

Rich's Claim	Fact
Raja increased taxes by implementing a new storm water fee.	Raja cut taxes to offset any increase to the taxpayer. Raja worked to approve a budget where real estate taxes were reduced (from 4.89 to 4.76) to fully offset the storm water fee. (PPG 12/16/10) The reason for having a separate storm water authority (and fee) was to facilitate Mt Lebanon to attract federal grants they would not be possible otherwise.
Raja did not vote for Mt Lebanon Parking Authority consolidation due to patronage.	Raja opposed a move that would increase spending. The only report that the Mt Lebanon Commissioners were given show that consolidation of the Parking Authority would cause Mt. Lebanon to lose money. Raja dares Rich to provide any documentation that shows otherwise.
The Mt Lebanon Parking Authority already has saved hundreds of thousands of dollars.	Per Mt. Lebanon management, there are no cost savings to date since the personnel changes which provide the cost savings in the consolidation go into effect at the end of the year.
Raja didn't implement a Tech Corridor	Raja not only implemented approaches that are followed by Mt. Lebanon's Economic Development Council/Mt. Lebanon Partnership to attract businesses to Mt. Lebanon but also initiated ordinance to make "Main Street" more conducive to development. One company has moved into Mt. Lebanon. Another was willing to move; however there was not adequate space in Mt. Lebanon to accommodate this company. The process to attract companies to Mt. Lebanon is still ongoing.
Raja proposed 20% tax cut that was never accomplished.	Raja passed two tax cuts. Raja outlined budget changes that would have cut residents taxes by 20%. However, many of these changes did not get the support of the majority of the commission. Raja was able to achieve the tax cuts passed by going through the budget line by line and identifying changes that were reviewed by the Commission & Municipality. Getting majority consensus prevented the 20% tax cut and instead Raja was able to pass two smaller tax cuts.

<p>The only way to cut the drink tax is to increase property taxes.</p>	<p>This claim shows no understanding of budgets or finance. We need a executive who knows how to find waste and inefficiencies and save taxpayer's money. The drink tax is less than 2% of the budget and can be replaced without raising taxes. Look for Raja's ideas on how increases in revenue and cost savings prior to the election.</p>
<p>Rich Fitzgerald made cuts of 600 employees</p>	<p>Page 377 of 2010 CAFR tells the real story. Allegheny County had 6972 FTE (Full Time Equivalent) in 2001 and had 7016 FTE in 2010. In fact, the FTEs grew by 44 FTE. (See point below on spending too.)</p>
<p>Rich Fitzgerald cut spending</p>	<p>Rich increased spending by \$257Million. Again, Page 336 of the 2010 CAFR tells the true story. General Government grew from \$173Million in 2002 to \$256Million in 2010 i.e. and increase of 83Million or 48%. Total government expenses grew from \$1.23Billion to \$1.49Billion i.e. increased by \$258M or 20%.</p>
<p>Rich took on his own party with row office reform</p>	<p>In fact, career politician Rich Fitzgerald refused to work on the row office reform that was initiated by Jim Roddey and delayed the reform until after the next election. After the election, he fought Dan Onorato (who wanted to consolidate a larger number of row offices) and finally passed a watered-down version. (PPG, 1/29/03)</p>
<p>Rich was responsible for the 911 consolidation</p>	<p>Once again, career politicians Rich Fitzgerald fought reform and then tries to grab credit afterward. Former County Executive Jim Roddey left the effort to consolidate the City of Pittsburgh and County 911 call centers and the effort was scheduled to go into effect in January 2004. Onorato took office and continued the process. (PTR 9/6/10, PPG 9/2/03)</p>
<p>For the first time our region is growing the younger population and again Rich's implies that his policies may be responsible for this.</p>	<p>The younger population is due to students coming to attend the great universities/colleges in our region. The fact is that once these students graduate they do not stay in our region and leave. This brain drain has occurred due to the failed policies of local government This is causing the exodus of population in Allegheny County. ("Population Trends - 1990-2010." Pittsburgh Regional Alliance. Allegheny Conference on Community Development. Web. &lt;<a href="http://www.alleghenyconference.org/PRA/RegionalData/PopulationTrends1990-2010.pdf">http://www.alleghenyconference.org/PRA/RegionalData/PopulationTrends1990-2010.pdf</a>&gt;. )</p>