

# Panico Pushes for Public Referendum on Tax Cap

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**FARMINGVILLE, NY** - Brookhaven Councilman Daniel J. Panico today continued his fight for the taxpayers by proposing a referendum for a tax cap. Dan Panico was joined by a host of community and officials and members of town board of long standing support of property tax cap.

"On November 2, 2010, Election Day, it is my sincere hope that the voters of Brookhaven will have a ballot referendum to implement a tax cap in Brookhaven Town. At the town level we must show leadership, and like the taxpayers that we represent, we must be fiscally prudent in dealing with issues of taxes and spending. A tax cap will enable the residents that we represent to adequately plan their budgets from year to year, avoiding the potential for outlandish tax increases. A referendum is one of the most direct forms of democracy and something that I, like my late friend Councilman Keith Romaine, truly believe in."

"When I first came into office in 1986 as a County Legislator, I successfully sued to uphold the validity of our tax caps, and have proven over the years that tax caps work because they force governments to set priorities," said Suffolk County Executive Steve Levy

"I voted for Suffolk County's tax cap over 20 years ago," said Legislator Romaine. "It has served as an effective tool at controlling the growth of government spending in this county. Brookhaven taxpayers would unquestionably benefit from a similar cap on town taxes."

"I support Councilman Panico's legislation to Cap Taxation, just as Suffolk County does now, all taxes and villages should be limited regarding any projected tax increases. This Bill will provide important relief for our common resident Tax Payers" John M. Kennedy, Jr., Suffolk County Legislator.

The tax cap for the Town of Brookhaven, which would cap the Town property tax rate and prohibit any tax rate increase beyond that of 4%. A supermajority vote of the Town Board would be required to pierce the tax cap to increase the property tax rate beyond 4%.

"As long as I am the Supervisor, I am going to do everything I can to ensure that taxes are either frozen or cut. I look forward to the public hearing on the proposed tax cap, and I am anxious to hear from experts on whether or not a tax cap would negatively affect our bond rating and thus put an additional burden on taxpayers." said Supervisor Mark Lesko.

"I am in full support of Councilman Panico's resolution proposing a public referendum on a tax cap for the residents of Brookhaven. I firmly believe that we are not going to provide the people with tax relief until government bites the bullet and caps taxing and spending, only the Town board can do it and we must do it immediately" said Councilwoman Bonner.

"A tax cap referendum offers an opportunity to keep Town property rates in check, stated Councilman Mazzei. "I support Dan in his efforts to continue Keith Romaine's legacy."

"I support a public hearing to hear testimony on any tools we can use to control spending while providing the services our residents deserve." said Deputy Supervisor/Councilwoman Kathy Walsh.

"I applaud this proposal sponsored by Councilman Daniel Panico on behalf of Brookhaven taxpayers," said Brookhaven Town Receiver of Taxes Louis J. Marcoccia. "I support any measure or action that seeks to guard against run away spending and provide relief for taxpayers especially in these tough economic times."

Panico is sponsoring a resolution at the April 20th Town Board meeting to set a public hearing for June 1 to consider the referendum. If approved by the voters, the tax cap referendum would be on the ballot for Election Day, November 2, for the taxpayers to decide.

**Division of Public Information \* Office of the Supervisor**

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