

## **Cynthia Aikman Q & A**

### **What made you decide to get involved in local politics?**

Our democracy serves us when we participate. When we vote, serve on jury duty, contact and engage the individuals we chose to represent us and when we serve as representatives ourselves, we enliven our government. I have volunteered since childhood helping interested people seek and become elected to public office. I understood that when the time was right, I would take a turn.

Having served as a public employee for fifteen (15) years, I understand representative government. I have capacity in my life as well as interest in serving our community by bringing connections and knowledge to benefit the residents of Cayuga County's 15th District.

### **What are your views on the role local government plays in the community?**

As citizens we elect people to represent us and make decisions on our behalf. When we take the time, we direct and influence the ways in which our elected officials serve us. Our needs and passions inspire our representatives to write and pass laws, institute programs and protections for our benefit.

The role of county government in New York State is to deliver State programs and enforce State laws and regulations. County government provides for local participation and is responsible for stewardship of our community's trust, tax dollars and health and safety.

Government must be open, accessible, responsive, deliberative, affordable and effective.

### **What is the biggest problem facing your community and what would you do to solve it?**

We are desperately in need of leadership that draws on our shared creativity and intelligence to make our neighborhoods wonderful places to live and grow. I am inspired by Sarah van Gelder's idea that what brings us together is an all-hands-on deck drive for positive outcomes. I intend to act to connect people and ideas to contribute to real and lasting solutions with win-win results.

### **What is your community's greatest asset and what role does government have in taking advantage of that asset?**

People, citizens, residents are our greatest assets. As a representative in our democracy, my role will be to advance the wishes, desires, hopes and dreams of the people in the district I will represent.