

## Office of the Governor

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### NEWS RELEASE

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#### **Governor's Property Tax Commission Issues Discussion Papers to Encourage Public Awareness of Issues Affecting Local Tax Rates**

Barbara Cannon, Chairwoman of Gov. Christie Whitman's Property Tax Commission and mayor of Old Bridge Township, today released three discussion papers which were prepared as part of the commission's work in reviewing issues related to property tax reform. The discussion papers are designed to stimulate public discussion of the property tax burden in New Jersey and to provide some insight into the issues that the Commission has been addressing over the last several months.

"These discussion papers, prepared by Property Tax Commission staff, present some of the major issues that we considered as we explored ways to address the burden of property taxes on New Jersey residents," said Mayor Cannon. "They are factors in, rather than products of, the Commission's deliberations."

The reports examine three questions:

- What is the cost of home rule;
- What effect would increased state education funding have on other aspects of New Jersey's education system; and
- How would Michigan's property tax reform measure, "Proposal A," apply to New Jersey?

The Commission presented the discussion papers in an effort to more fully inform interested citizens and public representatives of these issues. The Commission is working to generate public discussion on property taxes and will further that discussion with the upcoming release of its summary report to the Governor.

"In addition to coming up with ways to respond to the property tax issue, one of the Commission's goals in producing the report has always been to encourage New Jersey citizens and their elected officials to engage each other in a public discussion on the issue," said the mayor.

Mayor Cannon also announced that the Commission's report is expected to be ready for submission to Governor Whitman in early September. It will also be released to the public at that time.