

# Morinello announces reelection bid for NYS Assembly

*Former Niagara Falls City Court judge will seek another term representing parts of Erie and Niagara counties*

Submitted on Behalf of  
Assemblyman Angelo Morinello

Assemblyman Angelo Morinello, R-C-Niagara Falls, on Wednesday, officially announced he is seeking reelection to the New York State Assembly, working to once again earn the support of the Erie and Niagara county residents he represents.

Morinello, first elected in 2016 after defeating an incumbent, plans to focus his campaign efforts on the concerns he's heard over the past two years traveling to the communities he represents: cost-of-living struggles, public safety, child care access and affordability, empowering law enforcement and first responders, and supporting seniors in retirement.



Assemblyman Angelo Morinello

Morinello is spending much of the month in Albany working to help finalize a state budget, with much of his effort geared toward battling a downstate-driven agenda that doesn't reflect the

values of Western New York. He also touted his record of bipartisanship, working closely with Democrat lawmakers from Western New York on areas of compromise.

"It's been the honor of a lifetime representing my home community and parts of Western New York in the State Assembly, one I take very seriously," Morinello said. "Being an effective lawmaker for Western New York requires relentless effort battling back against the misguided, dangerous and short-sighted agenda of New York City politicians that largely focuses on raising our taxes and compromising our public safety. But it also uniquely demands someone with the temperament to compromise and build consensus with those on the opposite side of the political spectrum. I've been able to effectively do both and my work speaks for itself."

He added, "I am particularly proud of the fact that I worked collaboratively with Democrats and Republicans to spearhead the effort that has expanded and

fully funded the Discover Niagara shuttle that now links Niagara Falls to Lockport and the rest of the county, which has extended the average stay for tourists and helped strengthen economic development in our region.

"I'm looking forward to earning the trust and support of the community I have been so fortunate to call home and give back to during my public service career."

Prior to being elected to the Assembly, Morinello was the former in-house counsel for his family's business, Certo Brothers Distributing Co.; former county assistant district attorney; counsel to Niagara Falls Community Development; an attorney in business law; in addition to serving as the Niagara Falls City Court judge from 2001-15.

Morinello is a Vietnam combat veteran.

## Totally Buffalo Lewiston store set to open in May

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was an idea, 'OK, what can we do to sort of turn this attention into additional business?' That became the festivals, and then those went to the stores."

Totally Buffalo offers an assortment of clothing (including Buffalo- and Buffalo sports-themed hoodies, hats, T-shirts and socks), plus jewelry, candles, handmade soaps, tumblers, books, food, and "anything home décor you could think of," she said.

Friona explained, "We work with the most incredible artisans in Western New York, hands down. We also really pride ourselves in finding unique items that you can't find in other places, even if it's just a little subtle difference or a big difference. It just kind of stands out. It's all high-quality. Our prices are very reasonable. And we have a lot of really loyal customers who just keep coming back again and again, and we're so appreciative of that."

As it pertains to the River Region, "We heard this location was opening up and we contacted the landlord, and he said he received many, many calls on that particular piece of property; and he went through and researched everybody, and he loved what we do, and thought we would be the perfect fit," Friona said.

She noted the Lewiston location will be "more boutique-style, just because it is a smaller space. Our Amherst location and our Orchard Park location are both at like 4,400 square-feet. This is definitely smaller, so it won't have as many items – but we will have things also that kind of celebrate the water and the unique parts of Lewiston."

Celani said, "We're already working on ideas for items that will honor and showcase the Lewiston area."

In addition to their stores, Friona said, "Our website is always busy with folks who've moved away and miss Buffalo and WNY."

"We are both from Western New York," she said. "I grew up in Niagara Falls. Scott grew up in the south towns. This is where we live. This is our home. This is



where we raise our family. Like Scott said, I started that blog to celebrate all of the wonderful things that Buffalo and Western New York had to offer – especially the people. The people here are amazing. So, we just love this area. We love everything about it.

"I mean, does it have its challenges? Sure. But it's going to take all of us to make a difference here. So, it's not just about, 'Oh, the Buffalo Bills or the Sabres or the Bisons or the Bandits.' It's really just about Buffalo and Western New York, and the people here, and the wonderful organizations here, the charities here. It's just kind of everything."

"And we both lived in other cities, in great places, but – we're not the first ones to notice this, obviously – there's a definitely unique (atmosphere)," Celani said. "The extensive community and civic pride in Western New York – not saying that it doesn't exist anywhere else, but you don't see it very often. It's a very unique situation."

Totally Buffalo's pending arrival already has been met with approval.

The Orange Cat Coffee Co. shared, "It's definitely been a bit darker on Center with the recent closing of Laura Mann Falsetti's You & Me Boutique, but we're seeing the light with this latest announcement! Welcome to the neighborhood, Totally Buffalo Store! We can't wait to meet you!"

Falsetti added, "I couldn't think of better people to take over my baby. They will be a huge asset to the Lewiston community!"

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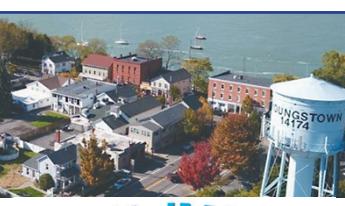
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## Catch Maloni on Upward Niagara Chamber podcast

Niagara Frontier Publications' own Joshua Maloni was the guest this week on the Upward Niagara Chamber of Commerce podcast, "Support Local Everything." Chamber President Jennifer Pauly and Maloni discussed news reporting, the business community, and even milkshakes!

Visit the Upward Niagara Chamber of Commerce on Facebook or YouTube to watch the video.



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