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## David calls Binghamton budget 'incomplete and unbalanced'

### Mayor Ryan confident in accounting of pension costs

BY ERIC REINAGEL • [EREINAGE@GANNETT.COM](mailto:EREINAGE@GANNETT.COM) • STAFF WRITER • OCTOBER 8, 2009, 11:25 PM

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BINGHAMTON -- Republican mayoral candidate Rich David said Mayor Matthew Ryan needs to better account for pension costs in the 2010 budget.

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"Without the increase in pension costs accounted for in the proposed 2010 budget the document is incomplete and unbalanced," said David.

David accused Ryan of crafting an "election year" budget that doesn't account for a major expense.

Ryan, a Democrat, countered by saying he's budgeting like many mayors across New York state.

At this time, Binghamton is budgeting \$783,813 for state [retirement](#) costs, even through those costs are projected at \$1.41 million. Another \$3.17 million is budgeted for fire and police retirement, although costs are projected at \$4.59 million.

Ryan said he's confident after talking with representatives of the New York Conference of Mayors that the state will pass legislation to amortize costs and mayors across the state are budgeting like the city.

"It's a hole we don't want to pass on to the taxpayers at this time because they're already hurting in this recession," said Ryan.

David called it irresponsible "to craft your budget around something that is not permissible by law at this point and don't know if it will be permissible anytime in the future."

Douglas Walter Drazen, who is running on the Independence Party line, characterized David's remark as the pot calling the kettle black. Drazen claimed former mayor Richard Bucci, for whom David worked, used similar tactics to lead people

to believe tax increases were lower than they were.

"This is exactly the sort of partisan sniping and knit-picking that has hurt the city and that we need to get away from," he commented.

Drazen said he would not only work to have Albany change the pension system, but the city also needs to

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lower pension costs by reducing its workforce.

This week Drazen released his "pledge" and "plan" for the city on <http://drazenformayor.com> that includes reducing receptionists and typists.

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**manaboutown** wrote:

Replying to mhjkn99:

*y'all seem to have short memories. drazen threw a hissy fit last election after he lost. it was as immature as is allowed by law. that's not the stuff of which a mayor is made of. I'm sticking with a tried and true mayor Ryan.*

Are you serious?

I'll settle for Drazen's prophetic and honest statements after the last election before Ryan's history of harassing women, carousing in bars, and fighting and yelling and cursing at political opponents in the street.

There is nothing "mature" about Matt Ryan. He's tried and true alright...a tried and true jerk.

If that's what you think mayors are made of....you're right....you already have the fool you deserve.

10/10/2009 5:37:07 AM

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**snapoutofit** wrote:

Replying to mhjkn99:

*y'all seem to have short memories. drazen threw a hissy fit last election after he lost. it was as immature as is allowed by law. that's not the stuff of which a mayor is made of.*

*his plan? promises that cannot be kept. same with david. the sun, moon and stars, yet neither will be able to deliver.*

*I'm sticking with a tried and true mayor Ryan. his vision for the city is the one we need.*

*no hissy fits, no false promises..*

What you call a hissy fit, many others call prophecy. A tried and true mayor wouldn't try hiding an additional tax increase from the people, while telling them he's protecting them. That's about as false a promise as you can get, and it certainly isn't vision.

10/9/2009 11:08:24 PM

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**mhjkn99** wrote:

y'all seem to have short memories. drazen threw a hissy fit last election after he lost. it was as immature as is allowed by law. that's not the stuff of which a mayor is made of.

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I'm sticking with a tried and true mayor Ryan. his vision for the city is the one we need.

no hissy fits, no false promises..  
10/9/2009 10:55:05 PM

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**Bingoisbest** wrote:

I read the Drazen plan...sad that those playing party politics try to minimize the content of the plan. I see ideas to streamline, simplify and to focus on the people that are putting their money in the kitty--the taxpayers. Sounds like a plan to me....  
10/9/2009 8:20:32 PM

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**columbia93** wrote:

Replying to mofthef:

*Replying to columbia93:*

*Replying to snapoutofit:*

*Replying to columbia93:*

*It's funny  
that both  
David and  
Drazen do  
a lot of  
criticizing,  
but I don't  
see either  
of their  
plans on  
ther table  
??*

*Funny? You don't see? The  
Drazen Plan is referenced in  
the article, with a link to it.  
Remove hands from eyes,  
point mouse, then click.  
See?*

*Yeah I saw it, that's not a plan, it;s a JOKE !!  
QUOTE]*

*Your original post said you saw no plan. Now  
you say you did see, but did not like. So, your  
first post wasn't really honest. That post  
claimed to be concerned with all the crticizing,  
but it looks like you were just describing  
yourself.*

Haha, way to stay on Topic. Make sure you give Doug a big kiss when you get home.

10/9/2009 12:28:45 PM

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