

A CLOSER LOOK AT THE SPECIAL JOINT COMMITTEES FOR PROPERTY TAX REFORM

Facing a November 15 deadline for submitting recommendations back to the Assembly and State Senate, the Members of the Joint Legislative Committees for the Special Legislative Session on Property Tax Reform have been hard at work since early August. The recommendations that the Joint Committees submit will serve as the bases for further Legislative action during the remaining 45 days of 2006. These Committee Members are on the front line of our State's current battle against regressive and excessive property taxes.

Since their decisions will shape debate for the rest of this Special Session, we've decided to prepare a special report. We think it will be helpful for you to know a little bit about them. We also want you to know about the specific issues that they have been asked to address. The Committees were created and defined by ACR-3, from which we derive their charges.

[Joint Leg. Com. on Gov't Consolidation & Shared Services](#)

Committee's charge (pursuant to ACR-3) – "It shall be the duty of the committee to review and formulate proposals that address the sharing of services and regionalization of functions at all levels of government, as well as such other proposals as the committee deems appropriate. As a basis for these deliberations, the committee shall use the CORE agenda proposed by the Speaker of the General Assembly. In addition, the committee shall consider proposals to consolidate or eliminate State agency functions and State agencies or commissions."

Members:

[Smith, Bob](#) - Co-Chair

BORN: March 25, 1947

EDUCATION: B.A., University of Scranton (History); M.S., University of Scranton (Chemistry); M.S., Rutgers University (Environmental Science); J.D., Seton Hall University

OCCUPATION: Attorney

PUBLIC SERVICE: Piscataway Environmental Committee Chair 1971-75; Piscataway Planning Board 1975-86, Chair 1976; Piscataway Council 1977-80; Piscataway Mayor 1981-86

LEGISLATIVE SERVICE: Senate 2002-present, General Assembly 1986-2001, Deputy Minority Leader 1994-95, Parliamentarian 1988-89

MEMBERSHIP: [Senate Judiciary Committee](#)
[Senate Environment Committee \(Chair\)](#)
[Joint Legislative Committee on Government Consolidation and Shared Services \(Co-Chair\)](#)

[Wisniewski, John S.](#) - Co-Chair

BORN: June 28, 1962

EDUCATION: B.A., Rutgers University (English/Economics); J.D., Seton Hall University School of Law

OCCUPATION: Attorney

PUBLIC SERVICE: Middlesex County Senior Citizen Housing Task Force 1994-95; Middlesex County Planning Board 1994-95; Sayreville Cable Television Advisory Board 1990-91

LEGISLATIVE SERVICE: General Assembly 1996-present, Assistant Majority Leader 2002-03, Deputy Minority Conference Leader 1998-2001

MEMBERSHIP: [Assembly Transportation and Public Works Committee \(Chair\)](#)
[Assembly Financial Institutions and Insurance Committee](#)
[Assembly Appropriations Committee](#)
[Joint Legislative Committee on Government Consolidation and Shared Services \(Co-Chair\)](#)

[Gordon, Robert M.](#)

BORN: July 3, 1950

EDUCATION: B.A. Williams College (Political Economy); M.P.P. University of California at Berkeley (Public Policy); M.B.A. Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania (Finance and Health Care Management)

OCCUPATION: Management Consultant, Emergency Management Advisors, L.L.C.

PUBLIC SERVICE: Fair Lawn Ethics Board 1999-2003, Chair; Democratic State Committee 1993-98; Fair Lawn Borough Council 1986-95, Mayor 1988-91; Planning Board 1986-95; Fair Lawn Fire Commissioner 1986-95; Democratic National Convention 1988 and 1992, Delegate; NJ Office of the Governor 1990-91, Aide; U.S. Congressional Budget Office 1975-77, Analyst

LEGISLATIVE SERVICE: General Assembly 2004-present

MEMBERSHIP: [Assembly Environment and Solid Waste Committee \(Vice Chair\)](#)
[Assembly Health and Senior Services](#)
[Assembly Appropriations Committee](#)
[Intergovernmental Relations Commission](#)
[Joint Legislative Committee on Government Consolidation and Shared Services](#)

[Karcher, Ellen](#)

BORN: February 28, 1964

EDUCATION: B.A. Rutgers University (English/Political Science); M.A. Eagleton Institute at Rutgers University (Political Science); Ph.D. Candidate Rutgers University (Political

Science)

OCCUPATION: Legislator

PUBLIC SERVICE: Marlboro Township Council 2002-04

LEGISLATIVE SERVICE: Senate 2004-present

MEMBERSHIP: [Senate Wagering, Tourism and Historic Preservation Committee](#)
(Vice Chair)

[Senate Transportation Committee](#)

[Senate Health, Human Services and Senior Citizens Committee](#)
(Vice Chair)

[Joint Legislative Committee on Government Consolidation and Shared Services](#)

[Kyrillos, Joseph M.](#)

BORN: April 12, 1960

EDUCATION: B.A., Hobart College; M.S., Boston University School of Communications

