



News From

Maggie Brooks

Monroe County Executive

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BROOKS AND QUATRO DENOUNCE GOVERNOR'S BUDGET *Spitzer balances budget on backs of local property taxpayers*

County Executive Maggie Brooks, joined by Legislature Majority Leader Dan Quatro and members of the Republican caucus, today announced the negative impact of Governor Spitzer's proposed 2008-2009 Executive Budget on Monroe County taxpayers.

The 2008-2009 State budget includes provisions that shift the costs of many social service programs from the state level to the local level. If passed, the budget would force Monroe County to pay an additional \$7.4 million in 2008 and \$8.6 million in 2009, bringing the two year total impact to \$16 million.

"Today, we are here to set the record straight and expose what Governor Spitzer is really doing – balancing the State budget on the backs of local property taxpayers," said **Monroe County Executive Maggie Brooks**.

The largest cost shift in Spitzer's proposed budget is the total elimination of state reimbursement for youth detention. New York State currently reimburses counties for 50 percent of the cost incurred by juvenile detention programs, but would no longer provide any funding if the proposed budget were passed. Locally, the impact would be over \$3 million in 2008 and \$4 million in 2009.

In addition, the Executive Budget alters the way welfare and Safety Net are funded. Spitzer has proposed increasing the burden on counties from an equal share of costs to a 52 percent county-48 percent state funding system. This would cost Monroe County taxpayers an additional \$1.5 million in 2008 and \$2 million in 2009.

Monroe Community College and Monroe Community Hospital's funding would be adversely affected as well. Spitzer's budget would cause Monroe County to lose a combined \$2.4 million in 2008 and \$1.6 million in 2009 in funding for MCC and MCH.

"Instead of offering counties mandate relief as promised in the past, Governor Spitzer is forcing us to pay an even larger share of mandated services," added **Brooks**. *"Holding Monroe County taxpayers accountable for the state deficit is a step in the wrong direction. By joining with my partners in the County Legislature and other counties across New York State, we will send this message to Albany."*

"While Governor Spitzer talks a good game about the need to cut taxes and reduce government spending, this budget exposes his inability to put words into action," said **Majority Leader Dan Quatro**. *"This redistribution of resources threatens not only current taxpayers, but will significantly impact future New York State residents."*

Spitzer's agenda will exacerbate 'brain drain,' make doing business in the State even more costly, and ultimately be the cause of financial ruin for counties and upstate New York. Together, we need to send a strong message to Albany that this budget is unacceptable."

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