

The Fairness Formula In Somerset County

Our Path to Lower Property Taxes

THE FAIRNESS FORMULA: Last week, Governor Christie proposed a solution to New Jersey's two most pressing crises that are hurting all New Jerseyans: the failure of urban education and property taxes. The Governor's groundbreaking Fairness Formula will provide equal education funding for every pupil throughout the state, valuing every child equally.

Under the Fairness Formula, all public school districts would receive **\$6,599** for every enrolled student, plus continued funding for special education. This will give every child an equal chance at success. Graduation rates prove that educational success cannot be bought with excessive spending by a select few chronically failing school districts, which have received billions more in state taxpayer dollars over the past three decades than hundreds of successful school districts. The statewide graduation rate is 90%, with 27 of the 31 Abbott districts falling below that average. Continuing the current school funding formula means allowing failing school districts to spend as much as \$33,699 per pupil in tax dollars, while high-performing school districts spend less than half of that per student.

With this new formula, 75% of all New Jersey districts would get more state aid than they do today. The biggest driver of New Jersey's nation-high property taxes is the ineffective and unfair state school funding formula. The Fairness Formula will not only be equal for students it may also provide hundreds or even thousands of dollars in annual property tax savings for New Jerseyans in most communities.

Here's a look at annual property tax savings under the Fairness Formula for the average household in **Somerset County**:

SOMERSET COUNTY	
MUNICIPALITY	AVERAGE HOUSEHOLD SAVINGS
BEDMINSTER TOWNSHIP	\$836
BERNARDS TOWNSHIP	\$3,128
BERNARDSVILLE BOROUGH	\$2,743
BOUND BROOK BOROUGH	\$548
BRANCHBURG TOWNSHIP	\$1,746
BRIDGEWATER TOWNSHIP	\$2,042
FAR HILLS BOROUGH	\$1,544
FRANKLIN TOWNSHIP	\$1,202

GREEN BROOK TOWNSHIP	\$2,704
HILLSBOROUGH TOWNSHIP	\$1,443
MANVILLE BOROUGH	\$1,171
MILLSTONE BOROUGH	\$1,344
MONTGOMERY TOWNSHIP	\$3,441
PEAPACK-GLADSTONE BOROUGH	\$2,183
RARITAN BOROUGH	\$1,514
ROCKY HILL BOROUGH	\$2,304
SOMERVILLE BOROUGH	\$1,034
SOUTH BOUND BROOK BOROUGH	\$196
WARREN TWP	\$2,542
WATCHUNG BORO	\$2,373

For towns that are not listed the Fairness Formula may not result in a decrease of property taxes, however there are other solutions to lowering municipal government costs. [Join the movement](#) to help lower your property taxes now.

This initiative takes courageous leadership and strong fiscal management to overcome billion-dollar campaigns by special interests – but that is exactly what New Jerseyans deserve from their governor, legislators, school board members, mayors, and freeholders.

[ICYMI: Governor Chris Christie's Speech On The Fairness Formula](#)



NEW WEBSITE: To provide details on the Fairness Formula, Governor Chris Christie launched a new website, www.nj.gov/taxrelief, encouraging people to sign an online petition in support of the Fairness Formula that is the solution to lowering their nation-high property taxes.

This interactive website contains five tabbed sections: Inequity in NJ Schools; The Fairness Formula; NJ Property Tax By the Numbers; Your Property Taxes, a tool which provides residents with their maximum potential property tax savings and; Join the Movement, the aforementioned petition for New Jerseyans to help reduce their property tax bills by hundreds or thousands of dollars per year.

COMING TO A THEATER NEAR YOU: Watch for Governor Christie in the next few months as he discusses his plan to lower property taxes and turn the tide on failing school districts:

"We cannot let it continue, so I will travel across the state this summer to talk about this plan to, for the first time in my lifetime, lower property taxes for the people of New Jersey and bring fairness to the funding of our schools."