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## Tuesday, June 15, 2010 - To control property taxes, "it is necessary" that the "full body of reforms is adopted..."

Tuesday, June 15, 2010 • Tags: [Property Taxes](#)

'Cap 2.5' reforms would get at the root of New Jersey's property tax woes  
By Stephen C. Acropolis, Richard J. Gerbounka, Andrew Sarclette and Dawn Zimmer  
Star-Ledger Guest Columnist

As Gov. Chris Christie has stated, there comes a point when the people's ability to pay runs out — when families are overtaxed and spending has exploded even beyond the point of excess. We know that the people in our communities have reached that point. It's the reason Christie is taking a bold, aggressive approach to cap property taxes and bring real relief to New Jerseyans.

For the past 30 years, mayors and other local leaders have been left on the sideline as politicians in Trenton have failed to address the crisis and failed to provide us with tools to do it ourselves.

...

Christie's Cap 2.5 Reform Agenda finally addresses the crisis by capping the tax levy, empowering communities with tools to control costs and giving the people the ultimate say over higher taxes. This reform package is a cap on property tax increases, a cap on discretionary spending, as well as a toolkit of 33 specific legislative reforms that deal with collective bargaining, civil service, health care, education and pensions.

These reforms actually get at the root of the problem — uncontrolled costs. Labor costs continue to rise year after year due to an out-of-balance collective bargaining system that fails to consider the impact of a decision on property taxes. When we attempt to engage in cost-saving arrangements through labor changes or shared services, we find a dead end due to out-of-date and overly burdensome civil service rules.

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We support the Cap 2.5 Reform Agenda. We know it is necessary and we know that if the full body of reforms is adopted, the 2.5 percent cap will work.

...

Christie has provided bold, strong leadership that is capable of bringing this to life. The governor has recognized the fullness of the property tax problem, provided a comprehensive package of solutions and, most important, is devoting the force of his leadership to achieve them.

Christie's reform agenda delivers and we are proud to stand with him in this fight to bring lasting property tax relief to the Garden State.

*Stephen C. Acropolis is mayor of Brick and a Republican. Richard J. Gerbounka is mayor of Linden and an independent. Andrew Sarclette is mayor of Maurice River and Dawn Zimmer is mayor of Hoboken; both are Democrats.*

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[View entire opinion here.](#)

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