

**News From the
New York State Senate
Temporary Committee On Rules Reform**

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****MEDIA ADVISORY****

**FINAL STATE SENATE HEARINGS ON RULES REFORM TO BE HELD
IN NYC AND LONG ISLAND; COMMITTEE EXPECTED TO MAKE
RECOMMENDATIONS BY MID-APRIL**

*Temporary Committee Web Site Features Video Archive, Written Testimony
and Transcripts of Hearings*

The bi-partisan State Senate Temporary Committee on Rules and Administration Reform, co-Chaired by Senators David Valesky (D-Oneida) and John Bonacic (R-Mt. Hope), will hold its final two public hearings this week in New York City and Long Island. The hearings will be broadcast live via the Web (www.senate.state.ny.us) and among those scheduled to testify in New York City include former state senators, as well as representatives of organizations such as the Brennan Center for Justice, New York City Bar Association and the Sunlight Foundation. Nassau County Executive Tom Suozzi will be among those who testify on Long Island.

Following the final hearings and prior to April 13th , the committee will introduce a comprehensive rules reform package that will fundamentally change the way the Senate operates, increasing openness, fairness and accountability, and leading to a more participatory and transparent legislative process.

The committee hearings, two of which have already taken place in Syracuse and Albany, have each drawn dozens of witnesses. They have marked a significant break with practices of the past by allowing experts and the general public alike to testify on important pieces of legislation and actions of the Senate. Prior to these hearings, common practice in the State Senate meant most agreements and major legislation were taken up behind closed doors, shutting the public out from the process.

In keeping with one of the goals of this process, the complete video of past hearings, witness testimony and transcripts are posted on the Temporary Committee's website: www.senate.state.ny.us/sws/reform/index.html.

As its first action of the 2009 legislative session, the State Senate created this panel to consider and recommend long-term reforms to the Senate's rules and administration practices. Other members of the committee include Senators Joseph Griffo (R-Rome), Jeff Klein (D-Bronx),

Kevin Parker (D-Brooklyn), José M. Serrano (D-Bronx/Manhattan), Daniel Squadron (D-Brooklyn/Manhattan), Andrea Stewart-Cousins (D-Yonkers) and George Winner (R-Elmira).

WHERE: New York City / 250 Broadway / NYS Senate Hearing Room 19th Floor

WHEN: Thursday, February 26th / 6 – 9 PM

WHERE: Hauppauge / William Rogers Legislative Building / 725 Veterans Memorial Highway

WHEN: Friday, February 27th / 10 AM – 1 PM

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