



News Release

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NEW JERSEY TAXPAYERS ALLIANCE ENDORSES GOVERNOR CHRISTIE'S PROPERTY TAX REFORM PROPOSALS

Randolph, New Jersey – The New Jersey Taxpayers Alliance (NJTA) today announced its support for Governor Christie's proposed CAP 2.5 percent property-tax and the accompanying 33-Point Tool Kit necessary for local officials to successfully operate within reasonable spending limits while providing a high level of service. The Alliance asserts that given the gravity of New Jersey's economic circumstances, continuing with past failed practices of short-term "*fixes*" efforts must end. Improving New Jersey's high-tax climate requires a combination of long-term vision and near-term sacrifices. Common sense dictates that rapid and credible actions are necessary and they must be implemented as soon as possible.

New Jersey's fragmented approach to delivery of local services and ever-increasing public employee costs have both contributed to New Jersey's highest-in-the-nation property tax status. Despite special interest groups' claims to the contrary, citizen taxpayers are fully aware of the causes of our property tax crisis, and that the status quo is simply no longer sustainable. If past administrations and legislatures, which were controlled at times by both political parties, had met their responsibilities, these measures might not be necessary. However, New Jersey and the 1600 public entities that make up the state's governing bodies can no longer meet all the annual demands for more precious tax dollars.

Jerry Cantrell, NJTA President stated, "Reasonable voices have continuously warned that out- of-control spending and lack of definitive corrective actions were setting the state up for a colossal property tax crisis. If the public sector wants to be part of the solution the leaders must be willing to accept that it's going to take a dedicated commitment by all sides to return the Garden State to its former nation leading economic status."

Cantrell continued, “We are deeply concerned with the lack of fiscal responsibility exhibited across the state and are proud to support the necessary turnarounds by confronting the forces that are clearly not working on behalf of the besieged and overburdened taxpayers.”

Further, “It’s the irrational actions that have become the norm which have led to New Jersey’s highest tax ranking in the nation, resulting in stagnant job growth and the declining business outlook. The time for strong measures and long-lasting leadership action to curb runaway growth in property tax bills is now.”

About the New Jersey Taxpayers Alliance

The New Jersey Taxpayers Alliance (NJTA) is comprised of civic, business and professional associations. The Alliance’s mission is to educate and inform New Jersey taxpayers about sound fiscal policy; provide state policymakers with objective, non-partisan research about the impact of specific tax, regulatory and spending policies; and advocate for the adoption of rational public fiscal policy as it relates to individuals, non-profit organizations, small businesses and corporations. Please visit www.njtaxalliance.org for more information.

NJTA/Alliance Members:

- ◆ Altria
- ◆ Commerce and Industry Association of New Jersey
- ◆ Excellent Education for Everyone
- ◆ GRAND Institute
- ◆ National Federation of Independent Businesses, NJ
- ◆ National Taxpayers Union (Alexandria, VA)
- ◆ New Jersey Gasoline – C-Store – Automotive Association
- ◆ New Jersey Restaurant Association
- ◆ New Jersey Retail Merchants Association
- ◆ New Jersey Society of Certified Public Accountants
- ◆ New Jersey Taxpayers Association