

PROPERTY TAX REPORT

Thank you to so many of you who took some time to give me feedback about the issues you are most concerned about. While many issues have been raised, (issues I intend to address), far and away the concern raised most often is high property taxes. In this newsletter, I discuss two proposals I have that will begin to ease the tax burden – and ask for your help in making these proposals into law!

SALES TAX DISTRIBUTION:

The fact that Irondequoit is a mature town means that there is little opportunity for expanding new home and business development. This means that, townwide, our assessed valuation is fairly flat – compared to towns like Victor, Perinton, Webster and others. This is important because the formula for distributing the huge amount of sales tax that is collected is based, in part, on townwide assessed valuation! Towns where expensive homes are being built get a higher and higher percentage of sales tax. This disparity increases every year. The older towns, with aging housing stock, end up subsidizing the newer, growing towns! ***There is no good reason for distributing sales tax this way!*** A more equitable plan would base distribution on population alone! If it had been done that way last year, Irondequoit would have received more than a million dollars in additional revenue from sales tax.

THE COST OF SHERIFF'S ROAD PATROL:

For many good reasons, Irondequoit maintains its own police department. Effective community policing requires the commitment of all Irondequoit residents to work cooperatively with our local police department – a department we know and trust. In addition to our police department, we rely on *some* services provided by the county sheriff's office. ***The problem is that we are charged as if we used ALL of their services, particularly the high cost sheriff's road patrol.*** We should not have to pay the same amount for sheriff's road patrol services that people pay in towns that actually receive road patrol services!

PLEASE COME TO MY COMMUNITY FORUM ON PROPERTY TAX RELIEF:

I would welcome the opportunity to discuss these proposals with you in greater depth. I think it is very important to have as many residents as possible join me in working on reasonable property tax relief proposals. I hope you will plan on attending a Community Forum on Property Taxes at the **Densmore Middle School**, 155 Densmore Road, **on August 17th, 2005, at 7:00 pm**. If you can't come then, please let me hear from you by writing me at my home address, or e-mail me by visiting my website: www.TedOBrien.org!

I will have forms available for those of you who have not already signed up for the STAR program, which provides property tax relief to homeowners, or the SENIOR STAR program, an enhanced property tax relief program for qualified seniors. I also will be available to answer questions about your assessment, and what to do if you believe your property tax assessment is not accurate. I hope you can come!

Community Forum On Property Taxes!

Where:

Densmore Middle School
155 Densmore Road

When:

August 17th, 2005
At 7:00 pm

What:

A forum on
property tax relief.