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Week in Review

June 4, 2010

Paterson to Force Legislature to Enact Cuts to Health Care

Frustrated by the Legislature's refusal to pass a new budget, Gov. David Paterson said this week he would try to force the Senate and Assembly to make the necessary budget cuts to close a \$2.5 billion gap. The Governor said he would include spending cuts in the weekly budget extender bills he submits each Friday for action by the Legislature on the following Monday. Next week's extender will include \$775 million in cuts to health care.

Paterson spoke at a public leaders meeting that in some respects was a replay of previous meetings where legislators have complained about process and the lack of negotiations. Paterson was clearly fed up with the legislative leaders and did not mince words when talking to reporters afterwards. "I'm taking over ... I am not going to sit here and watch this debate go on and on when the Legislature is \$2.5 billion apart from the executive budget in terms of closing the budget," Paterson said.

Another one of the biggest points of contention between Paterson and legislators is his plan to cut \$1.4 billion in state school aid. The Assembly is strongly against the cut, even as school districts and voters adjust to the prospect of having less money to run public education. Even with cut and staff reductions, school district budgets passed overwhelmingly across New York state last month.

The budget was due on April 1 and is now nine weeks overdue. Paterson and state Budget Director Bob Megna had warned that the state would run out of money in the first week of June, but they said this week that cash management decisions such as not paying bills or distributing state aid have kept the state's finances afloat for now. Megna said the next cash crunch would arrive at the end of August or the start of September if a budget is not in place.

Republicans Back Lazio for Governor

Republicans holding their convention in Manhattan gave their official endorsement to Rick Lazio for governor, dealing a fatal blow in the process to party newcomer Steve Levy, who was backed by state GOP Chairman Edward Cox. Republican tea party activist favorite Carl Paladino promises to circulate petitions to force a primary with Lazio, a former Congressman.

The Republican nominee will face off against Democrat Andrew Cuomo in November. Polls show Cuomo remains the strong favorite because of his high voter approval rating.

Cox gambled on Levy, encouraging the Suffolk County Executive to switch parties and go for the GOP nomination. But Levy failed to get the support needed for a Wilson-Pakula designation that would allow him to run in a GOP primary. Levy's actual registration switch will not take place until after the election. Levy was considered a long shot to win the Republican nomination because he spent his career as a loyal Democrat before switching sides.

GOP convention delegates soundly rejected Paladino, but he was unfazed. He managed to address the convention and nominate himself for governor, but received less than 8 percent of the convention vote. Paladino is a wealthy Buffalo landlord and developer, and has promised to spend as much as \$10 million of his own money on the campaign.

Paladino said he may try to create a new third party to run on in November, along with the Republican nomination should he win it. Lazio has the backing of the Conservative Party, and Independence Party leaders are backing Cuomo.

Republicans also backed Staten Island District Attorney Dan Donovan for attorney general and former Wall Street executive Harry Wilson, a Fulton County native who now lives in Westchester, for comptroller.

In the two U.S. Senate races, they backed former Nassau County legislator Bruce Blakeman to run against Kirsten Gillibrand, though he is likely to face a primary fight with former Reagan Administration aide David Malpass. They also endorsed Long Islander Gary Berntsen to run against Charles Schumer. Berntsen is a former CIA station chief in Afghanistan, and a favorite of tea party activists. Berntsen faces a likely primary challenge from political consultant turned candidate Jay Townsend of Orange County.

Senator Winner Will Not Seek Re-Election

Senator George Winner, R-Elmira, became the latest Republican incumbent to announce he will not run for re-election in November. He is a long tenured state legislator, having served in the Assembly before being elected to the Senate three terms ago. Senators Dale Volker and Tom Morahan have also said they will not run this fall.

Paterson Proposals Databank Expansion

Gov. David Paterson this week proposed requiring anyone convicted of a crime in New York state to submit DNA samples to the police databank. DNA is now required in only certain instances.

Upcoming Events

A LOOK AHEAD

DEMOCRATIC GOTV DRIVE: Organizing for America-New York (OFA-NY) will officially launch its campaign to engage area voters around the fall elections with a canvass around the state.

- The Syracuse event is on Saturday, June 5th at 11:30 AM, OFA Syracuse Headquarters, 222 Teall Ave., Syracuse, NY 13210.
- Rochester area residents will meet on June 5th at 11:00 am at the 12 Corners Gzaebo (intersection of Elmwood, Winton & Monroe) before breaking up into groups to canvass neighborhoods in Brighton and Rochester.
- NYC, 11:00am - 4:00pm, PS41 (Manhattan), 116 W. 11 St., New York, NY

Advisory: The events are part of more than a thousand "VOTE 2010 Kickoff" events happening across the country this weekend as volunteers begin voter outreach to build support for candidates who will be strong allies for President Obama in Congress. The VOTE 2010 effort to reach out to first time 2008 voters is part of the Democratic Party's record commitment of \$50 million in staff and resources for the 2010 elections.

WORKING FAMILIES PARTY CONVENTION: The Working Families Party holds its nominating convention on Saturday and Sunday in at the Adams Mark Hotel in Buffalo, rallying at 3 p.m. on Saturday and holding a dinner at 7 p.m.

HEALTHCARE REFORM FORUM: Tuesday from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. the SUNY Rockefeller Institute will host a forum entitled "How Will New York Implement Health Reform?"

