

NEWS FROM SENATOR STEVE SALAND

For Immediate Release

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Senator Steve Saland Announces Plans to Seek Re-election

Senator Steve Saland (R,I,C – Poughkeepsie) announced today that he will be seeking re-election to the State Senate.

“Despite the state of affairs surrounding state government and the failing economy, I find myself more compelled than ever to seek re-election to the State Senate. I have no intention of deserting the ship even though it has taken on an abundance of water,” said Senator Saland. “While I have found this past year to be particularly challenging – constantly battling the tax and spend policies of the current Senate Majority, I know it’s critically important that we restore a balance of power in our State Government so taxpayers outside the city of New York once again have a voice of leadership to protect their interests.”

As a result of the 2008 elections, the State is currently under one-party control with Democrats holding the majority in the Senate and the Assembly as well as the Governor’s office. In 2009, the State adopted a budget that Senator Saland opposed, which contained an unprecedented \$11.4 billion increase in spending, the largest year-to-year dollar increase in the State’s history. In addition, the 2009 Budget contained \$8.5 billion in tax and fee increases, which does not include the MTA payroll tax imposed on virtually every public and private Dutchess County employer – on businesses, not-for-profits, schools, hospitals, libraries and local governments.

“As one who has willingly and successfully worked with members across the aisle over the years, I have been disheartened and troubled by the inequities displayed by this current leadership with its New York City centric emphasis. The MTA Payroll Tax is a prime example of regional unfairness. As I have often said over the past year, had we not had one party control, we would not have had the egregious MTA payroll tax imposed upon us. They have relegated the Hudson Valley region and upstate to being virtually an afterthought; something which I cannot abide. It drives me to run again. I am more determined than ever to see that we restore a balance of power to State Government,” said Senator Saland.

“To pour salt into our wounds, as we contemplate this year’s now late budget, Democrats are proposing additional billions of dollars in taxes and borrowing to sustain yet more increased spending. Their response is a far cry from how hard pressed families and taxpayers struggle with their personal finances. We must continue to fight for property tax reform, combat the tax and spend madness and incentivize the creation of much-needed private-sector jobs – we can and must to better,” concluded Saland.

Senator Saland has served in the State Senate since 1991 and is considered the Senate's foremost expert on state and federal education issues and has passed numerous laws to enhance child protection and combat domestic violence. Senator Saland formerly served as the Chairman of the Senate Committee on Children and Families, as well as the Senate Education Committee. Senator Saland has also authored several laws crafted to protect individuals from Identity Theft, the State's fastest growing crime, and currently serves as the ranking member of the Senate Consumer Protection Committee. Saland continues to focus on real property tax reform and has sponsored a number of measures providing schools and local governments mandate relief. Senator Saland was instrumental in the creation of the Middle Class Rebate Check Program; tax relief that was stripped away in the 2009 Budget.

“When I first ran for office, I did so believing if I was given the opportunity to serve, I could make a difference. I believe I have built a record of accomplishments, not only as a lawmaker, but also as one who has been instrumental in numerous community efforts and economic development projects that have brought jobs to the area. I am asking the voters to once again give me the opportunity to serve them to continue to fight to make a difference on their behalf,” concluded Saland.

Saland, who has resided in Dutchess County nearly his entire life, and his wife Linda, have four sons and four grandchildren. They live in the town of Poughkeepsie.

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