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CONTACT JEFF GUILLOT (516)-541-1006 x13

STATEMENT OF SUPPORT FOR GOVERNOR PATERSON'S CALL FOR TRANSPARENCY AND EFFICIENCY IN LOCAL GOVERNMENT

In response to Governor Paterson's address on January 7th, 2009, in which he laid out a comprehensive plan for the economic future of New York State, The Nassau County Government Efficiency project applauds Paterson's proposed initiatives to promote greater efficiency and transparency in local government special taxing districts.

"We are pleased with the progressive stance that Governor Paterson has taken in regards to the **enormous and unnecessary property tax burden placed upon Nassau County residents by Special Taxing Districts,**" Said Nassau County Government Efficiency Project Coordinator Jeff Guillot. "With his help, we hope to decrease the oppressive burden these districts levy upon Nassau's residents."

"Recent studies and audits have made it abundantly clear that these districts provide duplicative services, **tax and spend without regulation, hold undemocratic elections, pay exorbitant salaries to employees, and ultimately answer to no one.** The Governor's pledge to bring, open, transparent governance to municipalities across the state is a clear indication that he stands in defiance of these districts and their unethical practices," said Guillot.

"It is our hope that further action is taken in the New York State legislature and elsewhere to help alleviate this unnecessary and draconian level of taxation," Guillot added.

The Nassau County Government Efficiency Project's goal is to reduce Nassau County's enormous tax burden by eliminating or consolidating wasteful and dysfunctional Special Taxing Districts countywide. The Project is composed of organizations and concerned citizens seeking to lower property taxes for Nassau County constituents.