

RAYMOND A. MEIER

Former New York State Senator Raymond A. Meier is a graduate of Syracuse University and the Syracuse University College of Law.

An early interest in public affairs led him to work on numerous political campaigns over the years, including the successful 1970 U.S. Senate campaign of Conservative James L. Buckley, as well as numerous state and local races.

Following graduation from law school, Meier returned to his home community of Rome, New York to enter private law practice and to also serve as legislative counsel to the late State Senator James H. Donovan who became his political mentor.

In 1978, Meier was elected Chairman of the Rome City Republican Committee and led the party through successful local elections, retaining the Mayor's office and city council majorities. He served as Rome City Corporation Counsel from 1980-1982.

While practicing law in his hometown of Rome, he was elected to the Oneida County Legislature in 1985 where he served until his legislative colleagues appointed him as Oneida County Executive to serve out the unexpired term of John D. Plumley. He was elected County Executive in 1991 and re-elected in 1995. As County Executive he was a member of the Board of Directors of the NYS Association of Counties. During his time as county executive, Meier delivered six balanced budgets, paid off the county's deficits, privatized the county nursing home and other health services, and initiated welfare reform, which made Oneida County one of the first communities to begin reducing welfare rolls. He also became a vocal advocate on behalf of local government and against expensive and oppressive state mandates. In 1994, Meier was a member of Governor Pataki's transition team.

In 1996, Meier was elected to the first of five terms in the New York State Senate. In his first term, Meier chaired the Committee on Veterans and Military Affairs. In his second term, he chaired the Committee on Human Services. Throughout his five terms, Senator Meier chaired the Committee on Children and Families, and concentrated on Welfare and Medicaid reform, emphasizing the importance of work, personal responsibility, and the application of market principles. He was also a member of the National Conference of State Legislators, where he co-chaired the task force on Welfare Reform and testified before the House Ways & Means Committee. During his time in the State Senate, Meier developed a reputation as a fiscal conservative, and authored a proposed Constitutional amendment to limit the growth of state revenues. Senator Meier also maintained a strong pro-life voting record. He consistently maintained one of the highest Conservative Party ratings for his voting record and, as in all of his other races, proudly carried both his Republican and Conservative endorsements in his races. *The Albany Times Union* called Senator Meier an "independent-minded conservative."

In 2004, Meier was a delegate to the Republican National Convention and a member of the Platform Committee.

In 2006, Senator Meier was the unsuccessful Republican-Conservative candidate for New York's 24th Congressional District. Since then, he has re-entered private life and is currently an attorney with the law firm of Bond, Schoeneck & King PLLC. He has maintained his interest in public issues and frequently writes and speaks on the issues of the day.

Senator Meier is married to Kimberly Davis Meier and they reside in the Town of Western. They have two grown children, Monica and Erik, and two grandchildren.