



## Bergen, Essex, Hudson, Passaic, Union County Mayors Endorse Cap 2.5, Gov. Christie's Reform Agenda

Tuesday, May 18, 2010 •

**Trenton, NJ** - Today, the Governor's Office announced the support of 39 mayors from Bergen, Essex, Hudson, Passaic and Union counties for Governor Chris Christie's Cap 2.5 constitutional amendment and Reform Agenda to bring real property tax relief to New Jersey families. Mayors are on the frontline of the property tax crisis, forced to deal with ballooning expenses, unfunded mandates, and cost-drivers which in many cases they have little control over.

"The Christie Reform Agenda is the change we need to put a firm cap on property taxes and empower the people with the tools to control their own future," said Linden Mayor Richard Gerbounka. "Our hands have been tied, hindering our ability to control skyrocketing costs and resulting in rising property taxes. Mayors across the state should stand up and support Governor Christie's Cap 2.5 Reform Agenda in order to provide real property tax relief right now."

Last week, the Governor outlined a sweeping 33-bill reform package to solve New Jersey's property tax crisis and control spending at every level of government. The centerpiece of the plan is Cap 2.5, a constitutional amendment creating a 2.5 percent cap on property tax increases.

Property taxes have grown an astonishing 70% over the last ten years, resulting in an average annual property tax bill of \$7,281 on New Jersey families - the highest rate in the nation. Cap 2.5 will halt the astonishing growth in property taxes while the Christie Reform Agenda will give towns and school boards the tools needed to control spending to make Cap 2.5 both realistic and achievable.

### **Mayors From Bergen, Essex, Hudson, Passaic & Union Counties That Have Endorsed Cap 2.5 & Governor Christie's Reform Agenda:**

#### **Bergen County**

Mayor Vince Barra, Allendale  
Mayor Benedict Romeo, Cresskill  
Mayor Dick Mola, Elmwood Park  
Mayor Mark Sokolich, Fort Lee  
Mayor Maura DeNicola, Franklin Lakes  
Mayor John van Keuren, Glen Rock  
Mayor Thomas Randall, Ho-Ho-Kus  
Mayor Richard Martel, Mahwah  
Mayor Joseph Monahan, Midland Park  
Mayor James Barsa, Norwood  
Mayor Victor Polce, Old Tappan  
Mayor Chris Botta, Ramsey  
Mayor David Pfund, Ridgewood  
Mayor Margaret Watkins, River Edge  
Mayor Frank Valenzuela, Rochelle Park  
Mayor Nicholas Langella, Rockleigh  
Mayor John Hipp, Rutherford  
Mayor Samuel Raia, Saddle River  
Mayor Kenneth Gabbert, Upper Saddle River  
Mayor Russell Litchult, Waldwick  
Mayor Joseph LaPaglia, Woodcliff Lake  
Mayor Rudy Boonstra, Wyckoff

#### **Essex County**

Mayor James Gasparini, Fairfield  
Mayor Thomas McDermott, Millburn  
Mayor Mel Levine, North Caldwell  
Village President Douglas Newman, South Orange  
Mayor Joseph Tempesta, West Caldwell

#### **Hudson County**

Mayor Raymond McDonough, Harrison  
Mayor Dawn Zimmer, Hoboken

#### **Passaic County**

Mayor Michael DeFrancisci, Little Falls  
Mayor Katie Cole, Pompton Lakes

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Mayor Theodore Taukus, Ringwood

Union County

- Mayor Robert Woodruff, Berkeley Heights
- Mayor Mark Smith, Cranford
- Mayor Joseph Menza, Hillside
- Mayor Kathi Fiamingo, Kenilworth
- Mayor Richard Gerbounka, Linden
- Mayor John Thoms, New Providence
- Mayor Ziad Andrew Shehady, Springfield

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