



Saugerties Worst in Ulster County

The New York State Comptroller has released his Fiscal Stress Scores for 2016 and the Town of Saugerties is one of eleven towns in the entire State to be designated "fiscally stressed." *Saugerties by far has the worst stress score of any town in Ulster County.**

Sadly, this news is not shocking considering the reckless spending of the Democrat-controlled Town Board over the past decade. Their carelessness has put the taxpayers of Saugerties at great peril by not being prepared to meet a future financial crisis. An economic downturn or other emergency could result in massive property tax increases for Saugerties residents that we can't afford!

The Comptroller's scores are determined by looking at budgetary issues like year-end fund balances, operating deficits and short and long-term debt. Other issues such as population, employment and values are also factored into the score. Saugerties' flunking grade reinforces the fact that taxpayers are at their breaking points and the current Democratic Town Board has no answers. Their proclamations of fiscal responsibility are hollow and their alleged economic development success is fake. Has anyone taken a drive on Kings Highway lately and seen all the vacant commercial buildings? And while Saugerties has very recently enjoyed the raising of its bond rating (after previously having been downgraded by S&P two years in a row), surely once this new information is factored in, the rating agency will re-evaluate its decision and Saugerties will risk being downgraded once again. Such an outcome will result in a higher borrowing rate for Saugerties and, ultimately, higher property taxes to pay for it.

The stakes for the November 7 town elections could not be greater. The best way to combat such an outcome is to trim spending and keep a healthy fund balance. It is imperative to keep spending at a responsible level and maintain an adequate reserve for unexpected expenses. The best hope we have to begin to reverse the Democrats' explosion of spending is to elect the Conservative Party's endorsed town candidates: Jimmy Bruno for Supervisor and Don Tucker and Paul Andreassen for Town Board.

**For more information on New York's Fiscal Stress Monitoring System, see: <http://www.osc.state.ny.us/localgov/fiscalmonitoring/pdf/factsheet.pdf>
To see how Saugerties compares to other New York State municipalities, see: <https://www1.osc.state.ny.us/localgov/fiscalmonitoring/fsms.cfm>*

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