

Steve Bellone proposes bond deal; Republicans declare victory

Legislative counsel questions legality of county exec's plan while GOP says it would give them oversight they need to consider bonding for each capital project separately.

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It appears the battle over bundled bonds may be over.

Suffolk County Executive Steve Bellone proposed Wednesday ending the month-long battle with Republicans, saying he would go back to letting lawmakers vote separately on each bond resolution, but will offer new legislation requiring that appropriations and bonding be included in the same measure.



Suffolk County Executive Steve Bellone speaks at a news conference in Amityville on Thursday, July 5. Photo Credit: Barry Sloan

Legislative Counsel George Nolan questioned the legality of such a move, however, because appropriations need 10 votes for passage while bond resolutions require 12.

Presiding Officer DuWayne Gregory (D-Copiague) said he intends to go forward with a simpler solution. From now on, he intends to put forward the 12 vote resolutions authorizing bonds for capital projects first, and vote on appropriations only if the bond resolution passes.

Either way, minority Republicans declared victory. They said Bellone's proposal would give them the oversight they need to consider bonding for each capital project separately.