



Five In Five

Christie Record Of New Jersey's Renewal

1. *Bringing Fiscal Sanity To New Jersey*

After decades of gross mismanagement and shortsighted budgeting practices, Governor Christie came into office and acted decisively to bring the State's budget back into balance – addressing \$13 billion in combined projected deficits in his first 18 months – and struck a path of responsibility and reform.

- **Holding Discretionary Spending Below 2008 Levels:** Governor Christie has reinforced his commitment never to return to the reckless spending and fiscal irresponsibility in Trenton that brought New Jersey to the brink of catastrophe, by holding discretionary spending **\$2.5 billion** below Fiscal Year 2008 levels.
- **Five Years With No New Taxes:** In the eight years before Governor Christie took office, taxes and fees had been increased 115 times making New Jersey the most heavily taxed state in the nation and placing an undue burden on residents and job-creators alike. Since then, Governor Christie has signed five consecutive balanced budgets without raising taxes once, and repeatedly vetoing tax increases passed by the legislature.
- **Sweeping Pension And Benefits Reform:** Governor Christie signed into law landmark pension and health benefit reform in June 2011, marking months of hard work, negotiation, compromise and ultimately bipartisan support. While Governor Christie made clear at the time that more work was needed, critical savings were achieved – pension reform alone will provide savings to New Jersey taxpayers of over **\$122 billion** over the next 30 years.
- **More Pension Contributions Than Any Governor In History:** Through Fiscal Year 2015, Governor Christie will have contributed more to the pension system than any other governor in New Jersey state history – **\$2.89 Billion**.
- **2 Percent Property Tax Cap:** Governor Christie signed a two percent hard cap on property taxes, cutting out loopholes and putting control back in the hands of property taxpayers. **The Result:** Property taxes are rising at their slowest pace, 1.7 percent, “in more than two decades” in a “hard-fought milestone for one of the highest-taxed states in America.”
- **Interest Arbitration Reform:** Working together with Senate and Assembly Leadership, Governor Christie signed into law interest arbitration reform that provides municipalities with the help they need to keep property taxes down. The reform provides a meaningful cap of two percent on

arbitration awards to union employees. In May 2014, Governor Christie signed into law bipartisan legislation to extend the cap.

- **A Smaller, More Efficient State Government:** Governor Christie's responsible management has resulted in a more efficient and streamlined State government. There are more than 8,500 fewer State government employees than when the Governor took office.

2. Creating Jobs And Promoting Growth

Governor Christie has taken aggressive action to promote economic growth and put New Jersey's middle class back to work, by lowering taxes, cutting red tape and increasing investments in our state's future.

- **153,200 Private-Sector Jobs:** Since Governor Christie took office, New Jersey has created 153,200 private-sector jobs. New Jersey is on pace for five consecutive years of positive private-sector job growth under Governor Christie.
- **Lowest Unemployment Rate Since October 2008:** New Jersey's unemployment rate has dropped to 6.4 percent, the lowest it has been since October 2008. The unemployment rate has dropped 3.3 points from a recessionary peak of 9.7 in January 2010.
- **\$2.32 Billion In Targeted, Job-Creating Business Tax Cuts:** In 2011, Governor Christie secured bipartisan passage of overdue reforms to New Jersey's tax code that had stalled in Trenton. Among the tax reforms included were long-awaited changes to a single sales factor formula; income/loss netting and loss carry-forward reform; a 25% reduction in the minimum tax on S-Corporations; R&D incentives; and a phase out of the Transitional Energy Facility Assessment.
- **Bipartisan Job-Creation Legislation:** In September 2013, Governor Christie signed the bipartisan Economic Opportunity Act (EOA), a sweeping overhaul of New Jersey's Economic Incentive Programs. The EOA streamlined New Jersey's confusing array of economic incentive programs, simplified the application process and targeted incentives to better encourage investment in New Jersey's most distressed communities.
- **Over \$12 Billion In Public-Private Investment:** Through the Christie Administration's pro-growth policies, Fortune 500 firms to small and medium-sized businesses, have committed to generating and retaining nearly **80,000 jobs** and have brought more than **\$12.6 billion** in total public-private investment to the Garden State since January 2010.
- **Helping Businesses Get Back On Their Feet After Sandy:** The Christie Administration has remained committed to helping the nearly 190,000 New Jersey businesses affected by Superstorm Sandy recover, awarding **\$174 million** in grants through the Stronger NJ Business programs.
- **Solvent And Effective Unemployment Insurance Trust Fund.** The Christie Administration saved New Jersey employers **\$213 million** in taxes in 2014 by restoring the Unemployment Insurance Trust Fund to solvency two years after it plunged into deficit. The Trust Fund stands to save New Jersey employers another \$1 billion in taxes in years to come.

