

# Unshackle Upstate to pick candidates to oppose

Jill Terreri • Staff writer • August 4, 2010

A pro-business group will make a long-awaited announcement later this month regarding which state lawmakers they plan to target in November, as it works to harness voter disgust with the actions of politicians at the [capital](#).

Unshackle Upstate, which supports lower state spending and lower [taxes](#), is preparing to get involved in two to five races in which it has decided the incumbent does not support its agenda and in which it believes it can win.

The group has a goal of spending \$250,000 in each race, Unshackle Upstate Executive Director Brian Sampson told the [Rochester](#) Rotary Club on Tuesday. Its political action committee, UPAC, has so far raised \$44,350 and launched a new website on Tuesday. Sampson encouraged the crowd to donate.

A scorecard on all 212 state lawmakers — whose districts will be subject to voters' say-so in November — will also be released later this month, judging each incumbent on their votes, which legislation they pushed and how they answered questions in the media.

Sampson noted that the group's goal is not to sweep everyone out of office, but to target those who consistently vote with legislative leaders in Albany, who are based in New York City and, according to Sampson, not sympathetic to the group's goals.

"There certainly need to be people who are more accountable to their constituents," he said.

A Siena College poll on July 15 showed nearly half of voters surveyed gave the legislature an "F" on the state budget, which was due April 1. The same poll showed favorability ratings for the Assembly and Senate were just 25 percent.

To support its mission, Unshackle is using social media to engage voters, and more than 24,000

[Facebook](#) users are "fans" of the group.

Sampson urged everyone in the room to vote.

"Don't let apathy get the better of you," he said.

One of the group's goals, a cap in the annual growth of [property taxes](#), has won some support in Albany, though it hasn't become law.

Unshackle Upstate is affiliated with the Rochester Business Alliance and other upstate chambers of commerce, though despite its name, it has partnered with groups with similar goals in the Lower Hudson Valley and on Long Island.

[JTERRERI@DemocratandChronicle.com](mailto:JTERRERI@DemocratandChronicle.com)

Find campaign [finances](#), voting records, recent coverage, Tweets from elected officials, and [more](#)

Advertisement

**USA TODAY**  
**AutoPilot** ✈️

The new travel app for iPhone® and iPod touch®

Presented by: Hampton

**SEE HOW IT WORKS** »