



THE ASSEMBLY
STATE OF NEW YORK
ALBANY

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CHAIRMAN
Ways and Means Committee

COMMITTEES
Rules
Black & Puerto Rican Caucus

December 22, 2008

Dear Colleagues:

I am pleased to provide you with the Statistical and Narrative Summary of the Executive Budget for the upcoming State Fiscal Year, April 1, 2009 to March 31, 2010. The "Yellow Book" is intended to provide the Members of the Committee, the Members of the Assembly, and the public with an overview of the fiscal and policy proposals made by the Governor in the bills submitted as his Executive Budget on December 16, 2008. This document presents the budget as introduced and does not reflect acceptance of the proposals put forth by the Executive.

The "Yellow Book" marks the beginning of the Legislature's public review of the Governor's proposed budget. It is the Assembly's preliminary response to the budget, as required by Section 53 of the Legislative Law. Joint legislative fiscal committee hearings on the budget proposal will be the next step in our efforts to ensure public accessibility and accountability.

Section One, Overview of Executive Budget, provides an executive summary of the Governor's proposal for State Fiscal Year 2009-10 including analysis intended to place the proposed financial plan and spending in major programmatic areas in perspective. The section also includes an analysis of the national economy and the Executive's revenue forecast. The overview also lists the appropriation budget bills and detail on the non-appropriation budget bills.

Section Two, Summary of Recommended Appropriations by Agency, provides an overview of current appropriations and recommendations for the 2009-10 State Fiscal Year for each agency, a presentation of the proposed changes in each agency's budgeted personnel level, and a description of the programmatic and statutory modifications proposed in Article VII legislation included with the Executive Budget submission. The section reflects the structure of the Executive Budget appropriation bills. Agencies are presented in alphabetical order within the appropriation bills as they appear in the Governor's proposed budget.

Speaker Silver and I know that you share our goal of rising to the challenges facing this State as we confront the painful reality of the current economic crisis. Together, we will continue to strive toward producing an on-time budget that is fair and equitable – and meets the needs of working families across the State.

As the Legislature begins its work on the State Fiscal Year 2009-10 Budget, I would like to express appreciation to my Assembly colleagues for the time and commitment you will dedicate to the budget process. I would also like to convey to the Ways and Means Committee staff my gratitude for their outstanding efforts to produce this document, which is a tremendous resource for the Members of the Assembly.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "H. D. Farrell, Jr." with a stylized, cursive script.

HERMAN D. FARRELL, JR.