



June 4, 2008

RICH DAVID TODAY APPLAUDED THE QUICK ACTION OF THE NEW YORK STATE LEGISLATURE IN QUICKLY APPROVING AG CUOMO'S CONSOLIDATION PROPOSAL
-DAVID EXPRESSED STRONG SUPPORT OF LEGISLATION WHEN PRESENTED LAST WEEK-

(BINGHAMTON, NY) Binghamton Mayoral Candidate Rich David applauded the quick action of the New York State Legislature for quickly approving New York State Attorney General Andrew Cuomo's proposed "New N.Y. Government Reorganization and Citizen Empowerment Act."

The Attorney General first presented his proposed legislation on May 21, 2009. In short, the legislation will give communities across the state power to reform local governments. David, who has also been investigating and researching government consolidation issues, voiced his support for Cuomo's legislation that same day it was unveiled to the public. The NYS Assembly passed the bill this past Monday and the Senate followed suit on Wednesday.

"I applaud the Legislature for recognizing that a comprehensive legislative package will simplify the process across the state, thereby making consolidation at the local level more feasible," said David. "Communities across New York face common fiscal challenges and its imperative we not only identify but take action on initiatives that will streamline government operations and thereby save taxpayer's money."

The reforms David supports are:

- (1) The Act establishes "uniformed, simplified and streamlines procedures"
- (2) The Act empowers governing bodies to initiate consolidation and dissolution processes for all covered local government entities
- (3) The Act empowers citizens to place consolidation of dissolution on a popular ballot
- (4) The Act clarifies the petition process
- (5) The Act establishes a uniform signature requirement across New York
- (6) The Act authorizes counties to abolish entire units of local government

"Consolidation is a primary vehicle to reduce the cost of local government, eliminate duplicative layers of government and increase efficiencies," added David. "This is why consolidation is so important and why I voiced my support immediately after this legislation was proposed. It could have a very significant impact not only for Binghamton, but communities throughout the Southern Tier."

The Bill will now go to Governor David Patterson for his signature. The Governor last week expressed his support of the legislation.