



Press Release

Monroe County Democratic Caucus

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For Immediate Release
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O'Brien Tells County Use E-Bid to Reduce Costs

Third Blueprint Proposal Hits Ways & Means Committee Tonight

Rochester, New York – August 2, 2006: Monroe County Legislator Ted O'Brien is calling on the County to take the steps necessary to implement an electronic bidding system in an effort to reduce purchasing costs. The Legislature Ways & Means Committee will vote on his proposal at tonight's meeting.

Electronic bidding, which is increasingly being adopted by the business community, streamlines the bid-letting process, significantly reducing administrative costs. It also has the potential to increase competition for contracts, driving costs down further.

Legislator O'Brien projects that electronic bidding could reduce the County's purchasing costs by 20%, based on estimates in the 2004 County Budget Advisory Team report and the financial scorecard issued by the County Executive in February, both of which address the savings potential of electronic bidding.

He requests that the County determine the fiscal impact of an electronic bidding system for County project proposals, and lobby the New York State Legislature to adopt the relevant provisions within state law so that the County can implement such a system.

This legislation is a step towards accomplishing the goals set forth in the budget-balancing Blueprint for Progress released by the Democrats in April. The Blueprint considers solutions to the County's fiscal crisis that are bipartisan, equitable, and sustainable and do not raise county property or sales taxes.

"Solutions to the County's ongoing budget problems are not going to come in the form of one or two stop-gap measures, but instead in the form of cost-saving initiatives, spending reforms, and some innovative thinking," said Legislator O'Brien.

Ways & Means Committee meets tonight at 6:00 p.m. A copy of the proposal is attached.

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