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by [Gerald McKinstry](#).

The leadership of the Westchester County Association says that the proposed New York State budget for 2009-2010 will further hurt an already fragile economy — especially here in the county.

“Once again, it appears that New York State is prepared to pass a budget that is long on spending but short on fiscal reform,” said WCA President William M. Mooney, Jr. “This could not happen at a worse time, given the dire condition of the economy. This budget promises to drive more businesses and residents away from Westchester. The proposed increases of more than \$7 billion in personal income taxes and other taxes, combined with the elimination of the STAR property tax rebate, will be very painful for many businesses and individuals in Westchester.”

Mooney also said the planned tax increase on people making \$250,000 or more “is especially onerous to individuals and businesses in Westchester County and will further hamper economic development.”

Former Lt. Gov. Al DelBello, WCA chairman, said the state is already viewed as unfriendly to business and this budget “will make the situation much worse.”

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