

# Curriculum Vitae

## Minchin G. Lewis

---

### **Biographical Sketch:**



Minch Lewis graduated in 1966 from the University of Notre Dame with an academic degree in Arts and Letters and an extra-curricular degree in student government. With his wife, Judy, he migrated to Syracuse from Chicago to earn a master's degree in public administration from the Maxwell School. Inspired by the "Build a new City" vision of Syracuse's charismatic Mayor, Lee Alexander, Minch committed his career to urban community development. He began as director of the children's program at Huntington Family Center. He continued in developing, managing, and supporting housing programs here and as a consultant in 35 housing authorities across the country.

Minch brought his education and financial management experience to the political arena. He was elected to the Onondaga County Legislature, appointed to the Syracuse Common Council, and elected as Syracuse City Auditor up to term limits. He continues to share that experience teaching graduate courses at the Maxwell School since 2004 and publishing articles in the **PA Times Online**.

Minch and Judy have lived in Eastwood, a Syracuse city neighborhood since 1966. Their two daughters are in academia. Kristin is teaching at the University of Notre Dame. Cara is doing internationally recognized research in kinesiology at Boston University.

### **Personal Profile:**

Home address: 205 Rigi Avenue  
Syracuse, NY 13206  
Cell: 315-243-2530  
Email: [Mglewis@syr.edu](mailto:Mglewis@syr.edu)

Affiliations:	Maxwell School, Syracuse University	Adjunct Professor
	On-Info-Serv, Inc.	President
	Blessed Sacrament Parish	Finance Committee
	Eastwood Neighborhood Association	Director Emeritus

Memberships: Association of Government Accountants  
Institute of Internal Auditors  
American Society for Public Administration

Education: Maxwell School, Syracuse University, MPA 1967/68  
Awarded the Certificate for Highest Distinction  
University of Notre Dame, Bachelor of Arts, 1966 with honors  
Elected Student Body President

Professional: Certified Government Financial Manager (CGFM)

## **Specialties**

Municipal finance, urban policy, economic development, affordable housing, public sector financial management

## **Academic Experience**

- As an Adjunct Professor at Syracuse University's Maxwell School since 2004, co-teaching the graduate course "Metropolitan Government and Politics." The course examines financial, social, and political sustainability for urban governments. The course ends with a project to apply the concepts examined during the semester to a current management issue facing local governments.
- Served as the Co-Principal Investigator for the Municipal Restructuring Fund Projects funded by a Services Agreement with Montgomery County NY. 2018-2019
- Assigned as Co-Principal Investigator on a project "Improving Local Property Tax Administration in New York State," funded by the Collaboration for Unprecedented Success and Excellence (CUSE) Grant Program. 2018-2020.
- Directed an Agreement for Services between Montgomery County NY and the Center for Policy Research for data analysis of the county's submission in the New York State Municipal Consolidation and Efficiency Competition. The county achieved eligibility for up to \$15 Million in local government improvement program funding.
- Co-presented a report on the practice and theory of local government consolidation at the 2018 ASPA conference.
- Presented a paper at the Association of Budget and Financial Management Conference on financial management issues in local government consolidation.
- Coordinated the Leadership Panel for the Maxwell Colloquium in July 2015.
- In the fall 2015 semester, taught the graduate course "Financial Management for State and Local Governments". The course introduces students to financial management decision-making concepts and accounting for financial statement analysis.
- Delivered a webinar on local government purchasing for the State Government Affairs Council on understanding the local government environment for organizations providing services and products to state and local governments.
- Participated on a Campbell Institute committee to produce "A Guide to Shared Government Services," under a contract with the New York State Department of Budget.

## **Financial Management Experience**

- Represented the Maxwell School on the Syracuse Financial Advisory Committee providing Syracuse's newly elected mayor with an analysis of the city's financial condition and recommendations for long-term sustainability.
- Oversaw two capstone projects for the NYS Department of State:
  - Conducting a statewide assessment of local government technology and data management capability. The Department of State valued the report at \$70,000.
  - Developing a plan for an Office of Outdoor Recreation for the State of New York. The Department of State valued the report at \$25,000.
- Served as the elected Syracuse City Auditor from 1995 to 2003
  - Reviewed the financial statements of the City of Syracuse.
  - Participated in the budget review process with the Syracuse Common Council.
  - Testified before the Securities and Exchange Commission to improve financial reporting.
  - Issued a report detailing the cost of the war on drugs in the Syracuse Police Department.
- Chaired the Onondaga County Ways and Means Committee overseeing the County's \$500 million budget; introduced a program budget review process.
- Developed and implemented financial management systems for 35 public housing authorities nationally.
- Collaborated in preparing and using GAAP financial statements for government and NPO's.
- Worked with A-133 (Single Audit) reporting requirements to account for the use of federal funds.

## **Position History and Accomplishments**

### **2004—Present: Adjunct Professor, Maxwell School, Syracuse University.**

Co-teaching a graduate level course, Metropolitan Government and Politics, which covers urban issues including financial condition, education, economic development, and metropolitan cooperation.

### **2003—2016: President, On-Info-Serv, Inc.**

Provided financial management services to a private rental management company operating 40 projects with 3,500 subsidized apartment units across Upstate New York.

**2008—2013: Providence Housing Development Corporation (Rochester, NY)**

Served as Chief Operating Officer and Senior Financial Advisor for a non-profit sponsor of affordable housing in Upstate New York, responsible for implementation of a financial management system and on-going operations.

