



News from the **Fiscal Policy Institute**

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Fiscal Policy Institute's Mauro to step down

Respected budget and policy expert ensured representation of low- and middle-income New Yorkers in economic debate

Frank Mauro – one of the nation's leading voices for applying commonsense economics to public policy challenges – will be stepping down as Executive Director of the Fiscal Policy Institute (FPI) at the end of New York's 2013 Legislative session.

Mauro has long been one of Albany's best known experts on budget and public policy issues from his work at FPI and earlier as Secretary of the NYS Assembly Ways and Means Committee, director of Assembly Speaker Stanley Fink's Program Development Group, director of research for the last major revision of the New York City Charter, and Deputy Director of the Rockefeller Institute of Government.

Michael Burgess, FPI board chair, said "Frank Mauro has used his great understanding of fiscal issues and his passion for tax fairness to make the Fiscal Policy Institute the source for progressive policy proposals through five governors and an entire generation of Albany legislative history. In that time, FPI's work has provided policy research and analysis to support the value and impact of government economic and social investments."

Mauro's leadership at FPI since 1993 has been essential to its development as a credible and effective advocacy organization that helps to shape the debate over key economic and fiscal issues in ways that ensure a voice for working people – from middle income homeowners struggling with high property tax bills to those families whose breadwinners toil in minimum wage jobs to the involuntarily unemployed.

"The health of our Democracy really depends on meaningful debate using solid information and analysis," Mauro said. "The Fiscal Policy Institute has focused on the challenge of creating better understanding of issues and fostering more informed conversations about those issues - based on facts. That is the route to better public policy."

“New York, our nation, our world are facing complex problems that affect a lot of people and require more than just sound bytes for solutions.” Mauro said.

FPI has played particularly important roles in increasing public and official understanding of the causes and consequences of growing income inequality in New York and beyond and New York's high poverty rates. FPI's reports have also provided important benchmarks and context about New York's tax system, the stability and adequacy of state and local public services, and the social conditions in the state's communities.

FPI's annual presentation analyzing the proposed state budget each winter has become a significant Albany event. Its reports, statewide public education forums, and frequent media commentary have provided valuable insight and important information that capital insiders and the public need to know.

Numerous individuals and officials throughout New York State expressed their gratitude to Mauro for all his work on behalf of all New Yorkers.

Assembly Speaker Sheldon Silver said of Mauro's tenure, “It has been a privilege to work with Frank on crucial policies that have helped to level the playing field for all New Yorkers. From implementing sensible taxes on the wealthy to raising wages for our lowest earners, under Frank's leadership, the Fiscal Policy Institute has provided sound supporting research for measures that improve the lot for the overworked and underpaid. I commend his longstanding commitment to and advocacy on behalf of economic equality.”

“Frank Mauro's intellectual contribution to shaping fiscal and economic policy in New York State and New York City is unsurpassed,” New York State Comptroller Thomas P. DiNapoli said. “Frank is the architect behind many progressive initiatives and a tireless advocate for working New Yorkers. He has served as a mentor and inspiration to many current and future government leaders. His efforts will benefit New Yorkers for generations.”

“Over the last twenty years at FPI, Frank has elevated public policy debate in Albany beyond the all too common hyperbole,” said New York State AFL-CIO President Mario Cilento. “His expert analysis, particularly on the impact of the state budget on working men and women, has had a positive impact on public policy and in turn the lives of so many New Yorkers. Frank has set the standard for all who follow him.”

“Frank and the Fiscal Policy Institute have been an indispensable source of information about the state budget, the economy and poverty for those of us working for economic justice in New York State,” said Mark Dunlea, long-time executive director of the Hunger Action Network of New York State. “Frank has always been our go to person to explain what is going on with the budget and to give us the statistics on income inequality or unemployment. He has been incredibly helpful on issues such as raising the basic welfare grant, increasing the state minimum wage, securing funding for transitional jobs for low-income New Yorkers, and of course, for tax fairness.”

“Frank Mauro knows what he is talking about and more importantly, people respect what he has to say regardless of their political persuasion,” said CSEA President Danny Donohue. “Frank’s credibility and tireless work has established the Fiscal Policy Institute as an important voice in the public policy debate in New York.”

“The work of FPI in the area of education funding has been invaluable, and Frank has spearheaded that work in ways that have had a positive impact on the lives of children and educators alike,” said Richard Iannuzzi, president of the New York State United Teachers.

“Frank has been a valuable resource and friend to the League for many decades,” said Barbara Bartoletti, legislative director for the League of Women Voters of New York State. “The League has relied on Frank’s expert research and knowledge on fiscal issues in many areas, particularly financing of education, to better educate its members and the public. His contributions to the public discussion on fiscal affairs of the state have been greatly valued and will be sorely missed.”

Susan M. Kent, president of the Public Employees Federation said “Frank’s work has had a significant impact on the way New York State does business. In particular, his ground-breaking documentation of the high cost of state hired consultants was instrumental in getting laws enacted requiring the disclosure of consultants’ costs to the State, resulting in the hiring of state employees instead of consultants, when doing so is more cost-efficient.”

FPI is conducting a national search to identify Mauro’s successor. Information about FPI can be found at www.fiscalpolicy.org. Visit www.fiscalpolicy.org/edsearch for more information about the Executive Director position and the application process.

The Fiscal Policy Institute (www.fiscalpolicy.org) is an independent, nonpartisan, nonprofit research and education organization committed to improving public policies and private practices to better the economic and social conditions of all New Yorkers. Founded in 1991, FPI works to create a strong economy in which prosperity is broadly shared.