



Albany Update

Volume 5 January 7, 2005

Governor Pataki and the State of the State

Governor Pataki delivered his annual State of the State message this week. He touched on many topics, this newsletter will focus on REFORM ISSUES.

• LOBBYING

- * Calls for legislation "imposing a smart & effective ban of procurement lobbying";
- * Proposes a ban on all gifts from lobbyists

• PUBLIC AUTHORITY

* Will issue an Executive Order establishing a new Commission on Public Authority Reform to be comprised of the Governor, the Attorney General, Majority Leader, Speaker, both minority leaders and private-sector leaders. Its mission will be the promotion of openness and accountability.

• STREAMLINING GOVERNMENT

* Proposes eliminating or consolidating hundreds of commissions, task forces, boards and authorities

• LEGISLATIVE REFORM

- * Prohibit "empty seat voting"
- * Replace Rules Committee with Rules & Administrative Comm. that will give "rank and file" members a role in the administrative function of the legislature
- * Require Legislature to remain in session each day during a new fiscal year until the budget has been enacted
- * Require any legislative pay increase be considered prior to a general election
- * Increase public disclosure of legislative information
- * Provide equal allocation of resources and staffs for legislators
- * Relax limits on debates and motions to petition a bill or resolution out of committee

• BUDGET REFORM

* Proposes enactment of a budget reform bill that will open up the process, empower individual legislators and result in balanced, on-time budgets

Two major budget issues, renewal of Health Care Financing [HCRA] and Transportation funding were not mentioned in the Governor's message, but will have to be dealt within the course of the legislative session. Two other major budget issues, Medicaid and CFE, were discussed. For Medicaid the Governor proposed capping costs while providing local relief for tax payers. No details were given. For CFE the Governor proposed changing the school aid formula state-wide. This proposal also had no details.

Upcoming Fundraisers

Monday, January 10

Senator Joseph Bruno [R]
Majority Leader
Albany, \$1,000

Assem CHARLES NESBITT [R]
Minority Leader
Albany, \$500

Wednesday, January 12th

Assem MICHAEL GIANARIS [R]
NYC, \$5,000

Tuesday, January 18th

Sen GEORGE WINNER [D]
Albany, \$400

Assem JAMES TEDISCO [R]
Rules, Banks, Racing Comm
Albany, \$300

Wednesday, January 19th

Senator JEFF KLEIN [D]
Albany, \$250

Monday, January 24th

DEMOCRATIC SENATE CAMP COMM
Albany, \$600

Assem WILLIS STEPHENS [D]
Ways & Means, Rules, Ethics Comm Albany,
Albany, \$300

Assem HARVEY WEISENBERG [D]
Ass't Speaker Pro Tempore
Albany, \$300

*If you have any questions about fundraisers, please call
Sandy in the Albany office, 518 462-4620*