There’s an old saying...
“You don’t know where you're going until you know where you've been.”
When we began our journey three years ago...
...the once great government of the Empire State was considered a joke.
Scandals. Indictments. Dysfunction.
Even worse, this was not just a momentary lapse. Fundamental structural problems had been growing for decades.
For decades, NYS had been on a spending spree – Spending outpaced income growth

1950-2010 Growth in Spending and Personal Income

- Spending: 7.1%
- Personal Income: 6.1%
If you spend a lot, then you have to tax a lot.
And we did.
As a result, our taxes had become the highest in the nation.
And we were paying the price:
People and businesses were leaving the state.
For decades, Albany was the poster child for gridlock...
...long before Washington, D.C. put it on the front pages.
Over a 30 year period, 23 budgets were late, by an average of 50 days.
New York State had lost its way... it was spending more money and getting less results.
Because the government had become more concerned with the special interests and their contributions...
...than the people and their problems.
Our governmental failures had real-world negative effects...  
... and people suffered.
Unemployment had hit record high.

852,000 New Yorkers were unemployed, the most since the Great Depression. January 2010
Our property taxes were the highest in the nation.
Upstate NY was in free fall.
We were on the precipice of an abyss.
The State’s future was hanging in the balance.
The naysayers didn’t give us much of a chance.
But we knew that fortune favors the bold.
And if anyone knows how to beat the odds – it’s New Yorkers.
We set our sights high:
To restore economic opportunity to New York;
To replace dysfunction with results;
To put people before politics; and
To reestablish NY as the progressive leader for the nation.
We stopped talking and we started doing.
In 3 years you have reversed decades of failure.
And made dramatic and undeniable progress.
For the first time in modern political history the State has real fiscal discipline. We’ve held spending to 2%.
For the first time in 40 years spending is below inflation and personal income growth.
And because we spent less...

We could tax less.
And we did.
Every New Yorker pays less income taxes today than they did three years ago.
We now have the lowest middle class tax rate in 60 years.
Not just the lowest – also the fairest:

**BEFORE 2009**: 6.85%

**SINCE 2011**
- 6.45%
- 6.65%
- 6.85%
- 8.82%

We went from a flat tax to a fair tax.
After trying for 20 years, we passed the state’s first property tax cap.
For the first time in 30 years, we broke the gridlock that had plagued Albany and passed three on-time budgets in a row.
After years of false starts, we instituted a real teacher evaluation process – to focus on performance rather than merely growing the bureaucracy.
After 30 years of talking, we passed casino gaming.
And after decades of conflicts we renewed our spirit of partnership with the Indian Nations.
Let’s Recognize:

Ray Halbritter, Nation Representative,
Oneida Nation of New York

Ron LaFrance, Jr., Chief,
Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe

Beverly Cook, Chief,
Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe

Michael Kimelberg
Seneca Nation of Indians
We said we would make New York **Safer** – and we did:

- Passed common-sense gun reform with the NY SAFE Act
- Established the all-crimes DNA Database
- Enacted tough new texting-while-driving laws
We said we would make New York **Healthier**— and we did:

- Provided affordable health insurance to more than 265k New Yorkers through our exchange
- Expanded insurance coverage for autism
- Became a national leader in sepsis prevention
We said we would make New York Cleaner – and we did:

- Grew the Environmental Protection Fund
- Created $1B NY Green Bank
- Invested in solar energy through our NY Sun initiative
We said we would make New York **Smarter** – and we did:

- Expanded full day pre-k
- Incentivized performance through Master Teachers
- Launched SUNY & CUNY 2020
We said we would make New York Fairer – and we did:

- Raised the Minimum Wage
- Closed Juvenile Justice Facilities
- Opened the Justice Center
- Passed Marriage Equality
The proof is in the pudding and the arrows are pointing up.
We have added 380,000 new private sector jobs since 2010.
NYS is ranked #2 in jobs created since the recession and we have the most jobs in our history.
Exports are up 15%.
Ratings are up from all three agencies.
And because jobs, exports & our ratings are up
Unemployment is down in every region of the state

