

**For Your Information
Rensselaer County Legislator
Flora Fasoldt
Nassau-Sand Lake-Schodack**

The following are highlights from the Tuesday, April 10, 2007 regular meeting of the Rensselaer County Legislature (RCL):

. **Expansion of Legislative Website - "The Public's Right to Know"** - Along with Minority Democrats, I sponsored a resolution calling for improvements to our Legislative website to promote greater openness, accessibility and accountability. I believe it is essential for the public to have access to information and know what their elected officials are doing. The resolution called for the Legislative website to provide complete documentation related to each resolution and a comprehensive voting record for each Legislator. This resolution was tabled in the Rules & Legislative Operations Committee.

. **Exploring the Establishment of a Public Integrity Unit (PIU) in Rensselaer County** - Minority Democrats sponsored a resolution calling for the Committee on Judiciary and Public Safety to explore the financial and ethical benefits of establishing a PIU in the Rensselaer County District Attorney's Office similar to the partnership between Albany County and the NYS Attorney General Office. This resolution was also tabled in committee.

. **Emergency Service Volunteers - Supporting Indemnification in NYS** - The RCL unanimously passed a resolution in support for a change in NYS laws to provide for indemnification of emergency services volunteers now serving our communities. Under current state law, volunteers can be exposed to liability for actions taken during a response to an emergency and other related functions.

. **Strengthening Penalties for Attacks on Senior Citizens** - The Legislature voted to support the passage of Senate Bill No. S.3684 which will strengthen penalties for those committing attacks on senior citizens. This bill will make it a class D or class E violent felony to assault anyone of or over the age of 70 or assault anyone of or over the age of 60 suffering from a disease or infirmity associated with advanced age.

. **Veterans Healthcare Services** - The RCL unanimously passed a resolution supporting mandatory federal funding for veterans healthcare services. The resolution urges the House and Senate to move promptly to ensure healthcare obligations are recognized and legislation is passed and fully funded.

If residents have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me at 674-0223 or e-mail at electflora@aol.com. The public may address the Legislature on Wednesday May 2, 2007 beginning at 6 PM . The next regular meeting of the Rensselaer County Legislature is Tuesday, May 8, 2007 at 6:00 PM. Members of the public have an opportunity to speak prior to the opening of the meeting.