

As County Executive, Tom Suozzi Hiked Nassau Residents' Property Taxes By Hundreds Of Millions Of Dollars And Was Later Voted Out Of Office.

2002 BUDGET: FOUGHT FOR A 15% PROPERTY TAX INCREASE

In 2001, Executive-Elect Suozzi Fought For A "Record" 15 Percent Property Tax Increase In The 2002 Budget – "The Single Biggest Tax Hike In Nassau History"

In The Winter Of 2001, Then-County Executive-Elect Suozzi Fought For A 15 Percent Property Tax Increase In An Effort To Ease Nassau County's Fiscal Situation. "Thomas R. Suozzi wooed Nassau's electorate with such charm and persuasion that despite running as a Democrat in traditionally Republican territory, he won the county executive race last month by a landslide. But since his triumph, Mr. Suozzi has hurt his ascension to power by insulting and threatening some key public figures, his critics and even some supporters say. ... That incident and the other disputes came in the wrangling over the recently adopted 2002 budget for the fiscally troubled county. ... In the battle of the budget, Mr. Suozzi fought for a 15 percent property-tax increase, to ease the county's fiscal situation in his first year in office. But vetoes by the retiring county executive, Thomas S. Gulotta, a Republican, shaved the increase to 9 percent, which was approved by a state oversight board, the Nassau County Interim Finance Authority, over Mr. Suozzi's strong objections." (Bruce Lambert, "In Nassau, Executive-Elect Caught Up In Cross Words," [The New York Times](#), 12/16/01)

In Response, Outgoing Nassau County Executive Thomas Gulotta Hoped To Reduce The Spending And Trim The "Record" 15 Percent Property Tax Hike From The Legislature's 2002 Budget. "Nassau County Executive Thomas Gulotta signaled yesterday that he hopes to reduce spending and trim a record 15 percent property tax hike in the legislature's 2002 budget, but would seek to avoid a comprehensive veto that could increase the risk of a takeover by a state oversight board. Just hours after legislative Democrats narrowly passed a middle-of-the-night budget to beat a state deadline, Gulotta stopped short of a firm commitment and said he still is considering a range of options, from allowing the tax hike to stand to vetoing part or all of the plan." (Monte R. Young and Edward W. Lempinen, "Nassau's 15% Hike; 2002 Tax, Spending Plan Sent To Scrutiny Of Gulotta, NIFA," [Newsday](#), 11/28/01)

- **The Proposed \$2.2 Billion Spending Plan Aimed To Close A Projected \$33 Million Deficit And Raise Various Fees By \$3.4 Million, Including The County Portion Of Property Taxes By 15 Percent, Or \$90 Million – "The Single Biggest Tax Hike In Nassau History."** "Exhausted legislators concluded the latest chapter in their quest for a 2002 budget about 4:30 a.m. yesterday, voting 10-9 along party lines for a \$2.2-billion spending plan designed to close a projected \$33-million deficit for 2002. The plan would impose modest spending cuts, but raise various fees by \$3.4 million and the county portion of property taxes by 15 percent, or \$90 million. Critics said the vote approved the biggest single tax hike in Nassau history." (Monte R. Young and Edward W. Lempinen, "Nassau's 15% Hike; 2002 Tax, Spending Plan Sent To Scrutiny Of Gulotta, NIFA," [Newsday](#), 11/28/01)

- **Budget Experts Projected The Cost Of The Tax Increase Would Be \$172 A Year On A \$300,000 Home.** “And budget experts yesterday revised the projected cost of the tax increase upward, to an average \$172 a year on a \$300,000 home.” (Monte R. Young and Edward W. Lempinen, “Nassau’s 15% Hike; 2002 Tax, Spending Plan Sent To Scrutiny Of Gulotta, NIFA,” [Newsday](#), 11/28/01)

