



"Governor Christie Is Right On The Money With His Insistence On Ethics Reforms"
Opinion Makers Called Governor Christie's Ethics Reforms "Commonsensical", "Good Governance," And "Long Overdue" ... 2 Years Ago

"Ethics reform in New Jersey has been a patchwork of half measures that failed to be fair and uniform, left gaping loopholes for special interests to maneuver through and fell far short of what the public demands... These measures are about good, open and honest government, where the playing field is level for everyone and the rules are unambiguous."

- Governor Chris Christie Proposes Rigorous Ethics Reforms Package, Press Release, September 8, 2010

The Star-Ledger: "Gov. Chris Christie presented a tough ethics package Wednesday that has the potential to pull the state's moldy political culture into the sunshine for a good disinfecting... this package is a good one." ("Christie challenges Democrats to clean house," [Star-Ledger Editorial Board](#), 9/9/10)

- "A step forward, no doubt... This plan is a good start."

The Times of Trenton: "Gov. Chris Christie is right on the money with his insistence on ethics reforms." ("Clean sweep," [Times of Trenton](#), 9/12/10)

- "We see the governor's initiatives not as a matter of politics but of good governance."

Asbury Park Press: "One doesn't often hear the phrase "good, open and honest government" in conjunction with the words "New Jersey." So it was heartening to hear Gov. Chris Christie stumping last week for an ethics reform package that would go a long way toward making that high-sounding phrase a reality in the often muddy swamp of Jersey politics." ("Ethics reforms long overdue," [Asbury Park Press](#), 9/13/10)

- "Closing loopholes large enough to drive a truck through and increasing the accountability of elected officials should be a nonpartisan, bipartisan bandwagon for all politicians to jump on."
- "The items included in the governor's package are commonsensical and long overdue."
- "For many years now, those who have called for far-reaching ethics reforms, including this newspaper, have felt like voices crying in the wilderness. Now, it seems, the choir is being led by the governor... Please. The sooner we get the swamps of Jersey cleared, the better."

The Daily Record: "Gov. Chris Christie began filling in the details Wednesday on his plan for ethical reform in New Jersey and few can quibble with what he is proposing." ("Time to end dual office holding," [Daily Record](#), 9/9/10)

- "The governor first talked about many of the reforms he formally proposed Wednesday during last year's campaign. It's good to see him following through."
- "The beauty of his plan is that it will shake up politicians on both sides of the aisle who have grown too comfortable with the status quo."

The Express-Times: "Christie's ideas...are overdue. The wonder is how previous governors and Legislatures managed to pass reforms and leave these essentials behind." ("Christie, N.J. legislators must address ethics loopholes," [The Express-Times](#), 9/12/10)

- “The governor and Democratic leaders don’t have to buddy-up to get this done. They only have to acknowledge that the ethics reform movement shepherded by the likes of Lance and Schluter is still unfinished — and get to it.”

Bob Ingle, Daily Journal: “In office for eight months, Christie is setting about keeping his reform promises...The reforms make sense. Who could object?” (Bob Ingle, “Christie is moving to keep campaign promises about reforming Trenton,” [Daily Journal](#), 9/12/11)

Ending Pay-To-Play

The Times of Trenton: “Gov. Christie just last year proposed eliminating the “fair and open” exemption and extending the state-level ban on pay-to-play to all levels of government. Some lawmakers, including state Sen. Loretta Weinberg, have advocated reforms in the system for years.” (“Fix N.J.’s fatally flawed pay-to-play laws,” [Times of Trenton Editorial Board](#), 9/20/11)

- “It should not be a difficult legislative task...”
- “The gaping loophole is something all lawmakers, regardless of party, should move to correct.”

Asbury Park Press: “The Legislature must close this loophole immediately, and Gov. Chris Christie should sign any legislation that does just that.” (“It’s pay-to-play by another name,” [Asbury Park Press](#), 9/19/11)

- “The insidious effect of pay-to-play goes beyond the moral issue. It costs taxpayers as well.”
- “Pay-to-play is essentially a hidden cost that many New Jerseyans are paying. It’s one more tax we do not need and did not even have the option of voting for.”

