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## Governor Christie Announces Comprehensive Restoration of NJ State House

Tuesday, November 29, 2016

Tags: [Budget and Spending](#)

### *Project Includes Critical Life Safety Renovations*

**Trenton, NJ** - Governor Chris Christie today announced the first comprehensive restoration of the New Jersey Executive State House in 60 years that will ensure the historic building will be safe for visitors and employees, as well as preserved well into the future.

The New Jersey State House is the second oldest in continuous operation in the United States. It was developed over 18 distinct building campaigns from 1792 to 1958, with only Band-Aid emergency repair projects in the last 60 years. Over calendar year 2016 alone, the state will spend close to \$3 million to address emergency conditions with no long-term value gained.

"Attention needs to be paid to our State House immediately before the aging building and infrastructure deteriorate any further," said Governor Christie. "I enter this building with a sense of pride each and every day and cannot leave office without addressing the serious issues that face the center of New Jersey government. This critical project will protect and preserve the State House for future New Jerseyans."

Governor Christie's plan addresses critical life safety issues including installation of fire suppression sprinklers, smoke separation of building spaces to safeguard occupants, removal of combustible materials, elimination of non-code compliant means of egress, and Americans With Disabilities Act (ADA) improvements.

There has been extreme deterioration of both the outside and inside building fabric. The historic chimneys need to be dismantled until permanent repairs are made; window sashes at risk of falling off their frames must be removed from the building; and cornices have to be dismantled and other exterior elements removed to protect occupants and passersby.

All existing systems need to be replaced with 21st century infrastructure. The possibility of building systems failing and disrupting state government operations is significant. The most egregious example is the existing heating, ventilation and air conditioning configuration. Thirty-five percent of the building does not have proper heating, cooling and ventilation due to a set up created haphazardly over the last 50 years that addressed localized user needs without a coherent plan. Every year, the state makes costly repairs that do not add long term value. There also is a significant waste in energy costs.

The projected cost of this complete renovation is \$300 million. Working in cooperation with the New Jersey Economic Development Authority, the funds will be used to pay for the exterior and interior renovation and restoration, complete new building infrastructure, curing code and ADA violations, and temporary relocation costs.

"The deteriorating conditions of the building necessitate that this project begin now to ensure the safety of workers and visitors and avoid additional costs," said Governor Christie. "Every year the project is delayed adds another \$10 million to the cost of the overall project. We cannot afford to wait to save the State House, its visitors and employees from worsening conditions and address the critical life safety upgrades needed."

It is expected this restoration project will take four years to complete. Employees will be relocated during construction.

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