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Republicans Win 3 out of 4 Contests in Assembly Special Elections

Results are in for the special elections were held on Tuesday, February 9th to fill Assembly seats that have been left vacant since November's elections with Republicans winning three out of the four contests and increasing their margin by two. While Tuesday's results will by no means make a significant dent in the Assembly democratic supermajority (now at 107 to 42 with one independent), the trend may be a serious cause for concern for the Senate Democrats (31 to 30 see *below*) and among all incumbents seeking reelection this year – particularly in Westchester and Long Island. Below are the election results:

- **Assembly District 3:** Republican Dean Murray defeated Democratic candidate Lauren Thoden with a margin of less than 200 votes winning the previously democratic seat left vacant by Patricia Eddington.
- **Assembly District 15:** Republicans kept the Nassau County seat with a win by attorney Michael Montesano. The district that covers part of Nassau County opened up when incumbent Republican Rob Walker left the seat he held since 2005 to become chief deputy Nassau County executive.
- **Assembly District 24:** David Weprin held the seat for the Democrats, keeping the Weprin seat in the Weprin family by fending off Robert Friedrich, a registered Democrat running as a Republican.
- **Assembly District 89:** Republican Robert J. Castelli won the 89th Assembly District in Westchester County over Democrat Peter Harckham. The Westchester seat, which has been democratic for over 17 years, was left vacant by Adam Bradley after his election to mayor of White Plains.

Senate Votes to Expel Monserrate

The State Senate voted to expel Queens Democrat Hiram Monserrate on Tuesday, February 9th following a report released by a nine member bi-partisan committee headed by Eric Schneiderman which recommended disciplinary action against Monserrate. Monserrate was convicted of a misdemeanor last October after assaulting his girlfriend in November of 2008.

Long Island Senator Brian Foley introduced the resolution calling for his expulsion which passed by a vote of 53 to 8. Those who voted in the negative were: Ruben Diaz, Pedro Espada, Martin Dilan, Carl Kruger, John Sampson, Eric Adams, Kevin Parker and Monserrate himself.

While it is speculated that Monserrate will take legal action against the Senate to keep his seat, a March 16th special election was immediately called for by Governor Paterson with Queens Assemblyman Jose Peralta favored heavily by Queens County democrats.

