

## New York's Dirty Dozen

Following my disappointment with the substance of Governor Paterson's *State of the State* speech, I decided to do some research. Since I'm a physicist that wasn't actually too hard or surprising, as research is what scientists do — particularly when they're frustrated.

What I found was depressing to this life-long resident of NYS — and one who had actually used to be proud to have been a New Yorker. *No more.*

What I was trying to resolve was how best to get NY out of this economic freefall we have been in for quite awhile now. I'm old enough to remember that at one time the *Empire State* actually meant that we were not only the most populous state, but that we were actually a positive role model to other states in a variety of other areas. *No more.*

So, I wondered, can we truly fix the NYS economy by doing things like artificially adding more jobs? Well, what the facts show is that this type of **superficial analysis** is what has lead us down the primrose path we're on.

Do you really think that the state hiring a hundred thousand people to dig ditches — and another hundred thousand to follow along to fill them in — would be a solution to anything? Dumb as that sounds, that type of thinking in Albany is called progressive.

My conclusion is that instead of that, we need to genuinely fix the **conditions that make job growth naturally happen**. In other words, *what economic reasons would an employer pick NYS as a place that he and his employees would find attractive?* Put yourself in that perspective and carefully consider the following facts about NYS:

- 1- State & Local Income Taxes (per capita): **49 states are lower;**
- 2- State & Local Sales Taxes: **47 states are lower;**
- 3- Property Taxes: **46 states have lower;**
- 4- Education Cost per Pupil: **48 states are lower;**
- 5- Composite SAT Score: **46 states are better;**
- 6- Cost of Housing: **44 states are lower cost;**
- 7- Cost of Electricity (KWH rate): **47 states are lower cost;**
- 8- Cost of Gasoline (tax per gallon): **47 states are lower cost;**
- 9- Cost of Food: **43 states are lower cost;**
- 10- Cost of Everyday Healthcare (per capita): **47 states are lower cost;**
- 11- Cost of Longterm Healthcare: **47 states are lower cost;**
- 12- State & Local Employees as a % of Total Workforce: **44 states have lower.**

Some people will argue that statistics can be deceiving. Indeed that is possible — but not in this case. I'm sure that I'll be hearing from some spin-meisters desperately trying to put this in a favorable light. Puleeze don't bother.

I tried to pick a fair and representative cross section of economic factors that would impact the majority of NYS citizens. Clearly the influence of each of these will depend on exactly who they are and where they live in NYS — but the sum effect of these is inescapable.

I started by saying that *these are the real cause of our state's economic decline*. In fact here is my last statistic (which is partially a result of the others): *the business friendliness of NYS has been publicly rated, and (surprise!) we are the worst in the country.*

So back to the Governor's "Plan" of action. Now that you see the enormity of the problem, tell me how many of these liabilities will be significantly improved based on his agenda?

The answer is not only NONE — but the astounding reality is that some are actually destined to get worse(!). For instance, the “30% RPS” part of his “45 by 15” idea will further increase the cost of electricity — while providing **no consequential environmental benefits**. This is what is called a *palliative* solution.

We are in these dire straits due to the undue influence of lobbyists, self-serving special interest groups, well-intentioned but uninformed environmentalists, political infighting, and other degrees of corruption and incompetence in Albany.

Is there any hope for this getting fixed? Personally my normal optimism is rapidly fading, but I'd still say yes. There's a lot more to say on this subject, but I've run out of space here.

In summary we need REAL leadership, plus solutions that genuinely address these core issues — not delusional things like wind power jobs. If you have any constructive observations, feel free to email me at “aaprjohn@northnet.org”.

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**Sample References** (to verify data above; not for publication, unless you want to)

- 1- State & Local Income Taxes (per capita):  
<<<http://www.taxfoundation.org/taxdata/show/1389.html>>>
- 2- State & Local Sales Taxes:  
<<<http://www.taxfoundation.org/taxdata/show/23984.html>>>
- 3- Property Taxes: <<<http://www.taxfoundation.org/taxdata/show/1913.html>>>
- 4- Education Cost per Pupil & 5- Composite SAT Score:  
<<[http://www.alec.org/am/pdf/education/2008\\_report\\_card/newyork08.pdf](http://www.alec.org/am/pdf/education/2008_report_card/newyork08.pdf)>>
- 6- Cost of Housing: <<<http://www.costoflivingbystate.org/cost-of-living-by-state.html>>>
- 7- Cost of Electricity (KWH rate):  
<<[http://www.eia.doe.gov/cneaf/electricity/epm/table5\\_6\\_b.html](http://www.eia.doe.gov/cneaf/electricity/epm/table5_6_b.html)>>
- 8- Cost of Gas (tax per gallon):  
<<<http://www.taxfoundation.org/taxdata/show/245.html>>>
- 9- Cost of Food: <<<http://www.costoflivingbystate.org/cost-of-living-by-state.html>>>
- 10- Cost of Everyday Healthcare (per capita):  
<<<http://www.cms.hhs.gov/NationalHealthExpendData/downloads/res-us.pdf>>>
- 11- Cost of Longterm Healthcare:  
<<[http://www.aarp.org/family/caregiving/articles/state-by-state\\_long-term.html](http://www.aarp.org/family/caregiving/articles/state-by-state_long-term.html)>>
- 12- State & Local Employees as a % of Total Workforce:  
<<<http://www.cato.org/pubs/tbb/tbb-0601-29.pdf>>>
- 13- NYS Business Friendliness: <<<http://www.taxfoundation.org/press/show/1369.html>>>

For my elaboration on the absurdity of the “45 by 15” plan, see here:  
<<<http://www.empirepage.com/2009/1/13/45-by-15-disaster>>>

For my more detailed explanation of the property tax situation and some solutions:  
<<<http://taxnightmare.org/messages/viewtopic.php?t=233>>>

For more scientific information about energy and wind power, see my webpage:  
<<<http://www.WindPowerFacts.Info>>>

The 45 by 15 plan <<[http://www.state.ny.us/governor/press/factsheet\\_0107092.html](http://www.state.ny.us/governor/press/factsheet_0107092.html)>>