



NEW YORK STATE SENATOR

James L. Seward

State Budget Passes Senate

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ISSUE:

- [Government Operations](#)
- [Budget](#)



ALBANY, 03/30/11 -- State Senator James L. Seward (R/C/I – Oneonta) today commented on final approval of the state budget:

“For the first time in twenty-eight years New York has an early state budget. Along with being done in advance of the April 1 deadline, the plan takes major steps to improve our economic climate, and meets the needs of our families and individuals who are ready for an Empire State rebirth.

“The \$132.5 billion budget lowers overall state spending by two percent, and closes a \$10 billion deficit without raising taxes or borrowing - major accomplishments. Every effort was made to fairly distribute aid to needy school districts and local governments, and cuts to health care programs and other needed services were minimized where possible.

“New job incentives are also included with the goal of putting people back to work and increasing our overall tax base. This is crucial to invigorate our existing small businesses, attracting new companies and moving our state forward.

“The budget may be done but the work is far from over. A property tax cap and real mandate relief for our local governments and schools must be enacted this year to further mend our state’s economy.

“Albany is refocused, the early state budget is proof positive, and I stand ready to utilize the new found momentum to achieve concrete results for the 51st senate district and all of New York.”