

KOLB'S KEY

SEPTEMBER 2010



ASSEMBLY MINORITY LEADER BRIAN KOLB HAS HAD ENOUGH!

“Have you had enough yet?” That is the simple, straightforward question I want to ask you. The question needs to be posed to all New York taxpayers who are concerned about the troubling direction of our state and are ready for real change.

I want to know if you have “had enough” of high taxes, runaway spending, chronic unemployment, a crushing cost of living, an underperforming economy and a broken state government that is not working for taxpayers. In short, have you had enough of Albany’s “business as usual” that puts the special interests first and the taxpayers last?

Have you had enough of paying some of the nation’s highest property, business and income taxes? Have you had enough of late State Budgets and a dysfunctional process that allows New York’s annual spending plan to be derailed for months? Have you had enough of a secretive, closed-door budget process where New York’s budget is decided by three men in a room - the Governor, Senate Majority Leader and Assembly Speaker - without any input or oversight from taxpayers, Members of the Minority Conferences or the media?

I, for one, have had enough. I believe that millions of New Yorkers also have had enough. After learning about all the taxes and fees the Assembly Majority passed this year, I know taxpayers will have had more than enough.

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ASSEMBLYMAN KOLB HAS HAD ENOUGH!

YOU'VE PROBABLY HAD ENOUGH!

CHECK OUT WHO ELSE HAS HAD ENOUGH!

We all have had enough with our state government. The Business Council of New York has had enough too, so they launched a website, EnoughAlreadyNY.org, to capture our stories and share solutions.

Their message is simple: No new taxes, No new borrowing, No More gimmicks. It's time to cut runaway spending, enact major fiscal reforms, and create job growth. It's time for New York State government to live within its means. Enough Already!

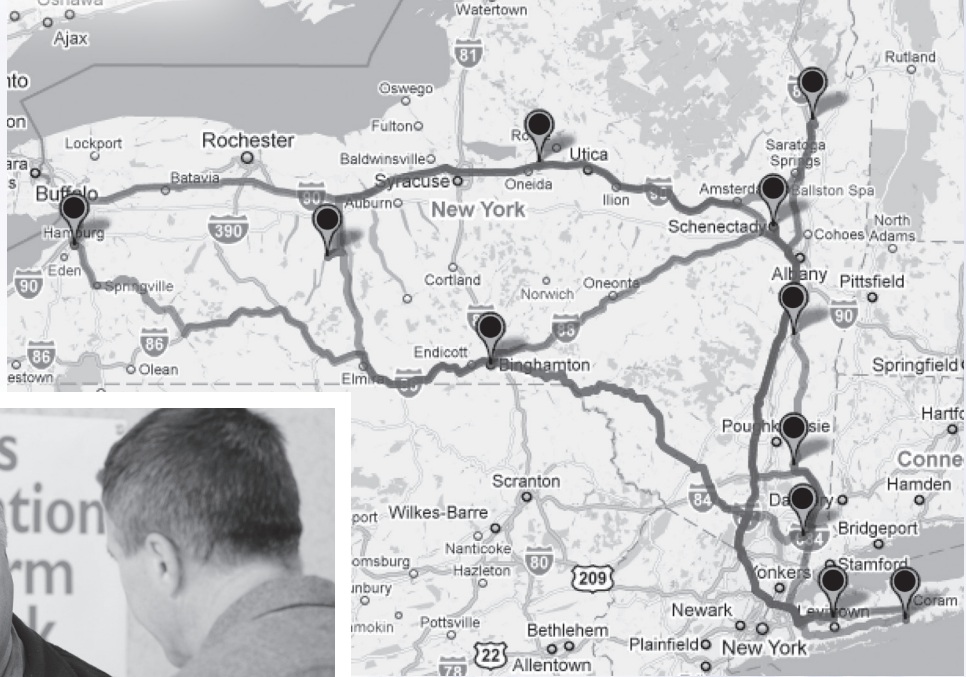
On their website, they state: "We know some members of the legislature get it. For example, Assembly Minority Leader Brian Kolb recently wrote this in an opinion piece: *'Particularly troubling, the bill did not contain a property tax cap, which means homeowners' local property tax bills will keep rising. It did not have a state spending cap, which means taxpayers will pay more for government's growing costs. It did not ban unfunded mandates – Albany dictating programs and policies to local governments without paying for them – which will result in higher village, town and county taxes.'*"

Visit EnoughAlreadyNY.org and read the rest of my opinion piece under "Our Voice" to learn why I also have "had enough" of Albany's painful taxes and irresponsible spending. Then take the opportunity to add why you have had enough!

"We know some members of the legislature get it. For example, Assembly Minority Leader Brian Kolb..."

EnoughAlreadyNY.org
a project of the Business Council of NYS

KOLB OFFERS A ROAD MAP FOR REFORM



Leader Brian Kolb has held People's Convention Town Hall meetings across the state to educate people on how they can take back their state government.

Taxpayers believe state government is no longer working for them. My travels statewide have confirmed the fact that people think New York is on the wrong track and the time for reform – fiscal, governmental and ethical – is now. On each of these fronts, our Assembly Minority Conference and I have been leading the charge to clean up the scandals, corruption and financial mismanagement that have come to define Albany. Simply stated, our Conference and I have been for reform long before it gained popular support.

The Assembly Minority Conference will continue making a strong case for the reforms necessary to get New York State's economy and government back on track. Some of those reforms include:

GOVERNMENT REFORM

- Convene a non-partisan, grassroots **"People's Convention To Reform New York"** to empower citizens to take back their state government (Assembly Bill A.9157);
- Establish an independent Legislative Redistricting Commission (Assembly Bill A.6721); and
- Enact initiative, referendum and recall (Assembly Bill A.6815).

ETHICS REFORM

- Create an independent ethics watchdog commission (Assembly Bill A.8930);
- Abolish salary and pension benefits for any elected public official convicted of a felony related to employment (Assembly Bill A.1057); and
- Enact four consecutive two-year term limits for Legislative Leaders (A.5631).

FISCAL REFORM

- Cap state government spending to the average rate of inflation of the three previous calendar years (Assembly Bill A.9061);
- Ban "backdoor borrowing" (Assembly Bill A.4133); and
- Require any ballot proposition that authorizes state debt to include information on both the principal and interest incurred by taxpayers (Assembly Bill A.8450).



Former CEO Brian Kolb Focused on Manufacturing Jobs

Back in the 1950s, there was a saying: “What is good for General Motors is good for America.” While times may have changed, that saying remains true when it comes to manufacturing and assessing its positive impact on our state’s economy. What is good for manufacturing is good for New York and the middle class. Manufacturing is a critical but often overlooked component of our economy.

Our Assembly Minority Conference and I realize how tough it is to run a manufacturing business, or any business, in New York State. Our employers pay some of the nation’s highest property and personal income taxes, energy, transportation, legal, pension and workers’ comp costs. This puts them at a decided economic disadvantage with competitors in other states.

Manufacturing jobs are the jobs that built the middle class, not only in New York, but all across America. If we want to grow jobs and the middle class, then we need to grow manufacturing. I know this because prior to entering public service, I was President of Refractron Technologies and co-founder of the North American Filter Corporation. I also have served as Chair of our Assembly Minority Conference’s Manufacturing Task Force and traveled statewide to hear directly from manufacturing CEOs, managers and front-line employees about what state government could do to stop hurting and start helping.

Leader Brian Kolb and the Assembly Minority Conference are fighting for issues important to YOU:

**Reducing taxes, creating jobs
and growing the economy.**

Join our fight!