The 15 Percent Property Tax Hike Was Ultimately Shaved Down To Nine Percent

Ultimately, Despite Suozzi’s Objections, Gulotta Was Able To Shave The Increase Down To Nine Percent, Which Was Approved By State Oversight Board Nassau County Interim Finance Authority (NIFA). “In the battle of the budget, Mr. Suozzi fought for a 15 percent property-tax increase, to ease the county's fiscal situation in his first year in office. But vetoes by the retiring county executive, Thomas S. Gulotta, a Republican, shaved the increase to 9 percent, which was approved by a state oversight board, the Nassau County Interim Finance Authority, over Mr. Suozzi's strong objections.” (Bruce Lambert, “In Nassau, Executive-Elect Caught Up In Cross Words,” [The New York Times](#), 12/16/01)

NOTE: *Based on Newsday’s estimate that a 15 percent increase would raise taxes by \$90 million, a 9 percent increase raised taxes by \$54 million.* (Monte R. Young and Edward W. Lempinen, “Nassau’s 15% Hike; 2002 Tax, Spending Plan Sent To Scrutiny Of Gulotta, NIFA,” [Newsday](#), 11/28/01)

2003 BUDGET: “PAINFUL ARRAY OF TAX HIKES”

In 2003, Nassau Homeowners And Businesses Faced An “Unusually Large Tax Increase Of Close To 20 Percent” In The County Portion Of Their Property Taxes As Part Of Suozzi’s FY 2003 Budget

In September 2002, Then-Nassau County Executive Suozzi Delivered His Proposed 2003 Budget And Multi-Year Plan That Offered “A Painful Array Of Tax Hikes And Program Cuts ...” “Nassau County Executive Thomas Suozzi delivered his proposed 2003 budget yesterday along with a multiyear plan that offers a painful array of tax hikes and program cuts as the antidote to the current financial crisis. Suozzi released his \$2.28-billion budget and multiyear plan to the public yesterday morning after briefing members of the county legislature's Democratic majority. The proposals met with mixed reactions from lawmakers, union leaders and other county officials, with some questioning whether the proposed cuts are too severe and others wondering if they go far enough.” (Michael Rothfeld and Errol A. Cockfield Jr., “The Suozzi Solution; Program Cuts And Tax Hikes Mark \$2.2B Budget Proposal For Nassau,” [Newsday](#), 9/18/02)

For His 2003 Budget, Suozzi “Engineered A 19.4 Percent Property Tax Hike ...” “Critics say Suozzi relied on property tax increases. He engineered a 19.4 percent property tax hike in 2003. Suozzi's final budget, introduced on the day Lehman Brothers collapsed in September 2008, proposed a 3.9 percent tax hike as he moved to close an estimated \$150 million deficit. He also called for program cuts and a reduction in the county workforce.” (Robert Brodsky, “Candidate Profile: Democrat Thomas Suozzi; In Search Of A Second Chance; Passionate About Politics Since His Youth In Glen Cove, Former County Executive Pushes To Get Back In Office,” [Newsday](#), 10/30/13)

Nassau Homeowners And Businesses Faced A Record Rise Of At Least 20 Percent In The County Portion Of Their Property Taxes. “Nassau homeowners

and businesses face a record rise of at least 20 percent in the county portion of their property taxes next year, County Executive Thomas R. Suozzi said today. The increase would come on top of a 9 percent one adopted last year for this year.” (Bruce Lambert, “Suozzi Proposes 20% Increase In Taxes For Nassau,” [The New York Times](#), 3/26/02)

- **Suozzi’s “Unusually Large Tax Increase Of Close To 20 Percent” Increased Property Taxes “By More Than \$125 Million For Residents That Year.”** “To restore the county’s financial footing, Suozzi pitched an unusually large tax increase of close to 20 percent. The county legislature approved it, and property taxes increased by more than \$125 million for residents that year. Though steep, the increase helped stabilize the county’s finances, at least in the short term, said E.J. McMahon of the Empire Center for Public Policy.” (Dan Clark, “Suozzi Passed Major Tax Hikes In Nassau County,” [PolitiFact](#), 9/23/16)
- **The Increase Came On Top Of The 9 Percent Increase Adopted The Previous Year.** “The increase would come on top of a 9 percent one adopted last year for this year. ‘Our goal is to get it as low as 20 percent,’ said Mr. Suozzi, racing against an April 1 deadline to finish a four-year plan to solve Nassau County’s fiscal crisis. Such an increase would raise the annual tax bills of typical homeowners by \$160 to \$200, he said.” (Bruce Lambert, “Suozzi Proposes 20% Increase In Taxes For Nassau,” [The New York Times](#), 3/26/02)
- **According To Suozzi, The Increase Would Raise The Annual Tax Bills Of Typical Homeowners Between \$160-\$200.** “Such an increase would raise the annual tax bills of typical homeowners by \$160 to \$200, he [Suozzi] said.” (Bruce Lambert, “Suozzi Proposes 20% Increase In Taxes For Nassau,” [The New York Times](#), 3/26/02)

