

Sign In Report It Email Alerts About Us

Full Site Search



News Weather Sports Video Traffic Money Health Entertainment Community Report It onPolitix Winging It

Home : News : Erie :



Collins 2012 budget eliminates 300 jobs

Updated: Friday, 30 Sep 2011, 6:00 PM EDT
Published: Friday, 30 Sep 2011, 2:10 PM EDT

Al Vaughters

Posted by: Eli George

BUFFALO, N.Y. (WIVB) - The budget ax could come down hard on more than 300 jobs in Erie County.

About half of those jobs are already gone, made up of county workers who left and were never replaced, says County Executive Chris Collins. He is holding the line on property taxes in next year's budget and paring down the county's work force while ramping up his duel with the Erie County Comptroller Mark Poloncarz.

Collins said, "This budget has a 0 percent increase in our tax rate."

The good news in Collins' budget: no property tax increases. The bad news: more than 300 job cuts, although half of them are already vacant.

"As people left because they retired, found other positions, or the like, there was a very clear mindset to not fill those positions," said Collins.

The property tax rate in Collins' budget plan for next year is unchanged, \$5.03 per thousand dollars of assessed valuation or \$503 a year for a home valued at \$100,000. Collins also points out, pension costs are up significantly across the state and the county's share of Medicaid is up by more than \$5 million to more than \$200 million, using up more than 95 percent of county property taxes.

Collins said, "There is no extra money. Between Medicaid, pension cost increases, and health insurance and other mandated programming, this is why other county governments melting down right now, but we are not."

And Collins says the county is putting more money into county parks upgrades and repairs, county roads, and capital improvement projects. He is also trying to eliminate workers in the county comptroller's office, which is not sitting well with Comptroller Mark Poloncarz.

"The Erie County Comptroller's Office actually has the most responsibility of any county comptroller in all of New York State," said Poloncarz.

But Poloncarz is challenging Collins in the November election and now he has one of the smallest comptroller offices in New York State.

Poloncarz said, "Because Mr. Collins has been intent for the last few years on destroying the ability of the comptroller's office to actually do the work we're required to do by Erie County's charter."

We contacted the CSEA, which represents many of the county workers that could be laid off, and a spokesperson said they are going to do whatever they can to save their members' jobs and claims Collins wants to lay workers off just to be mean.

More Stories



District of the Dead to spook WNYers
District of the Dead on Elmwood Avenue, in north Buffalo, is ...



World Day of Bullying Prevention
Monday, students, parents and teachers will be rallying ...



Attempted murder case heads to trial
Jonathan Cheek, 68, is charged with attempted murder and ...



Loss doesn't sit well with Bills fans
Fans are particularly upset about a call on what looked like a ...



Hockey holiday takes disappointing turn
It was supposed to be a dream vacation for a group of Sabres ...

Advertisement