

# Press



# Release

11 New Hempstead Road, New City, NY (845) 638-5100 Fax: (845) 638-5675 Email: [legclerk@co.rockland.ny.us](mailto:legclerk@co.rockland.ny.us)

## For Immediate Release

Contact: Laura Incalcaterra  
Communications Director  
Rockland County Legislature  
(845) 638-5184

## **DAY HIKES COUNTY PROPERTY TAX**

County Executive's Vetoes Also Ignore State  
Comptroller's Recommendation To Set Aside Funding  
For Deficit Reduction, Leave Sain Building In Limbo,  
Cut Funding For Vital Public Benefit Organizations

## **Public Urged To Call Six Legislators: Tell Them You Want A Tax Break NOT A TAX HIKE!**

**New City, NY (Dec. 14, 2016)** – Rockland County Legislature Chairman Alden H. Wolfe (D-Montebello) and Budget & Finance Chairman Legislator Michael Grant are blasting the County Executive for failing to approve an amended 2017 budget that brought a TAX DECREASE for property owners.

Shockingly, the County Executive has instead decided to INCREASE county property taxes next year.

"The amended budget was adopted after hours and hours of detailed review and verification of expected revenues and expenditures," Wolfe said. "For the first time since the recession hit in 2008 we produced a budget that offered relief to taxpayers.

"This unilateral action by the County Executive is just another example of his 'my way or the highway' mentality, that if he doesn't get exactly what HE wants, he will not support other options arrived at through discussion and consensus," Wolfe said.

With his vetoes, the County Executive has also FAILED to dedicate a single dollar for deficit reduction - in direct contradiction to the state Comptroller's recommendation.

The Legislature's amended budget set aside \$4 million for such action, in response to the Comptroller and in adherence to a county law requiring the pay down.

"The amended budget corrected the County Executive's lack of deficit reduction," Grant said. "It also went significantly further by setting aside funding to cover union contract increases that he negotiated but didn't budget for.

"It restored important public safety funding omitted from his budget concerning the District Attorney's Office, the Sheriff's Department, Consumer Protection and the Mounted Unit.

"It cut \$1 million in unnecessary spending, including the \$50,000 he set aside for his own office to do mailings in an election year," Grant said.

With his vetoes, the County Executive has additionally FAILED to address the future of the Sain building. He did not include it in his proposed 2017 budget after it failed to sell in 2016.

"The sale of the building was not needed in 2016, with an estimated surplus of \$2 million expected when the books are finally closed for the year - WITHOUT THE SALE TAKING PLACE," Wolfe said. "He didn't include it in his proposed 2017 budget and he's excluded it from the amended budget through his veto. That tells all of us that he does not see its sale as necessary for the good of the county's finances."

The Legislature's amended budget commits to the sale and uses \$4 million of the proceeds for deficit reduction. By budgeting the proceeds in this way, the risk of adding to the deficit is abated.

"If the sale is completed, we can use the funds for deficit reduction," Grant said. "This is in contrast to the County Executive's 2016 plan, which devoted the proceeds to operating expenses - a one-shot solution at best."

Also cut by the County Executive was about \$1.3 million in funding to nonprofit Public Benefit Organizations that provide a range of vital services groups ranging from Child Care Resources and Keep Rockland Beautiful to Big Brothers-Big Sisters of Rockland and Cornell Cooperative Extension.

The Legislature has the ability to override the vetoes, but needs 12 votes to do so.

Wolfe and Grant urged the public to contact Legislators Carey, Falciglia, Hofstein, Moroney, Santulli and Tyer - who voted against the amended budget - and urge them to join their colleagues in overriding the vetoes. Call 638-5100 or Visit the Legislature's contact page at [www.rockland.gov](http://www.rockland.gov)

###