2009 INTRODUCTION OF AN ENERGY TAX

In February 2009, As An Approach To Closing An Anticipated Budget Gap In Nassau County, Suozzi Introduced An Energy Tax, Which Added 2.5 Percent To The Cost Of Electricity, Natural Gas, Home Heating Oil, Propane, And Firewood

Long Island Herald Headline: “Legislature Repeals Home Energy Tax” (Mike Caputo, “Legislature Repeals Home Energy Tax,” [Long Island Herald](#), 12/21/09)

In December 2009, The Nassau County Tax On Home Energy Was Rescinded Through Legislation That Passed Via The Nassau County Legislature. “The much-maligned county tax on home energy has been rescinded. A bill to repeal the tax passed by a vote of 13-5 at Monday’s session of the Nassau County Legislature. During their election campaigns, most Republicans railed against the Democrats for passing the bill 10-9 in June. The measure added 2.5 percent to the cost of electricity, natural gas, home heating oil, propane and firewood. Eight Republicans and five Democrats voted for the repeal on Monday. Legislator Ed Mangano, the county executive-elect, was not present during the vote.” (Mike Caputo, “Legislature Repeals Home Energy Tax,” [Long Island Herald](#), 12/21/09)

- **In June 2009, Democrats Passed A Bill That Added 2.5 Percent To The Cost Of Electricity, Natural Gas, Home Heating Oil, Propane, And Firewood.** “During their election campaigns, most Republicans railed against the Democrats for passing the bill 10-9 in June. The measure added 2.5 percent to the

cost of electricity, natural gas, home heating oil, propane and firewood.” (Mike Caputo, “Legislature Repeals Home Energy Tax,” [Long Island Herald](#), 12/21/09)

- **Suozzi Introduced The Energy Tax In February 2009 As Part Of A Multi-Pronged Approach To Closing An Anticipated Budget Gap In Nassau County.** “Outgoing County Executive Tom Suozzi introduced the energy tax in February as part of a multi-pronged approach to closing an anticipated \$150 million budget gap in Nassau County. The tax would generate about \$40 million, Suozzi said. Though it adds 2.5 percent to energy-related costs, opponents claim it effectively raises property taxes by 4 percent.” (Mike Caputo, “Legislature Repeals Home Energy Tax,” [Long Island Herald](#), 12/21/09)
- **According To Suozzi, The Tax Would Have Generated About \$40 Million. Opponents Said It Would Have Effectively Raised Property Taxes By 4 Percent.** “The tax would generate about \$40 million, Suozzi said. Though it adds 2.5 percent to energy-related costs, opponents claim it effectively raises property taxes by 4 percent.” (Mike Caputo, “Legislature Repeals Home Energy Tax,” [Long Island Herald](#), 12/21/09)

The Repeal Was Planned To Go In Effect In June 2010. “The repeal will not go into effect until next June. Democratic Legislator David Denenberg of Merrick said that while health and human services could be in jeopardy, that time frame should ‘give time for the county executive-elect to make adjustments to the budget.’ Joining Denenberg in voting for the repeal were Democratic colleagues Jeff Toback of Oceanside, David Mejias of Farmingdale, Joe Scannell of Baldwin and Wayne Wink of Roslyn.” (Mike Caputo, “Legislature Repeals Home Energy Tax,” [Long Island Herald](#), 12/21/09)