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Region</th>
<th>NOV. 2010</th>
<th>NOV. 2013</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CAPITAL REGION</td>
<td>7.5</td>
<td>5.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CENTRAL NY</td>
<td>8.4</td>
<td>6.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FINGER LAKES</td>
<td>7.9</td>
<td>6.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HUDSON VALLEY</td>
<td>7.5</td>
<td>5.8</td>
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<tr>
<td>LONG ISLAND</td>
<td>7.3</td>
<td>5.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MOHAWK VALLEY</td>
<td>8.4</td>
<td>7.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NEW YORK CITY</td>
<td>9.1</td>
<td>8.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NORTH COUNTRY</td>
<td>9.9</td>
<td>8.3</td>
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<tr>
<td>SOUTHERN TIER</td>
<td>8.1</td>
<td>6.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WESTERN NY</td>
<td>8.3</td>
<td>6.7</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
We gave New Yorkers a government that costs less, taxes less and does more.
The progress is not just in the numbers...
You can feel it in every region of our State.
In the lower Hudson Valley,
The New NY Bridge is rising.
In Utica, there’s a new future through Nanotechnology.
Even the two regions of the State that needed the most help 3 years ago.
Western New York ...
...and the North Country
They are different places in just 3 short years.
Western NY is in the midst of a transition.
Republic Steel closed in 1984: A symbol of the old Buffalo.
RiverBend is rising on the same site today.
There are even sightings in Buffalo’s sky of a species long thought to be extinct...
Cranes.
“In Buffalo, for decades, the norm has been a glum acceptance that we live in a second-rate city with a fourth-rate economy and that there was nothing to do about it but moan....[O]ver the course of a year or so, the pall lifted and Western New Yorkers started to regain confidence in their city and the direction in which it was headed....[I]t qualifies as the story of the year. Maybe the decade.”

-Buffalo News Editorial, December 31, 2013
The North Country – long ignored by Albany...
... has a new economic life.
At the Trudeau Institute, an emerging, world-class biotech hub.
A new hotel in Saranac Lake.
Bombardier’s state-of-the-art rail car facility in Plattsburgh.
3 years ago the Capitol was literally and figuratively crumbling...
Today it is shining brighter than in decades.
You cut that ribbon and you should be proud.
We did what we said we would do.
We changed the direction of our state.
Congratulations.
Let’s Recognize:

Dean Skelos
Senate Majority Coalition Leader

Jeff Klein
Senate Majority Coalition Leader

Sheldon Silver
Assembly Speaker
We have much more to do.
But now we are energized by a new strength, pride and confidence.
Let us build on our success.
For NYS Job Number One is jobs.
Our Job Growth Strategy

STATEWIDE

Step 1 – Macro

Top Down

1. Reduce Taxes.
Our financial restructuring of the state has paid off.
We have gone from a $10 billion deficit to a $2 billion surplus.
This year, within the 2% spending cap we can increase our investments in

Education

Healthcare

Economic Development

And provide more tax relief.
The Bipartisan Pataki-McCall Tax Relief Commission did good work.
There is no economic future as the tax capital of the nation.
People move...

Businesses flee...
Let’s continue to make our state more competitive: Let’s cut more burdensome business taxes.
New York State’s Corporate Tax Rate is 7.1%:
Let’s cut it to 6.5%, the lowest since 1968.
A Manufacturers’ Tax Credit: 20% of the firm’s property tax liability.
New York is one of only 15 states with an estate tax. And our exemption levels are among the lowest and our rates are among the highest.
We will increase the State's Estate Tax threshold to $5.25 million and lower the tax rate from 16% to 10%.

Eliminate the Move to Die Tax:
We propose raising NY’s Estate Tax threshold and lowering the rate in line with other states.
We also need a Renters’ Tax Credit to help New Yorkers afford increasing housing costs.
And a Circuit Breaker:
A property tax credit to help low and middle income New Yorkers based on the ability to pay.
Pataki and McCall Recommended:

A freeze on property taxes for 2 years to help homeowners and to incentivize local governments to reduce costs.
Property tax credit to freeze rates, but only if:

**Year 1:** Locality stays within cap.

**Year 2:** Locality takes concrete steps to reduce costs through shared services and/or consolidation.
Because we must also tackle a major structural problem.
The proliferation and expense of local governments.
Property Taxes: Largest Tax Burden in the State.

Income Tax: $40 Billion

Property Tax: $51 Billion
No matter how you look at it, New Yorkers pay the highest property taxes in the nation.
New Yorkers pay the highest property taxes in the nation by dollars paid...

