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Teachers endorse Assembly Member David Weprin for re-election

NYS Assembly Member David I. Weprin picked up key support for his re-election campaign today (Friday, September 3, 2010) at his Glen Oaks re-election headquarters, 252-11 Union Turnpike (off its northwest corner with Little Neck Parkway), Bellerose, NY 11426. Assemblyman Weprin accepted the the endorsement of the New York State United Teachers (NYSUT) and its United Federation of Teachers (UFT) affiliate. UFT Queens Political Action Coordinator Dermot Smyth and School District Chapter chairs and teachers represented the union which includes thousands of voters in the 24th district. New York.

Richard C. Iannuzzi, President of NYSUT, advised Assemblyman Weprin, “Your advocacy and voting record earned you our endorsement.” NYSUT represents more than 600,000 classroom teachers and other school employees and retirees, academic and professional faculty at the state's community colleges, CUNY and SUNY, and other education and healthcare professionals in public and private employment.

“Let me tell you just how important this endorsement is,” stated the Assemblyman. “It goes beyond the label it provides that my record on education merits my constituents' vote. Thousands of voters in the 24th district are members of the UFT.”

“This year the New York State Assembly, in our budget, restored hundreds of millions of dollars in additional funding for our public schools,” added the Councilman. “In addition, the Assembly passed legislation I supported so that New York can qualify for up to \$700 million dollars in education funding from Washington, DC.”

“With our state facing huge budget gaps this money is needed now more than ever,” Mr Weprin continued. “I will continue to be a forceful advocate for our schools. As an Assembly Member today and before that as Finance Chair of the City Council, I consistently supported strengthening our schools. And that always must start with the paramount role of teachers in their classrooms. They make a difference for our kids each day.”

The Assemblyman's mom, Sylvia Weprin, a constituent, retired teacher and NYSUT/UFT member, joined Mr. Weprin at the announcement which also noted the strong support of his candidacy by working men and women and their families.

In addition to strong support from teachers, the following support Assemblyman Weprin's re-election: *NYS AFL – CIO*, the *Council of Supervisors and Administrators*, the *District Council 37*, *AFSCME* which represents 125,000 public employees and 50,000 retirees, *Service Employees International Union 32BJ* which represents over 120,000 members, *Public Employees Federation (PEF)* which represents 59,000 professionals, *Transport Workers Union Local 100* which represents 38,000 members, the *Bridge and Tunnel Officers Benevolent Association*, *Political Action for Candidates Election Committee of the New York City Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers*, *Mason Tenders' District Council of Greater New York and Long Island* which includes 15,000 members in five locals, *Uniformed Firefighters Association* and *Uniformed Fire Officers Association* and *Amalgamated Transit Union Local 1056*. Assemblyman Weprin also has the endorsement of the *Planned Parenthood of New York City Political Action Fund* and *Tenants PAC*, an independent political force working to elect pro-tenant candidates for elective office. In addition, former *Mayor Ed Koch* applauded the Assemblyman as a “Hero of Reform.”

In a reprise of February's Special Election, the Assemblyman faces that race's Republican-Conservative candidate (with the Conservative Party nod this time) in the September 14 Democratic Primary. Weprin is also on the Working Families and Independence Party lines.

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Dermot Smyth, UFT Political Coordinator for Queens, Assemblyman David Weprin, Sylvia Weprin, UFT District 25 Chapter Chair Joe Kessler and District 26 Chapter Chair Mary Vaccaro.