

**News from the Rensselaer County Legislature  
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**Legislator Questions Spin vs. Reality**

Rensselaer County Legislator Flora Fasoldt (D) questions a recent press release by her District 4 colleagues Martin Reid and Alex Shannon. In the article, “County faring well in down economy,” which appeared in Monday’s edition of the Troy Record they paint the picture of a stable economy in Rensselaer County. On the facing page is an article featuring the grave concerns expressed by Social Service Commissioner John Beaudoin, a GOP appointee and career professional in the field of social services who is retiring this month after 50 years of service with the county. Beaudoin describes “a potentially disastrous...” situation and a growing sense of panic among county residents struggling to make ends meet and who may be forced to choose between food and fuel in the months ahead.

“While our region may be outperforming national economic trends at this point in time, local elected officials should not be promoting ‘spin’ that presents a false picture of reality,” stated Fasoldt. “For many families the economy is a huge problem and they are being forced to make tough budget decisions to pay for runaway energy costs and the rising prices of just about everything. With no end in sight for rising costs, elected officials need to make a difference by focusing on ways to reduce spending and taxes while increasing revenue—not issue press releases that paint a false picture of reality.”

Fasoldt noted that the Republican Majority of the Rensselaer County Legislature has repeatedly refused to provide needed tax relief by rolling back post-election raises and has failed to take advantage of opportunities to increase county revenue from non-tax sources. Nowhere do they mention that the county property tax levy under Republican governance has increased 98% over the past few years. Nowhere do they mention that Republican leadership imposed a cell phone tax, increased the sales tax, mortgage tax and motor vehicle tax.

“Reality for Rensselaer County residents is very different than the spin presented by the elected Republican officials in my district,” continued Fasoldt. “They are desperate to preserve power by presenting a false picture of reality in direct contrast to the sober warnings of Mr. Beaudoin who sees the imminent threats to the welfare of county residents presented by the rapidly rising costs of heating fuel, food and other basic necessities.”