

# Paterson: 'That budget is going to get passed on Monday'

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Gov. Paterson just emerged from a five-way leaders meeting and while Democratic leaders were a bit more optimistic — Sheldon Silver earlier said they were at “3” on a 1-10 scale of budget closeness, the governor renewed his shut-down threat, saying if a budget deal isn’t done by Monday, he’ll put his whole plan in that week’s extender bill needed to keep state operations going.

“I said June 28,” Paterson said, referring to last week when he raised the idea that he’d pack the rest of the 2010-11 budget into that extension bill. “That budget is going to get passed on Monday.”

Paterson also said that he and leaders still remain far apart on education cuts — he wants \$1.4 billion in reductions while Silver and Assembly Democrats want an approximately a restoration with \$420 million being the most recently used number.

The governor also said he floated a 3 percent property tax cap for localities other than schools.

That’s a half-a-loaf-is-better-than-none approach given that school taxes make up two thirds of the property tax bite in many communities. The fact that school tax caps have fallen off the table is a testament to the education lobby’s political power. Assembly Dems have since the beginning opposed any kind of school tax cap.

“I was just trying to find, is there a way to get anything capped in terms of local governments and people who have to pay taxes and this is my latest effort. They are talking about it but I’m not particularly in terms of the way it went over,” said Paterson.