



JAMES G. BACALLES
Steuben and Yates Counties
Assemblyman 136th District

THE ASSEMBLY
STATE OF NEW YORK
ALBANY

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RANKING MINORITY MEMBER
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Corporations, Authorities and
Commissions
Cities
Environmental Conservation
Transportation
Legislative Commission on
Development of Rural Resources

Anna Gifford, Legislative Associate
NYPIRG
107 Washington Ave. 2nd Fl.
Albany, NY 12210

Dear Anna:

Thank you for your recent correspondence inquiring about which reform issues I support as a legislator in the New York State Assembly.

I am not endorsing the current redistricting process, however just as it would be difficult to draw "competitive districts" in all areas of the state. Some areas of upstate are strongly Republican whereas New York City seats are strongly Democratic. If you have some basic guidelines like trying to keep upstate counties whole, I would support your proposal.

Reforming the state finances by establishing an independent fiscal watchdog similar to the Congressional Budget Office would not be useful. Has the Congressional Budget Office kept deficits down? Or, has Congress listened to their analyses? I think not.

The only way to truly "level the playing field" is to lower *all* levels of political donations; Corporations, unions, and all special interests. If you don't lower all levels of contributions you will only shift influence, not eliminate it!

I am opposed to public financing of campaigns. During the economic downturns, general fund revenues would be used to fund campaigns instead of education, health care, or transportation needs.

Sincerely,

James G. Bacalles
Member of Assembly

JGB/kf