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## The Christie Middle-Class Reform Agenda

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*After Nearly Two Years Of Delay And Inaction, It Is Time For The Legislature To Move Forward On Governor Christie's Common-Sense Reforms To Improve The Lives Of Middle-Class New Jerseyans*

### TAX RELIEF FOR NEW JERSEY FAMILIES

**Last year, Governor Christie proposed an income tax cut of 10 percent across the board. Following negotiations with the legislature, the Governor agreed to a compromise plan to offer New Jersey families direct property tax relief through an income tax credit.**

Under Governor Christie's compromise plan, New Jersey taxpayers will be able to claim an income tax credit of up to 10 percent of their property tax bill.

This plan will provide a savings of \$775 for the average family.

The 10 percent credit is capped at \$10,000 of property taxes paid and all New Jersey homeowners with up to \$400,000 in income will be eligible for relief.

Renters will receive a \$200 year in property tax deduction, up from \$50 under current law.

Governor Christie's bipartisan tax relief also increases the Earned Income Tax Credit to 25 percent of the federal tax credit:

This increase will make New Jersey one of the most generous programs in the country, with an average eligible family will receive a \$550 annual benefit.

Despite Governor Christie's willingness to compromise, and in a fit of political partisanship, the legislature decided to deny New Jerseyans the tax cut they so desperately need and deserve. Governor Christie remains committed to delivering tax relief and will fund tax relief if the Legislature reverses its partisan course to make good on its promise to New Jerseyans.

***New Jerseyans Have Been Waiting 241 Days For Middle-Class Tax Relief***

### THE PROPERTY TAX REFORM TOOL KIT

**In May 2010, Governor Christie laid out a series of common-sense reform proposals to rein in the high cost of property taxes in New Jersey. Since then, the Legislature has allowed only six of bills to become law:**

A-1646/S-1781: Directs that one sample ballot shall be delivered to each residence address where at least one resident thereof is registered to vote.

A-2951/S-2174: Eliminate eligibility for State retirement systems for non- government groups and associations.

A-2958/S-2012: Allows gross income tax refunds to be credited against a taxpayer's delinquent local property taxes.

A-2953/S-2024: Permits layoff plans as substitute for employment reconciliation plans for joint meetings or shared service agreements under certain circumstances.

A-2955/S-2135: Employee Discipline Reform. Limits right of appeal of disciplinary action taken by employer against certain public employees.

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A-2960/S-2043: Concerns collective negotiations for school employees; repeals law prohibiting school boards from imposing terms and conditions of employment.

A-2961/S-2025: Authorizes executive county superintendent of schools to require implementation of shared services arrangements and to approve school district collective negotiations agreements prior to execution of agreement.

A-2962/S-2027: Concerns collective negotiations for public institutions of higher education.

A-2963/S-2026: Amends State college law to remove certain employees from civil service system and allow boards of trustees to conduct collective bargaining.

A-2964/S-2172: Authorizes the establishment of probationary periods for non-tenured faculty members at State colleges.

A-3219: Amends State college law to allow boards of trustees to conduct collective bargaining.

A-3220: Amends State college law to remove certain employees from civil service system.

***New Jerseyans Have Been Waiting 1,025 Days For Common-Sense Property Tax Reform***

#### **COMMON-SENSE ETHICS REFORM TO MAKE GOVERNMENT MORE ACCOUNTABLE**

**Governor Christie has proposed a rigorous and far-reaching overhaul of New Jersey's ethics laws to ensure the highest standards of integrity and good government:**

A New, Detailed Annual Financial Disclosure Statement From Both The Executive And Legislative Branches.

A Full Ban On Dual Office Holding That Ends Grandfathering

A Ban On Dual Employment For All State, County And Local Officials And Employees

An Effective Conflict Of Interest Standard For Legislators

Pension Forfeiture For Convicted Public Officials

Forfeiture Of Campaign Funds For Convicted Public Officials

Prohibition On The Use Of Campaign Funds For Criminal Defense Costs

Prohibition On "Wheeling" On Campaign Funds

Uniform Public Contracting Standards

Extend Pay-To-Play Limitations To Labor Unions

Shadow Government Reform

***New Jerseyans Have Been Waiting 1,143 Days For Ethics Reform***

#### **AN END TO THE COSTLY PRACTICE OF SICK LEAVE PAYOUTS FOR GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES**

**Governor Christie urged the Legislature to end the practice of distributing cash payouts for sick days for government employees:**

Governor Christie conditionally vetoed legislation that would cap sick leave payouts at \$15,000.

Democrats second proposal to cap payouts at \$7,500 would cost to New Jersey taxpayers a minimum of \$3.25 billion.

Accumulated sick and vacation payout liability for municipalities statewide is currently \$880 million.

***New Jerseyans Have Been Waiting 812 Days For An End To Sick Leave Payouts***

#### **PROTECTING TAXPAYERS BY CLOSING LOOPHOLES IN THE PROPERTY TAX CAP**

**Governor Christie has called on the legislature to prevent municipalities from increasing user fees as a way of circumventing the 2% property tax cap:**

This legislation will apply to funding for traditional services that were previously included the local budget.

***New Jerseyans Have Been Waiting 290 Days For The Closing Loopholes In The Property Tax Cap***

#### **SHARED SERVICES AND CIVIL SERVICE REFORM TO HELP REIN IN THE COST OF GOVERNMENT**

**Governor Christie conditionally vetoed Democrats' empty 'reform' bill and called on the Legislature to give municipalities greater flexibility in order to remove barriers to sharing services:**

The Local Unit Alignment, Reorganization and Consolidation Commission determined that civil service seniority-protection rules are among the most significant barriers to shared services between municipalities.

The Civil Service Opt Out would be the most comprehensive way to address the barriers to shared services posed by civil service seniority rules.

***New Jerseyans Have Been Waiting 756 Days For Shared Services And Civil Service Reform***

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