


state of new jersey

Acting Governor Richard J. Codey

PROPERTY TAX CONVENTION TASK FORCE



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Task Force Members:**Chair**

Carl E. Van Horn, Ph.D. (Highland Park, Middlesex) Dr. Van Horn is a widely recognized expert on workforce, human resources and employment policy issues with extensive experience in public and private sector policymaking. He is the founding director of the Heldrich Center for Workforce Development - one of the nation's leading academic centers on workforce policy and practice.

Dr. Van Horn is a professor of public policy at the Edward J. Bloustein School of Planning and Public Policy and has served in several senior level policymaking positions in government and universities.

Vice Chair

Michael R. Cole (Morris, Morris) Cole is a managing partner at DeCotis, Fitzpatrick, Cole & Wisler, LLP. His practice focuses on complex civil litigation and administrative law as well as government and regulatory affairs. Cole has held a number of public offices during his career, including Chief Counsel to Governor Thomas Kean from 1986 to 1989.

Cy Thannikary (Upper Freehold, Monmouth) Thannikary is the founding Chairman of Citizens for Property Tax Reform, a statewide, non-partisan grass roots coalition of taxpayers, communities and business organizations representing more than 300,000 homeowners committed to bring about property tax reform in New Jersey.

Jo-Anne B. Schubert (South Bound Brook, Somerset) Schubert has been Mayor of South Bound Brook since 1996 and is President of the New Jersey State League of Municipalities. She served as a South Bound Brook Councilwoman from 1986 to 1989 and is a Founding Member of the Somerset County Republican Municipal Chair Association. She has served as Chairwoman of the League of Municipalities Group Home Committee since 1997. Schubert also represents the League on the Federal Environmental Protection Agency's Local Government Advisory Board.

Sherryl A. Gordon (Cherry Hill, Camden) Gordon has served as Executive Director of the New Jersey Administrative and Legislative Council No. 1 of the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees since 1992. Prior to that, she served as Associate Director for nine years and as a member of the office staff since 1975. As Executive Director, Gordon represents the locals and councils in AFSCME in discussions with

state officials and sets the direction for the union's political and legislative programs.

Ida Castro (Burlington, Burlington) Castro was appointed as Commissioner of New Jersey's Department of Personnel in January 2001. She was the first Latina to serve in the role of Personnel Commissioner. An accomplished lawyer with an extensive background in labor relations and civil rights, she dedicated her tenure as Commissioner to enhancing the merit system to ensure fairness and opportunities for all state employees. She also served as Chair of the Governor's Hispanic Advisory Council. Castro was recently named The Haywood Burns Chair in Civil Rights at the CUNY School of Law.

Susan Cole (Upper Montclair, Essex) Cole has served as President of Montclair State University, where she is also an English Professor, since 1998. She is a member of the Governor's Education Cabinet and is Chair of the Policies and Purposes Committee for the American Association of State Colleges and Universities.

Ernest C. Reock Jr., Ph.D (South Brunswick, Middlesex) Dr. Reock is a Professor Emeritus and former Director of the Center for Government Services at Rutgers University. He is the author of "Unfinished Business: The New Jersey Constitutional Convention of 1966", published last year. He also wrote the "Handbook for New Jersey Assessors" and in 1976 created the "Legislative District Data Book", which he edits annually.

Gary Passanante (Somerdale, Camden) Passanante is currently serving his third term as the Mayor of Somerdale. He has served as Vice President and President of the Camden County Mayors Association and is currently on the Board of Directors for the New Jersey League of Municipalities and the New Jersey Conference of Mayors. He is Chairman of the League's Municipalities Property Tax Reform Committee, the Camden County Mayors Association Property Tax Reform Committee and the New Jersey Conference of Mayors Property Tax Reform Committee.

Sen. John H. Adler (Cherry Hill, Camden) Sen. Adler, currently in his fifth term, is a leading advocate of local tax reform in the Legislature and is the Senate sponsor of the law creating the Constitutional Convention Task Force. The Senator has been a vocal supporter of a Constitutional Convention to reform the State's system of local taxation to fund public schools for many years. He has also supported measures to provide immediate tax relief, such as requiring small schools and municipalities to share some services. Sen. Adler currently serves as Chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee and is a member of the Senate Environment Committee and the Joint Legislative Committee on Ethical Standards.

Richard Van Wagner, Sr. (Neptune, Monmouth) Van Wagner served in the Legislature from 1973 to 1991. During his tenure in the Assembly, he was known for his expertise on taxation issues, having served as Chairman of both the Assembly Committee on Taxation and Chairman of the Revenue, Finance,

and Appropriations Committee. The former Senator played a critical role in crafting many of today's tax relief programs also worked on passage of the Quality Education Acts under Governor Florio, which sought to reduce New Jersey's reliance on property taxes for funding public education. Van Wagner recently retired from his position as General Manager of Governmental and Regulatory Affairs for the New Jersey Sports and Exposition Authority.

Assembly Majority Leader Joseph J. Roberts, Jr. (Camden, Camden) Assemblyman Roberts is a long-time advocate for a property tax Constitutional Convention and was prime sponsor of the legislation to create the Task Force. Roberts graduated from Rutgers University and received his Master's Degree in Government Administration from the Fels School at the University of Pennsylvania. He has also completed the Senior Government Program at the John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University. He was selected to represent the Fifth Legislative District in the State Assembly in 1987 and has been reelected 9 times. He has served as Majority Leader since 2002.

Terrence Malloy (Bayonne, Hudson) Malloy has worked for the City of Bayonne since 1980, and currently serves as the city's Business Administrator, Director of Finance, Comptroller and Chief Financial Officer. Malloy is also Acting Coordinator of the Bayonne Urban Enterprise Zone and a member of the Bayonne Insurance Commission. He has served on the Board of Directors for the Bayonne Chapter of the American Red Cross and the City of Bayonne Credit Union. Malloy holds a Bachelor's Degree in Accounting with a Minor in Economics from Rutgers University.

Senate Minority Leader Leonard Lance (Flemington, Hunterdon) Senator Lance has served the 23rd Legislative District, which covers Hunterdon and Warren Counties, since his first term in the Assembly in February 1991. He holds a bachelor's degree from Lehigh University, where he was elected to Phi Beta Kappa; a law degree from Vanderbilt University; and a master's degree from the Woodrow Wilson School of Public and International Affairs of Princeton University. The Senator served as the law clerk to the Warren County Court in 1977 and 1978. He was assistant counsel for county and municipal matters to Governor Thomas H. Kean from 1983 to 1990.

Deputy Republican Leader Kevin J. O'Toole (Wayne, Passaic) Assemblyman O'Toole served in the Assembly since 1995 and, in 2001, filled the un-expired term of C. Louis Bassano as State Senator for NJ's 21st District. He was Assistant Majority Leader from 1998-2001 and is a current member of the Assembly Budget Committee. Assemblyman O'Toole earned his Bachelor's Degree in Political Science and Public Administration from Seton Hall University as well as his Juris Doctorate from Seton Hall University Law. He has been elected both Mayor and Councilman in his hometown of Cedar Grove. Assemblyman O'Toole served as chairman of the Essex County Republican Committee from 1997-2001; Law Clerk in the Office of NJ's

Attorney General; and serves on the Ramapo College Board of Governors.

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