

## Web Site for Ideas on State Budget--*added 11/10/08*

GROWING DEFICIT: Governor's message going 'to the people'  
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ALBANY — Efforts to trim the bloated state budget have gained headlines as the nation's economic crisis continues to worsen. New Yorkers now have the chance to offer their ideas on how to tackle the state's mounting deficits.

Gov. David A. Paterson on Friday announced the launch of a new Web site intended to both inform New Yorkers of the state's budget problems and offer them the opportunity to provide input.

*Reduce NY Spending:*  
[www.reducenyspending.gov](http://www.reducenyspending.gov)

"With the State facing significant budget deficits and a struggling economy, New Yorkers deserve a frank and honest discussion about the need for greater fiscal responsibility in state government," Gov. Paterson said in a press release. "As we work to confront this crisis, I will continue to take my message of fiscal responsibility directly to the people."

The site, ReduceNYSpending.gov, features the following:

- Information on the state's fiscal condition and the governor's efforts to control state spending.
- A section for New Yorkers to submit potential savings ideas, input on the state's spending priorities and other comments on the budgetary process.
- A calculator enabling New Yorkers to create their own proposals to balance next year's budget — with the idea of demonstrating the difficult tradeoffs needed to close a \$12.5 billion deficit.

After directing state agencies to slash their current year budgets by 10 percent since March and calling the Legislature back into special session in August, Gov. Paterson has asked legislators to return to Albany again on Nov. 18 to trim another \$2 billion from this year's budget. Legislative leaders were supposed to present a slate of ideas to

the governor on Friday, but none did.

In an effort to boost public discussion of the state's fiscal crisis, and to hear directly from state residents, Gov. Paterson will host a town hall meeting at the Onondaga Civic Center in Syracuse on Tuesday, Veterans Day. The meeting will begin at 2 p.m. and will be both moderated and taped by WCNY-TV 24. The public is invited to attend.