



Media Release

Monroe County Democratic Caucus

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For Immediate Release
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Democratic Legislation Seeks to Restore Budget Submission Date

Rochester, New York –January 23, 2009. Democrats in the County Legislature have submitted legislation that would restore the date upon which the County Executive must submit the annual budget to the Legislature. In September 2006, Republicans moved the budget submission date from mid-October to November 15, which effectively precludes the public from knowing the County’s true fiscal condition before Election Day.

The legislation, which is sponsored by Assistant Democratic Leader Carrie Andrews (D-Rochester), amends county law to require the budget be submitted no later than the second Tuesday in October, which would restore the budget submission deadline in effect for all but two years out of the past three decades.

“This legislation is a common sense measure to restore accountability and increase transparency in our County’s budget process. By submitting the budget in October, the public, elected officials and non-profit agencies will be allowed greater time to analyze what is typically a one-thousand page document outlining more than \$1 billion in spending. The State has responded to greater fiscal challenges by submitting their budget earlier and there is no reason we can’t do the same,” Andrews said.

Democratic Leader Harry Bronson (D-Rochester, Brighton & Henrietta) said, “Virtually every other County with an elected County Executive requires their budget to be submitted to the Legislature before Election Day. It was a travesty when the budget deadline was changed by our Republican colleagues. Now we must enact corrective legislation to ensure County government provides the level of transparency our community rightly demands and deserves.”

The first action on this proposal will take place on Monday, January 26, at 5:30 pm during the Legislature’s Agenda Charter Committee. There will be an opportunity for public input when the meeting begins and the public is encouraged to attend and weigh in on this important community issue.

Please find the legislation attached.

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