



## Media Release

# Monroe County Democratic Caucus

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**For Immediate Release**  
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## **Democrats: Budget Working Group in Limbo**

Budget Workgroup Announcement Deemed Partisan Charade

**Rochester, New York – June 3, 2008.** Democrats in the Monroe County Legislature responded with disappointment to today's coordinated political campaign by the Republican Majority and the County Executive to claim an agreement had been reached on the creation of a bi-partisan team to study the County's current fiscal crisis. No agreement has been made, discussions are still in progress.

The bi-partisan budget team was an idea born out of the bi-partisan legislation passed at the April 8, 2008, meeting of the County Legislature. The legislation specifically called on the Administration to provide an alternative budget, saying "we hereby request the Administration to provide an alternative budget plan." The potential bi-partisan budget team was intended to analyze the Administration's alternative budget, as documented in the attached correspondence.

Democratic Leader Harry Bronson (D-Rochester, Brighton & Henrietta) said, "Today's unilateral announcement by the Republican Majority is an affront to any notion of bi-partisanship and is a clear, deliberate attempt to mislead the public. Not only did the Majority create the entire schedule of meetings without consulting any members of the Democratic Caucus, they wholly ignored the Administration's duty to provide an alternative budget proposal, as required by the legislation unanimously passed on April 8, which was to be used as a starting point our meetings. This Caucus has requested access to the County's independent auditors, something also totally disregarded by the Majority Leader, because we must have full transparency regarding the financial crisis currently facing our County."

It is the County Executive's duty to present a balanced budget to the Legislature. Due to the failed F.A.I.R. plan, the Executive's 2008 budget no longer fulfills that requirement and that is why both sides of the aisle came together to call on the Administration to provide an alternative budget for 2008. The meeting schedule was established solely by the Majority—with out input from Democrats on meeting dates, times or even discussion topics. Furthermore, the schedule announced today appears to be geared toward creating a budget for 2009. This clearly ignores efforts at true bi-partisanship and ignores the legal duties required by the Monroe County Charter.

"The top priority of everyone in this County must be to solve the 2008 budget crisis. Once this is accomplished, we can then proceed to a longer term solution," Bronson added.

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