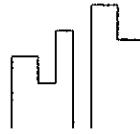


Mt. Vernon United Tenants, Inc.



Mail: P. O. Box 2107 ~ Office: 2 Gramatan Avenue - Suite 312 ~ Mt. Vernon, N. Y. 10551
Phone (914) 699-1114 ~ Fax (914) 699-7449
Email: mvut@erols.com

Mid-March 2011 News & Updates

The state legislature is the main focus right now. MVUT has three (3) specific positions that we'd like you, our members and friends to communicate to your state legislator.

(1)

Renew and strengthen the state tenant protection laws. There is an *Omnibus Rent Reform Bill* in each House of the Legislature:

Senate - Bill # S2783-A
Assembly- Bill # A2674-A

Most of the legislators who represent Westchester are already on board as co-sponsors. The only ones who have not signed on as of this mailing date are: Jeff Klein and Suzi Oppenheimer in the Senate and Sandy Galef and Amy Paulin in the Assembly.

Please call and write your own legislators (Assembly Members and Senators), and thank them if they've already signed on as a sponsor, or ask them to sign on if they have not done so as of yet. If you're not sure who your legislator is or if you've misplaced the list of Westchester Legislators we previously sent you, call the MVUT office at (914) 699-1114, ext. 303. Also call Governor Cuomo at (518) 474-8390 and tell him to renew and strengthen the tenant protection laws in the Budget.

(2)

Support MVUT's primary funding source, the New York State *Neighborhood Preservation Program* (NPP). MVUT organized a successful bus trip to Albany last week (3/1/11) for all of the six (6) Westchester groups who are funded under the NPP. Similar to your efforts above, please call and write your legislators and tell them to:

(A) Reject the Governor's Article VII language which would eliminate the "Neighborhood" focus of the program and put smaller groups (like MVUT) out of business.

(B) Restore full funding to the NPP. The Governor is proposing cuts of 50%.

3)

New York State and forty-five (45) other states are all crying "Deficit". However, for thirty (30) years New York State has been relentlessly cutting the income tax on high-wage earners. The income tax is a "progressive tax" i.e. it is based upon ability to pay. It is a fairer tax. When income taxes are cut it leads to "tax shifting", to more "regressive taxes", e.g. property and sales taxes. For the last three (3) years there has been a slight temporary tax surcharge on the state's highest earners. It has been dubbed the "millionaire's tax", even though the slight incremental increases begin on the portion of salaries over \$200,000. This tax brings in close to \$ 5 billion annually!! It is set to sunset on December 31, 2011. Governor Cuomo has said he does not want to renew it! Half of the supposed "deficit" could be taken care of with the continuation of the "millionaire's tax". We would not have to cut school funding, housing support and other essential services. Call and write your legislators on this as well and tell them to raise revenues by continuing the "millionaire's tax" and lets have some "shared sacrifice" by the wealthiest New Yorkers. Why are we proposing cutting services to those who desperately need them and giving "additional" (remember, these same individuals just got an extension on the Federal Bush tax breaks) tax breaks to those who don't need them? Also call Senate Majority Leader Dean Skelos at (518) 455-3171 (see reverse side).

** We're enclosing a two-sided flyer for two (2) important upcoming events:

- 1) A rally for Public Education on Wednesday March 16 at the Yonkers Public Library.
- 2) A free Financial Education Workshop at our office on Thursday March 17.

Get Involved! Write the letters and make those calls! Stand up for MVUT and all New Yorkers!!!

(See Reverse Side)



PROTECT MIDDLE-CLASS FAMILIES NOT MILLIONAIRES

LET'S BALANCE OUR BUDGET FAIRLY

All New Yorkers should share the pain. Thousands of middle-class workers are losing their jobs, critical services and living with less.

If middle-class workers have to make real sacrifices, the rich should pay their fair share too.

KEEP THE MILLIONAIRE'S TAX

Keeping the millionaire's tax would bring the state an additional \$2 billion this fiscal year and \$4 billion the following year.

The rich should not get another tax break at the expense of struggling, working people.

WHAT YOU CAN DO:

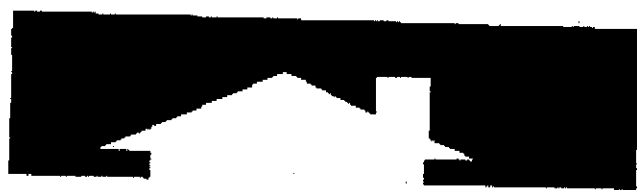
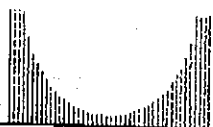
Call Senate Majority Leader Dean Skelos **TODAY!**

CALL: (518) 455-3171

TELL THEM:

- Keep the Millionaire's Tax!
- Balance the Budget by Increasing Revenue AND Controlling Spending!
- Shared Sacrifice Should Truly Be Shared!





THE BRIDGE FUND OF WESTCHESTER

AND

Mount Vernon United Tenants, Inc.

Present

Taking Control of Your Financial Future!

A Free Financial Education Workshop

Date: Thursday, March 17, 2011

Time: 6:00pm to 7:30pm

Location: 2 Gramatan Avenue, Suite 312

Main Conference Room

A comprehensive curriculum that

COVERS:

**COPING WITH FINANCIAL
MANAGEMENT IN TODAY'S ECONOMY**

- **BUDGETING STRATEGIES**
- **TIPS ON MAKING THE MOST OF YOUR
CASH FLOW**

For more information or to RSVP,

Light refreshment will be furnished!

Call: Ms. Janet Robinson @699-1114x307

Please come out to get resources!

EDUCATE
New York State
A RALLY FOR PUBLIC ED

You're invited: parents, grandparents, educators, students, community members...
All who care about kids and public education in New York State.

SUPPORT OUR CHILDREN!!

We need to move forward, not backwards!

YONKERS RIVERFRONT LIBRARY

1 LARKIN CENTER

YONKERS, NEW YORK 10701

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 16, 2011 @ 5:30 pm

**Our kids are facing the largest education cuts ever proposed
in the history of New York State.**

**This is no time to take art, vocal and instrumental music,
technology from our kids, raise their class size and take
away special programs and materials.**

Every student deserves a sound, quality education.

JOIN US!



Don't erase our progress: Invest in public education!