

Voice Your Response Below to the Suozzi Commission's Recommendations

(Room for two respondents)

On June 9th I hosted a public forum in Putnam Valley with Nassau County Executive Tom Suozzi who offered a proposal from the **Commission on Property Tax Relief**, which he chairs. We heard from anti-tax groups, supporters of an income-tax based system of taxation, teachers' union members, school boards, PTAs and business consortiums. Needless to say, the opinions were wide-ranging. We must act swiftly enacting legislation to begin the hard work to fundamentally change NY State's property tax burden. I generally support the Commission's preliminary recommendations, which include a property tax cap, a circuit breaker, and reducing or eliminating unfunded mandates. Since the time the commission's report was released, many polls were conducted which indicated that New Yorkers support the property tax cap as well as the circuit breaker. I would really like to hear from you. For more information on the Commission's report visit their Web site at cptr.state.ny.us or call 518-486-4238.

Are you in favor of a property tax cap?

Yes No

Yes No

If you favor a cap, do you think 4% or 120% of the Consumer Price Index (the lesser of the two) is reasonable?

Yes No

Yes No

If not, what percentage tax cap would you prefer?

_____ %

_____ %

The report calls for any school district that wants to exceed the cap to get approval by at least 55 percent of the voters, and by 60 percent if the district received a 5% or greater boost in state aid. Do you think this is reasonable?

Yes No

Yes No

Do you think a tax cap should be passed as its own legislation?

Yes No

Yes No

If not, would you support a cap in conjunction with a guarantee that school costs and state mandates for schools would be covered by state aid?

Yes No

Yes No

If you believe state aid is necessary to keep schools strong, would you be willing to have your income tax raised to support that aid?

Yes No

Yes No

Would you support circuit breaker relief in the form of a personal income tax credit against real property taxes paid in excess of a percentage of income?

Yes No

Yes No

If "yes" would you support replacing the current Middle Income STAR Rebate check with this new Circuit Breaker and use the state money that currently funds this STAR program to pay for the Circuit Breaker?

Yes No

Yes No

Additional comments can be attached to this questionnaire and mailed back to my office.

Let other state government officials know how you feel. Contact them as follows:

Governor Paterson:

Honorable David Paterson
The Executive Chamber
State Capitol
Albany, NY 12224
(518) 474-8390 • fax (518) 474-1513
www.ny.gov (go to "Contact Governor")

Majority Leader Skelos:

Honorable Dean Skelos
Senate Majority Leader
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Assembly Speaker Silver:

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Assemblywoman Sandy Galef
2 Church Street
Ossining, NY 10562-4802