3. Delivering On The Promise Of A Quality Education For Every Child

Governor Christie firmly believes that every child has the right to a high-quality education, regardless of

their zip code, and has taken historic action to deliver on that commitment.

- **The Most Education Funding In State History:** For four years in a row, Governor Christie has set new historic highs for State spending for education. Total State aid to schools in Fiscal Year 2015 is over **\$11.9 billion**.
- **Historic Bipartisan Changes To The Nation's Oldest Tenure Law:** Marking the first extensive reform of New Jersey's tenure law in over 100 years, Governor Christie signed into law the Teacher Effectiveness and Accountability for the Children of New Jersey (TEACHNJ) Act, a sweeping, bipartisan overhaul of the oldest tenure law in the nation.
- **Working With Teachers To Bring Performance-Based Pay To Newark Schools:** In 2012, Governor Christie delivered on his promise of a high-quality education for every New Jersey student. For the first time in New Jersey history, teachers in Newark began to earn raises and be eligible for additional bonuses based on annual performance evaluations that include measuring the progress being made by their students.
- **Expanding Access To In-State Tuition To New Jersey's Dreamers:** Following through on his promise to bring tuition equality to all New Jersey students who wish to attend college in the state, Governor Christie signed the landmark New Jersey Dream Act in December 2013.
- **Attracting The Best Charter School Operators:** Governor Christie has improved the authorizing and application process, encouraged more charter school applicants, created greater flexibility with administration and finances, and allowed districts to convert failing public schools into charters. The Christie Administration has increased the overall number of charter schools in New Jersey to 87, opening 36 since the Governor took office.
- **Targeting Highest Need With The Urban Hope Act:** The Urban Hope Act was designed to expand the education options available for children trapped in some of New Jersey's school districts with the largest achievement gaps. The bill authorizes the conversion of failing schools into renaissance schools in three of our highest needs districts: Camden, Trenton, and Newark.
- **Making New Jersey A Research Powerhouse:** Governor Christie achieved a long-awaited overhaul of the state's higher education system that had eluded leaders in the state for more than a decade. There are now three hubs of higher education excellence in the northern, central, and southern parts of the state. Rutgers University will become a Top-25 research institute based on the combined outside funding sources of the merged universities.

4. Ending The Stigma Of Addiction And Providing Second Chances

Governor Christie has consistently spoken about the need to change the way society views drug addiction and the misconceptions about who it impacts, how it affects lives, and how we deal with it. Throughout his administration, Governor Christie has taken concrete actions to build on this commitment.

- **Focusing On Treatment:** Governor Christie has followed through on his commitment to take a smarter and more effective approach focused on treating drug-addicted offenders by signing into law landmark, bipartisan legislation to put in place a state-wide, mandatory drug court program. In Fiscal Year 2015, the Christie Administration increased spending on the program to **\$54.8 million**.
- **Changing The Stigma Around Addiction:** In September 2014, Governor joined with Pastor Joe

Carter of The New Hope Baptist Church for a call to action and conversation – bringing together public leaders, treatment professionals and advocates, and survivors of drug addiction – focused on ending the stigma around drug addiction and treatment.

- **Saving The Lives Of Overdose Victims:** In June 2014, Governor Christie announced the statewide expansion of the successful pilot program to help reduce the number of heroin and opiate-related deaths by training and equipping police officers and first responders to administer the antidote Narcan to overdose victims. Since the inception of the pilot program, NJ first responders have successfully saved *over 477 lives*.
- **Bipartisan Overdose Protection Act:** Governor Chris Christie signed the bipartisan Overdose Protection Act into law. The bill provides legal protection to people who are in violation of the law while they are attempting to help a drug overdose victim. Additionally, it eliminates negative legal action against health care professionals or bystanders who administer overdose antidotes in life-threatening situations.
- **Helping Inmates Reclaim Their Lives By Attending College:** Governor Christie announced efforts by a consortium of public and private universities across New Jersey to help prison inmates attend college. The New Jersey Scholarship and Transformative Education in Prisons Consortium (NJ-STEP) is providing access to college for qualified incarcerated students, while assisting in the transition to college life upon their release into the community.
- **Common-Sense Bail Reform To Bring Fairness For Non-Violent Offenders:** Governor Christie signed bipartisan reforms to New Jersey's bail system to keep dangerous individuals off the streets by allowing people charged with the most serious violent crimes to be held without bail. At the same time, the legislation makes the bail system fairer by allowing those who commit minor, nonviolent offenses to have nonmonetary options instead of being confined to jail because they simply cannot afford even low bail amounts.
- **Signed "Ban The Box" To Eliminate Discrimination Against Ex-Offenders:** In August 2014, Governor Christie took further action to help ex-offenders reclaim their lives and reenter the workforce by signing A-1999, legislation to require employers to wait until after they have interviewed job applicants before asking if he or she has ever been convicted of a crime.

