



News From

Maggie Brooks

Monroe County Executive

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BROOKS, MAJORITY CAUCUS PROPOSE ADDING SCHOOL DISTRICT REPRESENTATION TO MONROE COUNTY COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS *New partnership expected to be approved by Monroe County Legislature*

Expanding upon Monroe County's efforts to promote cooperation and collaboration amongst local governments, County Executive **Maggie Brooks** has proposed adding representation for local school districts to the Monroe County Council of Governments (COG). Brooks' referral has been submitted to the Monroe County Legislature, and is co-sponsored by all fifteen members of the Legislature's Republican Caucus.

"Our local school districts are valued government partners for the County and clearly have a significant impact on our quality of life," said **Brooks**. *"Due to their importance to the economic health and vitality of our community, it became apparent that our school districts needed a seat at the Council of Governments table. I am proud that the School Boards Association and the Council of School Superintendents will be joining our efforts to make local government more efficient and better serve taxpayers. By working for mutually-beneficial initiatives, such as mandate relief and consolidation of services, our school districts will join us to help ease the burden of property taxes and support Monroe County's hard-working families."*

Under this proposal, two representatives appointed by the respective boards of the Monroe County School Boards Association and the Monroe County Council of School Superintendents will now be seated on the Council of Governments. This significant addition will further enhance and strengthen the efforts of all local governments in dealing with the increasingly difficult economic challenges. Furthermore, school district participation on the COG will provide greater representation for local taxpayers.

"I am pleased to join County Executive Brooks and my fellow members of the Republican Caucus in proposing that school district representation be added to the Council of Governments," said County Legislator **Steve Tucciarello** (4th LD - Gates, Chili). *"Our local school districts contribute a great deal to this community and deserve the opportunity to join our town, village, and city governments in working collaboratively to reduce spending and control property taxes. School district representation on the Council of Governments is a true win-win for Monroe County taxpayers."*

In a related referral submitted to the County Legislature, Brooks also proposed that the Monroe County School Boards Association be provided one seat on the Solid Waste Reuse and Recycling Law Advisory Committee. The committee, which advises the County in its refuse and recycling efforts, is composed of fifteen members and holds regular meetings to educate its participating organizations on the County's ongoing environmental programs. This new partnership is especially fitting given the role that local schools play in educating students about the importance of recycling and protecting the environment.

*“Monroe County’s school districts welcome the opportunity to participate on the County’s Recycling Committee and with the Council of Governments,” said Monroe County School Boards Association Executive Director **Jody Siegle**. “Through their focus on our community’s children, school leaders are deeply involved in addressing our community’s short and long-term needs. The decisions our school districts make about academic programs, the environment, purchasing, and construction have major impacts on our region. I am pleased that school leaders will be included in these forums for sharing ideas in our community.”*

The Monroe County Council of Governments was established in 2000 to facilitate greater communication and collaboration between Monroe County and its constituent towns, villages, and city. Both proposals have been introduced for consideration at the March 10th full meeting of the Legislature.

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