

DAILY NEWS

Irate Larry Schwartz Blasts Tax Foundation AND Buffalo Democrat

BY KEN LOVETT - OCTOBER 11, 2012

A charged up Secretary to the Governor Larry Schwartz ripped into a Tax Foundation report on the state business tax climate—and called on any state legislative candidates opposing a state property tax cap “to stay home.”

Schwartz, who obviously ate his Wheaties before an Albany radio appearance, specifically singled out Buffalo Democrat Mike Amodeo, who is challenging Republican incumbent Mark Grisanti.

While Gov. Cuomo has yet to endorse Grisanti, who provided one of four GOP votes to enact a gay marriage law, the fact Schwartz attacked Amodeo is likely a sign of where the governor’s head is on that race.

“To every candidate who doesn’t support the governor’s property tax cap, if you think you’re going to come to Albany to raise taxes, forget it,” he said. “Stay home. It’s not happening.”

Schwartz’s ire toward Amodeo was topped only by his outrage at the Tax Foundation and Cato Institute, which both gave poor rankings to New York for its business climate under Cuomo.

Schwartz branded the Tax Foundation as a “right-wing think tank.”

He accused the foundation of writing its report ranking New York dead last in the country in business tax climate “based on ideology and not facts.”

“They basically took data and manipulated them to fit their world view,” he charged. “They support a flax tax, not the progressive tax we have.”

He questioned why property taxes, which he claims burdens businesses even more than the corporate taxes, wasn't weighed more heavily in the report.

He said the 2-percent cap on property tax increases has saved businesses tremendously given that they had grown an average of 60% the previous 10 years.

And he asked how Nevada, with 14% unemployment and a housing crisis, ranked third best among states in the report.

“I’d rather be New York and not Nevada that has a 14% unemployment rate,” he said.

Not surprisingly, Schwartz said the public would be better off focusing on a recent U.S. Chamber of Commerce business report that rated New York much more favorably.

“That’s the report everybody should look at--not a right wing think tank that has a personal word view and manipulates data to support that world view,” he said.