

A Common Sense Voice Against TAXING, SPENDING & BORROWING

A Threat to Special Interests - A Friend to Business & Homeowners

A NEWSLETTER FROM ASSEMBLYMAN MICHAEL FITZPATRICK



Assemblyman Michael Fitzpatrick talks with a neighbor about the crushing burden of property taxes.

A Real Voice Against Tax Hikes

Addressing New York's Tax Crisis

Since elected to the State Assembly in 2002, Assemblyman Michael Fitzpatrick has been the ONLY member of the Legislature to vote NO against all state tax and fee hikes that resulted in \$6.3 billion in additional tax burdens. To address the tax crisis New Yorkers face, Assemblyman Fitzpatrick introduced the "New York State Property Taxpayer Protection Act" to cap school property taxes. It's no

"Assemblyman Fitzpatrick has shown the courage to stand up for his principles, even in the face of overwhelming pressure...Fitzpatrick's voting record has shown him to be the most fiscally responsible member of the State legislature."

- Governor George Pataki

wonder that special interests are lining up against Assemblyman Fitzpatrick – he's a threat to the blank check they currently enjoy.

Not only does Fitzpatrick's plan cap school district tax levies from increasing on homeowners and businesses, but provides school and local mandate relief, reduces Medicaid costs on county taxpayers, encourages local government consolidation, promotes local insurance pooling and creates an Inspector General to enhance oversight of tax dollars. When fully implemented, this plan would save taxpayers and school districts approximately \$16 billion over five years.

For New York's economy to truly prosper, the State must relieve the burden placed on businesses throughout the State. That's why Assemblyman Fitzpatrick has consistently advocated for measures that cut taxes for businesses - so that they can create and retain jobs.

HELP ASSEMBLYMAN FITZPATRICK

Special interests are lining up against Assemblyman Fitzpatrick for his consistent votes against their agenda. Without his voice in the State Assembly, more businesses and homeowners will pack up and leave the state.

Please Consider a Contribution

Name _____

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Please make checks payable to
Friends of Michael Fitzpatrick

P.O. Box 474

St. James, NY 11780-0474



"...Fitzpatrick's politics are firmly grounded in a conservative philosophy... His intellectual consistency is refreshing."

- *Newsday, 10/24/06*

Stop the Union Giveaways

Property taxes are continually increasing, and Assemblyman Fitzpatrick knows that Albany's union-giveaways are contributing to the problem.

Each time the Legislature provides public-employee unions with pension sweeteners, they inevitably drive taxes higher.

Assemblyman Fitzpatrick believes that government must serve everyone, not just the unions. That's why he has continually opposed the demands of public employee unions to grant overly generous retirement benefits. For instance, he stood up and voted NO to providing retired employees of the Triborough Bridge and Tunnel Authority with half pay after just 20 years of work regardless of their age, at a cost of over \$1 million annually to taxpayers. That's why Assemblyman Fitzpatrick can be trusted to protect taxpayers!

“Assemb. Mike Fitzpatrick...deserves enormous credit as the lone vote against this costly union giveaway.”
– *Newsday, 9/18/06*



“Public labor headed where public labor goes in search of a friendly face: to Albany, where union leaders persuaded the Legislature to gut the Taylor Law. The vote was 194 to 1, with only Long Island Assemblyman Michael Fitzpatrick showing the nerve to oppose the measure.”

– *NY Daily News, 6/25/06*

Tackling Our State's Debt

State debt is currently \$2,797 per person, per year, the second highest per capita in the U.S. This burden is incurred through backdoor borrowing, which is simply passed on to taxpayers while the state incurs debt that inevitably adds up in the future.

To tackle our state's debt, Assemblyman Fitzpatrick has introduced legislation that would ban borrowing without voter approval, while requiring that 10 percent of any budget surplus be used to decrease the state's debt. He also supports legislation that would revise powers of the Public Authorities Control Board (PACB) that issues debt. To allow for greater transparency, Assemblyman Fitzpatrick also supports legislation that requires any ballot proposition authorizing state debt to include information on both the principal and interest that would be incurred by taxpayers.

Spending Restraint

The politicians in Albany have a spending addiction. That's why Assemblyman Michael Fitzpatrick has continually fought the status quo in Albany when it comes to out-of-control spending.

