

# Weingarten, Reid & McNally

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## **Governor Paterson Ends Election Bid Amid Scandal**

A week after officially announcing his election campaign, Governor Paterson announced on Friday afternoon that he was ending his bid for office, the result of his administration caught up in a whirlwind of allegations about its intervention in a domestic violence episode involving a top aide. “I am being realistic about politics. It hasn’t been the latest distraction, it’s been an accumulation of obstacles,” said Paterson. “There are times not to strive for service but to step back. That moment has come for me.”

Paterson has called on the Attorney General to investigate the matter, though defiantly denies any wrongdoing in the scandal over his involvement in the abuse case. “I have never abused my office. Not now, not ever,” he announced during Manhattan-based press event which he began by recounting what he saw as his greatest accomplishments in decades of public service.

Despite a growing number of public officials calling for resignation, Paterson said he intends on finishing out his term and devoting his energies to the state’s ongoing budget struggles and other important issues facing New Yorkers.

The Paterson administration’s handling of the case will now be investigated by Andrew Cuomo, who is himself expected to join the race for governor this year. Some government-watchdog groups said that given Mr. Cuomo’s hopes for the future, an independent prosecutor should be appointed.