

Wars Drain Our Budgets

Source: "Nation's Wars Are Heavy Burden on State Budgets," by Jack Nelson-Pallmeyer and Bill Hilty, Minneapolis Star Tribune (Minnesota), 7/26/2011.



On a hot Saturday afternoon in July, a middle-aged woman stood quietly on the sidewalk of Middletown Road in Nanuet, holding a large sign: “**Help me. I live in my car. I am broke.**”

How desperate she must have been to hold that sign in public!

We may not know what made her “homeless,” but we all have relatives or friends who lost their jobs in this Great Recession.

Rockland County is also in financial shortfall of \$51 million.

In response to this shortfall, County Executive C. Scott Vanderhoef wants to cut county programs, sell county properties and lay off workers.

It doesn't have to be this way, **if we confront the high costs of militarization and wars.**

According to the nonpartisan National Priorities Project, Congress devotes 58 cents of every dollar of federal discretionary spending to war-related purposes.

In specific, **Rockland County taxpayers spend \$28 million EVERY month** for our share of the senseless wars in Afghanistan and Iraq. **Ending these wars for just TWO months could save enough of our tax dollars to pay for our county's ENTIRE budget deficit.**

How much more suffering are we willing to endure before we demand an end to the wars now?

Please call on Sen. Charles Schumer (202-224-6542), Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand (202-224-4451), Rep. Eliot Engel (845-735-1000), Rep. Nita Lowey (845-639-3485), Rep. Nan Hayworth (845-206-4600), and President Barack Obama to shift federal funding from wars and the interests of the few, to meeting the essential needs of us all.



Join our 456th Peace Vigil to help end the wars!
Every Saturday, 1-3 pm, at Rte. 59 & Middletown Rd. in Nanuet, NY

For info: www.rocklandaction.org

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Rockland Coalition for Peace & Justice