



MEETING REPORT | WARREN COUNTY KRATOM LAW

Board of Supervisors meeting | Friday, October 16, 2026 | Resolution No. 380, introducing Proposed Local Law No. 9 of 2026 | Unofficial summary of the County's meeting video

AT A GLANCE

- **Introduced.** The Board adopted Resolution 380 by roll call, 17 to 1. It introduces Proposed Local Law No. 9 of 2026, "A Local Law Prohibiting the Sale of Kratom in Warren County," and sets a public hearing. Supervisor John O'Neill of Stony Creek voted no.
- **Public hearing.** Friday, November 20, 2026, at 10 a.m., at the Warren County Municipal Center in Lake George. The Board could vote on the law at the same meeting.
- **What it would do.** Ban the sale and distribution of all kratom in Warren County, natural leaf included: the plant, anything containing mitragynine, and products made from the leaf. The only exemption is for FDA-approved kratom or kratom dispensed by a pharmacist on a prescription, and no such product exists. Any law enforcement agency could inspect suspected sellers and their vehicles, and kratom found would be confiscated.
- **Penalties.** Civil penalties of up to \$500 per item confiscated, then up to \$1,000 per item for each later violation. Willful violations could be prosecuted under State Public Health Law § 12-b. The law would take effect when filed with the Secretary of State.
- **Who spoke.** Three members of the public spoke on kratom: a mother who supported the ban, who spoke twice, and two speakers who opposed banning natural leaf. Four supervisors commented.

PUBLIC COMMENT | 0:04 TO 0:25

The Chairman opened the floor for public comment, three minutes each. Three people spoke on kratom.

- **For the ban.** A Saratoga County mother spoke about her son and thanked the Board for proposing the ban. She said many emails asking the Board to ban only synthetic kratom are AI-generated or copied and do not come from Warren County, and she urged people who use kratom for ailments to see a doctor about an FDA-approved medication. She spoke again briefly at the end of public comment to say her son had taken raw leaf kratom, not a synthetic product. [0:04:24, 0:24:36]
- **Against banning natural leaf.** Two speakers asked the Board to treat botanical kratom differently from synthetic products:
 - A retired nursing assistant, who said she has used kratom for almost ten years, urged the Board to oppose any bill that targets botanical leaf kratom. She said the synthetic opioids that have appeared in gas stations and smoke shops in the past few years are not kratom, and that the DEA is scheduling synthetic derivatives like 7-OH but not botanical kratom. She asked the Board to keep botanical kratom available for responsible adults. [0:16:14]
 - Tracey Hudson, owner of the Kratom Shop in Schenectady, said the ban would not affect her business and that she spoke as a consumer and advocate. She said synthetic products sold under kratom-related names since about 2023 are where much of the confusion began; that federal and State actions target synthetic 7-OH products while leaving botanical kratom accessible; and that the County's blanket ban adds a local

enforcement burden. Of the people writing to the Board, she said, “These people are real, and so are their emails.” [0:18:53]

- **Written comments.** No written comments on kratom were read aloud or counted at the meeting. The Chairman then closed public comment. [0:25:07]

BOARD COMMENTS AND VOTE | 0:26 TO 1:35

- **Resolution read.** The Health Services Committee chair read Resolution 380 in the committee’s report. [0:27:17]
- **Regulation instead of a ban.** Supervisor John O’Neill of Stony Creek spoke against the bans on kratom and on nitrous oxide and called for regulation instead. He said prohibition has historically driven things underground and reduced consumer safety, while regulation would bring transparency, quality assurance and accountability, require business permits, keep the products out of gas stations, and create a controlled, taxed and monitored market. He proposed an excise tax on natural leaf kratom to keep it away from young people, as cigarette taxes do, with the money going to health services and education, and said synthetic substances could be taken off the market. He said he will push for regulation. [0:33:41]
- **A State law.** Another supervisor said the issue is complicated, that the laws are difficult to enforce, and that a New York State law would be the best way to go. [0:40:30]
- **Voting yes for now.** Another supervisor said that, as they recalled, the proposal still allows kratom under a medical prescription and approval by professionals. They said they would vote yes to be on the safe side, that the Board can undo it later if it turns out not to be correct, and that the issue is very complicated. [0:50:14]
- **The vote.** No one asked to be recused. At a supervisor’s request, Resolution 380 and Resolution 381 (the nitrous oxide law) were voted by roll call; most other resolutions passed together by voice vote. Resolution 380 passed 17 to 1 among the 18 members present. Supervisor O’Neill cast the one no vote. Warren uses weighted votes, and the Clerk announced 879 weighted votes in favor. [1:08:12, 1:22:58, 1:27:29]
- **Thanks to the County Attorney.** In closing announcements, the Health Services Committee chair thanked the County Attorney’s office for its work “on getting the kratom bill going” while short-handed. [1:35:12]

WHAT HAPPENS NEXT

- The public hearing on Proposed Local Law No. 9 is Friday, November 20, 2026, at 10 a.m., in the Supervisors’ Rooms at the Warren County Municipal Center, 1340 State Route 9, Lake George. The date comes from the resolution’s text; it was not read aloud at this meeting.
- On Warren’s usual agenda, a public hearing opens the meeting and resolutions are voted on later that day, so the Board could vote on the law on November 20.
- To speak or hand in a written statement, attend in person and bring printed copies. Meetings are livestreamed on the County’s YouTube channel.
- If you live in Warren County, contact your supervisor in your own words before the hearing and say which town you live in. Contact information is on the County’s website.
- Watch the meeting: youtube.com/watch?v=AZctGhE-XAI

About this summary. Prepared by Hudson Valley Botanicals LLC from a machine transcript of the County’s YouTube video. Wording is approximate. Tracey Hudson and Supervisor O’Neill are named; other members of the public and supervisors are identified by role. Times are shown as hours:minutes:seconds into the video; check the video at those times before quoting anyone. The law’s terms are from Resolution No. 380 and Proposed Local Law No. 9 as prepared for the October 16, 2026 meeting. Hudson Valley Botanicals sells kratom leaf products and has a financial interest in this law.