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## What They're Saying: 'The governor's plan protects both taxpayers and businesses by meeting our fiscal obligations without raising taxes. It also keeps our commitment to fund the pension system.'

Wednesday, March 1, 2017

Tags: [Budget and Spending](#)

### What They're Saying:

**'The governor's plan protects both taxpayers and businesses by meeting our fiscal obligations without raising taxes. It also keeps our commitment to fund the pension system.'**

**Assembly Republican Conference Leader David Rible:** "The governor's plan protects both taxpayers and businesses by meeting our fiscal obligations without raising taxes. It also keeps our commitment to fund the pension system. The slow but steady progress we have by implementing vital reforms have provided the predictable and stable environment businesses require to grow and create jobs. This proposal keeps New Jersey on the path for continued growth." (Release, 2/15/17)

**Senator Health Committee Chairman Joseph Vitale:** "I thank the Governor for continuing his commitment to funding lead remediation and health services for children poisoned with lead across the state, and commend his continued support in the fight against the addiction crisis in our state. We are all in this fight together and must continue to work collaboratively to make a real and direct impact on the innocent lives destroyed by this fierce disease." (Release, 2/28/17)

**Assemblyman Declan O'Scanlon:** "This is the eighth budget from Governor Christie that holds the line on discretionary spending while maintaining the ramp-up of pension payments with the largest state contribution to public worker retirements in history." (Release, 2/15/17)

- "This budget reigns in one-shot revenue sources to historically low levels. The governor's plan is fiscally responsible, but once again it clearly illustrates the need for further cost-cutting reforms if we are to avoid insolvency within the next few years."

- "We know what needs to be done. For years, the governor and Republicans in the legislature have fought for what we all know are necessary reforms. The Democrat legislative leadership does no one – public workers or taxpayers – any favor by delaying the inevitable. Every month we wait, the hole gets deeper and the job gets harder and more painful on everyone."

**Assemblyman Robert Auth:** "In the final budget of his eight-year tenure, Governor Christie continues to make taxpayers a priority. Once again, the governor sets a new record with the highest public employee pension contribution ever. As he has since 2010, Governor Christie is a bulwark defending New Jersey families against higher property and income taxes." (Release, 2/28/17)

- "I commend the governor for challenging the Legislature to get to work over the next 100 days to return fairness and sanity to the school funding formula. It will be hard work, but New Jersey families deserve a more affordable, effective solution to funding education."

**Hardwick Mayor Jim Perry:** "As a father who lost a son to the addiction epidemic a year ago and as an uncle who lost his niece three months ago, I love this man for his sincere concern and passion for helping those who are fighting this disease. It not only affects the individual, but affects entire families and unlike in the past, it has no boundaries for whom it effects. As incoming President of the New Jersey Conference of Mayors this April and as an officer at the New Jersey League of Municipalities, I plan on making this my top priority to develop a program for awareness and tap many resources to combat this issue. I look forward to working with the governor's office on this issue." (Statement, 3/1/17)

**Palmyra Mayor Michelle Arnold:** "I left the Governor's budget address with renewed enthusiasm. Not only are there positive measures in place for the benefit of New Jersey taxpayers, but there are fixed timelines to accomplish the mission. I'm excited to see these improvements develop. 100 days and counting!" (Statement, 3/1/17)

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**New Jersey Business & Industry Association President and CEO Michele Siekerka:** "This is a responsible budget that will support sustained growth in our economy and a continued increase in jobs. It meets our obligations to schools and to property taxpayers with \$13.8 billion in education aid, and maintains state aid to municipalities, even as it holds the line on spending overall." (Release, 2/28/17)

- "The Governor's budget meets our obligation to the public employee pension system with another large contribution from the state. In all, the \$8.8 billion the Administration will have contributed to the pension system is two-and-a-half times the contributions of the last five administrations combined."
- "Additionally, the Governor proposed an interesting idea to address the unfunded liability in the pension system by transferring the Lottery Enterprise to eligible pension plans. We look forward to learning more about this initiative. "New Jersey has made tremendous strides in the last eight years. Governor Christie's proposed budget is a blueprint for keeping the state economy on the right track in the future."

**N.J. Chamber of Commerce President and CEO Thomas Bracken:** "The New Jersey Chamber of Commerce supports the goals of lower taxes and controlled spending as enumerated every year, and this year, by Gov. Christie in his budget addresses. We applaud the sense of urgency he has brought to the issues of school aid, transportation funding, pension payments and the opioid problem." (Statement, 3/1/17)

- "These are difficult challenges, though last year leaders from both parties demonstrated with the Transportation Trust Fund and tax reform that they can reach responsible and effective solutions when they put aside partisanship and put New Jersey first."
- "The New Jersey Chamber of Commerce looks forward to learning more about Gov. Christie's ideas, and we are ready to work with the administration and the state Legislature on the fiscal year 2018 budget proposal to find solutions that will sustain a robust economy, and benefit everyone in the state."

**Chamber of Commerce Southern New Jersey President and CEO Debra P. DiLorenzo:** "Today, Governor Christie introduced his eighth State Budget – with no tax increases on either the business community or on citizens of the State. When the Governor ran for office, he promised that he would institute a government that would live within its means, while creating a climate in which businesses would want to locate, remain or grow. This year, the Governor's budget implements the tax cuts that were part of negotiations to reauthorize the Transportation Trust Fund – tax cuts that our Chamber were proud to support, as they aim to keep wealth in our State. Further, on the spending side, the Governor's budget continues to right-size State government's footprint by reducing the workforce and better managing its property, while maintaining funding for education and local government." (Statement, 2/28/17)

**Commerce and Industry Association of New Jersey President Anthony Russo:** "It's encouraging to hear there will be no new taxes for the ninth consecutive year... We are looking forward to working with Gov. Christie and the Legislature to continue to grow our economy and improve the quality of life for our residents." (Release, 2/28/17)

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