

Speaker says he asked Lopez to resign

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Assembly Speaker Sheldon Silver says he asked Assemblyman Vito Lopez [to resign](#) from office last week amid the sexual harassment scandal.

The speaker said he'd be exploring legal avenues to [force him](#) out if he refuses. Lopez [hasn't resigned](#) as Brooklyn party boss, and instead will remain until the next election, which allows him to [preside](#) over his successor's selection.

Candidates to [replace](#) Lopez as party leader have been making themselves known. Democratic consultants expect Silver, who approved the secret, taxpayer-funded settlement, to [weather](#) the controversy unscathed.

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