



Dutchess County *Young Republicans*



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New Yorkers Demand Cap on Taxes, Reign on Spending; State Democrats Ignore Demands

A recent Siena College poll shows that 72% of New York taxpayers want a cap on property and school taxes. Furthermore, 11% of those polled expressed they are planning to leave the state if the dire tax situation does not improve. Only 20% of those living north of New York City think the state is moving in the right direction.

The Siena poll reaffirms the sentiments of the Dutchess County Young Republican club's positions of the past year viewable at www.dutchessyr.com. We have repeatedly warned of the implications of the crushing taxes on Dutchess County taxpayers, and written of the failures of the state Democratic leadership to embrace a pro-growth, pro-worker, and pro-taxpayer philosophy.

Despite overwhelming opposition to the MTA tax, the Democrats ignored the voices of the people, and approved the tax plan. The payroll tax in addition to other fees will pump \$1.8 billion dollars of taxpayer money into MTA failing business model. Dutchess County residents will see a \$400,000 tax hike just to cover the cost of the tax which applies to government payroll too! Most infringed upon are the local county businesses that see no benefit from MTA services, and some businesses will be forced to terminate employees to afford the new tax. Governor David Paterson flip-flopped – originally declaring that higher taxes would be detrimental to the state of New York, but later coming out in support of the massive tax hike.

As reported in the Siena Poll New Yorkers overwhelmingly support a tax-cap on the crushing school property taxes. Despite controlling both chambers of the Legislature and the Governor's Mansion the Democrat-controlled state government has failed to pass any relief. On the local level Democrats in the Dutchess County Legislature raised county property taxes 11% this year.

The nonstop taxing tendencies of Democrats have continued. Governor Paterson and state Democrats implemented the "Amazon Tax" forcing all Internet and mail order companies throughout the nation to collect and remit sales tax to the State of New York, when shipping to customers within the state. The Republicans in the State Senate resolved to repeal the egregious tax, yet the Democrat-controlled State Assembly is refusing to address the concerns. The tax is currently being contested in

court, as most national retailers have refused to collect the tax, and face no consequences as their states do not recognize the New York law. However, some retailers have warehouses and offices in the state of New York and must follow the law – creating a double standard and infringing on the competitiveness of New York based businesses.

Even more drastically, Democratic Legislators have eliminated the STAR Program initiated by Governor Pataki and State Republicans – leaving most New York State homeowners, and especially senior citizens left without the tax relief that so many of our seniors on low income have come to expect. The STAR Tax Relief elimination results in a hefty tax hike – which will also cost Dutchess County residents around \$20 million dollars!

If taxing wasn't enough, Democratic State Legislators have made massive spending increases to the tune of \$1.3 billion dollars at a time when revenue is at an all-time low, while attempting to drain what little is left from the taxpayers to subsidize the huge hikes.

It is clear that New York is at the breaking point when it comes to taxation. The current state Democratic majority is failing to act responsibly in reigning in spending and cutting taxes. It is no surprise then that the Siena Poll found 11% of New Yorkers considering jettisoning the state.

When this exodus occurs, New York will lose talent and skill when many young people who find the cost of living to be unbearable, not to mention the experience and community value of retirees who were among those to make New York such a great place to live.

Further there will be no one left to tax, and those of us who remain will end up paying even more of the lion's share. The current Democratic leadership is not being good stewards of our money for our communities. The time is past due for New York Democrats to realize that CHANGES in taxing and spending philosophy is necessary to keep New York affordable and economically viable.

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Learn more about the DCYRs at www.DutchessYR.com or on FACEBOOK
by friending “Dutchess YRs” or on the on the Dutchess County Young Republican group page.