

Dutchess County

Young Republicans

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Media Contact: Justin Varuzzo, youngdutchessgop@yahoo.com,
justin@astutesystems.com

Paterson's Dead-on-Arrival New Tax Proposals Offers a Glimpse of Hope, but the Real Work of Cutting Spending and Reducing Taxes Remains Undone

New York Republicans can take a moment to breathe a sigh of relief. Amid heavy pressure Governor David Paterson officially dropped his plans for imposing 137 new taxes and fees which would have affected everything from music downloads to sugary drinks.

This was not simply a Republican vs. Democrat philosophical dispute; this was an imposition of taxes that would have had a dramatic affect on all of New York's residents, regardless of political affiliation. The idea of this set of new taxes was opposed by nearly everyone in New York. Along with state and local Republicans, all New Yorkers made their voices heard on this issue.

As victorious as it may seem on the surface, it is not entirely positive news. Governor Paterson has claimed he only dropped his tax plan due to a huge influx in federal money coming to New York from President Obama's costly stimulus package. It is clear there is still no plan to close a massive budget deficit, other than applying federal money as a band-aid to temporarily postpone the problem.

We can only "hope" that the leadership of New York, will take their time in addressing the matter over this next year and develop a real plan to lead New York's budget back to black. State leaders need to focus on developing a plan that will not only cut spending, but reduce taxes during this time of economic turmoil, two critical things they failed to do in developing the current budget.

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