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NEWS FROM THE 11TH DISTRICT

BARRAGA: COUNTY WILL HOLD THE LINE ON TAXES

The 2013 Recommended County Budget is 1.4 million below the New York State Property Tax Cap of 2% and freezes County General Fund property taxes. The Executive Recommended Budget does not lay off additional employees and it returns the County to a balanced budget. Even though the recommended budget is under review by the County Legislature with a formal vote scheduled for November 7th I fully expect that the changes to the Executive Budget will still result in a freeze in the county general fund tax which is good news for taxpayers. Homeowners are having an extremely difficult time making ends meet in Suffolk County – one of the most expensive places to live in New York State. All levels of government certainly have an obligation to limit spending and where possible stabilize and reduce taxes. This proposed County budget moves us in that direction. Sacrifices have been made this year at the County level to markedly reduce a projected three year short fall of approximately 530 million dollars and a 2011 deficit of 60 million. Such actions were absolutely necessary in order to achieve a balanced budget that stays below the 2% State Tax Cap.

The years ahead will not be easy from an economic standpoint. Taxpayers and County Government face many serious challenges. Governments have an obligation to provide certain basic services but not at the expense of bankrupting the people they are supposed to serve.