

NASW-NYS Political Post
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Nip Tuck – As legislators returned from their ten day Passover/Easter break, the Governor began nipping and tucking at the deficit via state worker raise freezes and delayed construction payments...neither of which was well received. News of the raise freeze was met with a swift reaction from the state's labor unions who contend the move is actually illegal given the 4% raises in question had been negotiated and contracted several years ago. PEF President Ken Brynien noted in a statement to the press that "The governor himself has said breaking our contract is illegal" and "We will take every action necessary to ensure our members get their negotiated raises." While CSEA President, Danny Donohue noted "Gov. David Paterson's unilateral delay of a fairly negotiated raise for CSEA represented state employees is wrong and the governor knows it. It will leave CSEA with little choice in our course of action moving forward." Reaction from the legislature was mixed though... "Good," stated Assemblyman and well known contractor George Amedore (R – Rotterdam) "The private sector hasn't seen any raises, (but) the public sector continues to see these raises. Especially in these times hard economic times, everyone has to have some equal sacrifice." While the Democratic Majority Leader, Ron Canestrari weighed in saying..."It's unnecessary, hurtful to people who need every cent they earn during these difficult economic times. I don't see any justification." Meanwhile, the Governor also announced he would delay payments to contractors working on state funded capital projects though he encouraged them to "continue working because they will eventually get paid." Anyone ask for Amedore's position on that one? Just wondering ☺

Hope and Faith – Assembly Speaker, Sheldon Silver is hopeful that a budget deal could be finalized within the next two weeks. Speaking to Fred Dicker of WGDJ, Silver noted "Legislative leaders have agreed on ways to bridge \$6 billion of the current \$9.2 billion deficit." That just leaves \$3.2 billion more agreements to go! We'll keep you posted as negotiations unfold.

Flip this House – "Newly crunched numbers" from New York Public Interest Research Group (NYPIRG) delineate a shift in Democratic enrollment in five currently held Republican Senate Districts... "The districts represented by Sens. Foley, O. Johnson, Hannon, Fuschillo, and Alesi have shifted from having a Republican advantage in 2008 to a Democratic edge in 2010." For the full story, log onto <http://blog.timesunion.com/capitol/archives/24731/five-senate-districts-flip-enrollment-advantages/>