- Rockland: 4
- Westchester: 1
- Nassau: 2
...and by home value.
Why are our property taxes so high?
10,500 Local Governments.
The State has been aggressive in aiding local governments. We assumed more local costs than at any other time in modern political history.
The State has:

• Assumed the cost of Medicaid growth – $1.2B over 5 years.
• Provided state aid to localities - $715M annually.
• Passed Tier VI pension reform - $69B to local government over 30 years.
• Early intervention and binding arbitration Reform
The State has:

• Offered localities that are functionally insolvent assistance through the Financial Restructuring Board.
As Attorney General we had the law changed to enable communities to take consolidation into their own hands.
How many local governments consolidated?
A. 2,000
B. 200
C. 20
D. 2
D. 2
Time to stop making excuses.
And start making progress.
If the locality wants the state property tax credit it must perform.
We have seen that linking state funding to performance works.
Teacher evaluations:
First year, little compliance.
When teacher evaluations were linked to a 4% increase in state funding, near total compliance.
Ray of hope:

Miner and Mahoney to study local government consolidation in Onondaga County

By Tim Knauss
December 16, 2013
Let’s Recognize:

Joanie Mahoney
Onondaga County Executive

Stephanie Miner
Mayor of Syracuse
Our Economic Strategy
STATEWIDE

Step 1 – Macro

1. Reduce Taxes;
2. Eliminate Regulatory Barriers
We must eliminate regulatory barriers to business growth.
We’ve all talked about it for years. The Senate recently held hearings.
Let’s join together by creating a joint commission to reduce regulatory barriers to business growth.
Let’s stop talking about it and do it this session.
Our Economic Strategy

STATEWIDE

Step 1 – Macro

Top Down

1. Reduce Taxes;

2. Eliminate Regulatory Barriers;

3. Rebuild Infrastructure
We need a 21st Century infrastructure to build on.
Our airports are gateways to New York for nearly 50 million people each year.
Yet as our nation’s airports are upgraded...
New York has fallen behind.
LaGuardia is ranked as the worst airport in America.
Travel and Leisure Magazine, 2012
We need to modernize JFK and LaGuardia. This is unacceptable.
We need to modernize JFK and LaGuardia.
We have talked about it for decades.
We will assume management responsibility from the Port Authority for construction at JFK and LaGuardia.
And finally build the 21\textsuperscript{st} Century airports New York deserves.
We must expedite the building of our energy Superhighway.
We still have a problem getting low cost and excess clean and renewable power downstate – costing ratepayers $600 million a year.
It can take up to 2 years to get a new transmission project approved.
And some proposed projects are causing concerns by trying to expand in local communities.
Let’s incentivize smart projects that locate within state owned or existing transmission right of ways by offering an expedited approval process that will cut the time from 2 years to 10 months.
It’s a win-win for Upstate economic growth and downstate ratepayer savings.
Our Economic Strategy

Step 1 – Macro
Top Down
STATEWIDE
Reduce Taxes; Eliminate Regulatory Barriers; Rebuild Infrastructure

Step 2 – Micro
Bottom Up
REGIONAL STRATEGIES
Regional Economic Development Councils: Core of our jobs agenda.
It’s working. Let’s keep the momentum going by doing Round IV of REDCs.
Last year we launched START-UP NY to make NYS the least expensive place in the US to locate a business.
Businesses nationwide are already showing interest in START-UP NY.
Let’s market it globally to attract businesses from around the world to New York State.
Let’s hold an International business conference at the Javits Center to introduce executives from overseas to the START-UP NY program.
Let’s Recognize:

John Mack
Senior Advisor and the former CEO & Chairman of the Board at Morgan Stanley
Three years ago we said we would focus on Upstate.
Why?
Upstate Economy Lags

Regional Job Growth (2002-2012)

- Upstate: 5%
- NYS: 11%
- NYC: 16%
- US: 9%
Upstate NY Cycle of Decline

- Loss of economic power
- Loss of political power
- Loss of government help
- Loss of people

Notable exception: Capital District/Nanotech
This year, we will continue to prioritize revitalizing Upstate NY.
Let's start with taxes.
For Upstate Manufacturers, let’s cut the corporate tax rate to...
You can’t beat zero.
Economic Development Upstate:
Tourism

We’ve taken our tourism efforts to a new level.
So far we have spent $40 million on our marketing campaign:

And our investment is paying dividends.
Tourism spending is up $4 billion. Nearly twice the national rate of growth.
Tourism jobs increased by 25,000.
Twice the national rate of growth.
Let’s redouble our tourism efforts – because seeing is believing in Upstate New York.
And once they come, they’re hooked.
To Promote Tourism

We propose one-stop-shop licensing: A New York State Adventure License.
New York State Adventure License

To Promote Tourism

/31/2013

Empire Pass (parks)
Bowhunter
Hunting
Sportsman
Fishing
Muzzle loader
Trapper
Boater Safety
We will open up 50 state-owned properties.

