

Vigil for Peace

NYS Tax Dollars and War

Approximately **\$109.9 billion** is New York State's share of the monetary cost of the Iraq and Afghanistan wars. This is a figure from the National Priorities Project's "Cost of War" web site (www.costofwar.com).

This figure is based on the money allocated by Congress from 2001 to the present, which totals about \$1.27 trillion (with a "t") for both wars. The amount for each state was then calculated based on the state's share of taxes paid into federal funds revenues.

New York State taxpayers' dollar share of the Iraq war, to date, is **over \$68 billion** and our dollar share of the Afghanistan war is about **\$41 billion**.

The \$1.27 trillion figure does not include potential future costs such as medical care for military personnel and veterans, nor interest payments on the national debt resulting from war spending. Some estimates of the real dollar cost of the wars are around \$2.5 trillion, which would roughly double the New York State figures above.

As New York State considers its income and expenses, it's worth thinking about how these war dollars could have been spent here. Funding for the Afghanistan war is actually increasing, with roughly \$120 billion approved for Fiscal Year 2011.

How much longer can we squander money on counter-productive, endless wars while imposing austerity measures at the state and local levels and watching our infrastructure crumble?

The Vigil for Peace was initiated by the Albany Friends Meeting and Peace Action. Find out how you can work for peace. Call 518-595-9324

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