The Record: “A lot of New Jersey politicians have talked a good game on “pay-to-play,” but when it has come down to actually curbing its abuses, and saving taxpayer dollars, they have shrunk from the fight. It’s time to change that mentality, and for legislators to take up, once and for all, a conscientious reworking of the state’s public contracting laws. ...where the real reform should begin is in Trenton.” (“Pay-to-play stays,” [The Record](#), 9/19/11)

The Press of Atlantic City: “The administration of Gov. Chris Christie has made a policy of requiring towns that get special financial help from the state to pass strong pay-to-play and other cost-saving measures. Those strings makes sense.” (“A.C. pay-to-play ban / It’s about time,” [Press of Atlantic City](#), 2/22/11)

- “The measures the administration requires mostly represent basic good government and prudent budgeting.”

Financial Disclosure Reform

The Star-Ledger: “Democrats could be playing a double game: posing as reformers, while welcoming the new wave of cash that’s bound to help their cause...If Democrats are sincere, they can prove it by passing these bills now and putting them on the governor’s desk.” (NJ Democrats must revive stalled bills to disclose political donors,” [Star-Ledger Editorial Board](#), 7/28/11)

- “It’s time to make that move in New Jersey, before this problem spins out of control. And it’s time for Democrats to prove they mean what they say.”

The Star-Ledger: “Christie has proposed more detailed financial disclosure for all government officials, and there is simply no excuse for the Legislature to resist that. At a minimum, the public has a right to know about potential conflicts.” (“Curb dual office-holding for legislators,” [Star-Ledger Editorial Board](#), 6/5/11)

The Daily Record: “Another good idea is the governor’s plan to bolster the state’s financial disclosure forms... (“Time to end dual office holding,” [Daily Record](#), 9/9/10)

Banning Dual Office Holding

The Star-Ledger: “[D]ual office-holding also has a dark side: conflicts of interest, no-show jobs and political favors. Gov. Chris Christie has proposed a solution that sounds simple: Allow just one public salary...Christie’s on the right track.” (“Curb dual office-holding for legislators,” [Star-Ledger Editorial Board](#), 6/5/11)

The Times of Trenton: "One aspect of the reforms [Governor Christie] anticipates is clearing up the remnants of that unique New Jersey institution of dual-office holding...the governor is wise to make a clean sweep of that outrageous practice." ("Clean sweep," [Times of Trenton](#), 9/12/10)

The Daily Record: "Let's start with proposals to end dual office holding and to ban dual (public) employment for "all state, county and local officials." These proposals strike at the heart of traditional New Jersey politics, which long has revolved around those with "connections" holding most of the cards...One public job and one public salary is enough." ("Time to end dual office holding," Daily Record, 9/9/10)

Reining In The Shadow Government

The Record: "Christie is asking for sensible changes...Whether these commissions have done anything wrong in the past doesn't matter. The point is to stop any abuse and waste from happening from now on. We need the law." ("Needed authority," [The Record](#), 4/1/11)

The Star-Ledger: "...unguarded taxpayer and ratepayer money continues to burn. The governor has veto power over several boards and commissions, but that authority does not extend to most of the state's water and sewerage commissions. And the Senate Democrats, in the majority, won't give it. It's petty politics, really." ("By denying Gov, Democrats are party to waste and corruption," [Star-Ledger Editorial Board](#), 4/3/2011)

- Democrats are putting politics ahead of accountability, their interests over ratepayer protection. That's wrong.
- Christie recently sent recommendations to the Legislature seeking more authority than he originally desired. ...the governor should be given that power."

The Courier-Post: "Christie has proposed legislation that would hand the Governor's Office -- himself -- veto power over more than two dozen independent authorities and commissions...We're fully on board with what the governor is proposing...We implore the Legislature to take up Christie's proposals and make them law." (Editorial, "Added oversight needed for boards," [Courier-Post](#), 4/4/2011)

The Press of Atlantic City: "Here's something that the Democratic state Legislature should be able to agree with Republican Gov. Chris Christie on - and quickly: Expanding the governor's veto authority over New Jersey's so-called "shadow government" - the authorities, boards and commissions that spend untold sums of public money, often well out of sight of the general public." (Editorial, "N.J.'s shadow government / A worthy target," [Press of Atlantic City](#), 4/4/2011)

- "[H]e's right on target here, and the Legislature should enact this legislation.

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