Open for hunting, fishing, boating, and other activities.
Promoting tourism on our roads.
Promoting tourism on our roads.

Explore NEW YORK HISTORY ILoveNY.com

Experience NEW YORK ATTRACTIONS ILoveNY.com

Enjoy NEW YORK FOOD AND BEVERAGES ILoveNY.com
To Promote Tourism Online.
Last year I invited some of you to participate in the Adirondack Challenge.
Most accepted the challenge.
We had the new guys.
We had the tough guys.
Butch Cassidy & The Sundance Kid.
Thelma Assemblywoman Russell & Louises Assemblywoman Solages & Assemblywoman Lupardo
We had master rafters.
We had master rafters (sort of).
We had master rafters (sort of).
Two important people were missing.
We put out an All-Points Bulletin.
We were very concerned...
Luckily we found them…
We’ll give them a second chance—
A second challenge.
2014 Bassmaster Classic – Governor’s Challenge.
August 21, 2014: Owasco Lake
Be there.
You’re all invited.
Our casino plan is already generating great interest.
Let’s make it happen. Fast and Right:

- March 2014: Request for Proposals
- June 2014: Bids due
- Early fall 2014: Selections made
Casinos managed by Gaming Commission
Headed by a new chairman Mark Gearan,
President, Hobart and William Smith Colleges.
Let’s Recognize:

Mark Gearan,
President,
Hobart and William Smith Colleges.
Our targeted investments in public private sector partnerships are working.
Let’s keep the momentum going:

• Yogurt Summit II
• Regional Beer, Wine and Spirits Summit II
• Tourism Summit II
• Path Through History II
And we’ll do more: We’ll hold an Agriculture Summit to help connect Upstate producers to Downstate consumers.
Buffalo Billion is working:
Let’s take the next step.
Genomic Medicine is the next frontier of modern medicine: We can lead the way.
Let’s create the NY Genomic Medicine Network.
A partnership among...
Creating hundreds of job and a new Western NY industry for the future.
In the North Country the proposed Route 98 could reduce travel time and speed up commerce.
Let’s see if we can make it a reality...
DOT will undertake a Route 98 feasibility study this year.
2014 Focus on Upstate:

- Upstate Manufacturer’s Tax Credit
- Tourism – BassMasters, access to public lands, new tourism signs and mobile apps
- Casino resort destinations
- Targeted Investments
- Buffalo – NY Genomic Medicine Network
- Route 98
The best long term economic development strategy is to have the best education system.
We are in the midst of an Education Reinvention

Replace the 1950s bureaucracy. With a 2020 performance organization.
We formed the NEW NY Education Reform Commission
And they called for full-day pre-k, extending school days and performance pay.
Next step: Reinvent our classrooms with new technology.
We must transform from the classrooms of yesterday...
...to the classrooms of tomorrow.
Experts said technology would be the great equalizer...
The Information Superhighway could democratize education.
That’s right.
If you are on it.
But if you’re not, …you are left behind at 100mph
There are great disparities in education.
At some schools there are students who are on the internet.
Yet at other schools students don’t even have a basketball net.
Some schools have sophisticated new computer processors.
While in others the most sophisticated piece of electronic equipment is the metal detectors students walk through to the classroom.
We can do better.
We must do better.
We will do better.
Let’s invest in our future.
Let’s reimagine our classrooms for the next generation.
Let’s have the smartest classrooms in the nation because our students deserve nothing less.
Let’s go to the People of the State, this November, and put on the ballot a bond referendum for the...
Smart Schools Initiative.
To invest $2 Billion in providing the technology of tomorrow, today.
What does technology mean for students?

