

PRINCIPLES MATTER

- **ONE PERSON, ONE VOTE, MATTERS:** This basic right is violated when a 41% minority can dictate to the 59% majority!



- **HOME RULE MATTERS:** The hands of our locally elected school board members are tied by the bureaucrats in Albany!



- **COMMUNITY NEEDS MATTER:** A local community can no longer provide the educational program it deems proper for its own children!



- **TELL ALBANY TO RESTORE HOME RULE AND DECISION-MAKING BACK TO OUR LOCALLY ELECTED SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERS!**



SEE WHAT THE TAX CAP HAS DONE TO CALIFORNIA SCHOOLS!!!

To Find Out:

Google: "From First to Worst"



Take Action Long Island

Spring Event – May 1, 2013

www.TakeActionLI.org

THE NEW YORK STATE TAX CAP

Did the public understand the consequences of this so-called "REFORM!"



Will future generations of Long Island students attain educational excellence?

Take Action Long Island

Spring Event

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What is New York's Tax Levy Cap as it relates to public schools?

In 2011 State Legislators responded to complaints about high property taxes by enacting a law that places restrictions on how school districts may increase their tax levies. Although school districts may propose to raise tax levies more than 2%, the law requires at least 60% voter approval for a school budget that exceeds its cap. If a proposed budget fails twice, a district must adopt an austerity budget which may not increase its current tax levy by any amount. In effect a zero cap is imposed.



What does all of this mean for school district funding?

School districts are under pressure to stay within their "tax levy limits." This has already meant reductions in programs, layoffs of staff, and increases in class size. Even if New York State increases state education funding, there will be immense pressure on school districts to raise property tax levies beyond the 2% tax levy cap or starve public schools.

Why should you care?

The law makes it difficult for districts to take their particular local needs into account in their budgeting process. In addition to a loss of programs such as music, arts, and sports, staff reductions will occur. It may mean the loss of kindergarten programs, advanced placement classes, libraries, and STEM classes. Larger class sizes will result. District reserves will be depleted.



What can the School Community do to help change the Tax Cap law?

As community members we need to become proactive in ensuring that we keep Long Island Public schools the best in the country. We need Long Islanders to:

- Educate themselves regarding the consequences of the tax cap on your schools.
- Contact lawmakers in Albany to demand they change the 60% rule.
- Attend local town hall meetings to inform legislators on how the tax cap has impacted your school district.
- Educate your neighbors about how the tax cap will harm your community.
- Join PTA and lobby in Albany for fairness in the budget voting process.
- Attend school board meetings to keep informed about the school budget.
- VOTE in school elections as well as in state and federal elections.

AS VOTERS WE HOLD THE POWER TO HOLD THE GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTABLE!