



# 2010 State of the County Address



Robert J. Bondi  
*County Executive*  
Putnam County

March 10, 2010



# Putnam County Legislature



Hon. Vincent Tamagna  
District #1



Hon. Samuel Oliverio, Jr.  
District #2



Hon. Richard Othmer  
District #3



Hon. Mary Conklin  
District #4



Hon. Mary Ellen Odell  
District #5



Hon. Tony Hay  
District #6



Hon. Daniel Birmingham  
District #7



Hon. Bernadine Lo Bue  
District #8



Hon. Anthony S. Fusco  
District #9



# The Great Recession Revenue Impact

- **Putnam County went from being first in sales tax revenue growth in 2008 to the second highest in sales tax revenue decline in 2009.**
  - **Actual revenues plunged \$5.1 million dollars.**
- **The sales tax decline in 2009 was one of the worst on record.**



# The Great Recession Revenue Impact

- **Property tax revenue fell short by \$3.5 million, as property owners encountered difficulty paying their property taxes.**
- **Outstanding property tax liens rose by 26%.**
- **Interest earnings fell short of the adopted budget by approximately 47%.**



# The Great Recession Revenue Impact

- **County Clerk Fees and DMV surcharge revenues fell short of budgeted expectations as activity from home and auto sales plunged.**
- **Prisoner board-in fees have dried up as new jails have opened and our own prison population has increased.**



# The Great Recession Revenue Impact

- **The Personnel Department reports that Civil Service Exam Applications increased by almost 20%.**
- **Requests for waivers of examination fees have also increased by 148%.**



# The Great Recession Revenue Impact

- **On a positive note, Putnam County received \$1.4 Million in American Recovery and Reinvestment Act funding from the Federal Government.**
- **The County recognized an additional \$1.8 million in revenue as the result of a 3 year revenue reconciliation process between DSS and the State of New York.**



# The Great Recession Revenue Impact

- **In 2009, County operating revenues totaled \$132.1 million, nearly \$4.3 million short of our adopted budget of \$136.4 million.**
- **This revenue drop was largely responsible for the \$7.4 million decrease in cash on hand experienced by the County in 2009.**



# The Great Recession

## Putnam County DSS Impact

- **The number of people receiving Home Energy Assistance (HEAP) increased 39% in 2009.**
- **DSS will continue to provide care to legal immigrant children, despite the loss of the Coordinator of Community Affairs.**



# The Great Recession Putnam County DSS Impact

**Currently, the number of people eligible for Medicaid in Putnam County is 5,202 (up approximately 13%).**

- **Of these, about 98 individuals are eligible because they are on public assistance.**
- **The rest receive Medicaid because they are without health insurance and need very expensive home health care.**



# The Great Recession

## Putnam County DSS Impact

- **The Putnam Workforce Partnership continues to combat the problem of high unemployment.**
  - **A primary function of the Partnership is to serve as the conduit for the unemployed population to re-enter the workforce.**
- **Statistics indicate that for every employment vacancy in Putnam, there will be at least 8 qualified candidates.**
  - **Only one will secure employment.**



# The Great Recession Managing Expenditures

- **In 2009, County operating expenditures totaled \$128.5 million.**
  - **About \$7.9 million less than the \$136.4 million budgeted in 2009.**
- **We were able to achieve savings of \$3.5 million in employee salary and fringe benefit costs.**



# The Great Recession Managing Expenditures

- **We achieved savings of \$1.6 million in energy costs, as these costs in 2009 declined from their all-time high in 2008.**
- **Finally, mandated social service program costs were \$1.3 million less than budgeted, with State and Federal Revenue reduced accordingly.**



# The Great Recession Managing Expenditures

- **Putnam County Government has managed well controlling costs in the face of daunting fiscal challenges.**
- **According to data published by the NYS Comptroller's Office, Putnam County ranked second lowest in expenditures per capita in the entire State of New York in 2008.**



# The Great Recession

## Managing Expenditures

- **The County spent \$1,409 per person in 2008**
  - **29% less than the statewide average of \$1,975 per person.**
- **In 2008, Putnam County spent less on Social Services per capita than any other County in the State of New York.**
- **In their independent bond rating report, Moody's Investor Service assigned a rating of Aa3, one of the strongest ratings in the State.**



# Fund Balance and The 2011 Budget

- **The County general fund undesignated fund balance actually increased \$650,000 in 2009.**
- **This strong fund balance should enable the County to again return surplus funds to the property taxpayer in 2011.**



# Fund Balance and The 2011 Budget

- **In 2010, the County returned \$3.7 million to the taxpayers, and we will attempt to return that amount again in 2011 to keep County property taxes the lowest portion of the real property tax bill.**



# Fund Balance and The 2011 Budget

- **Sales tax revenue remains lower for the beginning of 2010.**
- **We believe there will be cuts in State Aid, we just do not know where or how much yet.**
- **The County has depleted the \$1.4 million in debt service and transportation fund reserves.**



# Fund Balance and The 2011 Budget

- **The \$1.4 million in ARRA FMAP Medicaid funding is set to expire in 2010.**
- **There has been talk of extending this funding but nothing has been passed as of yet.**



# Fund Balance and The 2011 Budget

- **Everything is on the table again for the 2011 budget.**
- **There is a mortgage tax proposal before the NYS Legislature, but the outcome is uncertain.**
- **We know that Departments are strained as we have reduced the County workforce by 7% over the past two years.**



# The 2011 Budget Discretionary Services

- **Our decision to sell our license for the Certified Home Health Agency is one example of a service that we recognize as essential, but which is not mandated.**
- **It was worthy of serious debate.**
- **A recent NYS budget proposal includes the withdrawal of State Aid reimbursement for publically operated CHHA's, which for Putnam means an additional \$150,000 - \$200,000 financial loss.**



# The 2011 Budget Discretionary Services

- **Under current financial circumstances, this Administration felt it imperative to consider other options for providing home care services.**
- **Originally, we were told not to even consider issuing an RFP, yet we continued and are grateful that the Legislature reconsidered their position.**



# The 2011 Budget Discretionary Services

- **We were successful in the past with this type of divestiture.**
- **Putnam Family & Community Services, under their leadership, took a \$2.7 million dollar agency and built it into an agency that provides \$5.3 million dollars of Mental Health Services.**
  - **The cost to the County in 1998 was \$530,443. In 2010, it is \$492,744.**
  - **It is estimated today that if we had not contracted out back when we did, the loss today to be made up by taxation would in excess of \$1 million.**



# Moving Forward in a Difficult Economy

- **It is our desire to expand the Septic Repair Program to the entire County, beyond East-of-Hudson watershed communities.**
- **The County is working with the Town of Southeast to cooperate in the closure of their landfill.**



# Moving Forward in a Difficult Economy

- **Tonight, my administration is putting forward a resolution to provide funding support to Towns in the East-of-Hudson watershed, to help them meet their MS4 requirements.**
- **Another element of the MS4 mandate is that all residential septic systems must be maintained and pumped out starting May 1, 2011.**



# Moving Forward in a Difficult Economy

- **Putnam Trailway / Bikeway Improvements:**
  - **Seminary Hill Road and Old Mine Road**
    - Opened on 11/25/2009.
  - **Old Mine Road and Putnam Avenue**
    - Expected completion – 7/1/2010.
  - **Putnam Avenue and North Main Street**
    - Expected completion – 2012.
  - **Carmel Sidewalk Project**
    - Expected completion – 2011.
  - **Maybrook Trailway in Patterson**
    - Expected completion – end of 2010.



