

NASW-NYS Political Post

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Campaign News Around the State – The special election for New York’s 48th Senate District (covering the eastern Lake Ontario region, Oswego and Jefferson counties, and parts of St. Lawrence County) is heating up and gaining newsprint attention throughout the State as News Day reports are tagging the race as a harbinger of whether the Senate Republicans will hold onto their slim majority. The race between two current Assembly members (Democrat, Darrel Aubertine and Republican Will Barclay) is getting increasingly nasty and expensive. Each of the two candidates have raised nearly \$1 million to date and although the numbers favor Barclay with 78,454 registered Republicans in the district, compared to 46,824 Democrats, Aubertine has garnered the support of heavy hitters such as the Democratic State party including U.S. Sen. Charles Schumer, making the race to close to call. The election will take place next Tuesday, February 26, 2008.

According to reports in the Daily Sun “Pressure is mounting on Attorney General Cuomo to launch an investigation into the New York City Board of Elections and its undercounting of Senator Obama's share of the February 5 presidential primary vote in the city's voting districts, following sharp criticism by Mayor Bloomberg.” Calling the Board the “Last openly, outright, pure, partisan patronage organization we have in this state and in this city.” Mayor Bloomberg urged a recount in 78 districts. For more on this story, log onto <http://www.nysun.com/article/71517>

On the National Front – Senators McCain and Obama continued their winning streaks this week as each of them picked up victories in the Wisconsin primary and Hawaii caucuses. Obama and Clinton will now focus on their attention to Ohio and Texas, which hold contests on March 4. Early voting began in Texas on Tuesday. In the Republican race, Wisconsin gives McCain at least 13 additional with 24 more delegates to be awarded to the winner of each Congressional district. In addition, McCain also picked up a win in Washington State's primary. On a related note, Senator Charles Schumer was in Albany this week to meet with the Times Union Editorial Board here he predicted “that by June 7, there will be a clear nominee. In case there isn’t, however Schumer suggests that ahead of the final day of the primaries, the two candidates, Sens. Hillary Clinton and Barack Obama, meet to negotiate a means of deciding who is the nomination.”