure investment and investing in our existing small and medium sized businesses.

Are there county services offered currently you feel should be eliminated or reduced? Are there services that should be restructured in order to provide better services for county residents?

Chautauqua County Home should be privatized. Our welfare to work program needs to be streamlined and reformed to incentivize employment over public assistance.

The employability coalition needs to identify and facilitate effective partnerships to move more people from poverty to self sufficiency.

Are there services the county should offer that it currently doesn't?

In home health care and nutrition services for our low income seniors should be increased to keep seniors in their homes rather than in nursing homes.

Are there circumstances under which you would vote for another increase in property taxes to support operation of the County Home?

Taxpayers should not subsidize one nursing home when 80% of the Chautauqua County skilled nursing residents live in homes which receive no property tax subsidies. Low income nursing home care is supported by Medicaid and should not be supported by property taxes.

What can the county do to enhance economic development?

Infrastructure investment such as a North County Regional Water System and Chautauqua Lake regional sewer system. We need to invest in growing our existing businesses to create momentum and competitive business advantage for job growth.

We must invest in job readiness training to ensure a high quality workforce to feed our growing businesses.

Our not-for-profit organizations need to bring their regional/national conferences to Chautauqua County.

We need to market Chautauqua County as a year round destination where great entertainment value supports the world's leisure learning center

Ronald Johnson

Name as it will appear on the ballot: Ronald R. Johnson

Endorsements: Mayors of Jamestown, Dunkirk, Fredonia, Westfield, and Silver Creek, CSEA, and UAW

Age: 65

Family: Wife: Brenda Johnson and Son James Johnson

Current Employment (if retired, please describe your previous career): Owner, and Operator of Johnson Adult Homes

Education:

Civic Involvement: Deputy Sheriff, Town Justice

Elected Offices Held: Pomfret Town Justice

Please Give A Short Biography Of Yourself

I am a fifth generation resident of Chautauqua County. I was born and raised on a farm in the town of Arkwright. In 1967 I joined the U.S. Army and served in Vietnam and I am a combat veteran of that war. After my service in Vietnam, I was an Army Ranger Instructor in Georgia until 1970. I returned home soon afterwards and became a Chautauqua County Deputy Sheriff in 1973, working throughout the county at that position until my retirement in 1993 and would then be inducted into the American Police Hall of Fame for my work on the force. Shortly after retiring, I ran for Pomfret Town Justice and won. I would go on to serve as a Justice for 16 years. I've also been a local businessman for nearly 30 years as owner and operator of Johnson Adult Home. I've opened up over 8 different homes, and have been federally appointed by a judge to turn around two different nursing homes from the brink of bankruptcy.

Why did you choose to run for office?

I am not a sideline kind of guy. I was tired of seeing the same old politics that we've been seeing from County Government. I made the decision to run because of how poorly our county has been run for the last seven years. We have over 7,000 fewer people working than we did just seven years ago. I choose to run for County Executive because I understand how to bring jobs back to the community and work with private industries to put more people back to work.

What would you like to accomplish during your term, if elected

The most important issue in this year's election is the creation of new jobs for the residents of Chautauqua County. Over the last 7 years we have seen over 7,000 jobs lost. It is a statistic that Chautauqua County cannot afford to see increase. I pledge that if more people are not working by my third year in office I will not seek re-election. I have made it my primary goal to get the people of this county back to work and I stake my political career on accomplishing that goal.

What do you believe is the biggest challenge in Chautauqua County government now, and what can you, as county executive, do about it?

We need a county government that can work with the private sector. It is important that we work to incentivize and provide opportunities for companies to invest in Chautauqua County. I would work to provide the best information, help, and tools so that companies can grow and create economic development in Chautauqua County.

Are there county services offered currently you feel should be eliminated or reduced? Are there services that should be restructured in order to provide better services for county residents?

There should be an analysis of Mental Health services and interaction with providers. Many providers have found that the County Mental Health office is not responsive to the requirements of their programs thus making them less effective. Also, the Office of County Mental Health does not provide the leadership necessary to coordinate services across provider networks, both for-profit and no-for-profit.

Case load reductions should be considered in Social Services, Mental Health, and Probation to prevent mistakes and costly failures in the programs.

Are there services the county should offer that it currently doesn't?

Our county should offer services in response to partnerships that will be forged with Town, Village, and City governments. We will also need to discuss services that are provided for the business community and care providers to make sure that County Government can work together better with other entities.

Are there circumstances under which you would vote for another increase in property taxes to support operation of the County Home?

Our County Home has never been a financial burden on the taxpayers in its history except for the past 7 years. The history of having a county home here in Chautauqua has been a great asset. To lose such an asset in the future would be a shame. I have no doubt in my mind that we can make our county home break even and work to even make it profitable again. I think that if we can manage this, we can avoid any tax increases.

What can the county do to enhance economic development?

As County Executive, the first step I would take in order to provide economic development is assess all of our sites in order to understand where our county stands on land, infrastructure, and assets. We need to be able to provide every opportunity for companies to thrive and understand what they are investing in. We need to be able to market our county better to the rest of the state and country. We have a lot of potential in being able to bring companies because of our resources and workforce. We need to take the step in bringing companies into the county. We need to be using all of the opportunities provided such as the recent legislation START UP-NY. With our county being home to 2 outstanding SUNYs , we can take advantage of these institutions in becoming the leader for economic development.