# Health Initiatives

- **H1N1**
  - **Putnam County was the first County in the Hudson Valley to set up a Point of Dispensing (POD) clinic to start vaccinating the public against H1N1.**
  - **Our Medical Reserve Corps members volunteered over 700 person-hours.**
  - **Currently, H1N1 activity level is low in New York State.**



# Health Initiatives

- **Health Rankings Report**
  - **This study ranked Putnam County as one of the healthiest Counties in NYS.**
- **The 2010-2013 Community Health Assessment was just completed by the Health Department.**



# Health Initiatives

- **DWI Initiatives**
  - **DWI Arrests have increased 30% from 2008.**
  - **Our Director of Mental Health and Youth Bureau arranged a unique funding partnership to purchase a Simulated Impaired Driving Experience (SIDNE).**



# Health Initiatives

- **Simulated Impaired Driving Experience (SIDNE)**
  - A battery powered vehicle that simulates the effects of impairment from alcohol and other drugs on a motorist's driving skills.
  - We hope SIDNE will continue to raise awareness among young drivers.





# Other Initiatives

- **Electronic Court Appearances**
  - **Each year, correction officers conduct more than 200 transports involving hundreds of prisoners to various County and local courts.**
    - **Using Electronic Court Appearances would result in offenders being remotely present.**
- **Legislation has been passed in both the Assembly and the Senate, and has been signed into law by the Governor.**



# Other Initiatives

- **Tap a Tree**
  - We are developing a program in our Parks Department which will allow individuals to use maple trees to produce syrup.
- **Borrow a Boat**
  - NYC DEP will provide the County with row boats and the County will furnish life jackets and oars for people wishing to spend a couple of hours on the lake.



# County Government's Role in the Future

- **I have been asked to create two pilot programs between the Administration and the Legislature.**
  - **First, Finance and Auditing will work together on certain projects requested by the Audit and Administration Committee. This will save approximately \$36,000 to fund the 2<sup>nd</sup> initiative.**
  - **The 2nd initiative will provide the opportunity for a contractor to develop a cost accounting system in Highways and Facilities.**



# County Government's Role in the Future

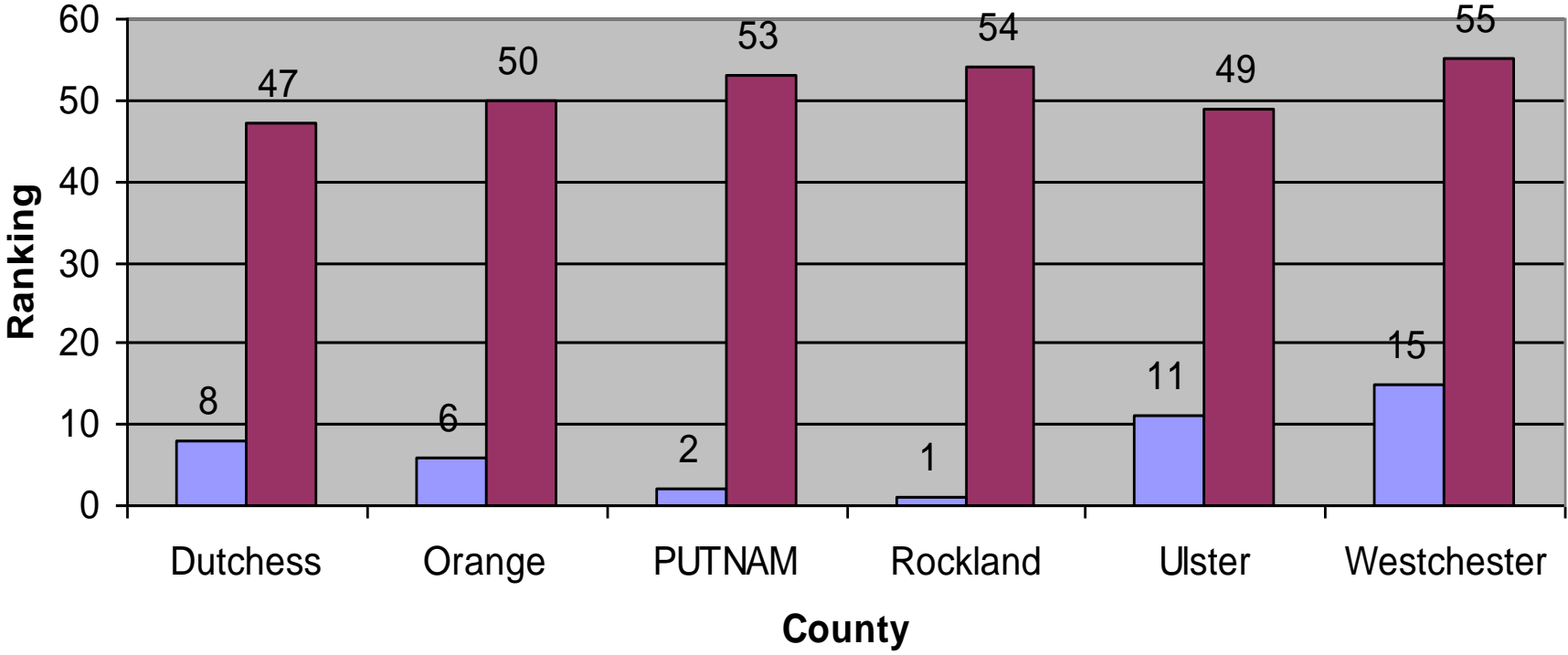
- **We could conclude this speech right now, believing that our citizens are satisfied in our stewardship of their County Government.**
- **Evidently, they are not satisfied with our performance.**
- **In fact, I believe that our citizens are unhappier with all levels of Government than ever before.**



