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11/28/08 06:47 AM

Time to reduce size of County Legislature

What a sad situation. The market is falling at an alarming rate, banks are going belly up, housing nationwide is all but dead and unemployment is at a seven-year high.

Locally, the County Legislature is slicing away at the budget, reducing funding to the all-too-important cultural institutions and increasing fees on everything from health care visits to the use of picnic shelters. What can we do?

For one simple solution, legislators should look in the mirror. Erie County has 15 legislators, who are the second-highest paid in the state. Is it really necessary? If the legislators would reduce their salary by 50 percent, bringing them in line with counties throughout New York, the savings would be more than \$200,000.

Even better, do we really need 15 legislators? Let's cut the Legislature to seven members, and eliminate their offices and staff. This would save the county well over \$300,000. Simple sure. But to do this the legislators, as Donn Esmonde puts it, would have to become true public servants and not self-servant.

Tom Jackson

Lackawanna



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