

# What You Need To Know About:



## New York State Budget – Part I

**Did You Know** *that the spending proposals from the Executive, and Majorities in the Senate and Assembly total \$134 billion, \$136.2 billion and \$136.7 billion respectively? These figures represent billions of dollars in additional spending from when the current state budget was enacted in April 2009.*

**Did You Know** the Lt. Governor's Financial Plan Proposal would significantly increase the state debt, while according to Moody's Investors Service, New Yorkers currently have the fifth largest per capita state debt?

**Did You Know** that the Governor included a plan to spend \$778,000 on two trailers to allow for family and conjugal visits at the Five Points Correctional Facility?

**Did You Know** that the Senate Majority proposed 2010-11 budget includes \$ 35 million for union run teacher Training Centers while accepting a \$ 1.4 billion reduction in school aid? It appears that the UNION is more important than the teachers or the students.

**Did You Know** that the Governor included within the Executive Budget a provision that would authorize the deduction and transfer of payments to child care unions from child care providers - even if the provider chooses to not join the union? Seems like a nice gift to the unions.

**Did You Know** the Senate Majority proposes to spend \$500,000 to conduct an audit the Metropolitan Transportation Authority by the legislature? The State already has the Comptroller, an Inspector General, the Division of Budget, Fiscal Staff of both houses of the legislature, NYC Office of Management and Budget, MTA Inspector General, MTA Audit Committee, an MTA public accounting firm, and the State Authorities Budget Office. Do we really need another political enterprise to review the policy and practices of political appointees, or just some inexpensive accountability?

Share Your Thoughts: [UnshackleUpstate.com](http://UnshackleUpstate.com)

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**Did You Know** that the Governor has proposed reinstating the State Insurance Department's ability to establish the rates for health insurance, otherwise known as "prior approval?" Prior approval was in place years ago, it failed miserably and was such a disaster that the Legislature unanimously voted to eliminate it. Why would you want it back?

**Did You Know** that the Senate Majority's Budget Resolution includes restoring \$5.2 million is workforce training but that \$4.2 million of that would be allocated for an AFL-CIO Workforce Development Institute? That doesn't leave much for the rest of us.

**Did You Know** that the Governor's Executive Budget includes \$240 million dollars in health care assessments and surcharges that will affect hospitals, home care providers and nursing homes across the state as well as an expansion of a surcharge to physicians' services?

**Did You Know** that the Governor has proposed a 3 percent tax on the market value of natural gas severed from a gas pool in the Marcellus or Utica Shale? This is an example of the state attempting to tax an industry before it has even begun. The result? It is cheaper for companies to drill in PA and not create the jobs here in NY.

**Did You Know** that the Senate Majority's Budget Resolution proposes to generate \$700 million through the refinancing of tobacco settlement bonds? This risky and gimmicky proposal does not take aim at addressing the real problems facing New York State – like excessive spending.

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**Did You Know** that Assembly Speaker Sheldon Silver has proposed to include a \$2 billion borrowing plan to confront the New York State deficit? This proposal will only add to the debt burden that all New Yorkers currently face.

**Did You Know** that the Assembly Majority's Budget Proposal actually restores \$800 million of the education cuts that have been proposed by Gov. Paterson? This shows how beholden some members of the Assembly Majority are to the powerful education lobby and refuse to reign in the state's exorbitant education costs.

**Did You Know** that the Governor has proposed expanding taxes on utility and telephone services, including electric, gas, water and telephone? If enacted, this proposal would let local governments increase the local utility tax by 200 percent...meaning your essential services will cost more.

**Did You Know** that the Senate Majority's Budget Resolution proposes to eliminate funding for the Olympic Regional Development Authority? This would severely hinder the North Country's presence as a tourism destination and economic engine.

**Did You Know:** that the Governor has proposed to permanently continue to require the collection of a \$2.50 Waste Tire Management Fee which is currently scheduled to end in Dec. 2010? The additional revenue generated from this program is to be partially used for over 100 positions at the Department of Environmental Conservation. At a time when NYS should be reducing its workforce, they do just the opposite & extend fees in order to pay for more staff.