LON HOFSTEIN GETS A JUMPSTART ON THE 2027 ELECTION SEASON

BY: Keith S. Shikowitz, Editor in Chief/Investigative Reporter

Even before the 2026 midterms, Rockland County legislator from the 5th Legislative District, Lon Hofstein was looking towards the 2027 legislative election by having a fundraiser at Rocco's restaurant in New City on November 12, 2026, at which approximately 100 people attended.

Roxanne Perrone the Clarkstown Republican Party Chairperson opened the speeches by introducing the elected and other officials present.

https://youtu.be/QkFDRxmDsPg

"What can I say about Lon Hofstein that we don't know? Lon has been a great county legislator. I first met Lon in 2014, 1st time, but Lon has been someone who fights the fight, someone who cares about county government, somebody who continues to do a great job, who I know is thankful for this unbelievable support, when you planned a fundraiser right after an election. You don't know how many people are going to come out, but that's a testament to, to not only Lon's popularity, but really the bridges that he's built with men and women of labor, law enforcement, and everyone from Democrats and Republicans in a district that could be tricky for him. It's a district that he knows well."

Weber said that it's a district that he really knows for 20 – 30 years and being in the New City Little League at the offset. Which really jumped him into politics, but someone that we're all going to stand by him because these elections, as we saw a few last week, these elections are getting tougher and tougher, especially here in Rockland County.

"We need to make sure that we come out for Hofstein not only today, but knocking on doors, getting petitions, and coming out throughout the rest of the year because he's going to need the help. Doug Jobson, Ray Sheridan, Will Kennelly. I don't know if Tom's here, but you're going to need as much help from us as you've given to us over the years. We're going to be there for you. We know that you're going to continue to be a great stalwart of the county budget along with County Executive Ed Day. You continue to do a great job. We're here to support you."

He concluded by congratulating Hofstein on the great job for the turnout at the fundraiser and we look forward to you winning next year as well. He then took the honor to introduce County Executive, Ed Day.

After Weber finished his speech, he noise level in the room went up as people began talking amongst themselves. Day began by telling attendees to not make him use his 3-4 precinct voice

As he pointed to three men who were bigger than him and could speak loudly over the crown he stated, "God didn't give me size like Rob for Joe and Steven. The crowd quieted down to let him speak without a microphone. He may be my size, so a voice, but my voice also carries some weight, which is, I'm told, and I want to basically just say since we're all supporting Lon.

I've been able to say a few words about him and Bill Weber actually touched upon it already. I knew Lon from New City Little League, and that's where the story came because I was blessed with becoming County Executive."

Day explained that when he came to be County Executive, there was a vacancy in his seat in the legislature, and they had somebody come in who was not what they wanted. They had to find somebody to do the job for him. He and Lon had a conversation, he thought Lon thought he was crazy.

https://youtu.be/629BuY26ji0

Hofstein took center stage. "The turnout is unbelievable and I thank you all. This all started with a phone call from Ed Day on a Sunday morning. I went into my office and answered. I went back into the kitchen and my wife said, 'Who is that on the phone on Sunday morning?' Ed Day. What does he want? He asked me to run for legislature. She said, 'Well, what'd you tell him?' I said, 'I'll think about it.' Can I have another cup of coffee?"

"Then we drove to a party. My wife was very concerned about this run. There was somebody already in place, this is a 2.5 to 1 underdog. We're driving to the client's party and out of the blue, Rosemarie says, you know, you're not used to losing. I was looking around like, where did that come from? and I said, okay. She said, 'Well, you're not a good loser.' I said, well, Rosemarie, I guess I better not lose, and we were off to the races. It was thanks to all of you."

"It's been a tough road, you know that. You should all know election night, he received a text from a prominent person in Rockland County. The text said this. 'You better fall in line or you might be next.'"

"Now, you all know my background from the Bronx. You want to fight, we'll fight. I don't care. I've had that before.

The late Jim Flynn, who was active in Nanuet. He happened to come to the legislature one night and I was going at it. Then I went to town hall, and he said, 'I love it when the Bronx comes out of you.' It's not fighting for me; it's fighting for all of you and for my family. Next year is going to be tough because it's always been tough. But we can do this."

"Ed needs the help. They have a supermajority in the legislature. What that means is if we vote no and Ed vetoes it; they can override it. So, it's taken a lot of work. A lot of negotiations and I must say I'm proud of the relationship that the members of the minority have built up with the members of the majority. There are certain members of the legislature, just so you know, that would love to override. It's not an assumption, it's a fact. It's taking a lot of negotiation.

https://youtu.be/10bmUYMIyyQ

After his speech concluded, Hofstein went around and personally thanked the people there for coming out to support him. The buffet opened and people ate, drank, schmoozed, got to meet new people and make some new friends.