



NEW YORK STATE SENATOR

Rich Funke

## Funke: I Voted For a Balanced Budget that Delivers for Monroe & Ontario Counties

RICH FUNKE April 1, 2016



Senator **Rich Funke** today offered the following reaction to the passage of the 2016-17 New York State Budget.

*"Today I voted for a state budget that cuts \$4.2 billion in taxes for the middle class, supports initiatives to help local employers grow jobs, and fully-funds our region's top priorities, including education, infrastructure, and public safety,"* said **Funke**.

On taxes, **Funke** said:

*"Our middle-class tax cut package- the most tax relief here in more than two decades- will slash tax rates to the lowest levels since WWII and make it easier for families, seniors, and businesses to succeed in our community. By putting more of your hard-earned tax dollars back in your pocket, the average middle class family here will save over \$700 a year in real, permanent tax cuts."*

On spending, **Funke** said:

*"The budget is balanced, fiscally-responsible, and controls the size and cost of state government to stay under 2% growth in year-to-year spending."*

On the minimum wage, **Funke** said:

*"We fought and defeated the Governor's minimum wage proposal, delivering a common-sense solution that shields local employers from \$15/hr while providing a fair wage for a fair day's work that reflects the true cost of living in our area."*

On education, **Funke** said:

*"The Gap Elimination Adjustment (GEA) is history and local schools will receive the full-funding they need to get every student job-ready for graduation. In fact, the more than \$24 billion in education aid included in this budget represents the largest investment ever in our schools."*

On transportation parity, **Funke** said:

*"Upstate gets its fair share of transportation infrastructure funding, which will help fix our crumbling roads and bridges and support affordable public transit options in Rochester and across our region."*

On the environment, **Funke** said:

*"Because our natural resources contribute so much to our quality of life, I'm grateful this budget secures \$300 million for the Environmental Protection Fund (EPF) and makes significant investments in water infrastructure to keep our residents and environment safe."*

On compromise, **Funke** said:

*"No budget is perfect, and there are parts of this package I don't like. But refusing to work across the aisle would have brought the worst of Albany dysfunction to us, when I'm committed to bringing the best of us"*

*to Albany. This budget is a common-sense solution that delivers for Monroe and Ontario counties-now more than ever, that's exactly what we need."*