

***I want to hear from you!***

***What do you think we need to do to get New York back on track?***

***Email me with your thoughts, questions and ideas.***

Assemblyman  
Kieran Michael  
**LALOR**

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**A Legislative Report from  
ASSEMBLYMAN**

Kieran Michael  
**Lalor**



Peddling the whole family in the Wappinger Community Day Parade on the "funny bike."



Dear Friends:

*I was born and raised here in Dutchess County and have lived virtually my entire life here except for my time in the Marine Corps and while away at college and law school. My wife, Mary Jo, and I are raising our four children here because it is a great place for families. I truly love representing Dutchess County in the New York State Assembly because it gives me the opportunity to help the good people who live here in this beautiful corner of the world.*

*I enjoy the legislative process and crafting legislation to make our state a better place. But the most rewarding part of being an Assembly Member is performing constituent services. Advocating for a child with special needs, helping a resident who is getting the bureaucratic runaround and promoting good causes in the community are the best parts of the job.*

*The SAFE Act continues to be a disaster for New Yorkers and police departments. Much of the law was vaguely drafted and the state police have spent the summer trying to determine how it will apply. I stand by the Second Amendment and I'm fighting to repeal the SAFE Act. If you have questions about the application of the SAFE Act, please contact my office.*

*I have a small but extraordinarily effective staff. If we can ever be of service to you, don't hesitate to call us at (845) 221-2202 or email me at [lalork@assembly.state.ny.us](mailto:lalork@assembly.state.ny.us). You can also stop by our district office at 1075 Route 82 in Hopewell Junction (next to Telefax / Hearts from Heaven).*

Sincerely,

Kieran Michael Lalor  
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## Standing Up for Dutchess County Workers

IBM's layoffs and furloughs are frightening news for many Dutchess County families. In this battered economy, families can't afford another hit. IBM owes the Hudson Valley answers about its long-term commitment to the region. IBM has been a critical part of our local economy for decades. In return, towns, Dutchess County and New York State have provided IBM with valuable, sometimes controversial, tax benefits. We deserve answers.

IBM needs to explain whether they have tried to issue layoffs and furloughs at their overseas facilities before they began furloughs at domestic plants. IBM has received hundreds of millions in tax benefits. Those benefits should come with more transparency from the company. We need facts and figures on the jobs those subsidies supposedly create or retain. We need to know their long-term plans.

While I believe the government and politicians should generally not insert themselves into the operations of a private business, IBM has agreed to special tax benefits. Taxpayers deserve to know what those tax benefits have created. If IBM didn't take the tax benefits, I wouldn't be demanding these answers. But IBM received special tax considerations; as a result, taxpayers deserve answers.

The Hudson Valley is vulnerable because of its long reliance on IBM. We need to get serious about changing the way we treat businesses in New York. While states like Texas are booming, New York leads the nation in layoffs so far this year. We've lost 59,200 jobs, more than twice any other state. Clearly, Albany has made a mess of our economy. For example, the most recent budget, which I opposed, raised energy taxes, thereby encouraging manufacturers like IBM to ship jobs out of state and overseas.

So far, Governor Cuomo has no answers as we continue to bleed jobs. His START-UP NY program will cost the state \$323 million over the next 3 years and bring in few, if any, new jobs. Cuomo's plan would give tax-free status to hand-picked companies who locate on or near a college campus while the rest of our businesses continue to suffer under the weight of the highest taxes in the nation. So-called START-UP NY is a corporate welfare plan. Don't be fooled, the governor is not lowering your taxes or your neighbor's taxes. He's just eliminating taxes for a few politically-connected companies picked by Albany.

In short, we need a new direction. We can reduce spending by increasing accountability and efficiency. This will allow us to lower taxes and eliminate fees. Smart regulatory reform will encourage investment in our state. To learn about the legislation I have sponsored and co-sponsored to achieve these ends, visit: <http://assembly.state.ny.us/mem/Kieran-Michael-Lalor/sponsor/>.

## Bipartisan Unfunded Mandate Bill Will Reduce Taxes

I have co-authored a bipartisan amendment to the state constitution which would end unfunded mandates. Unfunded mandates are legal requirements imposed by the New York State Legislature on counties, school districts, towns, cities and villages. The cost of implementing and complying with these unfunded mandates inflates our local budgets. The Senate and Assembly have voted on mandates hundreds of times to the tune of billions of dollars over the last 10 years alone. For example, counties in New York are required to pay for more than 40 state mandates, including \$8 billion for Medicaid.

Many mandates are great programs with a noble purpose, but we cannot continue to place the entire cost on the backs of local governments and school districts. These costs are escalating at out-of-control rates, causing skyrocketing property taxes and driving businesses and families out of our state.

My bipartisan legislation to end unfunded mandates would allow local governments to choose whether an unfunded mandate will be implemented in their area, and require the state to fund mandates that are unreasonably costly. This will ensure that our local municipalities are protected from financially burdensome requirements, while allowing local governments to continue to serve their constituents in the most cost effective and efficient manner.

## Increasing Penalty for Vehicular Homicides

You may recall last year a driver raced at high speeds through the streets, running red lights, while trying to evade police in Poughkeepsie and slammed into a car killing a mother and father while injuring and orphaning their two children. Under the current penal law, a defendant in a vehicular homicide case can only be sentenced to a maximum of 15 years whether he kills one, two or more people. After conversations with law enforcement and judges, I am drafting legislation that would allow the judge in a vehicular homicide case to sentence the killer to a maximum of 15 years for each victim. This common sense amendment ensures that every victim of a vehicular homicide and their families receive justice.



## Fighting Against Tax Hikes

Since taking office, I have declined requests from county, town and village officials to get state support for local governments to institute a mortgage recording tax, increase taxes on hotel occupancy and to extend the county sales tax at the current rate. I refused to support these tax hikes because, in the thousands of conversations I had with constituents, no one ever asked me to increase or extend tax hikes. In fact, nearly every constituent I spoke with implored me to fight taxes. There will be few chances to lower taxes in an Assembly dominated by tax-and-spend liberals. Refusing to aid and abet tax increases may be the best opportunity to fight for the taxpayer.

## Empowering Local Officials to Make Local Decisions

For reasons that have been obsolete for decades, the New York State Constitution gives power over key local decisions to the state legislature and the governor. This makes our state inefficient, obscures accountability and leads to many unintended and undesirable consequences.

For example, if a school system wants to move its school board election from the second Tuesday in May to the third Tuesday in May, it requires the Assembly, State Senate and Governor to act by passing a home rule bill. This is patently absurd and no way to run a state. Nearly half of the bills passed in Albany involve local issues that would be better decided by local governments who are familiar with the issues and duly elected to make those decisions.

The centralization of power in Albany is a major reason taxes and regulations are so high and corruption is so rampant. Allowing local governments a tiny sliver of autonomy upon request and at the discretion of Albany lawmakers is not home rule. I am drafting real home rule legislation that wrests power away from Albany power brokers and gives authority over local decisions to local governments.