

**NASW-NYS Political Post**  
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**Dysfunction Junction what's Your Function?** – According to the Albany Times Union, “Republican State Chairman Ed Cox will stand beside Suffolk County Executive Steve Levy today as the Democrat renounces his party and publicly kicks off his campaign for the GOP gubernatorial nomination.” Of course, this comes with a great deal of backlash from the Democrats. Party Chair responded to the news by saying “You’re an opportunist and we won’t welcome you back.” He went on to say “Steve Levy’s Republican conversion reeks of the worst kind of political opportunism. Levy’s cynical political ploy is no different than when Senator Pedro Espada abandoned his Democratic colleagues last summer in a blatant power grab. I have news for Mr. Levy: feel free to sell out your convictions for a chance at the GOP line, but don’t expect the Democratic Party to take you back when it doesn’t work out.” Odd that he cited Pedro Espada’s short lived defection though...since Senator Espada did in fact return to the party. Former colleagues of Levy’s in the Assembly also reacted to the news, most notably Assembly Member Peter Rivera who, according to a Times Union reporter said “wait until you see what we do this time to stop his candidacy.” Assemblyman Rivera has openly suggested Levy is a racist due to his immigration positions.

**I'm just a bill, Yes, I'm only a bill** – An initiative to tax soda products in the state as an additional revenue stream has garnered particular interest from Assembly member Jeffrey Dinowotz as he has proposed expanding the idea to all sugar sweetened beverages noting, “If we want to take serious action to combat obesity, we shouldn’t limit ourselves to just beverages. The limited scope of the Governor’s proposal has allowed its intent of encouraging people to live healthier while generating revenue for the state to become muddled. By expanding the number of products that would be covered under the sugar tax we would generate more revenue and provide a greater disincentive to engage in unhealthy behavior.” Yours truly has an idea as well! If we were to tax every teaspoon of sugar necessary for us to swallow the eventual state budget that will undoubtedly be rife with dozens of taxes and surcharges, we could surely decrease the deficit! Just a thought folks ☺

**Three is NOT the Magic Number** – Two more have tendered resignation to the Governor, bringing the total up to five this week. Merely a week into the job of Acting Superintendent of the State Police Pedro Perez resigned, noting the lack of union support for his appointment. Several days later, the Governor’s Communication Director abruptly quit, telling reporters due to the circumstances that have led to my unwitting involvement in recent news stories, I can no longer do my job effectively. Throughout my career I have performed my duties professionally and with integrity, basing my actions on what I believed to be true at the time.” When it will stop...nobody knows!