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## Opinion Round-Up: The Star-Ledger Editorial Board - "On The Whole...The Governor's Pension Plan Is On The Right Track."

Monday, September 20, 2010 • Tags: [Other](#)

### Courier-Post, "Gov. Chris Christie Is Right To Pursue Such Changes":

"To prevent the pension well from eventually running dry for hundreds of thousands of retired public workers in New Jersey, changes must happen now...Gov. Chris Christie is right to pursue such changes. What other governors put off and were afraid to tackle head on, this governor is taking on in his usual full-steam-ahead manner...But overall, we can say unequivocally that this is the right time for pension reform. If not now then when – a few years from now when it might be too late? We can also say with certainty that sacrifices are going to have to be made...No one should want to see New Jersey's pension funds collapse and ruin the lives of hundreds of thousands of retirees and near-retirement public workers. To right the ship, however, there will have to be some sacrifices and the pension system is going to have to be closed to new entrants. Those in government and retired from government may not want to hear it – certainly from this governor – but it is reality."

### The Star-Ledger Editorial Board, "On The Whole...The Governor's Pension Plan Is On The Right Track":

"For the first time in a generation, we have a governor who is willing to face reality on pension and health costs for public workers...the reality is this: Taxpayers cannot afford to keep handing out such generous perks. The governor is asking only that public workers accept the kind of cutbacks that private sector employees were forced to swallow long ago... Without reform, two things will happen: Taxes will rise steeply, and government will be cut to the bone...To avoid that, we need to embrace the kind of austerity the governor now proposes...On the whole...the governor's pension plan is on the right track. The ball now moves to the Legislature's court...On health care...Again, the governor is moving in the right direction. If the Legislature fiddles with this, it needs to find other ways to achieve the same savings."

### Wall Street Journal, "The Christie Plan Would Eliminate A Major Chunk Of The State's Unfunded Liabilities, And For That He Deserves Kudos":

"New Jersey Governor Chris Christie has become the national pacesetter in state fiscal reform...The Christie plan would eliminate a major chunk of the state's unfunded liabilities, and for that he deserves kudos. And if he can convince today's legislators (most of them Democrats) to right the wrongs of their predecessors, he will justly earn the cheers of Garden State taxpayers."

### New York Post, "Christie...Is Addressing The Crisis Of New Jersey's Long-Term Obligations Head-On...":

"Christie...is addressing the crisis of New Jersey's long-term obligations head-on – in a way that may mean short-term pain for some, but long-term benefits for all."

### Philadelphia Daily News, "...He's Managed To Talk About Pensions In A Compelling Way":

"WE'RE A LITTLE surprised at ourselves for this because we disagree with him about a lot of things. But we have to admit: We're developing a bit of a nerd-crush on New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie. How many elected officials have spent the last two years kicking the can down the road, trying to avoid discussing - much less fixing - the big, structural fiscal problems their states are facing? Not Christie...That's why Christie is different. Somehow, he's managed to talk about pensions in a compelling way. His ability to make complicated issues interesting to voters is a skill that Pennsylvania's political leaders could learn from."

### Alfred P. Doblin, The Record, "Christie Is Correct: Pumping Money Into A Fundamentally Flawed System Is Not Sound Public Policy":

"The fundamental problem with the state's pension system is that promises were made that could never be kept. State workers believed union representatives and public officials when they were told that new contracts that increased pension and retirement benefits would be there when expected...Christie is correct: Pumping money into a fundamentally flawed system is not sound public policy...Members of the executive and legislative branches have no choice but to fix this problem. Whether a two-tier system could rescue the pension fund, whether the state needs another solution, or whether at some point in time, legislative inaction brings New Jersey to the brink of bankruptcy when thousands of public workers demand the benefits promised, is anybody's guess...It is going to take bold action."

### Bob Ingle, Asbury Park Press, "Christie's Proposals Are For The Long Term...":

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“Christie’s proposals are for the long term, an effort to save the public pension system, which is close to the cliff.”

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