



TRUMP VISITS ROCKLAND COUNTY

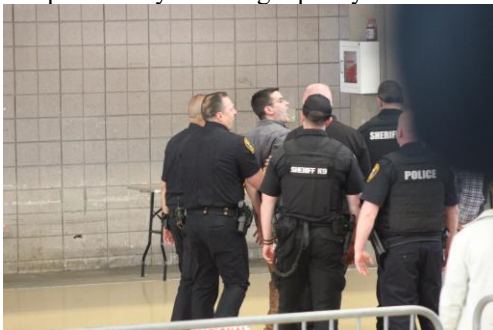
BY: Keith S. Shikowitz, Editor in Chief/Investigative Reporter



Hundreds of lawn signs lined College and Viola Roads welcoming President Trump and Congressman Mike Lawler. Then there was this big one hanging at the corner.



President Trump has been traversing the country endorsing candidates he feels will help him to achieve his agenda for the country. On Friday May 22, 2026, he brought his support to the 17th Congressional District endorsing Congressman Mike Lawler at Rockland Community College to a crowd of between 3000 – 4000 people. The crowd was totally pro Trump with the exception of three people who had to be removed for being disruptive. They did not go quietly.



Ex Marine Barry Fixler led the assemblage in the Pledge of Allegiance. A New York State Police Officer sang the National Anthem.



Lawler took some questions from the press at the press section before he took to the stage to speak to the entire assemblage.

He was asked if he has any concerns about upsetting the moderates in the district by being here for the President. Lawler replied,

“He’s the President of the United States, and when the President of the United States wants to come to your district, you show up.

When Joe Biden came to Westchester County 3 years ago, I showed up. I engaged on the issues that matter to my constituents, and I've done the same with President Trump. When I agree with him, I say it. When I disagree with him, I say it. But you have to be able to sit at the table and frankly so many of my Democratic colleagues and the people running against me don't seem to understand this.”

<https://youtu.be/WRcauWs7RuI>

The reporter asked him one more question. I spoke to a resident of your district about the Justice Department's \$1.8 billion weaponization fund. He said it's bad optics. Does the president, do you need to be concerned about the optics of efforts like that?

“Look, I said the other day that I don't think that fund should happen. I think anybody who has a legal claim against the government should go through the normal process of bringing a claim or a lawsuit. Fundamentally anybody, for instance, that committed violence against a police officer should absolutely never see one penny, and I've been solid about that!” Lawler stated emphatically.

Another reporter requested a quick one. What does the president's support, his endorsement, and his base of support here mean to you?

“Look, as I was just saying, having the President of the United States come to your district is a wonderful opportunity for the community, no matter who the president is. Just like when Joe Biden showed up 3 years ago, I was there. Donald Trump's coming, I'm here because that is the job. You are expected to engage on these issues and talk to the president and your colleagues in government. If you can't do that, if you can't engage constructively, then how do you expect to get anything done on behalf of your constituents? So having the president here, I think you can see people are very enthusiastic.

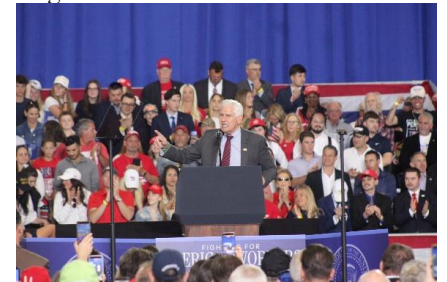
They're excited to hear from him directly about the issues impacting our country.” He explained. They were criticizing him for standing with the president, pointing to SALT deductions, saying that the cap was raised, but it's temporary. What's your response?

“Well, first of all, if they had their way, we would have had the largest tax increase in American history. They would have allowed everything to expire. They would have allowed the rates to double. They would have allowed the standard deduction to be cut in half, the child tax credit to be cut. These are the same people that support Zohran Mamdani and Kathy, raising taxes, increasing spending, and driving up utility bills.

