

As an ordinary citizen of New York State who relocated here 15 years ago due job transfer I've been very concerned about the high taxes, energy costs, and dysfunctional state government. I've worked in many a state over my 40 years of employment and it saddens me to say that New York state government is the worst of any state I've worked in.

Unfortunately at the budget hearings in SYR the other day you heard only activist people with an agenda who wants the state to spend more money on their pet projects or organizations. As a state tax payer you need to reduce state spending not increase it like these activists would like.

As a tax payer and home owner I'm appalled at the high property taxes and other state/local taxes which are required to support State mandates that you expect the local taxpayer to pay for. Items such as Medicaid need to be reduced as well as other State welfare programs that you expect the local tax payer to pay for.

Also you need to reform the State and local pension plans for state and local employees as they are way to generous and way out of line with private sector pension plans. Again the tax payer gets the burden of paying for these over generous pension plans. Pension plans should be based on the base salary of the employee and not all the overtime hours, additional work hours etc which just inflate the pension costs that the tax payers ultimately are saddled with paying for. Private industry pension plans should be the model for State/local government plans.

I live in upper state New York which is very beautiful and an ideal place to raise a family like I did. However, the young educated college graduates are fleeing the state due to lack of job opportunities which is a result of the unfriendly business climate in the State which is a direct result of the dysfunctional government and high taxes. New York needs to change or otherwise it will continue to be a state with declining population as people can't continue to pay high taxes, high energy costs, high pension costs, high Medicaid costs, and over government regulations.

As a tax payer I appreciate the opportunity to share my concerns with you and hopefully you will make the right choice for the people of the state. They want change and want it now.

For me and my family we will be moving by choice to the warm, sunny and business friendly state of Arizona late next year. The winters up here are no fun and that is another strike against the state.

Thank you for your time.

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