**1995—2003: City Auditor, Syracuse New York**

- 1999 -- Re-elected to a second and final term (by term limits) ending in December 2003; worked closely with the City and School District to strengthen the management of a \$480 million budget.
- 1995 -- Re-elected to a full term as City Auditor; assisted in improving the City's financial system.
- 1994 -- Elected City Auditor to complete the term of the prior City Auditor; sounded the alarm that the City was in a financial crisis, ultimately testifying at the Securities and Exchange Commission.

**1983—1994: Automated Management Services, Inc.**

Established a private computer company to provide hardware, software and support services nationally as an IBM business partner; developed an Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) System for subsidized housing agencies; directed a staff of 18, with annual sales of \$1 million (1991), and 70 clients throughout the U.S.

**1981—1983: Syracuse Research Corporation**

Directed the Data Service Center in the Social Science Division; developed data processing systems for non-profit organizations and State of Delaware's HEAP administrative agency.

**1975—1981: Sutton Real Estate Company, Inc.**

Joined Sutton Real Estate Co., Inc. as Controller; developed a computer management system for rental property; participated in the management of 20 subsidized and conventional apartment developments including Mulberry Square Apartments.

**1972—1975: Metropolitan Development Assoc. of Syracuse and Onondaga County**

Worked as a project manager for the Metropolitan Development Association with responsibility for \$25 million in new residential and commercial development including Townsend Tower, Harrison House, Madison Manor and Tower, Kennedy Square, Cherry Hill, and Valley Vista; supervised private management agents as a representative of the New York State Urban Development Corporation.

**1969—1972: Syracuse Community Housing Development Corporation, Inc.**

Helped pioneer the efforts of local non-profit housing organizations by renovating and managing 40 single-family scattered-site subsidized housing units and 125 apartment units under the Section 236 rental assistance and the Section 235 homeownership programs.

### **1967—68: Huntington Family Centers, Inc.:**

Directed the children's professional group work program including a residential family camp component.

### **Publications:**

#### **Book Chapter:**

Can Millennials Revive the American City. In Joaquin Jay Gonzalez III, Roger L. Kemp and Jonathan Rosenthal (eds.), *Small Town Economic Development*, 228-230. Jefferson, NC: McFarland & Company published originally in PA TIMES Online, July, 2016

#### **Book Review & Commentary for:**

Myron A. Levine. *Urban politics: Cities and suburbs in a global age: 10<sup>th</sup> edition*. Routledge, 2019.

#### **PA TIMES Online Columns:**

- “How Do Our Budgets Measure Up” [PA TIMES Online](#), May 12, 2017
- “Where is My Silver Parachute” [PA Times Online](#), February 17, 2017
- “A Slow Death for Water Systems” [PA TIMES Online](#), October 14, 2016
- “Can Millennials Revive the American City” [PA TIMES Online](#), July 8, 2016
- “Can Smokey Bear Survive a Forest Fire?” [PA TIMES Online](#), April 8, 2016
- “Emergency Financial Management Planning,” [PA TIMES Online](#), January 15, 2016
- “Collective Bargaining,irate Taxpayers Drive Public Policy,” [PA TIMES Online](#), December 15, 2015
- “Urban Schools of Choice for Students Left Behind,” [PA TIMES Online](#), September 1, 2015
- “Shared Services: Myth, Mirage, or Magic” [PA TIMES Online](#), May 22, 2015
- “Strengthening Social Equity: Robin Hood Joins ASPA” [PA TIMES Online](#), February 27, 2015
- “How to Measure the Performance Measurements,” [PA TIMES Online](#), November 25, 2014
- “State-sponsored Tourism: Consequences under the Radar,” [PA TIMES Online](#), August 22, 2014
- “Budget Dilemma Meets Fiscal Responsibility,” [PA TIMES Online](#), May 23, 2014

### **Letters to the Editor: Syracuse Post-Standard:**

- Special to The Post-Standard: “Replace viaduct with an iconic bridge to keep Syracuse’s heart beating.” 07/28/19
- “Unity is possible on I-81, but both tunnel, grid advocates must bend,” 12/16/18
- “Still more views on I-81’s future,” 08/14/18
- “I-81 vital to city’s economic center,” 08/30/16
- “You don’t have to move from the county to leave poverty behind,” 05/19/15
- “Economic development isn’t a gift—SU Stadium plan” 02/18/14
- ‘Look at I-81 Alternatives,’ 07/02/13
- “Cuomo’s state pension idea,” 02/15/13
- “Destiny USA’s opportunity,” 08/09/12
- “Mayor’s view shows financial sense,” 05/09/12
- “SU Bookstore PILOT,” 03/26/12
- “Give the Council a Voice in Zoning,” 10/17/2011
- “Defending Destiny,” 08/22/11
- “Promoting Destiny is strategically important,” 06/07/11
- “Focus on sustainable plan for the Syracuse Symphony Orchestra,” 04/12/11
- “No to Residency,” 12/23/07

### **Advisor:**

James Tatum III, Independent Study, PAI 690 Spring 2017

Travis Glazer, Independent Study, PHI 690 Spring 2013

### **Guest Lecture:**

“Science Meets Public Policy.” University of Notre Dame, 10/30/18

### **Public Service:**

- 2017 – Chair, Smart Growth CNY
- 1995 – 2003 Elected as Syracuse City Auditor
- 1993 – Appointed to the Common Council to fill a vacancy
- 1979 – Re-elected to a final term on the Onondaga County Legislature (did not seek further re-election for family reasons).
- 1977 – Re-elected to the Onondaga County Legislature as a member of the Democratic majority; chaired the Ways and Means Committee
- 1975 – Elected to the Onondaga County Legislature; established centers for seniors and youth.
- 1974 to present – Served on numerous non-profit agency boards of directors.