5. Fighting To Renew New Jersey's Urban Communities

Governor Christie is committed to bringing back New Jersey's cities by helping them to better provide for their residents and ensuring that the state's most vulnerable citizens have access to critical resources and services, regardless of their zip code.

- **Turning Camden Around:** From education reform and economic development to a vastly improved police force, Governor Christie and local partners are taking historic action to turn Camden around:
 - **The Police Force Camden Deserves:** Combating a public safety crisis, Governor Christie has taken aggressive action to bring about a sweeping reformation of police services in the City of Camden. With the support of the Christie Administration, the City and County of Camden implemented a ground-breaking reform by creating a county-wide force that is putting more cops on the streets of Camden, and more resources at their disposal.

- **Historic Change To Camden's School District:** Governor Christie took decisive action to reform the Camden School District. The Christie Administration, through the new state-appointed superintendent and leadership team, and in coordination with local and community leaders, is taking direct oversight in implementing the necessary reforms of the school district to start delivering better results for Camden students and their families.
 - **Bringing Jobs And Economic Growth To Camden:** In September 2013, Governor Christie signed the bipartisan Economic Opportunity Act, a sweeping overhaul of New Jersey's Economic Incentive Programs and the result of months of hard work from members of both parties. The EOA specifically refocuses New Jersey's incentive programs to drive jobs and investment to the State's most distressed communities through both lowered thresholds to qualify for the programs, as well as increased incentives available.
- **Helping AC Through Difficult But Necessary Transition:** Governor Christie is working hand-in-hand with state and local leaders to help Atlantic City through the difficult but necessary transition from a gambling hub to a broad and exciting tourism destination.
 - **Led Efforts To Attract Non-Gaming Economic Development:** Governor Christie expanded the Economic Opportunity Act to include Atlantic City as a Garden State Growth Zone to attract non-gaming economic development, investment, and job growth.
 - **Strengthened Efforts to Combat Homelessness:** Governor Christie announced the launch of a coordinated homeless prevention program to serve low income residents in Atlantic County with a single point of entry to access services and supports. The Atlantic Homeless Alliance - Single Point of Entry is a comprehensive, coordinated system of services for Atlantic County residents who are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless.
- **Continued Commitment To Bringing Back New Jersey's Cities:** Governor Christie and his administration have remained focused on leading efforts to advance public safety, housing needs, job growth, and education systems in New Jersey's urban communities:
 - **Promise Kept:** Since 2011, the Christie Administration has implemented the Promise Communities initiative. Building on the core principles of the Harlem Children's Zone model and utilizing the participation of community partners and stakeholders, Promise Communities creates a comprehensive continuum of services designed to prepare young people in Paterson, Camden, and Newark to succeed, from the cradle to college and a career, not only to deliver on needs in the classroom, but before and after school as well.
 - **Empowering Youth In Our Cities:** Governor Christie and Shaquille O'Neal announced Just Play, a statewide campaign that focuses on giving kids better after school options and positive role models that will help combat and reduce gang violence in urban communities.
 - **Deploying State Troopers To Address Violent Crime In Newark And Trenton:** The Christie Administration is taking action to address violent crime in two of New Jersey's largest and most violent cities. In 2013, Acting Attorney General John Hoffman unveiled a new approach to combat violence in Trenton including a surge in deployments to suppress violent crime led by the State Police. Following the program's success in stemming homicides in Trenton, Hoffman announced in April 2014 a similar program would be

deployed in Newark.

- **Bringing Growth To Newark:** Governor Christie, in close coordination with local and county partners, has been committed to spurring economic development and positive job growth in Newark. Since the Governor took office, over **\$1.6 billion** in public-private investments have been brought to Newark, creating or retaining over **5,200 jobs**.