

# CitizenNetReporter

WPCNR COUNTY CLARION-LEDGER.From Westchester County Association.  
March 15, 2009:

Members of the Westchester County Association (WCA)—the area's leading business advocacy group—today expressed strong dissatisfaction with New York State legislators representing Westchester and the region over taxes and spending. The exchange of views occurred at the WCA's Annual Breakfast held in Tarrytown. A record turnout of more than 300 WCA members and community leaders packed the room. The results of a survey taken by more than 200 WCA members last week were shared with the legislators. Among the striking results was **78%** of the members surveyed **not** feeling that the state is taking the necessary actions to control spending.

During a lengthy question and answer session, sharp differences between the legislators and many WCA members became clear.

WCA President William M. Mooney, Jr., said: "Today's exchange showed there is a significant disconnect between our legislators and the business community. At a time when businesses and organizations are struggling to survive by cutting expenses and restructuring, the only place this has not happened with the state government. This is an appropriate time for the legislature to join in a long overdue effort to restructure, cut expenses and maybe shrink itself."

The results of the member survey, which were shared with the legislators, were:

Do you feel the State is taking the necessary actions to control spending?

78% No                      14% Yes                      8% Don't Know

Do you feel that providing federal stimulus dollars to local municipalities and school districts eliminates their incentive to control costs?

Yes 47%                      No 50%                      Don't Know 3%

Are you in favor of consolidation of municipalities to control costs?

85% yes                      9% No                      6% Don't Know

Are you in favor of consolidation of school districts to control costs?

Yes 71%                      No 19%                      Don't Know 10%

Are you in favor of the MTA's proposal to reduce its deficit by levying a payroll tax of .33% on employers in the MTA region?

Yes 13%                      No 74%                      Don't know 13%

Do you feel that NY State should keep its Tuition Assistance Program (TAP) at the current level?

Yes 37%                      No 19%                      Don't Know 44%

Members were also asked to share additional comments.

Highlights:

Reduce State payroll.

Reduce unfunded mandates.

Eliminate the sweetheart state pension system

Change teacher tenure practice to include merit increases based on individual performance."