



NEWS RELEASE

New York State Conference of Mayors and Municipal Officials
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Statement of NYCOM Executive Director Peter A. Baynes on Governor Paterson's Property Tax Cap Proposal

“New York leads the nation in property taxes simply because we lead the nation in imposing inefficient state mandates on our local governments. A property tax cap without relief from state mandates is a fool's errand that will result in destructive local budget deficits, decimated municipal work forces and a dangerous reduction in the essential services provided by local governments.

“If the Governor and State Legislature truly want to achieve property tax relief, they should reform the cost drivers that lead to high property taxes in New York, including public pension costs, health insurance payments and the collective bargaining process. NYCOM has identified nearly 50 separate unfunded state mandates along with our proposals for repealing or reforming each such mandate, and they can be reviewed on our public policy website, www.StopTheTaxShift.org. It is time for Albany to address these real causes of the high property taxes that hinder New York's economic renewal.

“NYCOM also finds it bitterly ironic that within days of cutting more than \$340 million in state aid to municipalities – aid that is used by cities and villages to control the growth in property taxes – the Governor is proposing to mandate an arbitrary cap on property taxes.”

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