New Yorkers pay some of the highest property taxes in the country — nearly fifty percent higher than the national average. This enormous tax burden continues to threaten our state’s economy, discourages businesses from relocating here and contributes to minuscule gains in private sector jobs over the past decade. Clearly, bold steps have to be taken to control property taxes and reduce the tax burden for working New Yorkers. Senate Democrats have been supportive of several recent initiatives to bring about property tax relief. While these state initiatives have begun to address the problem, more action on various levels is needed.

**Senate Democrats Take Action...**

Senate Democrats are holding a public hearing on The Future of Property Tax Relief in New York State. We are bringing together experts in the fields of tax, local government, and education to offer real solutions on how New York can reduce its property tax burden. We look forward to you presenting your views and ideas to help us shape our 20/20 vision for New Yorkers. Please note there is a 10 minute time limit on testimony.

**Questions to be addressed...**

- Should New York State take over the county share of Medicaid?
- Should New York State expand the real property tax circuit-breaker?
- What other existing state programs should be expanded or perhaps abolished and why?
- Is there a more efficient, fairer way to fund our public schools?
- Is there a way we can get school districts and localities to share resources and services to operate more efficiently and reduce costs?
- How can the state, local governments and school districts work more closely and find ways to better manage its resources?
- Proposals have been made to impose a school property tax cap, consolidate school districts or local governments, and increase opportunities to share services. Do you have additional comments on any of these approaches?

Please feel free to contact Bobby Logan of Senator Suzi Oppenheimer’s District Office at (914) 934-5250 if you have any questions or if you wish to either submit testimony and/or participate. We hope to see you there.