

January 13, 2016

RE: Governor Delivers 2016 State of the State

Dear Mayor:

Yesterday in Trenton, Governor Christie delivered his sixth State of the State speech to a joint session of the legislature. After touting his leadership and listing his accomplishments since taking office, and after contrasting them with the lack of bipartisan success in Washington, the Governor turned to current events.

Directly addressing the legislature, he specifically and strongly decried the proposed constitutional amendment, which would “guarantee pension payments over all other types of state spending”. He went on to list priorities that could be shortchanged, if the amendment were to be ratified, including: support for colleges and universities; taking care of people with disabilities; rebuilding our roads and bridges; replenishing our beaches; feeding the most needy; helping children with autism; and funding cancer research.

Instead of advancing the proposed pension funding amendment, the Governor urged the legislature to accept the “Roadmap” reforms put forward by his Blue Ribbon Pension and Health Benefits Commission.

Other than that, the Governor called on the legislature to address three “big challenges that I want us to work together on this year, and that will allow us to continue delivering dramatic results for New Jersey.”

First, the Governor focused on increased anti-addiction efforts.

Second, the Governor called for abolition of the Estate Tax.

Third, the Governor appealed for increased promotion of charter schools.

No mention was made of the Transportation Trust Fund, affordable housing or the restoration of property tax relief funding.

The full text of the Governor’s speech can be accessed at [2016 State of the State](#).

Very truly yours,

Michael J. Darcy, CAE  
Executive Director