

## NEWS

# RENSSELAER COUNTY LEGISLATURE

Office of the Minority 270-2892

Minority Leader Ginny O'Brien: 434-3347 Deputy Minority Leader Keith Hammond: 283-3329  
Flora Fasoldt: 466-1703 Peter Grimm: 273-1500 Kevin Harrington: 330-9114 Brian Zweig: 326-3980  
[www.rensselaercountygov.com](http://www.rensselaercountygov.com)

**For Immediate Release:** January 22, 2009

## Shared Services Kickoff a Bipartisan Priority

**Troy**—Democratic County Legislators Ginny O'Brien, Keith Hammond, Peter Grimm and Brian Zweig attended the 2009 Rensselaer County Shared Services Kickoff held this morning at Rensselaer Middle High School. The meeting was called by County Executive Kathleen Jimino to focus attention on what many feel is a long overdue initiative in the county—the comprehensive exploration and implementation of shared services to save taxpayer dollars.

“I look back to 2006, my first year as a county legislator, when we made intermunicipal cooperation one of our primary recommendations to try to get spending under control,” commented District 1 Legislator Peter Grimm. “We’ve been backers of these kinds of initiatives all along and hope that, with bipartisan support, we can bring many of these cost-saving measures to fruition.”

The State Commission on Local Government Efficiency and Competitiveness, formed in 2007 by former Governor Spitzer, issued its final report to Governor Paterson in April 2008. In his response to the report, Paterson commented, “We cannot achieve real, sustainable property tax relief without addressing local government efficiency...” and pledged his commitment to working with the Legislature to help streamline local government, reduce costs, improve effectiveness by maximizing shared services, consolidation, and regional governance.

“The current economic climate has given a real sense of urgency to this initiative. We were encouraged by the County Legislature’s support for a shared sewer treatment project with East Greenbush and the County. That’s been in the works for years and is moving forward at last,” said Minority Leader Ginny O'Brien (D – East Greenbush, North Greenbush, Poestenkill).

“One concern I expressed at the meeting today was that a timeline for action be in place,” added District 2 Legislator Brian Zweig. “The County Executive is calling for responses and committee formation within a matter of weeks and expects to reconvene in March with researched recommendations and options to present to county residents.”