

GOVERNOR GEORGE PATAKI

08 WATCH: DECEMBER 2005



IN FOCUS:

Pataki Made Fourth Trip to Iowa. [The Des Moines Register](#) reports that Pataki “was making his fourth visit this year to Iowa, where the 2008 Republican caucuses are scheduled to launch the next presidential nominating season. He lunched with state GOP leaders and met with Red Cross officials and volunteers before headlining a fundraiser for an anti-tax group. Iowa GOP leaders have said Pataki is taking steps toward running in 2008 by meeting with key party members during his visits.” [[The Des Moines Register](#), 12/7/05]

BUZZ WATCH:

Pataki Barely a Blip on Presidential Radar Screen. The AP reported, “National polls have shown former New York City Mayor Rudolph Giuliani, Sen. John McCain of Arizona and Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice as leading contenders for the 2008 GOP presidential nomination, with Pataki barely a blip on the radar screen thus far... Pataki announced in late July he would not seek a fourth, four-year term as governor in 2006. Since then, he has been traveling regularly across the country and around the globe. In those travels, Pataki has been stressing his leadership in New York in the wake of the Sept. 11, 2001 terrorist attacks, even though Giuliani is much more famous for that.” [AP, 11/29/05]

Pataki Hired Former George H.W. Bush Fundraiser to be Chairman of His PAC. Pataki recently hired a former fundraiser for ex-president George H.W. Bush. Walter Ganzi Jr., co-owner and chief executive of a chain of upscale Palm steakhouses, will be the national finance chairman for Pataki's Virginia-based political action committee, 21st Century Freedom PAC. Ganzi, who was George H.W. Bush's national fund-raising chairman in 1988, said he is focused on giving Pataki “a major voice in the Republican Party.” [[NY Post](#), 11/30/05]

RHETORIC WATCH:

In Iowa, Pataki Refuted 9/11 Commission Report on Readiness. In Iowa Pataki met with Red Cross volunteers who went to New York City after the Sept. 11, 2001 terrorist attacks, was asked about a report from the Sept. 11 Commission warning that gaping holes in the nation's security system remain, despite the intense focus on terrorist activity in the last three years. Pataki refuted the report's gloomy findings saying, there are “night and day differences” in readiness since the 2001 attacks. [AP, 12/6/05]

DAY JOB:

Pataki is “Lame Duck,” Power Under Attack. “As Pataki prepares to enter his 12th and final year in office in New York, he is finding out the perils of being a lame duck, with his power under attack as never before -- even from within his own party. The Republican Party in New York is at war with itself, with some factions embracing a governor's race by Mr. Pataki's longtime nemesis, Tom Golisano, and others trying to force Mr. Pataki's pick for the United States Senate, Jeanine F. Pirro, out of the race. In New York City, Mayor Michael R. Bloomberg, a Republican, is trying to seize more control of the rebuilding of the World Trade Center site, one of Mr. Pataki's signature projects...Back at the fractious State Capitol, where governors rule through a combination of rewards and retribution, his announcement in July that he would not seek a fourth term was considered by some as an act of unilateral disarmament, and an opportunity.” [[New York Times](#), 12/5/05]

Pataki Bypassed State Legislature, Used Executive Order to Begin Collection of DNA From Those Convicted of Lesser Crimes. Pataki announced that he was bypassing the State Legislature and issuing an executive order to the state to begin collecting DNA samples from some convicted criminals who are not currently required by law to provide them. New York State law requires people convicted of violent felonies, sex crimes and several other types of crimes to provide the state with DNA samples. Pataki has pushed the Legislature to require all convicted criminals to provide their DNA, but the Democratic-led State Assembly has always blocked him. “DNA is the fingerprint of the 21st century, but more than half of the individuals who are convicted of felony offenses in the state are still not required to provide a DNA sample for inclusion in the DNA databank,” Pataki said. “And less than one-third of all criminal offenses are designated for the mandatory collection of DNA.” [[The New York Times](#), 12/7/05; [The Daily Record](#), 12/9/05]

MONEY UPDATE:

Pataki’s Leadership PAC Received Large Donation From Head of Amerigroup, Raising Ethics Flags. Amerigroup Corporation Chairman and CEO Jeffrey McWaters gave \$10,000 to the Pataki’s Leadership PAC, 21st Century Freedom State PAC. Amerigroup last year acquired Careplus, “a New York City-based for-profit Medicaid managed care company that has nearly \$1 billion in state contracts to run Child Health and Family Health Plus programs in New York as well as a managed long-term care plan. The state Comptroller's Office said Careplus did not win competitive bids for the contracts, but is one of a number of providers of the services.” The 21st Century Freedom State PAC also took in a \$10,000 donation from Royal Wulff Ventures LLC of Saint Helena, California; both donations were received on December 6, 2005. [[Syracuse Post Standard](#), 12/14/05]

SCHEDULE RECAP:

12/16/05— New Hampshire: Pataki will make an appearance at the New Hampshire GOP's annual holiday dinner next week. It will be Pataki's second visit to New Hampshire. [AP, 12/6/05]

12/06/05— Iowa: Governor Pataki met with the Des Moines chapter of the Red Cross and spoke (closed press) before Taxpayers United. Pataki met with several local officials. [ABCNews.com, 12/5/05]

11/12-16/05— Puerto Rico: Pataki met with Somos El Futuro, Puerto Rico Governor Anibal Acevedo Vila and potential political contributors. [AP, 11/16/05]

| 2005 TRAVEL SUMMARY | |
|----------------------------|----------|
| IA | 4 |
| NH | 1 |
| SC | 0 |
| OTHER | 3 |