

## REMAKING ALBANY



Samuels and artist Robert Greenberg have created a series of satirical illustrations on the corruption and dysfunction in Albany. Shown below is their recasting of a classic political illustration, "Campaign for Reform." This image is based on the 1897 Lewis Dalrymple illustration for Puck, "The Campaign of Noise." The original illustration depicted corruption's hold over the state capital. In this new version, Samuels leads the charge to reform Albany, surrounded by Andrew Cuomo, Eric Schneiderman, Liz Krueger, and great reformers from New York's past: Theodore Roosevelt, Franklin Delano Roosevelt, and Eleanor Roosevelt.



Leading State Senators Liz Krueger and Eric Schniderman review with Bill the satirical illustration above at a fundraiser for Liz Krueger at Bill's home.

New York will not become the true Empire State, the next governor cannot be a great governor, and New York legislature will not be a respected and effective institution, unless the legislative process is reformed.

By organizing support around the state for the reform of Albany, Samuels will increase the ability of the governor to get passed innovative economic reforms that will provide new jobs...

The Bill Samuels campaign for Lieutenant Governor and President of the State Senate will focus on core reforms in 5 areas; reforms that once enacted will create the opportunity for new legislators to get elected and take on the issues that have been ignored for far too long.

The reforms supported by New Roosevelt Initiative will be in these 5 areas:

- **Fiscal Reform**

*New York's politicians have run our state into the ground, increasing spending at unsustainable levels, driving up taxes on the middle class, hurting businesses and forcing too many people to move away. If we want our state to not just be competitive, but to thrive in the new economy, we need to rein in the state budget and create an economic environment that encourages entrepreneurs; supports small businesses and rewards hard work.*

– Bill Samuels

- **Ethics Reform**

*"Which is more important: Restarting the state's withered economy or infusing a sense of ethics into state government? Trick question. Albany can't do the former unless it also does the latter."*

– The Buffalo News, January 11, 2010

- **Legislative Rules Reform**

*"For years, the majorities have used arcane rules to bully individual legislators, stifle debate, limit the public's right to know and punish dissent. It's awful. But when you run a legislature with gulag-style rules, you lose the creative power that dissenting opinion brings to a debate, and you end up with shallow, short-sighted decisions and ultimately, total dysfunction. That's why we're in the mess we're in now."*

– Bill Samuels

- **Campaign Finance Reform**

*"Special interests own Albany. They funnel huge amounts of cash to politicians, who use it to stay in office and do their bidding. But they're supposed to work for us, and do what's right for the taxpayers. Until we clean up this corrupt system, we'll never get the State Government we deserve. We need a soup-to-nuts overall of our campaign finance structure to bring some sanity back into the system."*

– Bill Samuels

## **Other Activist Organizations**

**Albany Project**  
**Citizens Union**  
**Common Cause**  
**New York Civic**  
**League of Woman's**  
**Voters (New York)**  
**Brennan Center for**  
**Justice**  
**NYPIRG**  
**Citizens Action of New**  
**York**  
**Women's Campaign**  
**Forum**  
**The Roosevelt**  
**Institute**  
**The Eleanor Roosevelt**  
**Legacy**

- **Redistricting Reform**

**"New York has the worst redistricting in the nation.** *Redistricting rules written in 1894 were found unconstitutional in 1964, but we still haven't fixed the problem. Our system takes power from the voters, gives it to lobbyists and special interests and has created a crisis in government. It's absurd, and we've had enough. Unless we do something, after this election it's a guarantee that the politicians are going to screw it up again."*

– Bill Samuels

By enacting these changes, we can make being a politician a good and noble thing once again. When legislatures have pride in their jobs and respect from their community, we can start bringing in the very best people into public service, launch innovative programs, bring more rapid development to New York's economy, and put the state back in the national leadership position that it deserves.

It is finally time for a new initiative, the New Roosevelt Initiative, to finally reform Albany so we restore respect to the word "politician" and recruit a new breed of Albany representatives to create the best legislature in the country.