



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

NEWS RELEASE

PO BOX 004
CONTACT: Jayne O'Connor
Gene Herman
(609) 777-2600

TRENTON, NJ 08625
RELEASE: February 6, 1998



GOVERNOR'S BUDGET ADDRESS TO BE BROADCAST LIVE ON-LINE

Gov. Christie Whitman today announced that citizens will be able to view the Governor's budget address live on-line on Tuesday, February 10. The website will enable viewers to obtain detailed information about the 1999 fiscal year budget as well as other fiscal issues which the Governor will address in her speech.

"This is a natural follow-up to the State of the State and the Inaugural addresses, which were on-line in New Jersey for the first time ever this year," Whitman said. "The response to those addresses exceeded all of our expectations, with the Inaugural site getting over 300,000 'hits' from citizens. In addition, there were more than 2,300 users of the live audio/visual feature of the State of the State and Inaugural pages."

"We want to continue directly reaching as many citizens as possible and we are committed to using technology to help us bring more people into the process of government," she said. "The budget process is important to every taxpayer in New Jersey and they have a right to get a first-hand look at how we are allocating their hard-earned dollars and our plans for prudently managing our state's fiscal affairs in the coming year."

The budget address website will include:

- access to the Governor's speech live on-line
- the full text of the Governor's speech
- hyper links to presentations on new initiatives announced by the Governor
- an opportunity for citizens to react on-line to the speech and request additional information
- a trivia quiz about New Jersey facts and the Governor's new initiatives

The budget address website is expected to reach a large number of citizens as did the State of the State and Inaugural websites. The New Jersey state website, which has been on line since 1996, receives 200,000 hits per day.

Citizens should access the site prior to Tuesday's address, which is at 2 p. m., to load necessary software for live viewing of the budget address. The website is reachable through a link at the New Jersey state website:
<http://www.state.nj.us>.

####

njhome