



## Scholar's Research Proves Critical in Push for NY Millionaires Tax

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Earlier this month, New York State legislators followed [New Jersey](#) by increasing income taxes on New York City's millionaires. The new law will generate billions of dollars in revenue to help the state recover from the impacts of COVID-19 and years of budget cuts.

One of the major arguments against the tax was the idea that high-income earners would leave the state — an argument that SSN member Cristobal Young debunks in his book, [The Myth of Millionaire Tax Flight: How Place Still Matters for the Rich](#). Based on an analysis of a dozen years of tax returns for 3.7 million Americans with annual incomes of \$1 million or more, Young found that 0.3% of the total moved to lower-tax states.

Last fall, Executive Director Michael Kink of [Strong Economy for All](#), one of the civic organizations leading the effort, reached out to SSN looking for a scholar who could push back on these claims. SSN connected them with Young. Kink notes:

"We had a successful effort on taxes and the budget this year, and the help from SSN and Young, who did a bunch of press work and wrote a nicely-timed [op-ed](#) in the New York Daily News, was essential."

The campaign to raise taxes on the city's wealthiest residents was detailed in the [HuffPost](#), noting that **"when it came to rebutting claims that tax hikes would prompt a mass exodus from New York, the research of Cornell University sociologist [Cristobal Young](#)...proved critical."**

On [Twitter](#), Young underscored the critical role that research can play in informing policy. He also gave a [shout-out](#) to the many other individuals and organizations who collaborated on achieving this significant policy change.

### CRISTOBAL YOUNG

Cornell University



**"Sociological research can change public policy. I've spent 10 years challenging the claim that taxes make rich people leave — it's simply not true. Yesterday, NY passed a millionaires tax. It raises billions for the city and state, driving a new phase of the recovery.**