

Editorial Reply *“Fifty-First State”*

A recent Cablevision Editorial came out against my proposal to make Long Island the Fifty-first state. But the statehood debate shines a spotlight on Albany’s use of Suffolk and Nassau taxpayers as its “cash cow.”

Long Islanders send \$3 billion more to Albany than is returned in aid or services. We can’t afford to subsidize the rest of the state while we wrestle with our own economic woes. Our seniors and young are finding it impossible to survive; school taxes are choking even our middle class, forcing many to move away. We can no longer afford to be Albany’s stepchild.

With a population of 2.8 million, we would be the 19th largest state in the union--larger than Alaska, Vermont, North Dakota and Wyoming combined.

Our median family incomes are in the top 1 percent of more than 3,100 counties in the nation.

We’d have two U.S. senators representing us in Washington. And we could efficiently restructure and consolidate our existing local governments.

I don’t know how successful we’ll be in the end--we have a long way to go in this very uphill battle. But I do know \$3 billion of our tax money is worth fighting for!

Presented by Hon. Joseph Sawicki, Jr.
Suffolk County Comptroller
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