

BIOGRAPHY

John J. Flynn was appointed and sworn in as the 50th Town Supervisor in the Town of Tonawanda, NY, on May 18, 2026. Flynn is also currently a Senior Counsel at the law firm Lippes Mathias LLP.

Flynn was born and raised in Western New York. He attended Bowling Green State University, and graduated with a Bachelor of Arts degree in 1988. Flynn joined the United States Navy after college. He attended Naval Officer Candidate School, in Newport, Rhode Island, and upon graduation he was commissioned an Ensign in the United States Navy. He then attended Navy Supply Corps School (The Navy's Business School), in Athens, Georgia, and upon graduation was assigned to the USS CLEVELAND (LPD-7), stationed in San Diego, California. There he served as the Assistant Supply Officer deploying overseas to the Western Pacific and served during the Gulf War.

After he fulfilled his naval commitment, Flynn returned to Buffalo, NY and attended the University of Buffalo School of Law. While in law school he continued to serve in the Naval Reserves. Upon graduation from law school in 1995, he went back on active duty and served in the Navy Judge Advocate General's (JAG) Corps. He served as a Navy attorney at Pensacola Naval Air Station, in Pensacola, Florida, where he was also appointed a Special Assistant United States Attorney. He then served his final two years on active duty at the United States Naval Academy, in Annapolis, Maryland, as the Officer-in-Charge of the Office of Legal Counsel and as an instructor. Flynn was awarded the Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal and two Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medals during his time on active duty.

In 2001, Flynn left active duty and again returned home to Western New York. He joined the Erie County District Attorney's Office as an Assistant District Attorney. He was quickly promoted to the Homicide Bureau, where he served until leaving in 2002 to enter private law practice. Flynn was a personal injury attorney from 2002 to 2016. He also served as a lecturer at SUNY Buffalo State from 2009 to 2016, teaching a Moot Court class in the Political Science Department. Flynn continued to serve in the Naval Reserves until his retirement in 2017, reaching the rank of Commander. After re-affiliating with the reserves in 2001, he earned four additional Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medals.

In 2003, Flynn decided to make his first run for public office. He ran for and won a seat on the Town of Tonawanda Town Board. In December of 2006, Flynn was appointed Town Justice in the Town of Tonawanda. He won election to a full term in 2007. In 2008, Flynn was appointed an acting Buffalo City Court Judge. In 2010, Flynn left the bench and was appointed Town Attorney in Tonawanda, NY. In 2016, he was elected the 41st District Attorney (DA) of Erie County, NY, and took office on January 1, 2017. Flynn won re-election in 2020 running unopposed.

Flynn was the President of the National District Attorneys Association (NDAA) as well as President of the District Attorneys Association of the State of New York (DAASNY) in his time as District Attorney.

Flynn joined Lippes Mathias in 2024 after leaving the DA's Office where he practices on the Municipal Law, Government & Corporate Investigations and Litigations teams.

Flynn resides in Tonawanda, NY with his wife, Debra, and has five adult children.