

March Economics 2018

3/1/18-ARE GOVERNOR CUOMO'S PROPOSED TAX REFORMS LEGAL? THAT'S WHAT SOME LAWMAKERS IN ALBANY ARE ASKING THE INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE. IN AN EFFORT TO WORK AROUND THE THEN THOUSAND DOLLAR CAP ON STATE AND LOCAL TAXES IN LAST YEAR'S FEDERAL TAX REFORM CUOMO IS BACKING A NEW PAYROLL TAX AND THE CREATION OF CHARITABLE FOUNDATIONS TO FUND SCHOOL DISTRICTS. IF THE PROPOSALS GO THROUGH AND THE I-R-S RULES AGAINST THEM THAT COULD LEAVE NEW YORKERS OWING THOUSANDS IN TAXES AND PENALTIES.

3/1/18-THE DAYS OF GETTING INCREDIBLE BARGAINS ON AMAZON OR EBAY COULD BE NUMBERED. THIS YEAR'S BUDGET WOULD FORCE INTERNET COMPANIES TO COLLECT SALES TAXES ON EVERY TRANSACTION INVOLVING NEW YORKERS. CURRENTLY THAT'S SOMETHING HANDLED BY THE ACTUAL SELLERS, BUT MOST SMALL TIME VENDORS DON'T COLLECT TAXES WHEN THEY SELL TO SOMEONE IN NEW YORK. THE CUOMO ADMINISTRATION SAYS THAT'S COSTING THE STATE 200 MILLION DOLLARS A YEAR AND NEEDS TO CHANGE.

3/9/18-LEGALIZED SPORTS BETTING COULD BE A BOON TO UPSTATE'S STRUGGLING CASINOS. THE CHAIRMAN OF THE STATE SENATE'S GAMING COMMITTEE HAS A NEW BILL THAT WOULD ALLOW PATRONS TO WAGER MONEY ON PROFESSIONAL FOOTBALL, BASKETBALL, AND HOCKEY, BUT ONLY AT THE STATE LICENSED CASINOS IN UPSTATE NEW YORK. STILL UNSAID IS HOW THAT WOULD IMPACT THE ONEIDA INDIAN NATION'S TURNING STONE CASINO, ONEIDA COUNTY'S LARGEST EMPLOYER

3/12/18-3 HUNDRED MILLION DOLLARS. THAT'S THE ECONOMIC IMPACT GENERATED BY ROME LABS ACCORDING TO A NEW REPORT. THE STUDY FROM THE AIR FORCE RESEARCH LABORATORY COMMAND SAID THAT'S A SEVEN PERCENT INCREASE OVER THE YEAR BEFORE. IN THAT TIME PERIOD THE ROME FACILITY SAW IT'S BUDGET SOAR TO OVER A BILLION DOLLARS A YEAR FOR THE FIRST TIME AS IT HANDLED CONTRACTS FROM THE AIR FORCE AND OTHER BRANCHES OF THE MILITARY. OVER A THOUSAND GOVERNMENT AND CONTRACT EMPLOYEES WORK AT ROME LABS, GENERATING A PAYROLL OF OVER 134 MILLION DOLLARS.

3/15/18-THE GOOD NEWS IS THAT NEW YORK'S UNEMPLOYMENT NUMBERS ARE DROPPING. THE BAD NEWS IS THAT THE UTICA ROME AREA IS STILL STRUGGLING. THAT'S ACCORDING TO THE LATEST FIGURES FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF LABOR. UNEMPLOYMENT IN JANUARY TICKED UP TO 6.3 PERCENT, UP FROM 6.1 PERCENT AT THE SAME TIME LAST YEAR. BUT THE STATE IS STILL LAGGING BEHIND THE NATION AS A WHOLE, AND THE UTICA ROME AREA IS LAGGING BEHIND THE STATE'S SLUGGISH NUMBERS.

3/19/18-THE ANNUAL BUDGET BATTLE IN ALBANY NOW HAS LESS THAN TWO WEEKS TO GO. LEGISLATORS ARE FACING ONE OF THE TOUGHEST YEARS IN RECENT HISTORY, WITH THE STATE FACING A MULTI-BILLION DOLLAR SHORTFALL. IN RESPONSE GOVERNOR CUOMO HAS PROPOSED A BILLION DOLLARS IN NEW TAXES. WHILE APRIL FIRST IS THE OFFICIAL

DEADLINE IT'S ALSO EASTER SUNDAY, WITH PASSOVER STARTING ON MARCH THIRTIETH. THAT GIVES LAWMAKERS EVEN LESS TIME TO HAMMER OUT A DEAL.