# County Government's Role in the Future

- **I think that the people that we serve, not only doubt our ability to adapt to their needs, but the general perception is that we don't care about what they need or want.**
- **They perceive that we only care about ourselves.**
- **Government "of the people, by the people, and for the people" cannot continue with this level of distrust and dissatisfaction.**

# Total Property Tax Bills



■ County Portion of Total Tax Bill ■ Total Property Taxes Paid



















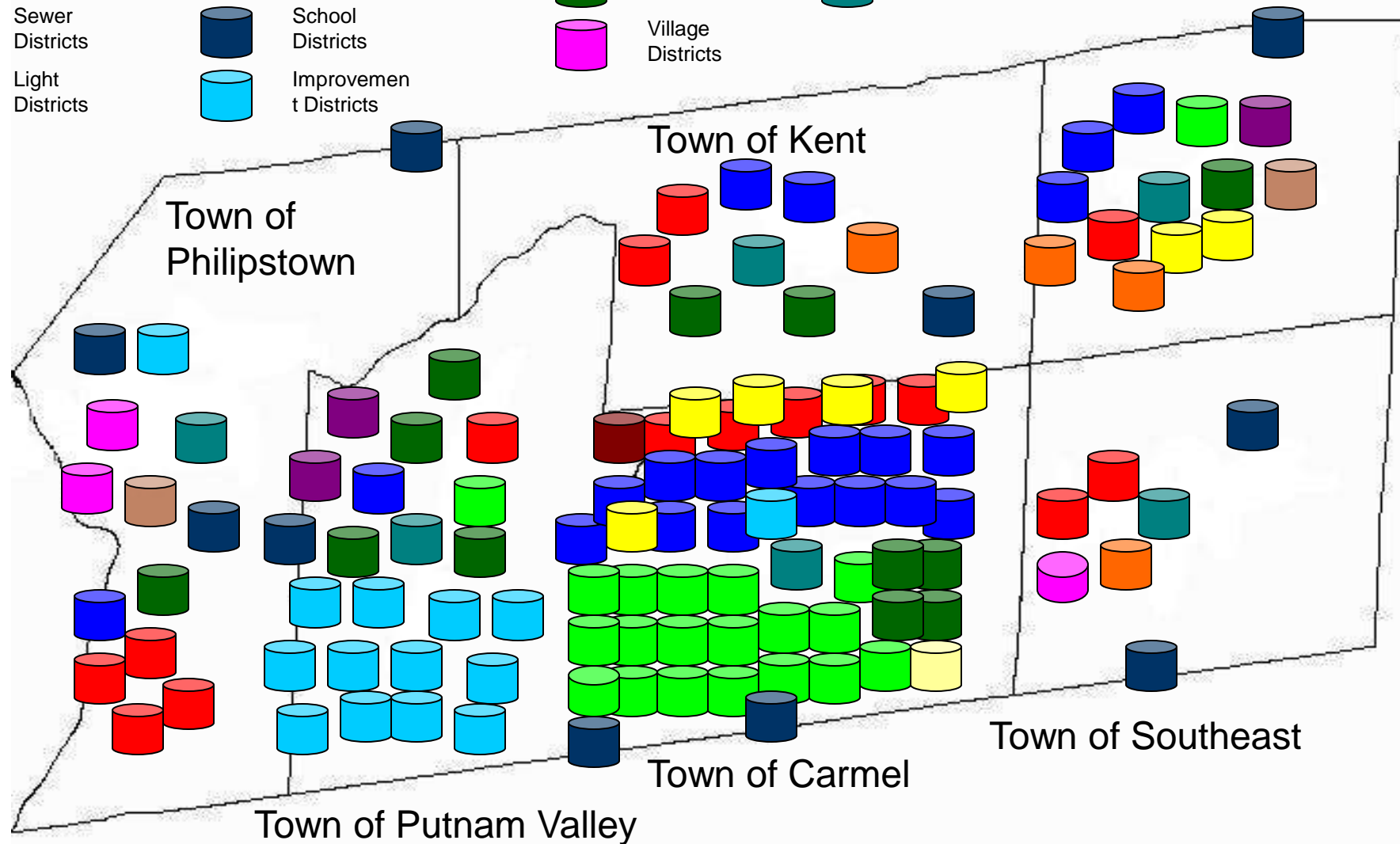
# 120 TAXING DISTRICTS IN PUTNAM COUNTY

TOWN OF CARMEL - Croton Falls Light  
TOWN OF CARMEL - Country Hill Light  
TOWN OF CARMEL - Lake McGregor Light  
TOWN OF CARMEL - Lake Casse Park District  
TOWN OF CARMEL - Lake Mahopac Park District  
