



CAPITOL NEWS



From Assemblywoman Nancy Calhoun

96th Assembly District

For Release: Immediately
June 1, 2009

CALHOUN VOTES AGAINST LEGISLATION WHICH WOULD ADVERSELY AFFECT PUBLIC SERVICES

Legislation rushed through Assembly with little or no public input or debate

Assemblywoman Nancy Calhoun (R,C – Blooming Grove) today voted on the Assembly Floor against legislation which could force the consolidation of local governments and services without approval by those affected by the consolidation. She released the following statement:

“Legislation passed today by the Assembly can be described in no other way than inadequate. For many years, the idea of consolidation has been thrown around as a way to save New York taxpayers money through the reduction of costs at the local level. Although an admirable goal, the legislation passed today does not guarantee any savings or reduction in taxes for those hurt the most during the current economic crisis.

I voted against this legislation because there was no public input and as a result, does not address the needs of New Yorkers. Property tax relief will not be guaranteed under this legislation and many people could actually see their tax bills go up as the bill provides no protection and safeguards against tax rate increases for those areas which consolidate.

Additionally, public services such as fire departments and EMS units could be cut, jeopardizing public safety. It is truly ironic that just ten days ago, we passed and the governor signed legislation to allow our fire personnel to drive their fire equipment without a commercial driver’s license, yet today’s legislation could take away the fire station they drive it to because of poorly thought out consolidation provisions in this flawed legislation.

I heard from hundreds of constituents who were against putting their quality of life at risk as a result of this bill passing and I voted in the negative in the hope that we may revisit this issue when there is more public input and a quality bill is presented to the Legislature.”

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