1. Every child learns at his or her own pace.
2. Students get the skills they need to succeed in the 21st century economy.
3. Access to advanced courses and interactive curriculum.
4. Parents and teachers can communicate easily & often.
5. Teachers can access the assistance and training they need online.
And it’s not about growing the bureaucracy; it’s about helping students.
Used for laptops, desktops, tablets, servers, other electronic devices, infrastructure upgrades, and high speed broadband.
There will be strict eligibility for use of funds and each district must submit a technology plan for approval by the State.
And while we remake our classrooms for tomorrow we must get young minds engaged as early as possible.
In the 2013 State of the State, we called for Expanded Full Day Pre-Kindergarten. The Assembly has long championed the same.
It’s time for New York to have Universal Full Day Pre-K Statewide.
Quality teachers are the backbone of our education system.
Let’s recognize and thank Master Teacher, Abbey Allbright, for her introduction today.
We will continue the transformation of our system and Reward Performance by creating a Teacher Excellence Fund.
It’s the first statewide teacher performance bonus program.
Teachers who are rated “highly effective” – the highest statewide rank – would be eligible to receive $20,000 in performance pay, an average 27% bonus.
SUNY 2020 & CUNY 2020: It’s working. Let’s continue another round this year.
The future of the economy is in STEM jobs – we should be incentivizing our education system to fill those openings.
We will provide to the top 10% of high school grads full scholarships to any SUNY or CUNY school if they pursue a math or science career and work in NY for 5 years.
After Sandy, Irene and Lee
NYS, as we know it, faces a different reality.
Let’s Recognize:

Steve Bellone
Suffolk County Executive

Ed Mangano
Nassau County Executive

Anthony Picente
Oneida County Executive
We must “Reimagine” NY.
Extreme weather changes everything.
We will create the nation’s most advanced weather detection center.
We will establish the nation’s first College of Emergency Preparedness, Homeland Security and Cybersecurity at SUNY.
And we’ve recruited Ray Kelly to be a special advisor.
We will create a Citizen Responder Corp. to give New York State the most trained and prepared citizens in the US.
We will harden our Transit System:

- Spend $5B for most massive reconstruction of the subway system since it was built 110 years ago.
- Rebuild 6 under river tubes used by 1 million a day.
- Protect and strengthen our train yards.
We will open a new spur for Metro North Railroad for more resiliency and to provide direct access to Penn Station:

And build 4 new stations to bring new transit options to the Bronx.
We will repair/replace over 100 Bridges - with state-of-the-art flood-resistant construction.
Over one thousand projects at $16B.
The most massive rebuilding program state has ever undertaken.
HUD Secretary Shaun Donovan led the Federal Superstorm Sandy Rebuilding Task Force.
Let’s Recognize:

Shaun Donovan
HUD Secretary
We have more to do to make New York healthier, fairer and safer.
Research suggests that medical marijuana may help manage the pain and treatment of cancer and other serious illnesses.
20 states currently allow medical marijuana.
We will establish a program allowing up to twenty hospitals to prescribe medical marijuana to patients being treated for serious illnesses.
The program will evaluate the effectiveness and feasibility of a medical marijuana system.
New York means justice for all.
Governor Paterson increased MWBE contracts to 10%.
In 2011, we set an ambitious MWBE goal, doubling it to 20%.
Justice for All

And we beat it.
This year we will focus on certifying more MWBEs to participate in state contracting.
There are other New Yorkers we can help in this way.
Disabled veterans showed us their loyalty, we must show them ours.
Let’s set a goal of 5% in the awarding of State contracts to disabled veteran-owned small businesses.
We will host a Summit this Spring to find ways to make this goal a reality and further support our vets.
Our NY Youth Works program has helped 13,000 inner city youth find work.
Yet unemployment remains high in inner city communities – over 40% among youth.
40% unemployment is unacceptable. Let’s give these kids jobs so they have a future.
Let’s build on our success by launching **NY Works Phase II:**

