



*What They Are Saying ...*

## **All Eyes On The Assembly Over Key Property Tax Reform Bill**

*The State Senate Agreed With Governor Christie To Extend A Key Property Tax Reform Measure To Control The Cost Of Government, But "The Assembly Hadn't Acted. It Should Do So Promptly ..."*

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### **WAITING ON THE ASSEMBLY**

***The Record:*** "As long as New Jersey caps property tax increases at 2 percent a year, it makes no sense to allow police and fire salaries to increase above that limit. But that may happen unless the state Assembly acts before Tuesday to continue a law limiting increases to police and firefighter salaries reached through arbitration to an average of 2 percent a year for the length of the contract" (Editorial, "Keeping The Cap," [The Record](#), 3/29/14)

- "The state Senate endorsed the current 2 percent cap on Thursday after Governor Christie vetoed a measure that would have weakened the cap. But as of the end of this week, the Assembly hadn't acted. It should do so promptly next week."
- "The Democratic-controlled Senate initially sought to loosen the cap, but ultimately agreed with the governor and voted to keep it. The Assembly should do the same."

### **"LAWMAKERS MUST NOT GO WOBBLY - THE CAP MUST BE RENEWED"**

***Press of Atlantic City:*** "But there is no doubt that it works, and lawmakers must not go wobbly - the cap must be renewed." (Editorial, "Police, Fire Salaries / Keep Arbitration Cap," [Press of Atlantic City](#), 3/24/14)

***Times of Trenton:*** "[U]nless lawmakers act to renew it. Not to do so will upset the balance of an effective approach to reining New Jersey's property taxes." (Editorial, "N.J. Should Extend Interest Arbitration Cap For Police, Fire Contracts," [Times of Trenton](#), 3/24/14)

***Asbury Park Press:*** "This is a major test of the sincerity of any public official who talks about the need to keep property taxes under control." (Editorial, "Don't Relax Cap On Police, Fire Arbitration Awards," [Asbury Park Press](#), 3/26/14)

- “[M]uch of that progress could be washed away if legislators don’t renew a cap on arbitration awards that has helped rein in runaway police and firefighter salaries... Lawmakers should not hesitate to retain the cap.” (Editorial, “Arbitration Cap Extension Needed To Tamp Down Property Taxes,” [Asbury Park Press](#), 3/19/14)

***New Jersey League of Municipalities President & Stone Harbor Borough Mayor Suzanne M. Walters:***

“Failure to extend the 2 percent cap on interest arbitration awards will force municipalities throughout the state to further reduce or even eliminate crucial services, personnel and long-overdue infrastructure improvement projects in order to fund an arbitration award.” (Suzanne M. Walters, “N.J. Towns Need Police, Fire Binding Arbitration Cap,” [Times of Trenton Guest Opinion Column](#), 3/9/14)

- “New Jersey property taxpayers need the Legislature to act...The clock is ticking.”

***Eatontown Mayor Gerald J. Tarantolo:*** “Sun-setting on April 1 certainly adds a discontinuity on the 2 percent hard cap. It should be maintained because in the long run it all comes down with the fine thread of property tax control.” (Dustin Racioppi, “Proponents Of Arbitration Cap Urge Making It Permanent,” [Asbury Park Press - Capitol Quickies](#), 3/20/14)

***Pohatcong Township Mayor James Kern III:*** “The Legislature needs to stop their political posturing and make this reform permanent. Local property taxes have been out of control in New Jersey for too long and this piece of legislation has been a valuable tool in curtailing them. Public sector salaries are the largest part of municipal budgets and without this reform, they will rise dramatically.” (Emily Cummins, “Pohatcong Mayor Agrees With Gov. Christie On Extending Arbitration Cap,” [The Warren Reporter](#), 3/25/14)

- “I hope that Trenton can put people ahead of politics and get this reform done.”