

This is a printer friendly version of an article from **thedailyjournal.com**
To print this article open the file menu and choose Print.

[Back](#)

Article published Mar 5, 2008
Municipal aid from state could be cut
From staff and wire reports

TRENTON -- As state officials released data showing that property taxes rose by an average of 5.4 percent in 2007 -- the lowest rate in four years -- they also detailed municipal aid cuts that are likely to put more pressure on property taxes in 2008.

The 2007 data from the Department of Community Affairs showed the average New Jersey property tax bill grew to \$6,796 in 2007, up from \$6,446 the previous year.

The administration also detailed \$174 million in municipal aid cuts Tuesday, the bulk of Gov. Jon S. Corzine's proposed \$190 million reduction in overall support for towns and cities.

With less state aid, mayors will have to try to make up for the losses by saving elsewhere -- potentially cutting services -- or increasing property taxes.

The aid figures were nothing but bad news for Buena Borough and adjacent Buena Vista Township.

Borough Mayor Joseph Baruffi said the \$310,643 drop in municipal aid is roughly equivalent to another 11 cents on the municipal purpose tax rate.

One cent in property taxes in the borough brings in about \$29,000.

Buena Vista Mayor Chuck Chiarello said the New Jersey League of Municipalities has been sending out bulletins about the aid figures for about a week.

The township municipal aid is dropping \$132,732 from the roughly \$1 million it got in 2007. That's a little more than 5 cents on the property tax rate. One cent raises about \$25,000.

Vineland Business Administrator Paul Trivellini said late Tuesday afternoon he had not seen the latest projected state aid figures and could not comment specifically on them.

"Generally, reductions in state aid require reductions in spending or increases in revenue from other sources," he said. "We'll do whatever we can to avoid any tax increases."

Millville would receive \$5.1 million, which is less than \$5.44 million the city received the previous year.

Administrator Lewis Thompson said city officials would review the figures today.

Joe Derella, director of finance and revenue, noted these figures are only a projection, and the state will finalize its budget by June 30.

Derella said the city will introduce its budget by Aug. 10, so they have time to figure out a way to make up for the potential shortfall of state money.

"We'll try to keep the tax rate stable," he said, but acknowledged a tax increase could be necessary.
