

From: Peter Vallone
Learning to Govern

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**FORMER NEW YORK CITY COUNCIL SPEAKER PETER VALLONE
WRITES INSPIRING ACCOUNT OF HIS LIFE IN POLITICS**

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**Learning to Govern explores diverse themes of God, family values,
political power and government accountability**

NEW YORK, NY – Learning to Govern: My Life in New York Politics, From Hell Gate to City Hall, by former City Council Speaker Peter F. Vallone Sr., is an insightful and inspiring account of the life of one of New York City’s premier elected officials. In his first book, Vallone chronicles his 35 years of public service from a clubhouse in Astoria Queens to the levers of power in City Hall. In this easy-reading narrative that avoids preaching, the statesman/author hammers home his abiding message that good government – not good politics – must always be the goal of every public servant.

Throughout **Learning to Govern**, Mr. Vallone frankly cites his belief in “The Creator” as the fundamental source of government authority, even as he rejects those who would interject religion into politics. He strikes a balance which both Democrats and Republicans should consider as an alternative to the divisiveness which has poisoned national debate and turned so many young people away from politics.

Vallone hopes his book will inspire a new generation to find nobility in politics and to pursue a career in public service. But he pulls no punches in his critique of term limits as a quick fix which is crippling legislative bodies across America. He is unsparing in his examples of the dysfunction of New York State government and cases where leaders in Albany have betrayed the people of New York City.

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“I hope my experiences will serve as a road map to others to follow. I hope further that they illustrate why people should never get discouraged by a few bumps along the way,” Vallone writes in his preface. “Public service is a noble profession, and in this country it is the noblest of all because the bedrock of our system of government is our ‘Creator.’”

Inspired by his late father, Peter Vallone became involved in Astoria’s local civic and Democratic political clubs, and was elected to the City Council in 1973.

Vallone, a staunch family man, strong Catholic, and loyal Democrat, served in the City Council for 27 years, the last 12 as Speaker. No matter how hectic his schedule, he attended Mass every morning and ate dinner with his family each night.

During his tenure as the second most powerful political official in New York City, Vallone closely worked with three of New York City’s most colorful Mayors, Ed Koch, David Dinkins, and Rudy Giuliani. **Learning to Govern** enables the reader to observe Vallone’s personal interactions with these men, and to become a fly on the wall in New York’s rooms of power.

The book details Vallone’s dealings with the famous and infamous, from Mother Theresa, who needed parking spaces for her convent in Harlem, to Donald Manes, a one-time mentor who took his own life in the face of a mounting corruption scandal.

Learning to Govern chronicles Mr. Vallone’s exceptional political career, and his leadership role in remaking New York City’s government and in providing for 5,000 additional police officers, the decisive factor in the City’s successful effort to reduce crime in the last 15 years.

“Flip through the pages of this book, and you’ll find observations on public life that provide a refreshing antidote to the cynicism that so often seems ready to engulf politics in America,” City University of New York Chancellor Matthew Goldstein writes in the foreword for the book.

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For review copies of **Learning to Govern**, or to schedule an interview with Peter Vallone, please contact Pat Smith at (212) 843-8026, or Kristen McMahon at (212) 843-8268.

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