

Murphy aides condemn legislative leaders' 'StayNJ' plan as inequitable, unsustainable

The critiques ranged from the financial sustainability of the proposal to racial equity.



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While talk of a shutdown has traveled within Statehouse circles over Gov. Phil Murphy's opposition to the program, legislative leaders and the governor's office still have weeks to reach a resolution. | Matt Rourke/AP Photo

MOUNT LAUREL, N.J. — Top aides to Gov. Phil Murphy on Tuesday publicly criticized the property tax relief program for seniors championed by legislative Democratic leadership.

The critiques ranged from the financial sustainability of the proposal to racial equity. The public remarks — made during a [Chamber of Commerce Southern New Jersey event](#) — suggests that there is still much space between the governor's office and the Legislature as budget negotiations enter full swing.

The senior property tax relief proposal led by Assembly Speaker Craig Coughlin and Senate President Nick Scutari would cut most senior property taxes in half for a benefit up to \$10,000 — with no income limits. The governor, a multi-millionaire, has publicly criticized the proposal as talks of a government shutdown percolate with a June 30 deadline nearing.

The governor's chief counsel, Parimal Garg, noted that Murphy would benefit from the proposal, called "StayNJ."

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