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DISTRICT 27



MARK GRIMM
ALBANY COUNTY LEGISLATOR
DISTRICT 28

ALBANY COUNTY LEGISLATURE
MINORITY CONFERENCE
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January 16th, 2024

Joanne Cunningham
Chairwoman, Albany County Legislature
112 State Street, Room 710
Albany, NY 12207

Dear Chairwoman Cunningham:

Thank you for soliciting input on how we can best proceed in light of your new leadership position.

As you know, in 2018, Legislator Lekakis and I sponsored legislation (Resolution 230) that passed overwhelmingly to modernize our legislative operations. Having iPads to facilitate our work has been a tremendous advance. However, much more still remains to be done involving the resolution.

Audio and Video improvements

Though we all wish to get more citizens to follow our deliberations, our video productions on the legislative floor make that difficult. The audio quality is often quite poor, making it hard to hear what is being said. The video also tends to distort the image of the speaker. During committee meetings, the sound is a little better but the quality varies depending on where the member is seated. The videographer also needs to move the cameras at times to get a clearer shot of the speaker.

The most logical solution to these problems would be to place a microphone at the desks of every legislator, as is the case at the Chair's desk, and in the State Legislature and numerous county legislatures across New York. I am open to other options if they are effective. It would also be nice to identify the speaker with a graphic because viewers often don't catch the name of the person being recognized to speak.

Electronic Voting Records

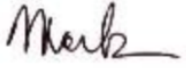
One of the best things we can do to enhance transparency is to make member voting records available electronically as soon as possible after the votes. It would be especially helpful to both media and citizens alike to have controversial roll call votes available shortly after votes are held.

I believe any citizen should be able to go to a website, put in a member's name and get a list of their voting record, or call up a single issue and get the voting record of that resolution or local law. This voting transparency could also include an electronic screen in the legislative chambers so visitors can track the voting.

The ability to access legislature statements and votes unfiltered by any third party is a strong step forward. Let me know if there is anything I can do to help push this initiative forward.

Thank you for the consideration and best of luck regarding your exciting new endeavor.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Mark", followed by a horizontal flourish.

Mark Grimm
Albany County Legislator, District 28
518.650.5096

Cc

Hon. Dennis Feeney, Majority Leader
Hon. Frank Mauriello, Minority Leader
Hon. Lynne Lekakis, County Legislator