

# EAST ISLIP TaxPAC

P.O. Box 162

Great River, N.Y. 11739

## Vote Tuesday May 15, 2007

**Budget is \$93,931,176**

**Taxes to go up by 6.94%**

**With last year's 12.2%, this equals a 2-year school tax increase of 19%**

**Vote NO! A NO vote will reduce the budget by \$4,755,242**

### VOTE FOR LOU RAFFONE

**LOUIS F. RAFFONE:** He will work to lower our taxes. He was on the board when there was no tax increase following the years of austerity. Lou attended Holy Cross and Queens College. Fourteen years ago he founded the Heckscher Youth Program which offers free summer activities to the youth of East Islip and surrounding communities. He is vice president of the Suffolk County Citizens Police Academy Association. He continues a family tradition of community service begun by his father Louis J. Raffone.

### Voting no again is our only option

The community voted no twice last year – only to have a 12% tax increase shoved down our throats. The district received \$33,601,557 in state aid plus \$8,237,489 in STAR money and significantly more state aid than they expected this year, yet we are presented with a budget that adds another 6.94% to our school taxes a total of 19.14% for two years.

### Taxed anyway for teacher raises

Despite the expired teacher contract the school board has included money for potential teacher raises, benefits and perks, making it impossible for the Board to negotiate in good faith on behalf of the residents of the East Islip School District.

### Poor management costs taxpayers

Contingency (austerity) does not mean cutting programs but cutting spending. But spending continues to increase in spite of a declining enrollment and empty, unused classrooms in the elementary schools. The proposal to return kindergarteners to their neighborhood schools was ignored. Retention of jobs for teachers and administrators took precedence over efficient use of district resources.

### Higher teachers' salaries = Higher taxes = Lower quality of life

**"Teachers salaries are such a significant part of the total educational budget and Long Island teacher salaries are so far above the state and national averages that any meaningful reduction in the tax burden must include changes in this area."**  
**-1990 Long Island Association Report**

The attached salary list contains the actual East Islip gross salaries from September 2005 to June 2006 as reported to the Teachers Retirement System. These salaries do not include benefits, an additional 35% above and beyond their salaries. Some teachers on the list have now retired. Retiree pensions can total up to 75% of their salaries. This year with Long Islanders' average incomes falling to just 5% above the national average, taxpayers cannot sustain teacher salaries and benefits at these levels.

### TAXPAC MEMBERSHIP 2007-2008

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Donation: \_\_\_\_\_

Please return to: East Islip TaxPAC

Suggested donation: \$20.00

P.O. Box 162

Great River NY 11739

# CAN YOU AFFORD:

Full-time pay for part-time work
Full-time pay for no work
Health coverage with no employee contribution
\$500,000 legal expenses
\$1,000,000 for a security system that doesn't work
\$2,000,000 for potential teacher raises
\$6,000,000 per year for debt service
\$87,000 administrators' stipends

To pay part time teachers full time pay? Over thirty teachers work from one to four periods of 40 minutes each but get full salary.

To pay top salaries to teachers who don't teach? For example union president Nancy Close's \$120,000 salary plus benefits ... for conducting union business, not for teaching.

To pay over a million dollars a year to a teachers welfare fund administered by the union, for reimbursement for insurance co-pays and their 12% "contribution" towards their health coverage?

To pay almost \$500,000 to three law firms, one of which is already on retainer, to defend the district in lawsuits? Plus an unknown amount in settlement fees?

To pay over \$1,000,000 for an automated security system, manned by a full time security guard, which has malfunctioned (failed to record) when incidents have occurred?

To pay taxes on reserves being held for potential teacher raises? An estimated \$2,000,000 added to your tax bill.

To be taxed over \$6,000,000 a year on a bond debt plus interest when you were told if you voted for it, the bond issue would result in "no" tax increase?

To pay favored administrators stipends totaling \$87,000 above their salary?

## The STAR (School Tax Relief) Program

It has become clear that sending more money to school districts without any requirement for cost control has made things worse. The more they send the more they spend. The original school tax abatement program (STAR) mandated a school district spending cap in order to get the extra state funds. It was later "watered down" to only take effect should the voters defeat their proposed budget. The present cap, which was supposed to kick-in after a second budget defeat, did not.

### A 12.2% tax increase is not a cap

STAR was meant to reduce the burden on taxpayers but actually has had the perverse effect of raising our taxes through uncontrolled school district spending.

The table below shows the cause & effect of district spending on property taxes:

Year	Budget	State Aid	STAR	Tax Rate	Tax Increase	
1993-94	49,782,538	16,693,444		8.42%	14.75%	
1994-95	51,908,149	18,147,824		8.41%	4.97%	The years of a pro taxpayer majority on school board.
1995-96	53,902,195	18,604,824		8.70%	.40%	
1996-97	54,085,899	18,872,324		8.56%	1.00%	The board controlled spending, student test scores improved and building improvements were made with "pay as you go" funding (no borrowing).
1997-98	55,695,802	22,320,184		8.46%	.10%	
1998-99	59,847,769	25,089,095	+1,536,264	8.47%	.01%	
1999-00	63,048,619	27,705,574	+3,147,054	8.46%	-.01%	
2000-01	65,105,460	29,088,128	+4,567,638	8.73%	3.10%	
2001-02	67,925,793	28,800,270	+6,334,848	9.48%	4.97%	
2002-03	71,094,157	28,194,607	+6,880,001	10.34%	9.00%	
2003-04	72,076,139	28,398,081	+7,054,982	10.93%	8.82%	
2004-05	76,806,899	29,079,754	+7,369,199	11.95%	8.20%	
2005-06	82,889,898	30,560,952	+7,435,076	12.59%	5.40%	
2006-07	86,543,325	33,601,557	+8,237,489	14.13%	12.2%	
2007-08	93,931,076	34,641,288				

The information contained in this flyer has been obtained through freedom of information requests, attendance at budget advisory committee meetings and from school board meeting minutes.