



NEW YORK STATE SENATOR

Malcolm Smith

## Democratic Leader Smith Takes Reins To Move State Agenda Forward

MALCOLM A. SMITH September 26, 2007

State Senate Democratic Leader Malcolm A. Smith (D-St. Albans) visited Syracuse and other regions of Central New York today to meet with local leaders and learn about the great work being done to strengthen their communities.

"It is important for New Yorkers to realize that this is one state and we need to all work together to move it forward, as the dedicated people of Central New York demonstrate," Smith said. "As I move throughout the state, I hear the broad public appeal for New York to get back to work."

During today's visit to Central New York, Smith met with Syracuse Mayor Matt Driscoll to discuss Upstate Economic Development and renewable energy. He also had an opportunity to tour the Regional Office of the State Senate Majority as well as a new media building at Syracuse University.

Smith also joined Assemblyman William Magnarelli, who is running for Onondaga County Executive, in announcing a \$25,000 grant for the Vera House, a domestic violence shelter. The funding will be used to replace a heating and air conditioning unit at one of the organization's shelters.

"For thirty years, Vera House has made life better in Onondaga County, providing a safe haven for women to get their lives back on track after a time of crisis," Smith said.

Smith said the great work being done by the people of Syracuse demonstrates that "our state can move -- and is moving -- in the right direction. However, we still have a tremendous amount of work left to do."

"Albany must do its part and get back to the business of addressing Upstate economic development, paid family leave, Wick's Law reform and numerous other legislative priorities," he added.

State Senator David Valesky (D-Oneida), Ranking Democrat on the Agriculture Committee, also joined Smith on part of today's tour of Central New York communities.