

**RESOLUTION CALLING ON THE STATE LEGISLATURE AND THE  
GOVERNOR TO ENACT PROPERTY TAX REFORM WITH PASSAGE OF  
THE “MUNICIPAL TOOLKIT” AND OTHER MANDATES RELIEF**

**WHEREAS**, Governor Christopher Christie and the State Legislature have agreed on and approved a 2% statutory cap for annual property tax levy increases; and

**WHEREAS**, New Jersey mayors and municipal officials can support such caps, as long as municipalities are also given the tools to continue to provide our citizens with high-quality, life-sustaining and life-enhancing vital services, within that limit; and

**WHEREAS**, we agree with Governor Christie when he said, *“It’s not just the cap. It’s the toolkit as well. Both must be done. One cannot be done without the other. If you do the toolkit without the cap, it renders the toolkit less effective. If you do the cap without the toolkit, it makes the cap unworkable. Both have to be done together;”* and

**WHEREAS**, there is a danger that the cap will be enacted while the management reforms are delayed; and

**WHEREAS**, it is, therefore, imperative for the other toolkit and mandates reform bills to be on the Governor’s Desk before the Legislature votes to advance the proposed caps; now therefore be it

**RESOLVED**, by the \_\_\_\_\_ (GOVERNING BODY) \_\_\_\_\_ of the \_\_\_\_\_ (NAME OF MUNICIPALITY) \_\_\_\_\_ calls for immediate passage of the “Toolkit” reforms and mandates relief, including, but not limited to interest arbitration reform, civil service reforms, public employee pension and benefits, disciplinary procedures, school and special district elections, reforms to the Fair Housing Act and the Council on Affordable Housing and mandates relief; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that statutory arbitration reforms must limit the full economic impact of awards to conform to the 2% cap; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that statutory Health benefit reforms must conform future health benefit costs to the 2% cap; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that municipal revenues, such as the Energy Tax, which are now collected by, and diverted to, the State, but which are legally intended for municipal property tax relief, must be constitutionally dedicated for their original purpose; or in the alternative, those taxes should be reformed to allow collection directly by municipalities; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Administration and Legislature must advance immediate mandates relief initiatives to assist municipalities in managing within the 2% cap; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Administration and Legislature must advance reforms to the Fair Housing Act and the Council on Affordable Housing (COAH); and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that a cap exception for the costs associated with tax appeals should be included, and costs mandated by the Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC) should be excepted from the 2% cap or the costs of new AOC mandates should be capped at 2%; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that copies of this Resolution be forwarded to New Jersey Governor Christopher Christie, to Senate President Stephen Sweeney, to Assembly Speaker Sheila Oliver, to our State Senator, to our two Representatives in the General Assembly, and to the New Jersey League of Municipalities.

## **DISTRIBUTION LIST**

### **DISTRIBUTION LIST**

1. The Hon. Chris Christie,  
Governor, State of New Jersey  
PO Box 001  
Trenton, NJ 08625  
Phone (609) 292-6000  
Fax (609) 292-3454
  
2. The Hon. Stephen Sweeney,  
Senate President,  
Senator, District 3  
NJ Senate Democratic Office  
State House PO Box 099  
Trenton, NJ 08625  
Phone (609) 292-5215  
[SenSweeney@njleg.org](mailto:SenSweeney@njleg.org)
  
3. The Hon. Sheila Oliver,  
Speaker, NJ General Assembly  
Assemblywoman, District 34  
NJ General Assembly Democratic Office  
PO Box 098  
Trenton, NJ 08625  
Phone (609) 292-7065  
Fax (609) 292-2386  
[AswOliver@njleg.org](mailto:AswOliver@njleg.org)
  
4. NJ League of Municipalities  
222 West State Street  
Trenton, NJ 08608  
Phone (609) 695-3481  
Fax (609) 695-0151  
[NJLeague@njslom.com](mailto:NJLeague@njslom.com)
  
5. Your State Legislators (State Senator and Assembly Representatives)