

NEWS RELEASE

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NORTHRUP CALLS FOR EDUCATION CHOICE, TUITION TAX CREDITS

John Northrup, Libertarian candidate for Governor, today called for tuition tax credits as a first step toward assuring that all parents in New York have the opportunity to send their children to the school of their choice, and ending state domination of education in New York.

Northrup pointed out that "despite a 600 percent increase in per pupil expenditures in just over 20 years, test scores have declined dramatically, the drop-out rate has increased, and high schools turn out graduates who read at the ninth grade level or below. New Yorkers have lost faith in the state-run school system and with good reason - it's a disgrace. Most parents who can afford to are deserting the public system for private schools which cost less and produce better results.

"The solution to this problem is choice. Presently only the rich can afford to escape the public school system and the rest of us are stuck with no control over our children's education. Elimination of the state income tax over four years together with a tuition tax credit against local school taxes will give almost everyone the power to choose the kind of education they want. The credits would not be limited to your own children either, so that individuals, charitable organizations and businesses could lower their taxes by paying tuition for others."

According to Northrup, the tax credit plan, in addition to improving the quality of education, would also save state and local taxpayers a substantial

amount of money since each child who opted for private or parochial school would reduce government expenditures on the average by about \$3,500.00.

"Normal enrollment decline, combined with the spurred additional private school enrollment totalling 20 percent would save taxpayers \$2 billion a year. The resultant competition would also force public schools to improve or lose their students," said Northrup.

Northrup's proposal is his latest to reduce the size and scope of state government which has grown more than ten fold under the last three governors - two Republicans and one Democrat, and leave individuals free of government interference both in their economic and personal lives.

Mr. Northrup is a Syracuse CPA and budgeting expert. He is a cum laude graduate of Princeton with a Master's degree from Northeastern. He has postponed completion of his Ph.D. in order to campaign full-time which began September 1st.