• *Advisory:* Speakers: Dr. James Knickman, President and CEO, New York State Health Foundation; Robert Doar, Commissioner, New York City Human Resources Administration; Honorable Joseph D. Morelle, Chair, NYS Assembly Standing Committee on Insurance. Passing health-care reform legislation at the national level was one major hurdle. Implementing the reforms at the state level will be another. Speakers at this public policy forum will discuss the obstacles to implementation in New York, and ways the state may overcome them. The role of local governments will also be discussed.

NYC CHARTER REVIEW MEETING: The New York City Charter Revision Commission will hold a series of public issue forums across the five boroughs throughout May and June 2010. Topics for each forum, which were selected by the Commission at its May 10th public meeting, include: Term Limits, Voter Participation, Government Structure, Public Integrity, and Land Use. At each forum, the Commission will hear

expert testimony and will invite public input. Each issue forum is open to the public and will be streamed live via webcast through the Commission's website at www.nyc.gov/charter.

Thursday, June 10 – GOVERNMENT STRUCTURE

- Place: Staten Island Technical High School, 485 Clawson Street, STATEN ISLAND
- Time: 6 p.m.
- Directions: Take the Staten Island Ferry to the S78 or S79 bus, exiting at Ebbitts Street/Allison Avenue. Or take the Staten Island Ferry to the SIRT train, exiting at New Dorp Station. The school is several blocks away.

MONDAY LCA LOB PRESS CONFERENCES:

- Noon, "Cost of consultants," PEF, Contact: Darcy Wells 785-1900 x 274

TUESDAY LCA LOB PRESS CONFERENCES:

- 11 a.m., "Impact of late budget on mental health community," Mental Health Association of NYS, Contact: Glenn Liebman 434-0439 x 220

WEDNESDAY LCA LOB PRESS CONFERENCES:

- 11 a.m. "Unshackle upstate," Corning Place Consulting, Contact: Jim Smith 689-7207
- Noon, "Solar legislation S.7093," Pace Energy and Climate Control, Contact: Jackson Morris 914-539-1985

THURSDAY LCA LOB PRESS CONFERENCES:

- 11:30 a.m., "Health," NYPIRG, Contact: Blair Horner 436-0876

LEGISLATIVE PUBLIC HEARINGS:

- June 9 – Joint - Senate Standing Committee on Consumer Protection and Assembly Standing Committee on Consumer Affairs and Protection, "S. 7302/A. 6634-A - Establishes the "New York State Consumers' Right to Repair Act of 2010," 9 a.m. Van

Buren Hearing Room A, Legislative Office Building, 2nd Floor, Albany, New York

- June 11 – Joint - Assembly Standing Committee on Cities, Assembly Standing Committee on Corporations, Authorities and Commissions, Assembly Standing Committee on Transportation and Assembly Task Force on People with Disabilities, "Accessibility of the Taxicab and For-Hire-Vehicle Fleet in New York City for Persons with Disabilities, 10:30 a.m., Assembly Hearing Room, 250 Broadway, Room 1923, 19th Floor, New York, New York

HEALTH DEPARTMENT MEETINGS:

- Tuesday, June 8, 2010 – The Early Intervention Coordinating Council will meet on June 8 from 10:15 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at the Empire State Plaza Convention Center, Meeting Room 5, Albany, NY. This meeting will also be webcast. View a webcast of the meeting at <http://www.nyhealth.gov/events/webcasts/>. The Early Intervention Coordinating Council is established in Public Health Law to advise and assist the NYS Department of Health as lead state agency for the Early Intervention Program which provides services to infants and toddlers with disabilities and their families. For more information, please call Patti Ryan at the Bureau of Early Intervention at (518) 473-7016.

- Thursday, June 10, 2010 – The State Hospital Review and Planning Council will meet on June 10 at 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. at the Department of Health, 90 Church Street, New York, NY. The purpose of the meeting is to consider final action on amendments to State reimbursement rules and the State Hospital Code and to make recommendations on applications for the establishment and/or construction of health care facilities. The 31-member Council, appointed by the Governor, is responsible under the Public Health Law for developing operating standards for hospitals, nursing homes and other health care facilities. It also makes recommendations on applications for establishment of new health facilities and other matters pertaining to health care institutions. Council agendas are available for public reviewing on the Department's website at the following link: http://www.nyhealth.gov/facilities/state_hospital_review_planning_council/ For anyone wishing to attend, and to be added to the security list, please contact Lisa Thomson at 518-402-0964 or e-mail her at lat02@health.state.ny.us. Photo identification is required upon entrance to the building.

- Friday, June 11, 2010 - The Pharmacy and Therapeutics Committee (P & TC) will meet on June 11 from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Meeting Room 6, Empire State Plaza, Concourse Level, Albany. For further information contact Jean Osterholt at (518) 486-3209 or e-mail pandtc@health.state.ny.us (Please reference P & T Committee Agenda for June 11, 2010).

- Friday, June 11, 2010 – The Task Force on Adult Care Facilities and Assisted Living Residences will meet at 1:00pm – 4:00pm in the Main Conference Room at 161 Delaware Avenue, Delmar. The Task Force was created in the Assisted Living Reform

Act signed into law in 2004 and is charged with advising the Department on issues relating to the implementation of the new law. For further information and to register your attendance, please contact Sheri Senecal at sbs04@health.state.ny.us or 518-402-5673.