



111 WASHINGTON AVE, SUITE 501
ALBANY, NEW YORK 12207

WWW.FWC-LAW.COM

PHONE: (518) 436-0786
FAX: (518) 427-0452

The Week That Was

01-26-18

1. DeFran - The Man With A Plan

Our Spin:

Ever since Governor Andrew Cuomo received the endorsement of the Independence Party of the State of New York, the big ticket Republican names that were expected to enter the race for Governor have dropped out. However, there still seems to be hope for one man, DeFran. On Fred Dicker's "Focus On The State Capitol" radio show earlier this week, State Senator John DeFrancisco said he is leaning toward entering the race. Let's hope his success rate is better than his old batting average.

The Story:

Senator John DeFrancisco, in a radio interview on Thursday, said he is leaning toward running for governor and plans to make a "formal announcement" at the end of the month. The Senator highlighted that it was now a matter of getting the various pieces together to mount a statewide bid. "I'm not trying to be coy, but it's not like running for school board. There's so many pieces throughout the state that have to be put together, and I'm well on my way to putting everything together."

DeFrancisco said that watching the rollout of Governor Andrew Cuomo's budget has helped push him into a potential race against the Governor: "It's really energizing me — that I think I could do a good job — and I'm very heavily leaning to doing it." While DeFrancisco talked about issues such as corruption, education and economic development, he suggested that part of his appeal to voters in a heavily Democratic state would be partially based on personal qualities.

"In many cases, it's not even a question of who stands for what policy, but who wants someone who is a good leader that is not talking in doubletalk, that is not saying one thing one day and another the other, and is not using the coffers of the state of New York to run for president of the United States," he said, referring to Cuomo's rumored presidential ambitions.

For now, the two Republican candidates in the race are Assembly Minority Leader Brian Kolb and ex-Erie County Executive Joel Giambra, a Democrat-turned-Republican.

[NY State of Politics](#)
[Politico](#)

2. Slide to the Left, Slide to the Right, Criss-Cross!

Our Spin:

The vote by New York's junior Senator, Kirsten Gillibrand, against the deal negotiated by senior Senator Chuck Schumer, demonstrates the policy rift in the Democratic Party. The Democrats potential 2020 Presidential candidates, including our very own Governor Andrew Cuomo, all continue to move left while Democrats in swing states strive to protect moderate voters. The Dems won't be the only electeds doing the 2020 side step shuffle. New York Republicans up for re-election this year will certainly be dancing delicately to strike just the right balance in the era of Trumpsim.

The Story:

For Democrats, the Senate vote earlier in the week to end the three-day government shutdown pitted moderates

against liberals, nervous incumbents against potential presidents, and New York's two U.S. senators against each other. The disagreement – between Senate Minority Leader Charles E. Schumer and Senator Kirsten E. Gillibrand – perfectly illustrated the fix the Democratic minority finds itself in over an issue that caused the shutdown and could still cause another: what to do about upwards of 800,000 young people brought to America illegally by their parents.

"Democrats have always sought to be reasonable, to act in good faith, and to get something real done," Schumer said after a deal was struck. The deal amounts to three weeks of government funding and a promise. Schumer agreed that he would support a temporary bill funding the government through Feb. 8 and extending the popular Children's Health Insurance Program for six years. In exchange, McConnell promised that he will allow a Senate vote on the DREAM Act, which would give those young illegal immigrants, who came to America through no decision of their own, permanent legal status.

However, to Schumer's left and voting "no" stood 16 of his fellow Democrats, including seven potential presidential candidates who may be more mindful of the liberal primary electorate of 2020 than they are of any immediate political threat.

Gillibrand echoed the thoughts of several of them, saying on Twitter she couldn't vote for an end to the shutdown because it did nothing to protect the "Dreamers" whose temporary legal status will expire March 5 unless Congress acts. "I want to see the government re-open as much as anyone, but this bill fails to fix the moral issue we must solve," Gillibrand said. "That's why I voted against it."

[The Buffalo News](#)

3. Betting On a Supreme Overturn

Our Spin:

First up at the free-throw line was the NBA advocating for a Federal solution to sports betting. Next out of the starting gate was the thoroughbred racing industry hoping to be included in the new betting. The NHL never appeared on the ice and the MLB failed to enter the batter's box. It should be noted the NFL was sent an invitation to attend but all of the leagues representatives must have still been in

Boston celebrating the New England Patriots and preparing for the Super Bowl.

The Story:

On Wednesday the New York Senate Standing Committee on Racing, Gaming and Wagering held an informational hearing into the potential of sports betting in New York State. States are frantically trying to prepare the ground in case the U.S. Supreme Court chooses to overturn the federal sports betting prohibition, while other stakeholders are keen to ensure they have a seat at the table when legal sports betting commences.

An invitation was sent to all the major professional sports leagues. Only Dan Spillane, assistant legal counsel for the National Basketball Association (NBA) showed up to testify. Among the most notable aspects of Spillane's remarks was the shift in absolute support for a federal betting regulatory environment to support for "a comprehensive sports betting bill that would serve as a model for a 50-state solution—whether that happens in Congress or on a state-by-state basis." Spillane said the NBA's preference remains for a federal solution, but since individual states are moving faster than their federal counterparts, the NBA "cannot sit on the sidelines while this activity is occurring." The NBA's five points include the controversial proposal recently put forward in Indiana that would offer sports leagues 1% of all bets placed on their respective games.

Also participating was a panel of the state's racing stakeholders, including New York Racing Association CEO Chris Kay, New York Thoroughbred Horsemen Association president Joseph Appelbaum, and New York Thoroughbred Breeders president Jeffrey Cannizzo. Racing's overall concern is not being left out of the sports betting mix when New York gives the green light. The state previously authorized betting at the state's four new commercial casinos when it approved the casino legislation in 2013, and the tracks insist they have a right to join this party.

[NY Daily News](#)

