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RELEASE: April 7, 1998

Gov. Christie Whitman today announced that three public hearings will be held to give citizens a chance to make suggestions on ways that state and local governments can control and reduce property taxes in New Jersey. The hearings are being held as part of the Property Tax Commission's effort to help local officials control and cut the cost of local government and lower property taxes. The Governor also announced a new webpage where citizens can get more information about the property tax commission and submit comments and suggestions.

The Property Tax Commission will hold public hearings during the months of April and May across New Jersey. These hearings will last for two hours, and citizens interested in testifying will be asked to sign up at the beginning of each hearing. The hearings are scheduled for the following dates and times:

Tuesday, April 21  
7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.  
West Windsor Township, New Jersey  
Mercer County Community College, West Windsor Campus  
Kelsey Theater

Thursday, May 14  
7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.  
Atlantic City, New Jersey  
The New Atlantic City Convention Center  
Room 401

Tuesday, May 19  
7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. Borough of Paramus, New Jersey  
Bergen County Community College  
Main Theater

In addition, the Commission now has a webpage running off of the Governor's Office webpage that provides background information on the Commission, the dates of the public hearings, and a comment section that allows citizens to send their ideas for property tax reform to the Commission. The address is "[www.state.nj.us/governor/proptax](http://www.state.nj.us/governor/proptax)"

Gov. Whitman created the Property Tax Commission in December 1997 in response to a request from municipal leaders at the League of Municipalities annual conference. The Governor asked the members of the commission to review ways in which the State can help give local officials more tools to cut the cost of local government and lower property taxes. The commission is reviewing the costs associated with home rule and considering options for reform including shifting local services to different levels of government, increasing shared services and consolidation. The commission is also exploring whether alternatives to property taxation exist that will not increase the overall tax burden.