



# PRESS RELEASE

**For Immediate Release**

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## English Needs to Explain 55% Tax Hike Last Time He was Mayor

**South Plainfield** – Saying residents deserve an explanation, Anesh Campaign spokesman Councilman Rob Bengivenga this week called upon Democrat mayoral candidate Michael English to explain why he raised taxes 55% in one year last time he was mayor.

“That’s a huge tax hike,” said Bengivenga. “Residents I’ve spoken to are demanding an explanation and say that English needs to be up-front about why he raised taxes 55% in one year.”

“Spending increased nearly a million dollars that year,” Bengivenga added.

“Mr. English can’t continue to ignore something that big,” added GOP Vice Chairman Alex Barletta. “He needs to give us some straight talk about the 55% increase.”

“Some people might consider what happened during English’s term as mayor a fluke, but it’s not,” added Bengivenga, who pointed out that English also voted for a \$375 tax hike while on the school board.

Records show that as a Board of Education member English voted to hike taxes \$375 for the average family in 2005.

A year earlier, English also voted to raise taxes. No figures are available for English’s last year on the board, because he never finished his term, quitting in August 2005.

When asked about English’s record on taxes and spending, Council President Matt Anesh, the GOP candidate for mayor, said it was “troubling.” He pointed to this year’s municipal tax cut as an example of the way he wants to manage the Borough.

“We were able to cut municipal taxes on the average family by \$178. Spending is down too,” said Anesh. “In fact, spending is lower than it was two years ago.”

“Smaller, more efficient government is becoming a reality,” added Councilman Ray Rusnak, who is seeking his second term on the Council.

“We cut spending this year by streamlining departments and reducing the size of the Borough workforce, mostly through attrition,” added Councilman Tim McConville, who is also seeking reelection.

McConville said that the Borough also reaped savings by bidding out contracts for recycling for the first time, by renegotiating contracts, and by refinancing debt to get a lower interest rate.”

McConville also complimented Rusnak on the job he did with the defeated school-board budget: “Ray worked with Matt Anesh, CFO Glenn Cullen, and our auditor

to eliminate the school board’s proposed \$100 increase. Thanks to Ray, school taxes are flat this year.”

“As a parent of twin boys who go to Riley School, I was happy with the way we were able to handle the school budget,” added Anesh. “Our reductions did not call for one less teacher or program, and we actually suggested ways the school board could bring back teachers and programs, some of which has happened.”

All three candidates agreed that there is a big difference between how they approach things and how the other party does.

“The other side over-promises and under-delivers,” said Rusnak. “We take the opposite approach. Our goal is a more affordable South Plainfield, and if given the chance, we will continue to make that our priority.”

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