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# *Commission Meeting*

of

## NEW JERSEY COMMISSION ON CAPITAL BUDGETING AND PLANNING

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**LOCATION:** Meeting via Teams

**DATE:** January 9, 2026  
10:00 a.m.

**MEMBERS OF COMMISSION PRESENT:**

James M. Rutala, Chair  
Senator Paul A. Sarlo  
Senator Douglas J. Steinhardt  
Assemblywoman Nancy F. Muñoz  
Aaron Binder  
Stephanie Doherty  
David Drescher  
Samuel Kovach-Orr, Esq.  
Andrew McAllister



**ALSO PRESENT:**

James Langsdorf  
*Executive Director*

Michael Sullivan  
Bartosz Zajac  
*State Budget Specialists*

Connor Hart  
*State Budget Supervisor*

*Meeting Recorded and Transcribed by*  
The Office of Legislative Services, Public Information Office,  
Hearing Unit, State House Annex, PO 068, Trenton, New Jersey

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**MR. JAMES M. RUTALA (Chair):** OK, we'd like to call this meeting of the Commission on Capital Budgeting and Planning to order.

In accordance with the Open Public Meetings Act, the Commission has provided adequate notice of the meeting, including written notice of the time, date, and location. Notice of the meeting was filed at least 48 hours in advance by email and by fax to *The Trenton Times*, the *Newark Star-Ledger*, and filed with the Secretary of State.

Roll call.

**MR. LANGSDORF:** Thank you, Chairman.

And, Happy New Year, everyone.

Senator Sarlo. (no response)

Senator Steinhardt.

**SENATOR STEINHARDT:** Here.

**MR. LANGSDORF:** Assemblyman Spearman. (no response)

Assemblywoman Muñoz.

**ASSEMBLYWOMAN MUÑOZ:** Here.

**MR. LANGSDORF:** Mr. Aaron Binder.

**MR. BINDER:** Here.

**MR. LANGSDORF:** Mr. David Drescher.

**MR. DRESCHER:** Here.

**MR. LANGSDORF:** Ms. Stephanie Doherty -- Doherty; sorry.

**MS. DOHERTY:** (indiscernible)

**MR. LANGSDORF:** Mr. Samuel Kovach-Orr.

**MS. DOHERTY:** (indiscernible)

**MR. KOVACH-ORR:** Here.

**MR. LANGSDORF:** Ms. Liz Mahn. (no response)

Mr. Andrew McAllister.

MR. McALLISTER: Here.

MR. LANGSDORF: Mr. James Rutala.

MR. RUTALA: Here.

MR. LANGSDORF: Chairman, we have a quorum.

MR. RUTALA: Thank you.

Next, we will accept a motion to approve the minutes from December 5, 2025.

Can we have a motion?

SENATOR SARLO: I'm sorry, Chairman.

Senator Sarlo is on.

MR. RUTALA: Thank you.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Motion.

MR. RUTALA: Thank you.

A second?

MR. McALLISTER: Second.

MR. RUTALA: Thank you.

(indiscernible) roll call.

MR. LANGSDORF: We'll go through having the Commission members accept the meeting minutes.

Senator Sarlo.

SENATOR SARLO: Yes.

MR. LANGSDORF: Senator Steinhardt.

SENATOR STEINHARDT: Yes.

MR. LANGSDORF: Assemblyman Spearman. (no response)

Assemblywoman Muñoz.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN MUÑOZ: Yes.

MR. LANGSDORF: Mr. Aaron Binder.

MR. BINDER: Yes.

MR. LANGSDORF: Mr. David Drescher.

MR. DRESCHER: Yes.

MR. LANGSDORF: Ms. Stephanie Doherty.

MS. DOHERTY: Yes.

MR. LANGSDORF: Mr. Samuel Kovach-Orr.

MR. KOVACH-ORR: Yes.

MR. LANGSDORF: Ms. Liz Mahn. (no response)

Mr. Andrew McAllister.

MR. McALLISTER: Yes.

MR. LANGSDORF: Mr. James Rutala.

MR. RUTALA: Yes.

MR. LANGSDORF: Chairman, the motion moves.

MR. RUTALA: Thank you.

Next, we'll vote on the Fiscal 2027 Capital Recommendations.

We'll go through each of the recommendations and take one action.

If there's any questions along the way, we can certainly address those.

The first is the State House Joint Management Commission. There's no recommendation.