When elected to the State Assembly in 2002, Assemblyman Fitzpatrick promised constituents that he would be their voice in Albany to demand spending restraint, with the goal of holding the line on taxes. Since then, state spending has increased by over \$21 billion – and that's why Fitzpatrick has consistently voted NO on every state budget. In fact, in 2003 and again in 2006, Fitzpatrick stood up against every special interest in the State by voting to uphold Governor Pataki's vetoes to over \$11.6 billion in state spending.

Assemblyman Fitzpatrick knows that simply voting NO isn't enough. That's why he's sponsored legislation to reform the way Albany does business. He has introduced legislation to limit year-to-year increases in spending to no more than the rate of inflation, increase the Tax Stabilization Reserve Fund, and require a two-year education funding plan to allow school districts and property taxpayers to plan ahead.

Fitzpatrick won the Conservative Party's first 'Visionary' award Monday night for having the most Conservative voting record in Albany...

– *Newsday, 7/9/07*



Assemblyman Michael Fitzpatrick talks with seniors about rising taxes and his plan to provide relief to New Yorkers

Public Pension Reform

Public Pension System Guarantees Benefits

Assemblyman Fitzpatrick knows that our public pension system guarantees benefits more generous than those offered in the private sector. These escalating costs are a liability for the state since they ultimately lead to higher taxes.

That's why Assemblyman Fitzpatrick supports pension reforms to create a new Tier 5 system. Fitzpatrick is the sponsor of legislation to create a commission to evaluate and report on: the creation of a new retirement plan (Tier 5), advantages of switching from a defined benefit pension plan to a hybrid or defined contribution plan; taxpayer relief that could be achieved by adopting a new retirement plan; and the short-term and long-term fiscal stability of the public pension funds and their ability to weather economic downturns.

“Assemblyman Michael Fitzpatrick has been standing firm... Kudos to him for his courage.”

- NY Post, 6/22/06

EJ McMahon of the Empire Center/ Manhattan Institute and John Gallagan of New York Conference of Mayors (NYCOM) have both issued support for a new (Tier 5) defined contribution plan.



“...The pensions passed...with overwhelming majorities... On several of the votes... Michael Fitzpatrick, was the lone dissenter.”

- The New York Sun, 6/28/06

HAVING THE COURAGE TO SAY NO!

Assemblyman Michael Fitzpatrick's Record of Resolve...

YEAR	BILL DESCRIPTION	COST TO TAXPAYERS	FITZPATRICK VOTE
2007	2007-08 State Budget	\$4.77 billion	No
2006	Votes to Override the Governor's Vetoes	\$4.09 billion	No
2006	2006-07 State Budget	\$9.19 billion	No
2006	Requires the city & state to contribute the required employee contribution on behalf of SUNY & CUNY who are members of the optional retirement program	\$21.7 million \$15 million	No No
2006	Increases the max. service retirement benefit for Tier 2 investigators in the NYC employees' retirement system & all Tier 2 police/firefighters	\$1 million	No
2006	Provides for retirement eligibility for certain Triborough Bridge & Tunnel members upon 20 years of service	\$800,000	No
2006	Requires employers with more than 20 employees to grant employees working 20 or more hours a week 3 hours leave of absence a year to donate blood	Millions for Businesses	No
2006	Allows Tier II, III and IV members of the NY state teachers' retirement system to retire with unreduced benefits upon completion of more than 35 years of service	\$2.2 million	No
2005	Allows reinstatement in public teachers' retirement systems to certain members who were employed by the NYC board of education	\$2 million	No
2005	Provides for retirement eligibility for Triborough Bridge & Tunnel members upon 20 years of service	\$800,000	No
2005	Permits deputy sheriffs in NYC to retire at no less than half-pay after 20 years service and attaining age 50	\$300,000	No
2005-06	State Budget	\$3.67 billion	No
2004	Increases the minimum wage for all employees, including farm workers	Millions for Farmers	No
2004	Provides a preference in awarding state contracts to entities which provide employer sponsored health coverage	Millions for Businesses	No
2004	Votes to Override the Governor's Vetoes	\$44 million	No
2004-05	State Budget	\$3.34 billion	No
2003	Votes to Override the Governor's Vetoes	\$7.46 billion	No
2003-04	State Budget	\$8.21 billion	No