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[Back](#)

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Property taxes take center stage in Dutchess discussion

EAST FISKILL – While budget cutting remains top on the priority list in Albany, reforming the property tax to fund education has not gone away.

Officials of tax reform groups presented their proposals to East Fishkill residents Monday night at a forum called by Assemblyman Marc Molinaro. He told homeowners that legislative leadership must be pushed into changing “the mediocrity of the status quo.” Property taxes are strangling communities and forcing people out of their homes, he said.

“We need to push Republicans and Democrats in both houses of the State Legislature to make this a priority and we’ve got to force the governor to stick by his word,” Molinaro said. “He said a year ago that this was a priority issue and by mobilizing across party lines we can get state government to respond.”

Among the proposed fixes for the current property tax system are a property tax cap and a tax circuit breaker, both discussed at the forum.

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