

**WNYT Channel 13 – July 9, 2009**

## **Reaction to Ravitch appointment fast and furious**

ALBANY - Robo-calls went out from Paterson's election campaign, reaching out to voters just two-and-a-half hours after he made his public announcement appointing Richard Ravitch the Lieutenant Governor.

"Richard Ravitch and I will get the Senate back to work and get New Yorkers the relief we all deserve. Paid for by Paterson 2010," said the recording.

His move to appoint a lieutenant governor was denounced by Republicans.

"This is really just a political ploy on his part. He has horrible polling numbers and he's looking to make himself into the leader, quite frankly, he has not been," said Republican Senator Dean Skelos.

"I don't believe it creates any leverage at all. I think it really creates more political theater," said Assembly Minority Leader Brian Kolb.

"The appointment of Richard Ravitch today will bring the Governor a successor, the Senate a presiding officer and will help to alleviate this crisis," Paterson said in his live address Wednesday.

This came as Senators from both sides said they are working on a power-sharing agreement. The Senate has been deadlocked since a power grab by a Republican-led Coalition on June 8th. The Senate is now split 31-31.

Democrats called the appointment a step in the right direction to get things done.

"We are hopeful that we will be able to be in session tomorrow. Our expectation is to be passing bills with the new appointee Richard Ravitch," said Democratic Senator Malcolm Smith.

"It's clearly unconstitutional. It's unfortunate that the Governor has taken these steps but a lot of things right now we feel he has been doing have been unconstitutional," said Skelos.

"I think this whole thing really is just one more step that really undermines the confidence that the public has in its elected officials," Kolb said.