

## NEWS

# RENSSELAER COUNTY LEGISLATURE

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### **Legislators O'Brien and Zweig Attend Property Tax Reform Roundtable**

Rensselaer County Legislators Ginny O'Brien and Brian Zweig attended a roundtable discussion on property taxes hosted by the State Commission on Property Tax Reform held in Colonie on April 7, 2008.

The Commission on Property Tax Reform was created to develop proposals for providing relief to New York State property taxpayers. Among the issues being addressed by the commission are property tax caps that would limit increases to school and property taxes. Participants noted that tax caps, by themselves, do not address the root cause of increasing property taxes. "More must be done to reduce spending," observed Minority Leader O'Brien. "We heard a number of good ideas for consolidating services and reducing reliance on property taxes," noted Legislator Zweig. "The real question is whether these ideas will be put into action," added Zweig.

For the past two years, the Democratic Minority in the Legislature has initiated efforts to promote inter-municipal cooperation to make government more efficient and relieve the property tax burden faced by Rensselaer County taxpayers. Most recently, the Democratic Minority requested support from the County Executive to apply for funding to cooperate with County school districts to identify opportunities to reduce transportation costs for both the County and school districts.