

KINGS PARK



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Help Stop Illegal 452% Increase in Your Sewer Taxes/Fees

This spring, at the tail end of a pandemic, Suffolk County adopted a plan to raise sewer rates in our community 452% over what is legally permissible. The county claims we have been underpaying for sewer services ever since the Kings Park State Hospital closed in 1996, and they now want us to pay the difference.

The truth is the state transferred the hospital's sewage treatment plant to the Town of Smithtown in 1973 in return for the hospital paying **no** sewer fees for 13 years. Even after the sewage treatment plant was transferred to the county in 1978, the state hospital continued to pay **no** sewer fees until 1986.

As the hospital population decreased and eventually closed in 1996, several other Kings Park and Smithtown localities connected to the sewage treatment plant, including Harbor Oaks, Gum Tree Gardens, St. Johnland Nursing Center, Saint Catherine of Siena Medical Center, Siena Village,

Brookside Multicare Nursing Center, Kings Park Manor, the Lake Bridge Club and Martin Luther King Apartments. All these new additions to the sewer district helped balance lost fees from the state hospital.

In addition, after sewer rates began increasing exponentially across Suffolk County, the county created the Sewer Assessment Stabilization Reserve Fund (ASRF) in 2000. It is funded from a voter approved sales tax (1/4 of 1%) and is used to offset any increase in sewer taxes and fees over 3% annually and to expand and improve sewer infrastructure.

However, County Executive Bellone illegally diverted approximately \$171.3 million from this fund to pay for excessive union contracts in exchange for millions in campaign contributions. He was successfully sued by the Pine Barrens Society and was ordered by the court to return the money to the sewer fund by 2029, but his efforts to circumvent this ruling persisted.



Photo of Kings Park Sewage Treatment Plant north of St. Johnland Road - County is illegally raising taxes & fees in Kings Park Sewer District 452% over 9 years after raiding approximately \$200 million from sewer fund.

Demand Return of \$198.5 Million to County Sewer Fund for Drinking Water Protection & Tax Stabilization

In order to evade two court orders to return \$183.5 million to the sewer fund and pilfer an additional \$15 million from its reserves (\$198.5 million total), Mr. Bellone put a deceptively worded proposition on the ballot in 2020 (pictured at right), which voters unwittingly and narrowly approved. Now, because the sewer fund has been depleted by Mr. Bellone, the county is illegally increasing sewer taxes and fees 452% just before the district's expansion to downtown Kings Park gets underway.

This increase, spread out over 9 years, will result in the average homeowner paying an additional \$3,500 in sewer costs during this time period and will reach an extra \$700 per year alone by 2030.

To stop this illegal increase in your sewer rates and force the return of \$198.5 million to the sewer fund, the Kings Park Community Association, in partnership with the Pine Barrens

PROPOSAL TWO, A PROPOSITION

Resolution No. 547-2020, "A Charter Law to Transfer Excess Funds in the Sewer Assessment Stabilization Reserve Fund to the Suffolk County Taxpayer Trust Fund and to Eliminate the Requirement that Interfund Transfers Be Made from the General Fund to the Sewer Assessment Stabilization Fund"

Shall Resolution No. 547-2020 be approved?

This misleading proposition appeared on the ballot in 2020. It has resulted in significantly higher fees for Kings Park Sewer District residents and less funding for tax stabilization and sewer infrastructure improvements to protect our drinking water.

Society, has hired the attorney who wrote the legislation capping sewer taxes and fees at 3% per year to represent us. We have already raised \$25,000, but we'll need additional funding to be successful. If each homeowner were to contribute just \$100, we're confident we can win this fight.

By donating today, you can save your family thousands of dollars over the next several years and help protect our drinking water today and for future generations.

Please fill out form below and mail with donation to:

Kings Park Community Association • PO Box 413, Kings Park, NY 11754
or make a donation online from the homepage
or at Venmo at kpcommunity

Name:

Address:

City/Hamlet:

Zip Code:

Email (*For updates only*):

Thank you,
Kings Park Community Association Plaintiffs