



Press Release

Monroe County Democratic Caucus

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For Immediate Release
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Citizens Demand Open Government

Concerned Citizens Launch Website
Alerting Public to Disturbing Republican Proposal

Rochester, New York – August 30, 2006: The website www.citizensforopengovernment.org has been re-launched in an effort to warn the public of a Republican ploy that would make it more difficult for voters to hold elected officials accountable for their actions.

County Republicans are once again trying to enact legislation that would delay the budget submission deadline until *after* Election Day, leaving the Brooks administration free to raise taxes and cut services without fear of voter reprisal.

The Citizens for Open Government website denounces the Republican proposal and encourages residents to sign an online petition calling for the Republican majority to abandon their plan in the interests of maintaining “an honest and open budget process.”

In addition to severely limiting accountability, a later submission deadline would also greatly reduce the amount of time that legislators and the public have to review the 1,000-page, billion dollar budget.

The Citizens for Open Government website was initially launched in 2004 in response to a previous attempt by Republicans to shift the budget submission deadline. Public outcry forced that legislation to be withdrawn.

Democrats in the legislature are criticizing the Republican proposal as “a dangerous and politically motivated plan that lets elected officials off the hook,” pointing out that nearly all of the New York State counties that have elected county executives - - like Monroe - - require budgets to be submitted to the legislative body *before* Election Day.

A public hearing on the proposal has been set for September 12, 2006 at 6:00 p.m. in the Monroe County Legislative Chambers located at 39 West Main Street, 4th Floor. Residents are encouraged to speak at the hearing and may call the Clerk of the Legislature at 753-1950 to sign up.

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