

# Earth to Politicians

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by Mary Cedeno

When gainfully employed, lifelong New Yorkers like myself, finally get so frustrated with the political state of affairs in New York that, even with a good job, we feel forced to leave, who will pay the taxes? When we leave the place we've called home all our lives, leave our family members, leave our friends, and leave the places we know and love, and there is no one left, who will pay the taxes?

I've talked to a lot of people lately who are staying in New York only because they still have a decent-paying job. But when the companies move out, or when people retire and can no longer afford to stay here, then who will pay the taxes?

According to USA Today, NY State does not have the fastest aging population. Is that because young people who want to get jobs cannot find them, and older people retiring cannot afford to stay here, so they both end up leaving the State?

Who will pay the hikes in property taxes, the increase in garbage fees, the increased insurance costs, the gas tax, the tolls, the increased income taxes, the cost to build a new stadium for New York City, or the newly imposed library fees? Who will be left to pay the bills? Who will pay for the patronage jobs, your dental coverage, day care for your children, your accruable sick days, your countless paid holidays, and your very generous pension plans?

Granted, you will still have those who will vote to keep you in office: those who don't work, won't work, don't pay taxes, don't pay attention to politics because they are way too busy trying to survive, and of course, government employees who get every imaginable holiday off and the best health care imaginable.

But I ask you, once folks like me and my family have left the state, who will be paying the tax bills? How much will they have to bear in taxes and fees to carry the rest of the State, including the gluttonous New York City?

You refuse to work together for the good of the people you supposedly represent. You refuse to do the difficult things that you were hired by the people to do. For example, we can't afford to give all those benefits anymore, but there's a law on the books that says we can't change the way we compensate our government employees. So, change the law and make

the changes that need to be made. For example, privatize park maintenance and save the taxpayers millions.

Being voted into office by the people of the state, county or locality is a privilege, a way to serve the people you are supposed to represent. It is not an opportunity to take advantage of us, tax us into oblivion, or force us to leave our homes and the people we love.

I take this affront to my state personally. But that's ok, right? I'm only one person. I'm only one vote. And if I leave, well, all those other New Yorkers will forget about the last 20 years, and they'll vote you back in anyway. I can no longer be a party to that thinking without at least speaking my mind. You offend me. You make me sick.