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Brodsky says higher taxes won't push wealthy out of state

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New York state Assemblyman Richard Brodsky told a business organization today that he's seen no evidence that raising taxes on the wealthy in the state will drive them out of New York.

Brodsky, D-Greenburgh, and other members of the region's Albany delegation spoke about the budget crisis and other issues during the Westchester County Association's annual legislative breakfast at Abigail Kirsch at Tappan Hill in Tarrytown.

When New York and New Jersey hiked tax rates temporarily on upper income earners several years ago, no exodus occurred, Brodsky said.

"Now that doesn't mean it's a good idea. It means that if you're going to argue, 'No, no, people are going to leave the state,' there ought to be some basis for it," he said.

He said New York needs "a sense of shared sacrifice" to solve its current budget crisis. State Assemblyman Michael Spano, D-Yonkers, said that revenues for state coffers have dropped 30 percent as a result of Wall Street losses, statewide layoffs, and other declines in business conditions.

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