



Albany Update

Volume 5 March 4, 2005

REFORM

“Reform” is in the air in Albany. The Brennan Center at New York University Law School issued a report earlier this year that called our state legislature “broken” and dysfunctional. Combined with editorial criticism centered on twenty years of late budgets, it made a lot of public officials nervous. Never mind that those who voted for senate and assembly candidates in the last election did not show any great concern for reform or legislative procedures. Voters, after all, are concerned about bread and butter: taxes, education, health care and security. Be that as it may, the Senate did initiate one reform that seems to have backfired. The reformers complained that legislators cast votes even when they were not in their seats. Never mind that most of those votes were on narrow, often very local matters. And never mind that the Republican majority never brings anything to the floor unless they have votes to pass it. So now members will have to sit in their seats as a vote takes place. Consequently, if you are planning to meet your senator “off the floor”, you may be out of luck. In the past, you could send your business card into the Senator, who would then come out of the Senate Chamber to talk with you about your issue. Not anymore. Now people will wait endlessly for votes to be completed, and Senators (say privately) that this was a reform whose only result is frustration and inefficiency. Some reform!

SAVE THE DATE

COMPTROLLER ALAN HEVESI

Bolton-St. Johns is hosting a PRIVATE fundraiser for ALAN HEVESI in New York City on Thursday, March 24th.

Details will be forthcoming.

FUNDRAISERS

Monday, March 7th

Senator Carl Kruger [D] Rank-
ing member —Aging Albany, \$1,000

Senator Joseph Robach [R]
Chair—Civil Service & Pensions Albany, \$350

Tuesday, March 8th

Assem Thomas Barraga [R]
Ranking mem—Ways & Means Albany, \$250

Assem Jeffrey Dinowitz [D]
Chair—Alcohol. & Drug Abuse Albany, \$300

Assem Susan John [D]
Chair—Labor Albany, \$500

Assem Roy McDonald [R]
Ranking mem—Banking Albany, \$250

Assem Joseph Morelle [D]
Chair—Tourism Albany, \$500

Sheldon Silver [D] & Dem Assem Campaign Comm
Speaker Albany, \$500

Senator Michael Nozzolio [R]
Chair—Crime Victims Albany, \$500

Senator Kevin Parker [D]
Ranking mem—Energy & Telecomm Albany, \$250

Senator James Seward [R]
Chair- Insurance Albany, \$400

Thursday, March 10th

Assem Margaret Markey
Woodside, \$100

Senator Carl Andrews [D]
Ranking mem—Civil Service Brooklyn, \$100

Sunday, March 13th

Assem James Conte [R]
Ranking mem—Education Huntington Station, \$250

Monday, March 14th

Senators Alesi, McGee, Meier, and Padavan

Assem Bacalles and Brown