



NEW YORK STATE SENATOR

John J. Flanagan

Statement From Senate Republican Leader Flanagan

JOHN J. FLANAGAN March 5, 2019

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Fresh off their rejection of the Amazon HQ2 project and its 25,000 new jobs and \$27 billion in new revenue, Senate Democrats are now threatening to take the state budget process down a dangerous road of chaos and dysfunction.

In their very first budget in the Majority, Senate Democrats have failed to reach an agreement with the Governor and Assembly on available revenues. **Rather than work toward passage of a responsible budget, they want to spend money the state doesn't have.** Their intransigence has already knocked state budget negotiations off schedule, and now it's up to

the Comptroller to attempt to step in and break the impasse – something that never happened with Republicans leading the Senate.

Negotiating the New York State budget is a serious undertaking that involves making tough choices based on the fiscal realities of the state. With a revenue forecast that exceeds the Executive by a whopping \$900 million, the Senate Democrats are refusing to face up to those realities.

The last time Democrats controlled the Senate **they raised taxes 124 times totaling \$14 Billion**, just so they could go on a \$14 billion spending binge. They took STAR rebate checks away from seniors and homeowners. They enacted the job-killing MTA payroll tax. They put the interests of New York City ahead of the rest of the state. For the sake of hardworking taxpayers and their families, I hope and pray New York is not headed for a repeat of that fiasco.