

# *There's Still a Better Choice!*

We urge the Governor and the Legislature to work together to ensure that the 2005-2006 state budget meets New Yorkers' needs. The revenues necessary to balance the budget must be raised in a fair and equitable manner and the recent Court of Appeals decision must not be used as an excuse for inaction by any party.

- The Legislature must add the funding necessary to eliminate the Governor's proposed cuts in vital public services that are essential to the well-being of working families and the needy.
- The Legislature must make clear what language in the Governor's proposed appropriations bills must be modified to keep vital public services operating effectively and efficiently.
- The Governor must modify the language included in his appropriations bills through negotiation with the Legislature to produce a budget that meets the needs of our state.

To strengthen New York's economy we need to invest in New Yorkers. Cuts in education, health care and other essential services hurt all of us.

- Good jobs require educated New Yorkers, safe communities, affordable health care and reliable transportation. Our economy will not grow if we abandon New York's working families.
- Cutting education, health care and other essential services will result in major job losses and higher property taxes while hurting our state's economy, our quality of life and the needy.

Instead of regressive fees and fiscal shell games we need a state tax system that's fair to working families.

- Decades of tax cuts for the wealthy and large, multi-state corporations have shifted more of the burden onto low and middle-income New Yorkers through cuts in essential services and increases in fees and regressive sales and property taxes.
- Many of the nation's largest corporations make billions in profits while paying little or nothing in state corporate income taxes. And the richest 1 percent of New Yorkers pay a much smaller percentage of their incomes in state and local taxes than low and middle income families.
- It's time for the Governor and the Legislature to close corporate loopholes and end the special treatment of the favored few:
  - Close loopholes that allow large, profitable multi-national corporations to avoid paying their fair share of state taxes – **savings \$1 billion.**
  - Stop sweetheart deals with high-priced consultants who are being overpaid to do jobs that state workers can do better and cheaper – **savings \$250 million.**
  - Lower drug prices for state and local governments by using New York's purchasing power to get a fair deal from the drug companies - **savings \$1 billion.**
  - End the abuse of the Empire Zones and other economic development programs and reform the operations of New York's Public Authorities - **savings \$290 million.**
  - Give back the nickels. Making the beverage bottling industry return unclaimed bottle deposits would **generate \$179 million.**
  - Make polluters pay for Governor Pataki's plan to cap global warming gases. Auctioning permits could **generate up to \$500 million.**
  - Make New York's tax system fairer and more equitable by increasing the top marginal tax rates on the highest income households. **Can generate \$2 to \$7.7 billion in additional revenue depending on the plan adopted.**

**We support the Better Choice Budget Campaign:**

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