

Former NYC Mayor Ed Koch to Address “Call to Action Campaign” Rally

Koch Will Join Representatives From Broad Section of Economic Sectors To Press State Legislators to Control Spending, Lower Taxes and Consolidate Services

The Westchester County Association’s Call to Action Campaign

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

PR Log (Press Release) – May 19, 2010 – Former New York City Mayor Ed Koch will join hundreds of businesses and individuals from across Westchester to send a strong message to lawmakers in Albany to make substantive reforms. Mr. Koch’s appearance will be the highlight of a rally organized by The Westchester County Association’s Call to Action Campaign. It will be held at 5:30 PM, Thursday, May 20, at the Rye Town Hilton Hotel, Rye Brook. Since February, the Call to Action Campaign has been mobilizing residents throughout Westchester and beyond to come together and make Albany lawmakers more accountable to taxpayers. The rally will be the next phase of a sustained effort by the Call to Action Campaign and its partners requiring incumbents and challengers seeking election on November 2 to make a commitment to reform Albany.

William Mooney, WCA President, said: “Representatives from a broad section of economic sectors—business, construction, hospital, physician, banking, hotel, chambers of commerce and others—will tell our representatives in Albany that out-of-control spending, sky-high taxes, excessive public sector compensation and costly inefficiencies are impacting all of us and can longer be sustained.”

He added: “This is a grass roots movement, not a fringe group. It’s not about Republicans or Democrats, it’s about businesses and taxpayers who want to save our state before it’s too late. We intend to mobilize concerned citizens to speak in a unified voice and send an SOS distress message to Albany to Save Our State.”

Alfred B. DeBello, WCA Chairman, said that the WCA Call to Action Campaign will ask all the candidates seeking New York State elected office to sign a pledge to:

- Make a commitment to a balanced budget on time without increases taxes, fees, assessments or borrowing
- Support a non-partisan commission to redraw legislative district lines
- Promise not to vote for any unfunded mandates
- Make full disclosure of all outside income.

The WCA will monitor how each candidate responds to the call to sign the pledge. In addition, the WCA will schedule a series of debates between the candidates in the fall. DeBello noted: “Our goal is to apprise the voters about where the incumbents and challengers stand on this critically important issue so that they make informed decisions on election day.”

Information about the candidates and the election can be obtained on the website, www.CalltoActionCampaign.org.

The WCA’s Call to Action Campaign has gained broad-based support from local, regional and state-based organizations including the Long Island Association, National Federation of Independent Businesses, Unshackle Upstate, the Building and Realty Institute, Builders Institute, Construction Industry Council, the Mount Vernon Chamber of Commerce, the Northern Metropolitan Hospital Association, Sleepy Hollow Chamber of Commerce, Westchester Bankers Association, Westchester County Medical Society and the

Westchester Hotel Association.

Brian Sampson, Executive Director of Unshackle Upstate, said: "The WCA continues to be the voice of reform for the Westchester business community. Their call for reducing state spending, reducing the tax burden and decreasing state debt should be embraced by anyone who is frustrated with New York State government. Unshackle Upstate is fortunate to have the WCA as one of our strategic statewide partners as we seek to return control of the state back to the taxpayers and private sector job creators."

Daniel R. Perkins, Vice President of Government Affairs Long Island Association, Inc, stated: "The Long Island Association is glad to join with the WCA, Mayor Koch, the National Federation of Independent Business (NFIB) and others in calling for our state leaders to be more accountable to the business interests of this state. During this economic downturn, it is an oxymoron to try and balance the deficit on the backs of small business through onerous taxes such as the MTA Mobility Tax and not focusing more on stoking the engines of economic development to pull us out of this mess."

Mike Elmendorf, New York State Director of the NFIB, said: "It is undeniable that New York has become unaffordable for businesses and families alike. Don't take my word for it; just look at the exodus of people and jobs from our state. If we are going to pull New York out of its economic death spiral, we need real change in Albany, and that requires real leadership. Only through the active engagement of citizens, business owners and taxpayers can we force the accountability and responsibility that New Yorkers deserve and demand from Albany," said Mike Elmendorf, New York State Director of the National Federation of Independent Business (NFIB), New York's leading small business advocacy organization.

At the conclusion of the rally, Mooney will ask supporters to take 7 action steps to help the Call to Action Campaign succeed:

- 1) Join the Call To Action Campaign
- 2) Follow which candidates are signing "The Pledge".
- 3) Visit the Call to Action website, <http://www.CalltoActionCampaign.org>, and keep track of how your candidates are voting and what they're saying
- 4) Spread the word to your neighbors, friends, co-workers and business associates to join the Call to Action!
- 5) Speak out by contacting your legislator on our Call to Action website
- 6) Attend the WCA candidates debates this Fall
- 7) Donate today by making a contribution to the Call To Action Campaign

The Westchester County Association is the preeminent business membership organization in Westchester County. The Association is committed to business advocacy, economic vitality and to providing a strong and clear voice for the interests of businesses on the regional, national and international levels. Its key objectives are: promoting positive economic development in the region; fostering business development; and providing its members with access and interaction with key public and private sector individuals, agencies and organizations.

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