TOWN OF CARMEL - Teakettle Lake Park District  
TOWN OF CARMEL - Lake Secor Park District  
TOWN OF CARMEL - Glenacom Rd Improv Dist  
TOWN OF CARMEL - Carmel Sewer # 1 O&M  
TOWN OF CARMEL - Carmel Sewer # 2 O&M  
TOWN OF CARMEL - Carmel Sewer # 3 O&M  
TOWN OF CARMEL - Carmel Sewer # 4A Cap  
TOWN OF CARMEL - Carmel Sewer # 4 O&M  
TOWN OF CARMEL - Hill & Dale Sewer Cap  
TOWN OF CARMEL - Ivy Hill Sewer # 6 Cap  
TOWN OF CARMEL - Ivy Hill Sewer # 6 O&M  
TOWN OF CARMEL - Hill & Dale Sewer O&M  
TOWN OF CARMEL - Carmel Sewer # 1A Cap  
TOWN OF CARMEL - Carmel Sewer # 2A Cap  
TOWN OF CARMEL - Carmel Sewer # 3A Cap  
TOWN OF CARMEL - Carmel Sewer # 7 O&M  
TOWN OF CARMEL - Carmel Sewer # 7 Cap  
TOWN OF CARMEL - Carmel Sewer # 8 Cap  
TOWN OF CARMEL - Carmel Sewer # 8 O&M  
TOWN OF CARMEL - Carmel Sewer # 4 Ext #2 Cap

