

NEWS FROM ASSEMBLYMAN MARC MOLINARO

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MOLINARO SLAMS TAX HIKES, BORROWING, PRISONER RECLASSIFICATION

Statement from Assemblyman Marc Molinaro (R,C,I-Red Hook)

regarding legislative proposals

As we are now 89 days late on a budget, it would be hard to believe that with each passing day, the ideas coming from legislative leaders are growing more fiscally irresponsible. However, the negotiations taking place behind closed doors among Albany's power brokers have yielded preposterous solutions to the state's fiscal crisis.

Unfortunately, we are seeing their typical reaction to tough fiscal times, which is to raise taxes rather than reduce spending. At a time when so many New Yorkers are forced to live within their means, it is insulting to insist that New York State government cannot do the same and it is irresponsible to implement approximately \$1.4 billion in new taxes, fees, and fines.

In addition, allowing local governments to borrow against the state pension fund puts not only the fund in danger, but also local taxpayers. It is no wonder that budget watchdogs have slammed such a proposal as it incentivizes municipalities to borrow against the fund without limit or consideration of debt load.

Finally, their plan to disenfranchise districts containing correctional facilities is blatantly political and seemingly illegal. Prisoners consume valuable resources from local governments that must provide suitable infrastructure. Counting them as otherwise ignores common sense and the state's constitution.

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