



*What They Are Saying:*

## **“A Fiscally Responsible Roadmap For Continued Job Creation And Economic Growth”**

*Governor Christie's Fiscal Year 2017 Budget Is A “Strong Statement Against Increasing Taxes And For Keeping New Jersey Competitive”*

**Americans for Prosperity State Director Erica Jedynak:** “Americans for Prosperity applauds the governor's commitment to tackling these major issues in a way that's fair to taxpayers. The governor is also to be commended for speaking out strongly against reckless constitutional amendments on pensions and the minimum wage which will only make our state less competitive, while threatening the imposition of disastrous tax hikes on middle-class families.” (Press Release, 2/16/16)

- “Of course, the responsibility for addressing New Jersey's problems is not the governor's alone. Lawmakers also have a responsibility to their constituents and to taxpayers to work with the governor to resolve our state's pressing fiscal challenges.”

**New Jersey Business & Industry Association President and CEO Michele Siekerka:** “This is a strong statement against increasing taxes and for keeping New Jersey competitive. Christie went out of his way to emphasize his opposition to tax increases and several expensive proposals under consideration now, and he made the connection between high taxes and economic stagnation.” (Press Release, 2/16/16)

- “It's not just taxes. Mandates, like paid sick leave and a \$15 minimum wage, and a constitutional amendment on pensions represent a trifecta for damaging the economic climate. This budget offers an alternative that will keep our economy moving forward”

**New Jersey Chamber of Commerce CEO and President Tom Bracken:** “We are very pleased with both the tone and the content of Gov. Christie's budget address today. He offered a realistic view of where New Jersey is, and a clear economic vision of where he wants it to go. He addressed all of the major issues we believe must be resolved if New Jersey is to maintain its economic momentum.” (Andrew George, “Christie's 2016 budget address: Legislators, business leaders react,” [NJBIZ](#), 2/16/16)

**Chamber of Commerce Southern New Jersey President and CEO Debra P. DiLorenzo:** “The Chamber of Commerce Southern New Jersey commends Gov. Christie for proposing a \$34.8 billion balanced budget that for the seventh consecutive year does not increase taxes.” (Andrew George, “Christie's 2016 budget address: Legislators, business leaders react,” [NJBIZ](#), 2/16/16)

- “Over his tenure as the state's chief executive, Gov. Christie has demonstrated fiscal restraint and support of a healthy business climate, along with a clear vision as to how to continue to make New Jersey a place people want to live, work, and do business — today was no different.”
- “We agree with the governor that tax fairness for the people of New Jersey needs to be a part of the conversation as

government considers solutions to the problems facing this state."

**National Federation of Independent Business State Director Laurie Ehlbeck:** "The governor was spot-on today when he cited extensive tax burdens as being the number one reason small business owners are leaving the state. We commend him for doubling down on his commitments to ensure that no taxes are raised during his administration and hope that lawmakers on the other side will begin to realize that the only way for New Jersey's economic future to be prosperous is to provide Gov. Christie with the legislative support he needs." (Susan K. Livio, What people are saying about Christie's budget speech," [The Star-Ledger](#), 2/16/16)

**Former Governor Jim McGreevey:** "The tone was different than the State of the State, where the governor clearly set forth defining differences. There may be differences of opinion, there ought to be a shared desire to tackle certain systemic challenges." (Maddie Hanna and Andrew Seidman, "Christie proposes \$34.8B budget for N.J.," [Inquirer](#), 2/17/16)

**Assembly Republican Budget Officer Declan O'Scanlon:** "The Governor has demonstrated once again that he is a worthy steward of New Jersey taxpayer money. With yet another responsible, conservative budget, the Governor has maintained critical funding of important services without increasing taxes on New Jersey families." (Press Release, 2/16/16)

- "Our state faces some serious financial challenges. With the Governor's vision and leadership, we will meet those challenges and make New Jersey a model for other states to follow."
- "Trenton Democrats should borrow a page from Christie's playbook and work together with us to make New Jersey more affordable for residents, and more attractive to employers."

**Assemblywoman Maria Rodriguez-Gregg:** "The Governor has constructed a plan to sustain New Jersey's recovery even as economies around the world struggle. Our state has consistently added jobs for New Jersey wage earners, the unemployment rate has dropped to the national average, and in 2015, we had the strongest private sector job growth in 15 years." (David Levinsky, "Christie unveils \$34.8 billion state budget with record pension payment, no transportation fix", [Burlington County Times](#), 2/16/2016)

**Deputy Assembly Republican Leader Anthony M. Bucco:** "The Governor has presented a responsible budget that controls spending, funds education and reforms the state's pension system." (Press Release, 2/16/16)

- "Focusing on direct property tax relief and promoting a more competitive business tax structure will make our state a more affordable place to live, work and retire. Both sides of the aisle must work together on a plan that continues to move New Jersey forward."

**Deputy Assembly Republican Conference Leader Nancy F. Muñoz:** "Once again, the Governor has produced a restrained budget that funds important public services without increasing taxes on New Jersey families." (Press Release, 2/16/16)

- "Hard-working New Jerseyans, weary after many years of paying the highest taxes in the nation, are the priority in Gov. Christie's budget. Design changes to public health benefit plans and the resulting \$450 million in savings at the state and local levels produces significant property tax relief. Increased affordability gives families and businesses a reason to stay here, a reason to invest here, and the chance to thrive here."

**Assembly Republican Conference Leader David Rible:** "The governor's proposal provides a fiscally responsible roadmap for continued job creation and economic growth. It protects both residents and businesses by meeting our fiscal obligations without raising taxes while also keeping our commitment to fund the pension system." (Press Release, 2/16/16)

- "During the past six years we have made slow but steady progress by implementing vital reforms that have provided the predictable and stable environment businesses require to grow and create jobs. The governor's plan keeps us on that track."

**Assembly Republican Whip Scott Rumana** "New Jersey's economy is moving in the right direction. Private sector job growth is the strongest it's been in 15 years. The state's unemployment rate continues to decline while major revenues continue to increase. This is the result of the pro-growth reforms we have enacted during the governor's tenure. His FY2017 budget proposal shows his continued commitment to fiscal discipline and smaller government that are paying dividends for taxpayers. The plan provides another responsible pension payment and funding for core services without raising taxes for the seventh year in a row. This is the responsible way to keep our economy on track." (Press Release, 2/16/16)

**Senator Steven Oroho:** "The Governor has again laid out a fiscally responsible spending plan that holds discretionary spending in line and makes a record pension payment without any new taxes. The continued improvement in New Jersey's private-sector job growth is a testament to the success that can occur under this pattern of prudent budgeting and smart economic policies." (Press Release, 2/16/16)

**NJ Policy Perspective President Gordon MacInnes:** "I thought he came across as a governor who wants to try and solve problems and work out problems with the majority." (NJTV Special Report: State Budget Address, 2/16/16)

**Public Strategies Impact Senior Partner Roger Bodman:** "Well, let me start. I think it was quintessential Chris Christie, it was a straight- talking -to coin his presidential phrase - telling it like it is budget, budget address. It was absolutely Christie at his best doing what he does best. Hold the line budget, keeping things kind of where they are and steady." (NJTV Special Report: State Budget Address, 2/16/16)

**NJTV's Michael Aron:** "I thought it was a strong speech, a strong lecture really to the Democratic legislature to hold the line on spending and to withdraw these constitutional amendments on minimum wage and pensions." (NJTV Special Report: State Budget Address, 2/16/16)