



State



A Commitment to Department of State Priorities *Promoting Culture, Arts, History, Tourism, Job Creation and Economic Growth*

A Commitment to the Department of State's Mission

The Department of State is the hub of economic growth in New Jersey and has as its core mission, the goal of advancing our rich culture, arts and history through aggressive tourism and outreach programs. Our ability to continue to grow that mission will depend greatly on our ability to advance the overall economic outlook of the State. Thus, the Department will also be home to the Red Tape Review Group, which will address the onerous regulatory burden that advances a perception that New Jersey is not a "friendly" place to do business, and the New Jersey Partnership for Action, which will create a one-stop shop for job creation and economic growth so that New Jersey once again becomes a vibrant place to live, own a business, and raise a family.

Priorities in the Face of an Economic and Fiscal Crisis

The Department's priorities reflected in the Fiscal Year 2011 Budget:

- Continue to fund the arts, history, cultural and tourism programs;
- Realign current staff and strengthen private and public partnerships in order to allow the Red Tape Review Group and New Jersey Partnership for Action to operate at no additional cost to the taxpayers;
- Protecting the State Museum by transferring its operations to a proposed new branch of Rutgers University to serve as catalyst to revitalize the Cultural Center of Trenton.

Making Tough Decisions

The Department has identified areas where reductions and efficiencies can occur without compromising its core mission.

- Currently, the Department has 13 different divisions which have either achieved their mission, are redundant, or could achieve efficiencies. Four of these divisions will be re-formed into a single Office of Programs, which will allow for lower staff levels and the reassignment of staff to other activities.
- The operations of the War Memorial, under the title of the Veterans Memorial Arts Center, will be outsourced to the extent allowed by law, acting as a catalyst to Trenton Cultural Center.

Making the Department of State Work Better for New Jersey

The Department is now the home of the newly created Office of the Lieutenant Governor, which will coordinate and streamline programs and divisions traditionally under the Department's jurisdiction. Additionally, the Department will oversee the Red Tape Review Group and "New Jersey Partnership for Action," both of which will build on the work of the New Jersey Economic Development Authority, improve the regulatory process and coordinate existing Government resources and programs.