



Don't eliminate Westchester jobs

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Slash-and-burn budget cuts like the ones being proposed by Westchester County Executive Rob Astorino will decimate critical public services at a time when our neighbors need them most. Our workers are the backbone of this county. Without them, who will inspect the establishments that your family frequents? Who will assist residents with Home Energy Assistance Program applications or process food stamp applications? Our workers are too often the lifeline that keeps this county functioning. If we cut their jobs, our collective quality of life will suffer.

There are also more questions than answers: Do the possible layoff projections by the county executive include the positions of political appointees, high-level commissioners and their deputies? Indeed, they are the ones pulling in exorbitant salaries. It's mind-boggling and insulting to see County Executive Astorino justify raises for his staff during these difficult economic times.

Laying off workers now will only add to the county's burden; those who provide valuable services will instead be online seeking those services. How can this possibly help Westchester? Additionally, County Executive Astorino needs to comprehend that the Westchester budget has to be a collaborative effort involving the county Board of Legislators. We remain willing and able to work with all parties. We are thrilled that County Executive Astorino proposed separation incentives — an idea that we've pushed in many localities throughout the state, which often allows municipalities to reduce the number of high-salaried workers. It's just one idea of many. However, that does not mean gutting the county work force.

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