



You Can't Have One (Shared Services) Without The Other (Real Civil Service Reform)

State Senate President Steve Sweeney: "Sharing services is a great way to provide more efficient government while at the same time creating savings for taxpayers ... Towns can share services with each other while not losing their individual identity or the uniqueness of their communities. Given the current economic climate, it is clear that sharing services is an idea whose time has come." (Chris Donnelly, "Sweeney Shared Services Reform Legislation Clears Senate Committee," [PolitickerNJ](#), 6/13/11)

GOVERNOR CHRISTIE: SHARING SERVICES REQUIRES REAL CIVIL SERVICE REFORM



<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ejEhkCL9og8>

Governor Christie: "Senator Sweeney has advocated for a long time, both as a freeholder and as Senate President, real shared services encouragement and enforcement from the state, as a taxpayer reform measure. And he's right. But unless we do civil service reform what we want to do with shared services becomes much less possible. And so I think the two need to be joined at the hip. Real civil service reform with real shared services reform that Republicans and Democrats can agree on, because it should not be a partisan issue. Republican mayors and Democratic mayors tell me they need these things. And so let's come to a common sense compromise over the next 60 days to get this done so that we can give you the tools you need as you begin your new calendar year to be able to work on really sharing services and really reforming a civil service system that has become anachronistic given the collective bargaining system that we put over the top of it. To do that we need your support, and your help. You need to be as involved in this as you were in the property tax cap, and the interest arbitration cap, and pension and benefit reform. It will not happen without your gentle encouragement. And so we need your gentle encouragement over the course of the next 60 days and beyond."

For 292 Days Now, The Legislature Has Failed To Take Action On Real Civil Service Reform – Widely Considered One Of The Biggest Impediments To Shared Service And Consolidation Efforts In New Jersey Today:

On February 3, Governor Christie conditionally vetoed the legislature's empty Civil Service Reform bill and called on the legislature to give municipalities greater flexibility to manage their workforces in order to remove barriers to sharing services:

- Even the legislature's much-touted Local Unit Alignment, Reorganization and Consolidation Commission determined that civil service seniority-protection rules are among the most significant barriers to shared services between municipalities.
- Without question, the civil service opt out would be the most comprehensive way to address the barriers to shared services posed by civil service seniority rules.
- Rather than pursue real reform to provide local officials with another tool to restrain spending, the legislature passed a special interest approved 'reform' bill that would do nothing to constrain property taxes.

Governor Christie Has Put Forward Real Civil Service Reform With The Support Of Mayors Around New Jersey, Those On The Front Lines Of The Property Tax Crisis:

Mayors know they need the tools to achieve savings through a more flexible management of their workforces, and the latitude to work with neighboring municipalities to share services. The current civil service system is an impediment to these efforts today.

Mayors Stephen Acropolis (R-Brick), Richard Gerbounka (I-Linden), Andrew Sarclette (D-Maurice River) and Dawn Zimmer (D-Hoboken): "These reforms actually get at the root of the problem — uncontrolled costs. Labor costs continue to rise year after year due to an out-of-balance collective bargaining system that fails to consider the impact of a decision on property taxes. When we attempt to engage in cost-saving arrangements through labor changes or shared services, we find a dead end due to out-of-date and overly burdensome civil service rules. Consider this: nearly three of every four dollars in a municipal or county budget is used for labor and personnel costs. A broken, antiquated system leaves us with no recourse to stem these rising costs." ("Cap 2.5' Reforms Would Get At The Root Of New Jersey's Property Tax Woes," [Star-Ledger](#), 6/15/10)