Second is the Department of Agriculture. The recommendation is \$65,000.

MR. LANGSDORF: Chairman, I believe that's \$650,000.

MR. RUTALA: Six-hundred fifty thousand dollars? OK.

Thank you.

Children and Family Services, there's no recommendation.

Corrections -- \$7,616,000 recommended.

MR. HART: Can we just-- Sorry to interrupt, everyone.

Can we just go back to the Department of Agriculture?

MR. RUTALA: Yes.

MR. HART: I believe that was for \$65,000.

MR. LANGSDORF: Oh, I'm sorry.

MR. HART: No problem. I just wanted to--

MR. LANGSDORF: My apologies; my apologies.

I should remain quiet.

MR. HART: (laughter)

No worries.

MR. RUTALA: Thank you.

Next, Department of Education -- \$2,900,000.

Next is the Department of Environmental Protection -- \$164,287,000.

Next is Palisades Interstate Park Commission. There's no recommendation.

Next is the Department of Health -- \$5,475,000.

The Department of Human Resources -- or, Human Services, I'm sorry. There's no recommendation.

Law and Public Safety -- \$5,960,000 is recommended.

Youth Justice Commission -- to the recommendation, \$7,218,000 (*sic*).

Military Affairs -- \$348,000 recommended.

Veteran Affairs -- \$1,254,000 is recommended.

State Library Commission -- no recommendation.

Department of Transportation -- One billion, 604 thousand, 136 thousand (*sic*).

Office of Information Technology, there is no recommendation.

Public Broadcasting Authority -- \$200,000.

And, Interdepartmental -- \$143,027,000.

For a total of \$1,936,823,000.

Are there any questions? (no response)

Hearing none, do we have a motion to approve?

ASSEMBLYWOMAN MUÑOZ: Motion.

MR. RUTALA: Thank you.

Second?

MS. DOHERTY: Second.

MR. RUTALA: Roll call?

MR. LANGSDORF: Senator Sarlo. (no response)

Is Senator Sarlo present?

SENATOR SARLO: Hello?

Senator Sarlo.

MR. LANGSDORF: OK, I'll start over.

For the motion to approve the recommendations.

Senator Sarlo.

SENATOR SARLO: Yes.

I'm sorry. It was a long night last night. We didn't get out of there until midnight, so I'm a little beat up here. (laughter)

MR. LANGSDORF: (laughter)

Senator Steinhardt.

SENATOR STEINHARDT: I'm going to abstain.

MR. LANGSDORF: Assemblyman Spearman. (no response)

Assemblywoman Muñoz.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN MUÑOZ: Yes.

MR. LANGSDORF: Mr. Aaron Binder.

MR. BINDER: Yes.

MR. LANGSDORF: Mr. David Drescher.

MR. DRESCHER: Yes.

MR. LANGSDORF: Ms. Stephanie Doherty.

MS. DOHERTY: Yes.

MR. LANGSDORF: Mr. Samuel Kovach-Orr.

MR. KOVACH-ORR: Yes.

MR. LANGSDORF: Ms. Liz Mahn. (no response)

Mr. Andrew McAllister.

MR. McALLISTER: Yes.

MR. LANGSDORF: Mr. James Rutala.

MR. RUTALA: Yes.

MR. LANGSDORF: Chairman, the motion moves.

MR. RUTALA: Thank you.

Is there any other business?

SENATOR SARLO: Can I-- It's Senator Sarlo.

I just want to commend and congratulate somebody who has been a longtime member of this Commission, and we've all worked with for many, many years, Aaron Binder, on his new endeavor. He's going to do

great things for the State of New Jersey, and the Legislature is looking forward to working with him.

MR. BINDER: Thank you, Senator. Much appreciated.

MR. LANGSDORF: Congratulations, Aaron.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN MUÑOZ: I'd also like to thank everyone. Monday was my last day, and it's been a pleasure and an honor to be the Budget Officer of the minority party.

And, thank you for the privilege of being on this Commission.

SENATOR SARLO: Congratulations.

MR. LANGSDORF: Thank you.

Thank you for helping us throughout this year.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN MUÑOZ: Thank you.

MR. RUTALA: Thank you.

If there's nothing else, a motion to adjourn?

ASSEMBLYWOMAN MUÑOZ: Motion.

MS. DOHERTY: (indiscernible)

MR. RUTALA: Thank you.

Thank you, everyone.

Have a wonderful weekend.

(MEETING CONCLUDED)