

Office of the Governor

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NEWS RELEASE

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RELEASE: April 9, 1998

MEDIA ADVISORY

Governor's Weekly Radio Message Addresses Controlling Taxes in New Jersey

Gov. Christie Whitman provides a weekly radio message to radio stations throughout the state. Each week, the message focuses on a different concern or event of interest to New Jerseyans.

This week Governor Whitman's message focuses on her commitment to controlling taxes in New Jersey. The Governor has supported giving taxpayers more control over municipal taxes by proposing voter approval for municipal tax increases above the rate of inflation. On a state level, the Governor has suggested more tax control by proposing that any state tax increase be subject to a supermajority vote -- requiring at least two-thirds or three-fifths of the Assembly and Senate to vote in favor of the increase. The Governor said it is her mission to make New Jersey a place that its citizens can enjoy and afford.

Attached is the text of the message.

The radio message can be accessed by calling the Governor's actuality line at 609-292-3249. It will be available today, beginning at noon, and will run through the weekend.

Governor's Weekly Radio Address April 9, 1998

The month of April brings to mind blossoming trees, blooming flowers, and other springtime delights. April is also, of course, a month for paying taxes. And so it's a good time for me to tell you about a few ideas I have for helping New Jersey's hard-working taxpayers.

Since I took office, we have cut taxes 17 times. What has that meant for New Jersey? For one thing, it's kept billions of dollars in the pockets of the men and women who've earned them. Just as important, our tax cuts have helped add more than 260,000 jobs to New Jersey's economy since 1994.

But I know that taxes are a never-ending concern. It's hard enough for a family to make ends meet without having to send more money to support government growth every year.

You deserve more say in how taxes are raised and spent on the local level. And you deserve a State House in which tax hikes are few and far between.

I have asked the Legislature to grant you and every citizen the right to vote yes or no to any municipal tax increases above inflation. If your mayor or town council can't make a good case for raising taxes any higher, you should have the right to reject them.

I've also proposed that we move school elections to November. Everyone knows that taxes come due in April, but too few of us take part in the school elections that

happen this time each year. School budgets are the largest part of your property tax bill; we should make sure the largest part of the population votes on them.

These proposals address taxes on the local level. But we also should do more on the state level. That's why I propose we make any state tax hikes subject to a super-majority vote in the Legislature. This would mean that for any state tax to increase, at least two thirds of the Assembly and two thirds of the Senate would have to vote in favor of that increase.

I'm looking forward to seeing my proposals take shape in the Legislature. And I invite you to take part in the process by contacting me and your legislators to show your support of these taxpayer-empowering proposals.

I consider it my mission, as the governor you elected, to make New Jersey the Best Place to Live in America. That's why these proposals are so important. You deserve a New Jersey that you can enjoy and that you can afford.

Let me finish with a friendly reminder: If you haven't filed your taxes already, remember that April 15th is just a couple of days away. And if you qualify for the federal Earned Income Tax Credit, make sure to fill out Schedule EIC.