



NEW YORK STATE SENATOR

Daniel L. Squadron

## Senator Squadron and Senate Democrats to Hold First-Ever Interactive Ethics Forum

DANIEL L. SQUADRON May 3, 2011

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*Livestream and audience-tweeted questions empower unprecedented public participation to reform Albany*

(Albany, NY) Answering the public's call for immediate action on ethics reform, Senator Daniel Squadron, joined by members of the Senate Democratic Conference will hold the first ever interactive public forum on ethics reform on Wednesday, May 4<sup>th</sup>, in Albany.

Despite overwhelming public support, Senate Republicans continue to stall progress and refuse to allow public hearings on key ethics legislation. To break the Albany logjam and increase public participation, Senate Democrats will convene their own interactive ethics forum broadcast live over the Internet accepting viewer-submitted questions via [Twitter](#), [LiveStream](#), [Facebook](#) and [E-Mail](#).

Under Senate Rule VII Section 4(b), the public forum will include discussion of legislation under the jurisdiction of the Investigations and Government Operations Committee and other proposed bills including:

- Establishing an independent commission on governmental ethics ([S31/Squadron](#));
- Increasing financial and client disclosure requirements ([S382/Rivera](#));
- Stripping pensions of public officials convicted of misusing their office ([S2333/Krueger](#));
- Restricting the personal use of campaign funds ([S3053/Krueger](#)); and
- Eliminating Pay-to-Play ([S1565/Addabbo](#)).

Using new media and social networking tools to open up government and engage the public in an unprecedented effort to reform Albany, Senate Democrats will:

- Stream video and audio in real time, launching their own [LiveStream channel](#);
- Broadcast live updates on [Facebook](#), [LiveStream](#) and [Twitter](#), and live photostreaming to [TwitPic](#); and
- Accept real time questions from the public to be used by Senators during the forum via [@NYSenDems](#) and the hashtags [#AlbanyEthics](#) and [#NYSenate](#), and via [NYSenDems@gmail.com](mailto:NYSenDems@gmail.com).

State Senator Daniel Squadron said, "For Albany to do the people's business, we must change the way Albany does business. Most of the way through the legislative session, we have yet to see any action on the fundamental reforms that almost every Senator has pledged to support. Passage of a real ethics package will lend much-needed transparency and accountability to our state government, helping restore New Yorkers' trust and allowing us all to better tackle the dire challenges facing our state."

"With this first-ever interactive forum on ethics, we are bringing the public into the conversation. Live video and twitter will give all New Yorkers an important opportunity to listen, to ask questions, and to join us in demanding action on these vital reforms," said Squadron.

**WHO:**

Senator Daniel Squadron

Senator Liz Krueger

Senator Gustavo Rivera

Senator Joe Addabbo

Senator Tony Avella

Senator Neil Breslin

Senator Toby Ann Stavisky

Senator Velmanette Montgomery

Members of the Senate Democratic Conference

**ATTENDEES:**

Brennan Center for Justice

Citizens Union

Citizen Action of New York

Common Cause NY

League of Women Voters of New York

NYPIRG

**WHEN:** Wednesday, May 4th 1 PM (or immediately following the conclusion of session)

**WHERE:** Hearing Room A in the LOB

To watch the forum live online, please visit <http://www.livestream.com/NYSenDems>.

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