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Governor Christie: New Jersey's Financial House Is Back In Order And We're Going To Keep It That Way

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Gov. Christie: New Jersey's Financial House Is Back In Order And... [YouTube video player]

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Transcript:

Governor Christie: This is the seventh time I have presented a budget to this chamber, and I am proud to say this for a seventh time: This budget is balanced. And once again it is balanced through fiscal responsibility, and not on the backs of our citizens, because for the seventh straight year, this budget imposes no new taxes on the people of New Jersey. But before I start, I want to say thank you to the people of New Jersey for allowing me the great privilege of running for President of the United States. It was the governing experience I've had here in this great state, the reforms we tackled here in New Jersey, the bipartisan hard choices we made, and the recovery from one of the largest natural disasters in our nation's history, that I felt prepared me for higher office. While the result was not what I had hoped for, maybe some of you too, the experience has made me a better Governor, it's made me a better American, and it's made me a better person. All that growth, all that improvement I owe to the people of New Jersey and I intend to use it to make the next two years two great years for the state that we all love. We've got a lot more work to do here in our state. And I look forward to working together with all of you to get it done. Now there are two key principles that are the foundations of the proposal that I'm sharing with all of you today. The first is fiscal restraint. Now we've put New Jersey's financial house back in order. And we're going to keep it that way. The 2017 fiscal year budget calls for \$34.8 billion in State appropriations. Important to note that discretionary spending is \$2 billion less than it was in Fiscal Year 2008. Now what that means is that 95% of all the growth in this budget is for pensions, government worker health benefits, and debt service. And we'll return to that subject later. Now we've showed that smart fiscal management and focusing on our real priorities allows us to do more with less. The days of taxing and spending and wasting taxpayer money have gone to the dustbin of history exactly where they belong. The second principle is to continue advancing the hard reforms New Jersey needs, so we can build a stronger economy and make this State a better place to live -- for our generation and for the next generation.

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