



## Press Release

# Monroe County Democratic Caucus

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**For Immediate Release**  
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## Republicans Kill E-Bid Proposal

### Third Blueprint Proposal Voted Down

**Rochester, New York – August 3, 2006:** Last night, Republicans in the Monroe County Legislature voted to kill Democratic legislation that had the potential to save the County at least \$5 million in purchasing costs annually. Legislator Ted O'Brien's proposal calling on the County to explore the possibility of using an electronic bidding system was defeated by Republican members of the Ways & Means Committee in a party line vote.

"I am amazed that in the midst of a budget crisis, the Majority voted against a proposal that they acknowledge would result in tremendous savings," said Legislator O'Brien.

Both the 2004 County Budget Advisory Team (BAT) report and the financial scorecard issued by the County Executive in February addressed the savings potential of electronic bidding. The County Purchasing Director estimated that electronic bidding would apply to about \$20 million of purchasing annually, and Majority Leader Bill Smith acknowledged that the BAT report savings estimate of between 24% and 29% was accurate. Thus annual savings from electronic bidding would be at least \$5 million.

This proposal was the third attempt by the Democrats to implement their budget-balancing Blueprint for Progress. Earlier this year, Republican members of the Human Service Committee voted against a Democratic proposal to reduce pharmaceutical costs for prison inmates, and Republicans on the Ways & Means Committee killed a proposal that aimed to reduce County losses due to utility and telecom over-billing errors.

"When we released our Blueprint for Progress, we hoped that our colleagues across the aisle would work cooperatively with us on long-term solutions to Monroe County's budget problems" said Legislator O'Brien, "but last night they demonstrated once again that they are unwilling to consider Democratic legislation."

Democrats remain willing to participate in a viable solution to the County's budget problems and promise that they will continue to push for the measures outlined in the Blueprint.

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