



NEWS...

From

Legislator Tom Cilmi

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LEGISLATORS CALL FOR HOLD ON FURTHER BORROWING FOR LAND ACQUISITIONS

Suffolk County Legislators Tom Cilmi (R-Bay Shore) and Tom Barraga (R-West Islip) are calling on the County to stop further borrowing for open space purchases.

Both Legislators voted against two bills in the last six months which, in total, authorized approximately \$50 million of debt for unspecified open space purchases. According to the Legislature's Budget Review Office, the interest payments on this debt will be approximately \$25 million.

Legislator Cilmi said, "I have no problem with prudent investment in open space to protect our drinking water, but we're borrowing ourselves into oblivion. Furthermore, the voters approved a tax to preserve drinking water; they had no idea they were going to be spending tens of millions of dollars on interest paid to the banks." Cilmi says this type of borrowing is like stealing money from the environment and the taxpayers.

The legislators point out that unemployment claims reached 500,000 this week, the largest in nine months raising new fears of a double dip recession. They point out that the U.S. Government is \$13 trillion in debt; New York State is \$120 billion in debt; and Suffolk County is \$1.27 billion in debt. In total, this amounts to \$50,000 for each resident of Suffolk County. That does not include debt associated with towns, public authorities, school districts or other taxing districts.

Legislator Barraga said, "Suffolk County Taxpayers deserve a government that is sensitive to cost control and expense reduction in all areas in time of economic downturn and uncertainty. Further land acquisition should be put on hold until the economy begins to recover from what has been and continues to be for many the most serious recession since the Great Depression of 1929."

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