



Westchester County Legislator
JAMES MAISANO
Proudly Serving the 11th District



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Jim On The Air

It's always my goal to bring government closer to the people and that is the purpose of my Cable TV show - the "Good Government Forum." We film two new shows each month, where I interview movers and shakers from the state government to county government to local government. The show airs 4 times every Thursday at 12:30AM, 7:30AM, 12:30PM & 7:30PM on Cablevision Channel 75 & FIOS Channel 28 in New Rochelle. You can also watch all the episodes at: www.youtube.com/user/JimMaisano. On YouTube, you will find my recent interviews with County Clerk Tim Idoni, New Rochelle Councilman Al Tarantino and State Assemblywoman Amy Paulin.



I also host a weekly radio show every Tuesday morning on New Rochelle's WVOX, 1460am from 10:30 to 11:30am. We discuss the issues of the day and news about the county government. Best of all, you can join the debate by calling into the studio phone number at 914-636-0110. Please call my radio show soon and let your voice be heard! You can also listen to the show at www.wvox.com.

For daily updates about my work as your County Legislator, check out my blog at
WWW.JIMMAISANO.WORDPRESS.COM.

Westchester County Board of Legislators NEWS

Voice of the People of Westchester County for over 300 years

Summer 2013 Newsletter



James Maisano

District 11 ~ Pelham, Pelham Manor, New Rochelle



Bipartisan Budget with No Tax Increase

Dear Neighbor,

In December I voted on my 15th Westchester County Budget, and it was certainly the most unusual. The 2013 County Budget vote was held on December 7, 2012. As the Minority Leader of the Board of Legislators (BOL) and a member of the leadership team, I pushed very hard for weeks to convince Democrat and Republican legislators to compromise and pass a bipartisan, consensus budget. Unfortunately, despite my best efforts, the Republican County Executive and Democrat leaders were spending too much time engaged in political brinkmanship.

The good news is that in the days leading up to the vote, I was able to bring together a majority bipartisan coalition of 9 of the 17 County Legislators (7 Republicans and 2 Democrats) to agree on a financially sound County Budget. This budget achieved my three priorities: 1) no property tax increase; 2) protect essential services; and 3) preserve the County's AAA bond rating. Please note that the rating agencies informed the County that our AAA credit rating was at risk if we continued to drain reserves from our fund balance, so we fully protected our reserve funds in the 2013 County Budget because losing the AAA rating would be very costly to the County for years to come.

To fully protect essential services, our bipartisan coalition restored close to \$5 million to the proposed budget to save jobs and important programs. As I have throughout my career, I convinced my colleagues to increase funds for public safety, which preserved jobs for police officers, correction officers,

probation officers and emergency services personnel. I also successfully restored funding for domestic violence programs, legal services for the poor and senior citizens, attorneys for immigrants, human trafficking prevention, small business initiatives, arts program, and Cornell Cooperative Extension. I am especially pleased to report that the parental share for families receiving child care assistance was reduced in the budget, which is something I strongly advocated for throughout 2012, and this



settled a hotly contested issue for our government. Throughout my career, I have always been a strong supporter for our County Parks, and I also took the lead in saving the jobs of nature curators at our parks.

No budget is perfect, but our bipartisan compromise budget found the middle ground between the Republican County Executive and Democrat Legislators. Constituents tell me all the time that elected officials need to stop the partisan gridlock and start compro-

mising and working together, and I am happy to report that is exactly what we did for the 2013 County Budget. **Most importantly, our budget held the line on county property taxes for the third consecutive year.**

The unusual part of this budget occurred at the December 7 meeting, when BOL leaders realized they lost the majority and attempted to improperly block the budget vote of the bipartisan majority coalition through illegal maneuvers. I forcefully objected to these tactics, and 8 legislators then stormed out of the chambers when they were unsuccessful at thwarting democracy. I was immediately appointed temporary Chairman to run the meeting by the remaining majority present on the floor - who responsibly remained in their seats - and we then passed a fiscally sound and bipartisan budget that was signed by County Executive Astorino a few hours later. I greatly enjoyed my one day as BOL Chairman and carefully ran the meeting to ensure we passed a fully legal budget.

Later this year when we begin work on the 2014 County Budget, my priorities remain exactly the same - I will strongly advocate for bipartisanship, compromise, collegiality and a fiscally responsible budget that does not raise county property taxes, protects essential services and maintains our AAA bond rating.

Sincerely,

James Maisano



◀ Since the idea was proposed to start the Pelham Community Rowing Association (PCRA), I have supported this excellent public-private partnership, and it was great to be part of its recent boat launch and "10th Anniversary Clambake" at Glen Island on June 1, 2013. PCRA named boats after the dedicated guys who helped start the group: Bill O'Connor, Brian Clark & Angelo Rubbo. They came to me to discuss the need for a boathouse, and we worked together to get the County to allow PCRA to build its 5000 square-foot, two-bay boathouse on Glen Island Park.

Jean and I recently attended the New Rochelle 325 Years Gala Celebration at Glen Island along with other 600 people. It was a very nice birthday party for our city. We are standing in front of art work for the anniversary by New Rochelle's famed and internationally known artist Charles Fazzino, which was very impressive. ▶



◀ On April 13, 2013, my family and a lot of friends volunteered at "Swabs for Snooks," a bone marrow registry drive held at Pelham Country Club. "Snooks" is a great friend - Joe Solimine - who needs a bone marrow donation. It was great to see how many people (about 600) turned out to join the registry, and I loved getting swabbed myself (see photo)! On any given day, more than 18,000 people in US are looking for a life-saving donor match. If you would like to join the national bone marrow registry, please visit www.DeleteBloodCancer.org and have a kit sent to your home.



City Park Update - the New Fields Are a Big Hit



◀ If you drive by New Rochelle's City Park, you will see children and adults playing sports on one of Westchester's finest public athletic complexes. I was thrilled to sponsor and pass the legislation to bring close to \$10 Million in funds from the County government to New Rochelle to rehabilitate and improve the fields at City Park. The New Rochelle City government did an excellent job getting the shovels in the ground quickly and making sure people were enjoying the new fields as quickly as possible.

It is an awesome feeling to see my friends and neighbors playing soccer, football, baseball and softball and other sports on these impressive new fields. As I publicly stated while pushing the County Executive and fellow County Legislators very hard to get this funding approved: "New Rochelle's kids are second to none, and they deserve to play on fields as nice as anywhere in Westchester." When I retire from public service, I will be very proud of my efforts to bring first class athletic fields to the city I grew up in and where I played sports in my youth. And it is a special thrill to watch my son Michael play soccer down at City Park on the New Rochelle Lions travel soccer team.

Animal Abuse Registry

Last year, the Board of Legislators approved legislation to establish an animal abuse registry in the County to effectively "speak up for those who cannot." The registry database will consist of a list of animal abusers to ensure that they do not have access to another pet. In addition, the evidence linking animal abuse to domestic violence was quite troubling, and it is my hope that such a registry will significantly curtail abuse of any kind. The Maisano Family has a dog named Marlee, and fosters dogs for Pet Rescue, providing a home for abandoned dogs until permanent homes can be found. ▶



↑ *Sadly our longtime, family companion, Oakley passed away last year, RIP Oakley.*



◀ County Legislator Jim Maisano is a strong proponent of serving in a bipartisan manner and has an excellent working relationship with State Senator Jeff Klein and Assemblywoman Amy Paulin - together, their goal is to make Pelham an even better place to live and raise a family. Here are Jim, Jeff and Amy at the annual Pelham Memorial Day Parade held on May 27, 2013.