

# 14 lawmakers eye local, state positions

By CRAIG McGUIRE  
Gazette staff writer

Fourteen state legislators are planning to seek offices ranging from county executive to state comptroller this year and next.

Two state lawmakers have already set their sights on the mayoralty in two of the largest cities in the state.

Assembly Democrat Joseph Nicoletti has announced his candidacy for mayor of Syracuse.

"Our next mayor should be someone who knows his way around the block, not someone who needs on-the-job training."

Earlier this year, six-term incumbent Sen. Anthony M. Masiello announced he'll run for mayor of Buffalo. Assembly Deputy Speaker Arthur O. Eve had also considered a run for this office, but last week quit the race to endorse Masiello.

Although overshadowed by the upcoming New York City mayoral election, the

contest for the office of New York City public advocate, formerly known as city council president, is heating up.

Sens. David A. Paterson and Donald Halperin are planning to run as are Assemblymen David Rosado and Roberto Ramirez, both of the Bronx.

Paterson has adopted the campaign slogan, "The people's advocate, already on the job."

The Manhattan Democrat said the issues he works on, child sexual abuse, bias-related violence and expanding voting rights are "issues that affect all of us around the city."

Halperin, D-Brooklyn, is stressing his experience as ranking Democrat on the Finance Committee. He said that he is the right candidate "because for over 20 years I've already been doing the job."

Rosado said that after more discussion with Democratic party leaders he will begin collecting petitions to get on the

ballot.

Ramirez also plans a run for the position.

Meanwhile, Assemblyman Alan G. Hevesi will seek the Democratic endorsement for the New York City comptroller, a position currently held by Elizabeth Holtzman. The Queens Democrat has challenged his opponents to agree to voluntary campaign contribution limits from firms that underwrite city bonds.

Holtzman has come under fire for recommending that a banking company, which contributed to her campaign, become an underwriter.

The reasons for each legislator's decision to run are as numerous as the candidates themselves.

A desire to return to the county political scene has motivated Assemblyman John C. Cochrane, R-Brightwaters, to run for Suffolk County treasurer.

"I've been here for 20 years and it's time to move on and let the younger ones in."

Other legislators seeking positions on the county level include:

- Assemblyman Samuel Colman, D-Monsey, for Rockland County executive.

- Assemblyman Richard Brodsky, D-Scarsdale, for Westchester County executive.

- Assemblyman Frederick E. Parola, RC-Levittown, for Nassau County comptroller.

- Assemblyman Philip B. Healey, RC-Massapequa, for the town supervisor of Oyster Bay.

As for next year, Assemblyman John J. Faso, R-Kinderhook, said he is considering a run for state comptroller.

And Schenectady Assemblyman James Tedisco has made it known he would like to run for lieutenant governor.

"I intend to change the direction this state has taken during the last 11 years," said Tedisco, with specific focus on "reforming government and tax and spend."