



MEDIA ADVISORY

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LINDSAY RE-ELECTED SUFFOLK'S PRESIDING OFFICER

Viloria-Fisher re-elected as Deputy Presiding Officer



Presiding Officer William J. Lindsay recites the oath of Office with wife Pat Lindsay at his side.

JANUARY 4, 2010 - The Suffolk County Legislature, at its annual Organizational meeting today for the 5th year in a row re-elected Legislator William J. Lindsay (D-Holbrook) as Presiding Officer and it also elected Legislator Vivian Viloria-Fisher (D-East Setauket) as Deputy Presiding Officer.

Lindsay is only the 2nd Legislator in Suffolk County history to be elected to a fifth term as Presiding Officer. Donald R. Blydenburgh served six terms from 1990 – 1996.

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Lindsay was first elected by the body to serve as Presiding Officer in 2006, was re-elected in 2007, 2008 and 2009 and is beginning his fifth term in the position in 2010. Legislator Lindsay was nominated for the post by Legislator Jack Eddington (I-Medford) and his nomination was seconded by Legislator Jay Schneiderman (I-Montauk). Legislator Viloría-Fisher first served as Deputy Presiding Officer in 2006, was also re-elected in 2007 and re-elected again in 2008 after DPO Elie Mystal resigned and in 2009. Viloría-Fisher was nominated by Presiding Officer Lindsay and her nomination was seconded by Legislator DuWayne Gregory (D-Amityville).

“This is without a doubt the highlight of my long work life,” said Lindsay in his acceptance speech. “In my opinion, this Legislature is the premier Legislative body in this country,” Lindsay continued. “It's the birth place of legislation that has been emulated around the State, around the nation and, in fact, around the world. The key to our success is the lack of partisan politics at this horseshoe. We're all political by our occupation, but when the elections are over the issues of the people take precedent and coalitions are formed and dissolved around issues that are important to our citizens. It's my hope that the style of governing continues and that the political leaders stick to what they do best and that's the election process.”

After thanking his staff and colleagues, he concluded his remarks with: “It's time to roll up our sleeves and go to work. I'm very proud of this body and I'm proud to be its Presiding Officer. Thank you very much..”

In nominating Lindsay, Legislator Eddington said: “[Lindsay has] exhibited leadership qualities, has provided guidance and direction for this Legislature, has personal integrity and honesty, has open communication, manages staff effectively and efficiently, can resolve problems, as we've seen. Most importantly to me, his word is his bond and it never has to be checked, it's always consistent.”

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In seconding Lindsay, Legislator Schneiderman said: "Bill Lindsay has earned my vote by standing up for this institution by making difficult financial decisions and by bringing a compassionate voice to all of our deliberations." Schneiderman continued by saying "Lindsay has helped to build consensus on major issues. He has put good government before partisanship and has set a tone of tolerance and caring.

Lindsay was given the oath of office for his Presiding Officer post by The Honorable Judith Pascale Suffolk County Clerk.

The Presiding Officer presides over and acts as chairperson of all general meetings of the Legislature and is empowered to call special sessions of the Legislature. The Presiding Officer also assigns each Introductory Resolution to a committee of the Legislature. It is the Presiding Officer's exclusive responsibility to name the various committees of the Legislature, define the responsibility of the committee and appoint each of the committee chairpersons and members. The Presiding Officer is also a member of several boards and commissions and has jurisdiction over the legislature's operating budget each year.

The full text of Lindsay's acceptance speech and photos available upon request.

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