TOWN OF PATTERSON - Putnam Lake Sanitation  
TOWN OF PATTERSON - Patterson Garbage  
TOWN OF PATTERSON - Patterson Sewer  
TOWN OF PATTERSON - Alpine Acres Water  
TOWN OF PATTERSON - Fox Run Water  
TOWN OF PATTERSON - Dorset Hollow Water  
TOWN OF PHILIPSTOWN - Town of Philipstown  
TOWN OF PHILIPSTOWN - JLB Library  
TOWN OF PHILIPSTOWN - Continental Village Fire Protect  
TOWN OF PHILIPSTOWN - Philipstown Fire Protection # 1  
TOWN OF PHILIPSTOWN - North Highland Fire  
TOWN OF PHILIPSTOWN - Garrison Fire Protection # 1  
TOWN OF PHILIPSTOWN - Continental Village Park  
TOWN OF PHILIPSTOWN - Valley Ln/Brookside Dist  
TOWN OF PHILIPSTOWN - Water District CV  
TOWN OF PHILIPSTOWN - Village of Cold Spring  
TOWN OF PHILIPSTOWN - Firemans Service Award  
TOWN OF PHILIPSTOWN - Village of Nelsonville  
TOWN OF PUTNAM VALLEY - Town of Putnam Valley  
TOWN OF PUTNAM VALLEY - Putnam Drainage Dist.  
TOWN OF PUTNAM VALLEY - Strawberry Knolls Drainage  
TOWN OF PUTNAM VALLEY - Putnam Valley Fire  
TOWN OF PUTNAM VALLEY - Lake Peekskill Improvement  
TOWN OF PUTNAM VALLEY - Abele Park Improvement  
TOWN OF PUTNAM VALLEY - Camp Lookout Improvement

# 120 TAXING DISTRICTS IN PUTNAM COUNTY

-  Fire districts
-  Sanitation Districts
-  Library Districts
-  Ambulance Districts
-  Putnam County
-  Water Districts
-  Drainage Districts
-  Park Districts
-  Towns
-  Town of Patterson
-  Sewer Districts
-  School Districts
-  Village Districts
-  Light Districts
-  Improvement Districts
-  Light Districts





# The Questions We Need To Answer

- Are our citizens so unhappy that they are ready to get actively involved in order to make changes?
- What changes are they willing to make?
  - Do we need a County Executive and a Legislature?
  - Do we need 10 school districts?
  - Do we need Multiple Police Departments, Fire Departments, and Highway Departments?
  - Do we need 6 Towns and 3 Villages?
  - Can we consolidate services such as Assessing and Tax Collection?
  - Do we need to invest in new County Facilities?





# Conclusion

- **If you were forming government in Putnam County today, would it include the County, 6 towns, 3 villages, 10 school districts, and 100 special districts which raise property taxes?**
- **Would you have multiple government entities performing the same services?**
- **As Government Officials, we must determine what our citizens want and have the political will to implement it.**



# Conclusion

- **The Legislature is convening the Charter Revision Commission, a process that occurs every ten years in which residents, appointed by the Legislature, focus exclusively on the County Charter.**
  - **This forum is not appropriate to accomplish the reshaping of all governments in the County that we are discussing.**
- **Deputy County Executive John Tully has worked hard to implement consolidated assessment services within Putnam County.**



# Conclusion

- **I want to thank the County Employees that work hard to deliver the services to our constituents.**
  - **Special Thanks to Gregory Bierce and Doreen Crane, whose quick action may have saved a fellow employee's life.**
- **I want to thank the people of Putnam County for giving me the honor and privilege of serving as your County Executive for the past 20 years.**



# Conclusion

- **2012 will represent the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the establishment of Putnam County.**
- **All residents should be receiving their 2010 census form. Our communities future relies on the 2010 census.**
- **Over the years, we have accomplished much for the citizens of Putnam County, but I think we can do more.**
- **Thank You and Goodnight!**



# 2010 State of the County Address



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*County Executive*  
Putnam County

March 10, 2010