



State of New Jersey

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Agreement Reached on FY 2008 Final Budget Framework

TRENTON -- Governor Jon S. Corzine, Senate President Richard J. Codey and Assembly Speaker Joseph Roberts today announced they have reached a broad agreement on the parameters of a final budget for FY 2008.

The framework includes the delivery of record levels of property tax relief and increased resources for the state's health care and social services safety nets. The budget will not include any new taxes for the first time in five years.

The agreement blends agreed-upon savings and spending priorities, and accommodates a charity care formula that bases assistance on the most recently available full year of hospitals' uncompensated care costs.

"The Administration and the Legislature have reached a consensus on a framework to a final budget," said Treasurer Abelow. "This agreement charts a clear path to a fiscally responsible budget that confirms Governor Corzine's and the Legislature's commitment to an historic level of property tax relief and reform. We fully expect the budget to be adopted and in place for the fiscal year beginning July 1."

Speaker Roberts said the final budget will be the most open and transparent budget process in state history, including an unprecedented round of public hearings in advance of the budget's enactment.

"This budget should be called the 'Property Tax Relief Act of 2007,'" said Roberts (D-Camden). "It will provide record levels of property tax relief – over \$16 billion – and will fully fund the new system of maximum 20 percent property tax cuts for New Jersey homeowners."

“This is a fiscal plan that will provide substantial dividends for property taxpayers, businesses, and New Jersey’s public education community,” Roberts added.

Senate President Codey also praised the agreement.

“This is a very good budget for taxpayers. Not only is it free of any tax increases but it also provides record levels of relief for property taxpayers,” said Senator Codey. “Within the next three or four months residents will be feeling this relief in a very tangible way. This is the beginning of a determined process to work our way out of a larger budget hole, slowly but surely. We’ve also made great strides in our commitment to reform the budget process and create a more timely and transparent system, one we will continue to improve upon in the coming year.”

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