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Editorial Round-Up - Governor Christie Providing Necessary and Long Overdue Action on Most Pressing Issues Facing New Jersey

Monday, March 1, 2010 • Tags: [Budget and Spending](#)

On Cutting Wasteful Spending in New Jersey's Authorities...

MyCentalJersey.com - "Christie is using his bully pulpit to deliver a sermon that New Jersey residents have wanted to hear for a long time"

March 1, 2010 - A new lesson: Authorities' wasteful spending can be controlled:

In his busy first month in office, Chris Christie has made the Passaic Valley Sewerage Authority the primary example of authorities' wasteful spending and profligate patronage without being answerable to voters...That's why Christie's crackdown on spending by authorities earlier this week is welcome news...Christie is using his bully pulpit to deliver a sermon that New Jersey residents have wanted to hear for a long time. For too long state residents were lulled into believing there was nothing that could be done to stop the obscene spending at all levels of government. Let's hope that Christie's words will translate to actions and policies that will keep hard-earned money in residents' wallets. Our Opinion: Gov. Christie's crackdown on needless spending by the state's many commissions and authorities will create welcome restraints, and have direct impact on at least one wasteful Central Jersey agency - the Plainfield Municipal Utilities Authority.

The Daily Journal - "Gov. Chris Christie's executive order last week aimed at controlling excessive spending in these quasi-independent agencies is particularly needed..."

March 1, 2010 - Bringing the authorities under control:

As it's about time the state cracked down on its too-numerous authorities, commissions and boards. Although it should've happened years ago, Gov. Chris Christie's executive order last week aimed at controlling excessive spending in these quasi-independent agencies is particularly needed now given the recession, unemployment and the state's dubious honor of having the highest property taxes in the nation. We like that the governor ordered these agencies to terminate contracts with outside lobbyists as soon as legally possible. We also like the executive order because it prohibits these agencies from hiring new lobbyists or renewing existing contracts without the consent of the governor...More changes for the better are coming. Christie has asked his Cabinet to review all these authorities, boards and commissions and issue a report in May on which ones could be eliminated or reduced in size. These authorities do provide economic benefits to the areas they operate in. But no one can argue that saving taxpayers' money, without any loss of services or programs, is critical and beneficial, too.

On Closing the Loophole in the State's Pay-to-Pay Law...

Courier-Post - "Governor was right to level the playing field and apply donation limits to unions"

March 1, 2010 - Pay-to-play limits should cover unions:

Governor was right to level the playing field and apply donation limits to unions... Gov. Chris Christie was right to make closing a major loophole in the state's pay-to-play law one of his first orders of business... But, it is in the best interest of the people of New Jersey to have the strictest, most wide-reaching pay-to-play rules possible. So the state should vigorously fight this lawsuit and look to preserve Christie's executive order.

On Fixing a Broken Unemployment Compensation Fund...

Daily Record - "Christie's logic is easy to see"

February 28, 2010 - Fight looms over unemployment fund: Democrats unlikely to go along:

The state's Unemployment Insurance fund is broke for two reasons — one legitimate (more unemployed people) and one irresponsible (the raiding of the fund over the years by the Legislature for other purposes). The state borrowed money from the federal government last year to keep the fund afloat. Last week, Christie presented a better idea...Christie's logic is easy to see. The Unemployment Insurance fund is broken, and a combination of strong steps has to be taken to fix it...The governor's plan certainly is better than relying on borrowed money to pay benefits.

On a Bipartisan Approach to Reforming the Pension System...

The Record - "...in New Jersey you can thank Christie for the epiphany"

February 28, 2010 - Saying yes to no:

On the state level, even Democrats are getting the message that saying no may be a winning strategy. On Feb. 21, the New Jersey State Senate scheduled a vote on several bills related to pension reform.

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Public employee unions packed the state house chamber gallery and hallways hoping to derail passage of the bills.... Once the bills pass the assembly, Republican Governor Chris Christie will sign them into law. Normally, saying yes to no is not popular. Welcome aboard state Democrats, saying yes to no is no longer solely a Conservative Republican walk in the dark. It is now mainstream political thought and in New Jersey you can thank Christie for the epiphany.

On Closing the Budget Gap...

The Star-Ledger - "Christie has done the right things"

March 1, 2010 - Gov. Chris Christie is getting it right on budget:

Q: *Gov. Chris Christie's sharp and immediate budget cuts have raised considerable controversy. Are they the kind of jolt we need to get serious about fiscal responsibility?*

GOV. BYRNE: Sure. In a way we're fortunate to have a Republican governor, because he can get away with things Jon Corzine could not get away with. He's doing that, and he's doing it well, and with bipartisan support.

GOV. KEAN: Christie has done the right things, but this is only the beginning. So far he's only made up for problems left over from Corzine.

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