New York's utility rates have gone up 58% in six years since the shutdown of Indian point. So, these people, when they talk about issues of affordability, they are not honest or sincere in any way. I've yet hear them criticize one thing that New York State does when it comes to driving up costs year over year. Housing costs have gone up \$400,000 in the Hudson Valley in just five years.” Lawler said.

<https://youtu.be/4z-tXlymDhU>

Gubernatorial Candidate Bruce Blakeman took to the podium. “Wow. Look at this amazing Hudson Valley crowd!! Can you imagine, we are making history here today in the Hudson Valley on the 250th Anniversary of our great nation. We are honored to have our President Donald J. Trump. Celebrating Memorial Day with a great Congressman. He’s strong. He’s bright. He’s articulate. He’s courageous. Let’s hear it for Congressman Mike Lawler.”



“We’re on this historic occasion to recognize and remember those who gave their lives so that we can enjoy the freedoms we have here in America. This is a solemn holiday weekend where we take pause to remember those who never came back to enjoy thanksgiving, Christmas graduations, birthdays So as we go forward through this weekend and enjoy. Being with friends and family, marching in parades going to barbeques. Let's keep in our hearts and in our minds the brave men and women who gave their lives for America.

https://youtu.be/R_wlm3ehE8Y

When Blakeman finished, the PA announcer introduced Congressman Mike Lawler. Lawler came out waving to the crowd to Eye of the Tiger playing.



"I want to thank everyone for being here on this truly historic day. Today marks the largest political event in the history of Rockland County an event 50 years in the making. The last time a sitting president officially visited Rockland County for a public event like this was in 1976 when President Gerald Ford stopped at the Rockland County Courthouse as part of a campaign swing. Well, today, we are proud to welcome the 45th & 47th President of the United States. Donald J. Trump. Now I've been asked a lot this week by the media, colleagues, and many others. Why would you bring Donald Trump to your swing district? A district by the way, where 50% of households have a cop, a firefighter, a first responder or a veteran living in the household and we want to thank all of our law enforcement, first responders, active-duty military and veterans because in this county, in this district we not only back the blue, we stand for the rule of law.

His answer to all those people in the back (the media) is simple. He's the President of the United States and when the President comes, you show up. You engage, you fight and deliver for your community and just as I did 3 years ago when Joe Biden (booing at the mention of his name) came to Westchester, I am proud to be here today for President Donald J. Trump. Folks, what so many failed to recognize, if you want to get anything done, you actually have to be in the arena. You have to have a seat at the table. You have to engage in good faith. Standing OUTSIDE holding a sign in protest and screaming at the top of your lungs, gets you exactly there... OUTSIDE!

<https://youtu.be/NDSnVJpg0LU>

Lawler continued, and above all, he respects people whether in politics, the military, business, or sports who are willing to fight through challenges to get the job done, not one who folds up when things get tough. That's exactly how I approached this fight on SALT. From day one, I made it very clear I was never going to support a tax bill that left New Yorkers behind. In a narrowly divided house, I know my vote matters, and I know how to leverage it for the good of the Hudson Valley, and I took that fight directly to the party leadership, directly to the administration. I didn't let up. In fact, I went all the way to the Oval Office, and I met with President Trump. "And he said to me, (in his best Trump imitation) said, You know Mike, the Senate, they don't like it. They don't like it at all.

I said, well, that's not good, Mr. President. He said, no, they want it completely gone. It would be terrible for you. And I said, yeah, Mr. President, it'd be terrible for New York, but it'd be really bad for you. He said, oh, Why is that? said, cause I'll kill your bill."

"He looked at Mike Johnson and he said, Mike, Mike don't let it happen get Lawler all the SALT he wants. After hard-fought negotiations, we secured real salt tax relief, quadrupling it from to \$40,000. It was the single largest tax

cut in the entire bill and in my district over 90% of my constituents were able to fully deduct their state and local taxes. Even media outlets from the left like Bloomberg News and the right like The Wall Street Journal have both said the SALT cap increase was responsible for providing massive tax cuts for most New Yorkers this year, and I want to thank President Trump for delivering on his promise to lift the cap on SALT and deliver the largest tax cut in American history."