- Extend the length of tax incentives to businesses to create more job opportunities.
- And provide job training under the Job Linkage program.
Affordable housing is a crisis.
Homelessness is growing.
We will increase our commitment by investing another $100M in affordable housing.
The Housing Act of 1949 set a goal of “a decent home and a suitable living environment for every American family.”
Let’s act on that promise because in 2014, every New Yorker deserves a safe, clean place to live.
The good news is crime is down and our prisons have fewer people in them.
We are reducing the madness of an incarceration society.
Ending a system of unnecessary human and financial waste.
And we have eliminated more than 5,500 beds.
The bad news is there is a revolving door where 40% wind up back behind bars.
We need to provide reentry support like job training and access to key services to ease the transition into mainstream society.
Reduced recidivism means less crime, safer communities, and fewer taxpayer dollars spent on incarceration.
Let’s stop the revolving door once and for all.
Let’s create a Reentry Council to coordinate state resources to assist with the transition back into society.
Our Juvenile Justice laws are outdated. Under NYS law, 16 and 17 year olds are tried and charged as adults.
The only other state to have this provision is North Carolina.
It’s not right.
It’s not fair.
We must raise the age.
Let’s form a Commission on Youth, Public Safety & Justice and get it done this year.
Last year we proposed a 10-point Women’s Equality Act because discrimination against women is alive and well.
Since last year, nothing has changed.
Discrimination against women still exists.
It’s just been another year when government failed to act on behalf of women.
Stop playing politics with women’s rights – pass the Women’s Equality Act this year.
To Make NY Safer

47,000 drivers with 3 or more drunk driving convictions are still on the road.
Think about that as you drive home tonight.
It’s absurd.

To Make NY Safer
Let’s change the law.

To Make NY Safer
Anyone convicted of drunk driving 2 times in 3 years should lose their license for 5 years.
To Make NY Safer

3 strikes and you’re OUT and OFF the road.
There’s an old Italian expression: “We grow too soon old and too late smart.”
For young drivers, a cellphone can be more dangerous than a bottle of alcohol.
For teen drivers, texting-while-driving causes more fatal accidents than drinking-while-driving.

To Make NY Safer
77% of young adults say they can text and drive safely.
They’re wrong.

To Make NY Safer
Let’s continue to crack down on texting while driving.
If a teenager is caught texting-while-driving they should lose their license for one year.
To Make NY Safer

These are our sons and daughters...
Let’s save young lives.
Let’s Recognize:

Ben Lieberman
Last year I appointed a Moreland Commission to investigate public corruption.
Disagreement about need for more ethics reform.
We created JCOPE.
String of bad acts, almost a daily story, even today.
New York legislator Eric Stevenson bought a Jaguar with his payoffs, feds say

By DANIEL BEEKMAN
January 2, 2014

New York state Assemblyman Eric Stevenson went on a buying Jag, the feds say.

The Bronx state assemblyman, on corruption charges, is scheduled to start paying $500 cash down on Sept. 8, 2012, prosecutors said Thursday at a hearing in Manhattan.

Second Albany Legislator Secretly Taped Colleagues

By THOMAS KAPLAN and WILLIAM K. RASHBAUM

Soon after prosecutors and the Federal Bureau of Investigation revealed details of a 2013 sting on Assemblyman Michael Cusick, the New York Democratic official who is facing bribery charges, investigators had another target: Assemblyman Michael Cusick's Republican counterpart, Vinnie Fiorello. The other man, Assemblyman Michael Cusick, had been the subject of a previous investigation.

On Friday, prosecutors disclosed that Sheldon L. Hurdley, a former executive, had told investigators when he couldn't get the money, he went to a bank in a federal corruption investigation into members of the New York State Assembly. Nelson Castro, a former state assembly member, was charged with making false statements to avoid prosecution. On a perjury indictment, Tell the truth. He pleaded guilty to the perjury count, and was sentenced to two years in prison.
Reflects poorly on all of us.

New York legislator Eric Stevenson bought a Jaguar with his payoffs, feds say
Ethics reform is an acknowledgement of the problem and the need to fix the system.
I Propose:

• New Anti-bribery and corruption laws
• Public Financing of Elections
• Independent enforcement and oversight at the Board of Elections
• Disclosure of outside clients with business before State
We must act.
Why ?
When government has the public trust, government has the capacity to do good work.
Swastikas, Slurs and Torment in Town’s Schools

By BENJAMIN WEISER
Published: November 8, 2013

The swastikas, the students recalled, seemed to be everywhere: on walls, desks, lockers, textbooks, computer screens, a playground slide — even on a student’s face. A picture of President Obama, with a swastika drawn on his forehead, remained on the wall of an eighth-grade social studies classroom for about a month after a student informed her teacher, the student said.

They have reported being pelted with coins, told to retrieve items thrown into garbage receptacles and even beaten. That, on school buses in the town of the state, located about 40 minutes north of New York City.

The proliferation and cut-throat effect of the slurs, drawn by students, bullying led three Jewish students to report incidents to police and to the community.

The New York Times

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