

## Education

2/26/18-DESPITE AN INCREASE IN STATE EDUCATION FUNDING NEW YORK IS STILL SHORTCHANGING SCHOOLS. THAT'S ACCORDING TO EDUCATION ADVOCATES, WHO'VE BEEN UP IN ARMS SINCE GOVERNOR CUOMO DEBUTED HIS BUDGET PROPOSAL IN JANURARY. THEY SAY THE STATE NEEDS TO DEDICATE AT LEAST ANOTHER BILLION DOLLARS IN FUNDING TO HELP MAKE UP FOR SHORTFALLS IN THE PAST. AND THAT MONEY NEEDS TO TARGET POOR DISTRICTS LIKE UTICA THAT ARE DEPENDENT ON STATE AID TO PAY THE BILLS.

2/14/18-UTICA'S SCHOOLS NEED MORE MONEY. THAT'S THE MESSAGE FROM OFFICIALS WITH THE CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT AS THEY STRUGGLE TO PUT TOGETHER A NEW BUDGET. THE CURRENT PLAN HOLDS SPENDING UNDER THE STATE'S TWO PERCENT CAP, BUT IT WOULD ALSO FORCE THE DISTRICT TO EITHER CUT NINETEEN POSITIONS OR RUN A MILLION DOLLAR DEFICIT. IN THE SHORT TERM THEY'RE HOPING AN INCREASE IN STATE AID CAN COVER THE GAP. A LONG TERM SOLUTION WOULD REQUIRE THE STATE TO COMMIT TO MORE PER PUPIL FUNDING FOR HIGH NEEDS DISTRICTS LIKE UTICA.

2/9/18-VOTERS IN WESTMORELAND SHOT DOWN A SIX MILLION DOLLAR CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECT YESTERDAY. THE MEASURE WOULD HAVE PAID FOR A NEW H-VAC SYSTEM AND AN ELEVATOR TO IMPROVE HANDICAPPED ACCESS AT THE HIGH SCHOOL, ALONG WITH UPGRADES TO THE DISTRICT'S BUS GARAGE. BUT THE MOST CONTROVERSIAL ITEM WAS THE INSTALLATION OF ARTIFICIAL TURF AND LIGHTING ON THE FOOTBALL FIELD, A PROJECT MANY RESIDENTS THOUGHT WAS UNNECESSARY.

2/7/18-SHOULD NEW YORK BE PAYING COLLEGE TUITION FOR ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS? THAT QUESTION HAS SET OFF A FIRESTORM OF CONTROVERSY BETWEEN LOCAL LEGISLATORS AFTER THE STATE ASSEMBLY APPROVED THE DREAM ACT. ASSEMBLYMAN ANTHONY BRINDISI WAS ONE OF THE YES VOTES, WHILE THE AREA'S THREE OTHER ASSEMBLY MEMBERS- MARC BUTLER, BRIAN MILLER, AND KENNETH BLANKENBUSH, ALL VOTED AGAINST IT. THE MEASURE NOW MOVES ON TO THE STATE SENATE, WHERE IT FACES STIFF OPPOSITION.