

Dutchess County

Young Republicans

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Governor Paterson Violates Constitution, While Dutchess Democrats Politically Grandstand in Protest!

New York Governor David Paterson, in an attempt to end the state Senate deadlock, has appointed Democrat Richard Ravitch as Lt. Governor in clear violation of the New York State Constitution.

Article IV of the New York State Constitution clearly states "No election of a Lieutenant-Governor shall be had in any event except at the time of electing a governor," leaving no room for the bizarre interpretation by Paterson. In the state's history the position has gone vacant ten times and every governor had the prudence to not attempt to usurp the Constitution. Perhaps the bigger question is if Paterson believed he had the authority to fill the position when he assumed the governorship, why did he wait.

Further, Paterson's pick for Lt. Governor is insulting to us residents of the Hudson Valley who were just body-slammed by the egregious MTA tax largely because Mr. Ravitch was the main architect behind the failed MTA bailout plan. This plan is coercing Hudson Valley businesses into footing the bill for a failed industry and will result in job loss and increased taxes here in Dutchess County.

On the same day while all NY Senators came close to reaching a solution to the legislative fued, Dutchess Legislator Joel Tyner protested in front of a Senators office, while Dutchess Legislator Alison MacAvery protested the State Senate debacle in Putnam County. We too want the New York State Senate back to work, but the Democratic county legislators' need to create a crisis in Dutchess County for political benefit is disingenuous. The Dutchess County sales tax extension, which needs Senate approval, does not expire until December. Considering that the Senate usually does not meet during summer months anyhow there is no urgency to this protest. If county Democrats want to make an effective protest, they should start by making permanent the inmate waiver at the County Jail that Republican legislators recently successfully lobbied for; or perhaps join in calling to audit the MTA, repeal the new MTA tax, or oppose any of the many new taxes that the Governor and Democrats in the state legislature added to our region.

While a stalled Senate is frustrating, the solution does not lie in the Governor overstepping legal limits and boundaries out of desperation, a move which will result in huge legal costs for a state that is already strapped for cash – again leaving the taxpayers with the bill!

Instead of political pandering and placating, the Democrats at a County level should be working to fix the immediate problems facing Dutchess County, not wasting time and energy grandstanding or holding vigil outside empty government offices protesting a mess in which they contributed.

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