

# NEWS RENSSELAER COUNTY LEGISLATURE

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### Participation In County Government Program Urged

**Troy---** Rensselaer County Legislators Flora Fasoldt and Peter Grimm of Troy would like to see a Participation in Government program at the county level. Their proposal, filed with the County Legislature today, would offer several avenues for local students to learn about government by "hands on" experiences in Rensselaer County.

According to Grimm, a member of the Legislature's Standing Committee on Education, the Participation In Government proposal is the result of discussions he and Fasoldt, an educator herself, had with local social studies teacher, Jim McPartlin of Averill Park High School. Along with McPartlin, "we brainstormed the idea of offering county students a formalized program that provided meaningful learning experiences in local government. The result was this legislation which I hope will receive bipartisan support."

McPartlin said, "It is essential that students balance their academic understanding of our system of government with a first-hand, practical knowledge of how government can meaningfully affect their lives. I am pleased that, under the leadership of Legislators Fasoldt and Grimm, the Rensselaer County government is taking pro-active steps to create this vital bridge that connects theory and practice."

Fasoldt noted, "From over twenty years teaching, I know that real-life experience can supplement textbook learning and may ignite a student's interests in ways not available in the classroom." She sees the proposed Participation in Government at the county level as an opportunity to make "government come alive to students."

Both Fasoldt and Grimm were elected to the County Legislature in 2005 and say, as freshman, they "are still learning more about county government every day." With the participatory program, "County offices will become laboratories of learning for our future leaders."