Lawler explained that under President Trump's leadership, they passed a true working families tax cut, providing real relief to people across the Hudson Valley, expanding the child tax credit to \$2200 per child, helping 88,000 local families. They eliminated taxes on tips and overtime, resulting in a \$3350 tax cut for workers. They allowed eligible small business owners to deduct up to 20% of their business income and we allow for 100% expensing for new factories, factory improvements, equipment, and research and development. They created a \$6000 tax deduction to offset Social Security taxes for nearly all Hudson Valley seniors. They made the lower tax rates permanent and doubled the standard deduction, and we eliminated the estate tax on family farms.

"All told, the average Family in this district received a tax cut well over \$4000 this year and for many much, much more. We all know there is more work to be done, especially here in New York. When it comes to the issue of affordability from housing to healthcare to energy, we are getting crushed under Kathy Hochul's disastrous governorship. I am every day on these issues and pushing back against the lunacy here in New York State. Mayor Mamdani is as arrogant as advertised. Pushing property, income and business tax hikes, more rent regulations and bigger government, Hochul's bloated budgets, energy mandates and congestion pricing policies have given us among the highest taxes in the country, and utility prices have soared by 58% over the last six years and that's why I called for Indian Point to be rebuilt and reopened. The only way we are going to lower energy costs is by ditching phony mandates in favor of more supply right here in New York and as Bruce said, drill baby drill." Lawler stated.

According to Lawler, this isn't a Republican or Democrat issue. Democratic Governor Gretchen Whitmer in Michigan has figured it out and they are reopening Palisades Nuclear power plant. Why can't Kathy Hochul? We all know the answer. Kathy Hochul is the worst Governor in America and it's not even close. Just yesterday, Kathy Hochul and the state legislature passed a radical sanctuary state bill in America. They have banned law enforcement from cooperating with federal immigration officials and protecting violent criminals from being turned over to ICE.

Think about it... Murderers, rapists, child predators. Kathy Hochul is putting them you and your safety. NOT ON MY WATCH AND NOT ON PRESIDENT TRUMP'S WATCH!!!

"Under President trump we have secured the border and deported criminal aliens and we will ban Sanctuary states and cities we will end illegal immigration once and for all and we will require proof of citizenship to vote in all elections."

<https://youtu.be/IF6sOG1OIJM>

"Now ask yourself, and I'm talking to people both in this room today and those who may watch or read about this event later. Is that really the kind of member of Congress you want representing one of the most purple house districts in the country? Do you really want a far-left Democrat who is going to be a rubber stamp for hyper partisanship and wholly unserious leaders like Hakeem Jeffries, AOC, Chuck Schumer and Kathy Hochul Let's call balls and strikes, folks. The people I mentioned don't just disagree with the president and Republicans politically. In fact, I don't think it's going too far to say that they and some in their party are exclusively driven by anger and even hatred on a level that is turning up the heat in our politics to a very dangerous level." Lawler said.

He concluded with the following, "I offer something completely different, and my record proves it. I have been consistently rated one of the most bipartisan and effective members of Congress. I'm a Republican who ctively works with common sense Democrats on key issues, someone who is not afraid to challenge his own party's leaders when I believe they are wrong or acting against the interests of the Hudson Valley, and someone who understands that to get things done in Congress in either party. You need to have a strong working relationship with the President of the United States. The fact is, I do have a strong working relationship, and in part, it's why he's here today and about to deliver remarks. Because of that relationship and across the aisle. I've delivered for the Hudson Valley in a way that no Congress has been able to do in generations, from SALT to bringing back tens of millions in community project funding for law enforcement, clean drinking water, infrastructure, and healthcare to passing dozens of bills and having the best constituent services in the country. Folks, we are getting things done for Rockland County and the Hudson Valley, and we are getting things done for the United States of America. The best is yet to come.

President Trump came out and delivered a 2-hour speech to the crowd with some people coming in to explain their plights that President Trump has helped them with and been there for them to console them during hardship.

To see President Trump's remarks, go to the Rockland Post You Tube channel.