3/20/18-UTICA'S COMMON COUNCIL WILL VOTE ON THE CITY'S BUDGET TONIGHT. MAYOR PALMIERI'S INITIAL BUDGET PROPOSAL HAD A WHOPPING 7-POINT-8 PERCENT TAX HIKE, BUT COUNCIL MEMBERS HAVE SPENT THE LAST FEW WEEKS WRANGLING OVER WAYS TO CUT THAT INCREASE DOWN. THEY ALSO UNCOVERED A 7-HUNDRED-THOUSAND DOLLAR MISTAKE IN THE CITY'S BUDGETING FOR REQUIRED PENSION PAYMENTS IN THE CURRENT BUDGET, DOUBLING THE AMOUNT NEEDED THIS YEAR TO 1-POINT-FOUR MILLION DOLLARS.

3/21/18-UTICA'S COMMON COUNCIL HAS APPROVED A NEW BUDGET, BUT IT COULD BE VETOED BY MAYOR ROBERT PALMIERI. DURING A CONTENTIOUS MEETING MEMBERS WEIGHED DOZENS OF AMENDMENTS TO THE MAYORS ORIGINAL SPENDING PLAN, EVENTUALLY CUTTING HIS 7-POINT-8 PERCENT PROPERTY TAX HIKE DOWN TO 4-POINT-4 PERCENT. BUT THE REVISED BUDGET INCLUDED AN APPROPRIATION FROM THE CITY'S FUND BALANCE TO COVER PART OF THE CONTROVERSIAL 700-THOUSAND DOLLAR PENSION PAYMENT, A MOVE THAT COULD IMPACT THE CITY'S BOND RATING.

3/22/18-THE DAYS OF TAX FREE SALES OVER THE INTERNET COULD BE COMING TO A CLOSE IN NEW YORK. A MEASURE IN THE DEMOCRATICALLY CONTROLLED LEGISLATURE WOULD FORCE MARKETPLACES LIKE AMAZON, EBAY, AND ETSY TO COLLECT THE SALES TAXES OWED BY SMALL VENDORS THAT SELL THROUGH THEIR SITES. SUPPORTERS SAY THE STATE IS LOSING 360 MILLION DOLLARS A YEAR BECAUSE OF UNTAXED SALES, WHILE OPPONENTS POINT TO THE REGULATORY NIGHTMARE COLLECTING STATE AND LOCAL TAXES WOULD BE FOR SMALL BUSINESSES.

3/26/18-FRIDAY COULD BE JUST LIKE CHRISTMAS MORNING, WITH NEW YORKERS WAKING UP TO ALL KINDS OF SURPRISES. APRIL FIRST IS THE OFFICIAL DEADLINE FOR THE STATE BUDGET, BUT THE EASTER AND PASSOVER HOLIDAYS MEAN THURSDAY IS THE LAST DAY OF THE LEGISLATIVE CALENDAR THIS MONTH. OFFICIALS IN ALBANY MET OVER THE WEEKEND TO TRY AND MOVE THE PROCESS FORWARD. BUT MOST OF THE PROCESS IS HAPPENING BEHIND CLOSED DOORS AND THE DETAILS OF THE STATE'S SPENDING PLAN WON'T BE REVEALED UNTIL THE BUDGET IS PASSED.

3/27/18-IT'S DONE. UTICA RESIDENTS WILL SEE A 5-POINT-4 PERCENT INCREASE IN THEIR PROPERTY TAXES. THAT COMES AFTER MAYOR PALMIERI VETOED ONE OF THE AMENDMENTS PASSED BY THE COMMON COUNCIL LAST WEEK THAT WOULD HAVE TAPPED THE CITY'S FUND BALANCE TO COVER A CONTROVERSIAL PENSION PAYMENT. THAT WOULD HAVE SHAVED A FULL PERCENTAGE POINT OFF THE TAX HIKE. DURING A SPECIAL MEETING YESTERDAY THE COMMON COUNCIL FAILED

TO OVERRIDE THE MAYORS VETO, MAKING A HIGHER INCREASE
OFFICIAL.