

Slugline	O'Brien gets county legislature appointment
Publication	Irondequoit
Date	November 11, 2004
Section(s)	Local News

The local attorney will complete the term of Democratic Legislator Jay Ricci, who has moved out of state.

By LINDA QUINLAN / lquinlan@mpnewspapers.com

Irondequoit resident Edward M. "Ted " O'Brien will be formally sworn-in as a Monroe **County legislator** tomorrow.

On Monday, he will attend his first full Legislature meeting and be expected to vote on Monroe County Executive Maggie Brooks' proposed 2005 budget.

Legislature President Wayne E. Zyra officially approved O'Brien's appointment last Friday, Nov. 5.

O'Brien, a Democrat, succeeds Legislator Jay Ricci, who served Irondequoit's 17th District from the time of his election in November 2001 until late last month. Ricci resigned due to a job change, after a 22-year career at Eastman Kodak Co. He has moved with his family to Avon, Conn.

O'Brien will now complete Ricci's term, which expires Dec. 31, 2005.

If Ricci had stepped down before a Sept. 20 deadline, a runoff election for his seat would have been required. But because Ricci left after the deadline, Democrats could recommend a replacement to complete the term, without a public vote.

The formal appointment still had to be made by the Legislature president.

"I am very pleased that Legislature President Zyra accepted the recommendation of our caucus and the Monroe County Democratic Committee and has agreed to appoint Ted O'Brien, " said Stephanie Aldersley, D, Irondequoit, who represents the community's 16th District. She is also Democratic leader of the Legislature.

"Ted has a long record of service to the community and has shown a great commitment to the people of Irondequoit, " Aldersley said.

O'Brien has resided in Irondequoit for nearly 20 years. He is a member of the Irondequoit Democratic Committee, which he chaired from 1992 to 1994. He also served as chairman of the Monroe County Democratic Committee from 2000 to 2002.

He is a graduate of Syracuse University College of Law and has practiced law in Rochester since 1983.

"I'm really looking forward to the opportunity to work in the Legislature," O'Brien said. "I intend to serve the people of Irondequoit as a responsive and responsible lawmaker."

O'Brien said his plan is to start walking the district and talking to the people as soon as he can.

He said he also hopes to start a series of forums, based on specific issues, to get input from the people.

"It seems to me that too many decisions are made in conference rooms, rather than talking to people on the street corners first," O'Brien said.

Republicans called foul play when it didn't appear Ricci would be stepping down before Sept. 20.

"OK, now Ted O'Brien will have to field the wrath of the electorate," said Justin Roj, Republican town leader in Irondequoit.

O'Brien will still have to seek election, next year, to hold on to the seat. He said prior to his appointment that his "inclination" is to run for the full term.

The base salary for a **county legislator** is \$18,000 a year. Legislators are elected to two- or four-year terms, depending on the year.

Fast facts: Swearing in

Newly appointed Democratic **County Legislator** Ted O'Brien, who will be representing Irondequoit's 17th District, will be formally sworn in by state Supreme Court Judge Joe Valentino in a ceremony at 3 p.m. tomorrow, Friday, Nov. 12, in the legislative chambers on the fourth floor of the county office building, 39 W. Main St., downtown Rochester. The public is welcome.