

First off let me say that I do not envy you guys and the burden that must be taken in finding ways to reduce the deficit. I am a father of two, husband to a NYC school teacher and a life long New Yorker who resides in Plainview Long Island. I can tell you that just being able to afford to live is a challenge at best. Given the fact that I am in sales and the recent downturn in the economy I can no longer rely on the once decent commission checks and must get creative in stretching our income.

Given this I always look at what is most important to me and my family which I hope you will find useful when looking to make our tax dollars stretch through out the next fiscal year.

Here they are in no specific order:

Education - A parent must know that the state supports its educational leaders and the system in which they teach. Not only is school a way to better the lives of our children but an easy means of daycare for us parents that must work. Given this funds must be made available for after hours care and programs. This will help keep parents in their work place thus increasing tax revenue to the state.

Transportation- This is extremely important since most people in NYC and the surrounding areas rely on the roads and Mass transit to get us to and from the work place. Making sure that this remains affordable and a smooth running machine is very important. As a rider of Mass Transit everyday I share in the frustration that a potential fare increase may be on the rise while the level of service and security is on the decline. Let snot forget the bridges, Tunnels and roads. They must be kept safe and clean through all weather conditions.

Health Care- As a husband of a NYC school teacher I can not complain about the level of benefits I receive. Although I know that I am one of the lucky ones and not all people share in my good fortune. That being said as a Parent I must urge affordable health care to all NY state residents and if anything ask that you add additional funds to this basket.

Where is my dollar going?- When time do get tough I must sometimes look as to where my money is actually going to justify it being spent. I once used an insurance company that provided an excellent service and although I never needed them I felt comfortable with my choice. One month I had to make a choice of paying them on time or fix the family car in which was insured. I did some research only to find that they were a broker and I could actually save money by going direct with the insurer. Thus I fixed the car and save a few hundred per year on both my home and car insurance. The moral here is where is the tax dollars going. Are they going to sub contractors who subcontract to a subcontractor? Could the state do a better job looking for mismanaged funds and reduce the \$1000 coffee pot scenario? I am sure that it is no secret that there are areas in the state in which the money is not well spent and areas (LI there are plenty) where corruption has become the new law. If our Governor wants to boost his rating let him make an example out of some of these departments and roost out the corrupters. No one should stand for it - unfortunately some turn a blind eye. That will certainly help in your efforts.

Security- Most people will agree that Security or feeling secure is a priority. We must focus on security in this day and age of terrorism. I would not skip a payment of my home alarm and the State should not skip out on monies allotted to our Police, Fire and emergency response personnel. always save some in case of an elevated state of alert and at the worst case scenario you will have money left over at the end of the year.

In the long run I believe that New Yorkers are the hardest working people in the country. You have to be in order to work and live here. The bar is set here in the city and if you cant do your job someone is waiting to do it for you. If you want to live in or near the city you have to pay the price that goes with it. We pay more than most states for this luxury. We are not tourists on vacation but residents and sometimes I think that gets overlooked. Maybe a resident of the state

should receive a benefit while tourists pay a tax to be here? Not sure how that will work but you get the idea. Maybe we should start using the state lottery earnings for some of the items I mention above. Does that really go towards the schools anyway? What is the state doing for our increase of costs for gas and heat especially now when oil is \$100 a barrel and winter is approaching?

Anyway I rambled on enough. Good luck to you and may you find some value in this email.

Best regards,

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