



## State of New Jersey

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### **Property Tax Reimbursement Checks on the Way**

TRENTON – Governor Jon S. Corzine and State Treasurer Bradley I. Abelow announced today that the Division of Taxation has begun mailing 2006 Property Tax Reimbursement (PTR) checks to qualified senior and disabled homeowners. Checks for the program — commonly known as the “Senior Freeze” Program — will average \$958 this year.

“The Senior Freeze Program remains fully funded in this year’s budget as part of Governor Corzine’s commitment to easing the property tax burden, particularly for New Jersey’s most vulnerable residents,” said Treasurer Abelow. “Nearly half of every dollar we spend in the newly approved FY 2008 budget, \$16.8 billion, is devoted to property tax relief,” he said.

The Senior Freeze Program was funded at \$153 million for FY 2008, up from \$118 million in FY 2007. The \$153 million is in addition to the \$2.2 billion allocated for the Homestead Rebate Program, and part of nearly \$3 billion in direct relief to New Jersey property taxpayers for FY 2008. Homestead Rebate checks for seniors and disabled residents and tenants are due to be mailed at the end of July.

Under the Senior Freeze Program, qualifying senior and disabled citizens are directly reimbursed by the State for the difference between the amount of local property taxes paid in the “base year” (the year that applicants became eligible and first filed for the program) and the amount of property taxes paid for the reimbursement year. Applicants originally had until June 1 to file for this benefit, but in order to encourage all eligible residents to apply, the deadline was extended to August 15, 2007.

The Division today mailed out 121,709 checks to qualified applicants who filed by the original June 1 deadline. Those who filed after the original deadline will receive their checks as their applications are processed. Last year, 50,964 checks were sent out after the general mid-July mailing. In total, approximately 163,000 Senior Freeze checks, averaging \$778, were issued for last year’s program.

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Every year the Division of Taxation receives thousands of PTR applications that are missing required information or documentation. Residents who filed incomplete applications will receive information on how to make them complete. Last month the Division mailed approximately 9,000 notices requesting the missing information from these applicants.

“The sooner they return the necessary information and/or documentation to us, the sooner we can process their applications and send them the benefits for which they are eligible,” Treasurer Abelow said.

Applicants with questions or who want to check the status of their reimbursement checks may call the Property Tax Reimbursement Hotline at 1-800-882-6597. Information about the program is also available on the Division of Taxation’s Web site at [www.state.nj.us/treasury/taxation/propfrez.htm](http://www.state.nj.us/treasury/taxation/propfrez.htm).