

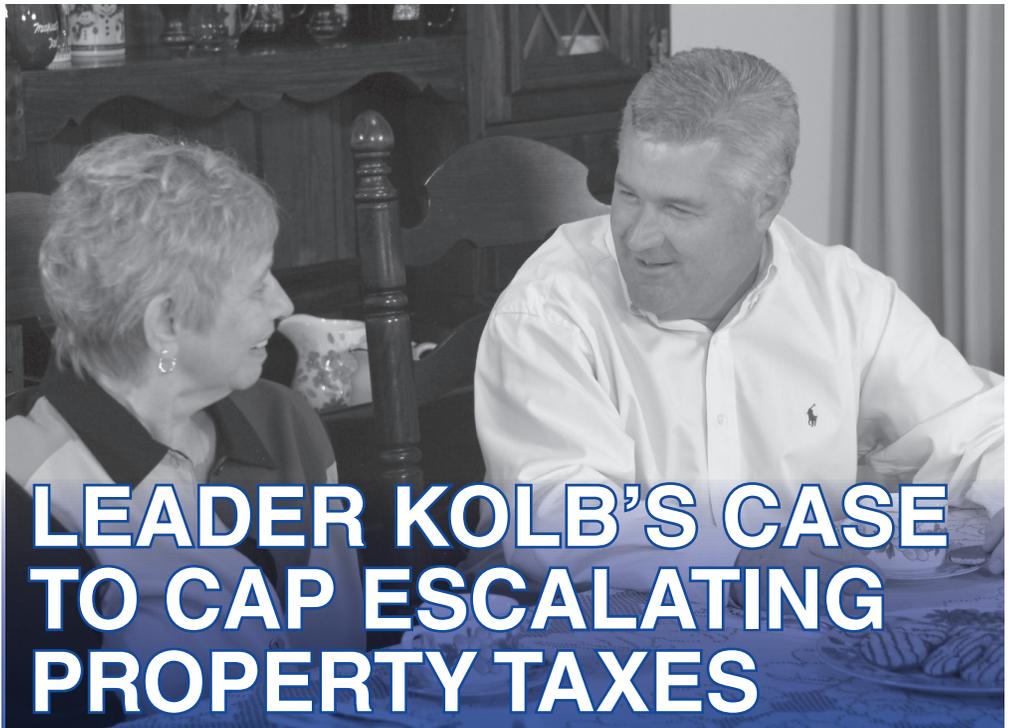
KOLB'S KEY

AUGUST 2010



KOLB TO MAJORITY LEADERS: **FOLLOW NEW JERSEY'S LEAD AND CAP PROPERTY TAXES**

Used by states for decades, property tax caps are not some new, untested idea. Over a dozen states already have property tax caps, including neighboring Massachusetts that enacted its cap back in 1980. Now New Jersey has acted to protect their taxpayers, capping property taxes at two percent. So don't let anyone try to tell you that a property tax cap is some sort of radical, untested proposal. Nothing could be further from the truth.



LEADER KOLB'S CASE TO CAP ESCALATING PROPERTY TAXES

You already know that New York homeowners endure some of the highest local property taxes in the nation, nearly 79 percent above the national average. What you may not know is that, when property taxes are measured as a percentage of home value, 16 out of the top 16 counties in the nation were located right here in Upstate New York. Outside of New York City, approximately 62 percent of property taxes are school property taxes - and property tax levies are rising at more than twice the rate of inflation and salaries.

To truly witness the extent of this explosive growth in school property tax levies, it helps to step back and view the issue over the long term. According to the Office of the State Comptroller, from 2000 to 2009, school property tax levies increased by approximately \$13 billion, or 84 percent. That is a staggering sum. Folks, those numbers don't lie, and neither do these: over the last decade, nearly two million residents left New York, the largest exodus experienced by any state. A large reason for their departure? It is simply too expensive to live, work and raise a family here. Rising property taxes have only made it more so.

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KOLB WANTS TO DERAIL ANTI-FARM BILL NEEDS YOUR SUPPORT

The so-called “Farmworkers Fair Labor Practices Act” (Assembly Bill A.1867/Senate Bill S.2247) is still a threat to become law. The Act, which would be financially devastating to New York’s family farms, its agricultural industry and economy, passed the Assembly by a vote of 86-58 despite the resistance from the Assembly Minority Conference. The legislation would become law if it also passes the Senate and is not vetoed by the Governor. It is very possible the measure could be passed into law before the end of the year.

The initiative – which is strongly opposed by the New York Farm Bureau, the National Federation of Independent Business and the Business Council of New York State, Inc., – would impose yet another burdensome and costly state mandate on family farms, significantly driving up their labor costs and operating expenses, ultimately forcing many out of business altogether.

This legislation is emblematic of the serious disconnect between Albany and the economic reality faced by New York’s family farms. Imposing more job-killing regulations and mandates won’t help family farmers, many of whom are barely getting by – it will have the opposite effect by putting more farms out of business and costing us more jobs.

Support our farm industry. Call or e-mail the Governor today to say you oppose the Farmworkers Fair Labor Practices Act: (518-474-8390), www.state.ny.us/governor/contact.

Follow Assembly
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And Keep Up With
For A People’s C

“Our Assembly Minority C
been leading the charge for
house in order”

“One solution is convening
so taxpayers can make fisc
Senate Majorities refuse to

“Can there be any doubt N
Constitutional Convention
government?”

“No doubt in my mind -- o
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“...Town Hall meetings in
Hamburg, Huntington Stat

“... as well as Hudson, East
Penn Yan and Patchogue”

“The public is invited & we
all of our upcoming People
Meetings!”

Assembly Minority
Kolb on
ENTER
With His Drive
Convention...

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NYS needs a People's
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welcome to attend any or
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The Road to Reform Begins with a People's Convention



Leader Kolb is traveling the state to create support for a non-partisan, grassroots "People's Convention To Reform New York" to empower citizens to take back their state government.



THE INS AND OUTS OF A SO-CALLED STATE BUDGET

This year's State Assembly Majority budget has left New York's taxpayers asking themselves a difficult question: Am I more outraged by what was INCLUDED in the budget or what was EXCLUDED from the budget? As always, the devil is in the details. Between increased taxes and fees and decreased funding for crucial programs and services, the people of New York have plenty to be upset about. The Majority's dysfunction in Albany has wrought another bad budget, which INCLUDED the same mistakes that yielded this year's \$9.2 billion deficit and EXCLUDED the common-sense solutions that would put New York on the road to fiscal recovery. The 2010-11 state budget:

INCLUDED	EXCLUDED
A 5.7% spending increase from last year's record-setting budget	A state spending cap that would bring an end to the growing size and cost of state government once and for all
Over \$1.4 billion in new taxes and fees that reach further into the pockets of New York's overburdened taxpayers	A property tax cap that would rein in skyrocketing school taxes that force families and businesses out of New York State
A reduction in charitable-contribution tax deductions for certain donors, which will result in less donations for non-profit organizations	A permanent extension or replacement for the Power for Jobs program, which provides low-cost energy for non-profits and small businesses
Tax credit deferrals that will amount to roughly \$2 billion in "borrowed" money from taxpayers over the next three years	Necessary restorations to the STAR tax credit program
A \$300 million fee imposed on the company that will operate electronic slot machines at the Aqueduct racetrack in Queens	A company selected to operate these machines, pay the fee and provide the source of this revenue
The Excelsior Jobs Program, which lowers the cap on tax credits available to New York's small businesses	Continuation of the Empire Zones Program, which has provided vital tax credits to businesses in Upstate New York for more than a decade