OCCUPATION: Real Estate Broker, GVA Williams

PUBLIC SERVICE: Republican State Committee 2001-present, Chairman

LEGISLATIVE SERVICE: Senate 1992-present, Republican Conference Leader 2002-present, Majority Conference Leader 1997-2001; General Assembly 1988-91

MEMBERSHIP: [Senate Judiciary Committee](#)
[Senate Economic Growth Committee](#)
[Joint Legislative Committee on Government Consolidation and Shared Services](#)

[Malone, Joseph R.](#)

BORN: October 1, 1949

EDUCATION: B.S., Trenton State College (Industrial Education); M.Ed., Trenton State College (Industrial Education)

OCCUPATION: Director of Post Secondary and Adult Education, Somerset County Technology Institute

PUBLIC SERVICE: Bordentown Mayor 1973-93; Bordentown Public Works Director 1973-present; Bordentown Sewerage Authority 1986-present; Bordentown Deputy Mayor 1993-present

LEGISLATIVE SERVICE: General Assembly 1993-present, Budget Officer 2004-present, Assistant Majority Whip 2000-01

MEMBERSHIP: [Assembly Budget Committee](#)
[Assembly Higher Education Committee](#)
[Assembly Education Committee](#)
[Joint Legislative Committee on Government Consolidation and Shared Services](#)

[Joint Leg.Com. on Con.Reform & Cit. Prop.Tax Con. Convention](#)

Committee's charge (pursuant to ACR-3) – "It shall be the duty of the committee to review and formulate proposals that address property tax reform through amendments to the Constitution of the State of New Jersey, as well as such other proposals as the committee deems appropriate. The committee shall also determine whether amendments to the State Constitution should be recommended to the Legislature for submission directly to the voters or whether such amendments should be referred to a citizens property tax constitutional convention to be convened for the purpose of reforming the system of property taxation."

[Kenny, Bernard F.](#) - Co-Chair

BORN: November 17, 1946

EDUCATION: B.A., University of Pennsylvania (Economics); J.D., Fordham University

OCCUPATION: Attorney: Sarkisian, Florio and Kenny

PUBLIC SERVICE: Hudson County Assistant Prosecutor 1976-79; Hoboken Assistant Corporate Counsel 1984-85; Democratic State Committee 1981-87

MILITARY SERVICE: Navy 1968-71, Lieutenant Junior Grade

LEGISLATIVE SERVICE: Senate 1993-present, Majority Leader 2004-present, Democratic Majority Leader 2002-03, Assistant Minority Leader 1994-2001; General Assembly 1987-93

MEMBERSHIP: [Senate Budget and Appropriations Committee](#)
[Legislative Services Commission](#)
[Intergovernmental Relations Commission](#)
[Joint Legislative Committee on Constitutional Reform and Citizens Property Tax Constitutional Convention \(Co-Chair\)](#)
[Joint Legislative Committee on Ethical Standards](#)

[Burzichelli, John J.](#) - Co-Chair

BORN: November 14, 1954

OCCUPATION: Owner/Producer/Distributor, Hill Studio & Scenic

PUBLIC SERVICE: Paulsboro 1996-present, Mayor

LEGISLATIVE SERVICE: Assembly 2002-present

MEMBERSHIP: [Assembly Commerce and Economic Development Committee \(Chair\)](#)
[Assembly Budget Committee](#)
[Assembly Homeland Security and State Preparedness Committee](#)
[Legislative Services Commission](#)
[Joint Legislative Committee on Constitutional Reform and Citizens Property Tax Constitutional Convention \(Co-Chair\)](#)

[Lance, Leonard](#)

BORN: June 25, 1952

EDUCATION: B.A., Lehigh University; J.D., Vanderbilt University; M.P.A., Princeton University (Public and International Affairs)

OCCUPATION: Full-Time Legislator
LEGISLATIVE SERVICE: Senate 2002-present, Minority Leader 2004-present, Appropriations Chair 2000-01; General Assembly 1991-2001, Budget Vice Chair 1995-99
MEMBERSHIP: [Senate Budget and Appropriations Committee](#)
[Legislative Services Commission](#)
[Joint Legislative Committee on Constitutional Reform and Citizens Property Tax Constitutional Convention](#)

[Madden, Fred H.](#)

BORN: March 30, 1954
EDUCATION: B.A. Glassboro State College (Law/Justice); M.S. St. Joseph's University (Criminal Justice)
OCCUPATION: Security Consultant
LEGISLATIVE SERVICE: Senate 2004-present
MEMBERSHIP: [Senate Community and Urban Affairs Committee](#)
[Senate Transportation Committee \(Vice Chair\)](#)
[Senate Health, Human Services and Senior Citizens Committee](#)
[Joint Legislative Committee on Constitutional Reform and Citizens Property Tax Constitutional Convention](#)

[Manzo, Louis M.](#)

BORN: February 28, 1955
EDUCATION: B.A. Jersey City State College (Health Education); Graduate work at Rutgers University (Environmental Health and Law)
OCCUPATION: Environmental Health Specialist
PUBLIC SERVICE: Hudson Regional Health Commission 1994-present; Hudson County Board of Freeholders 1990-93
LEGISLATIVE SERVICE: General Assembly 2004-present
MEMBERSHIP: [Assembly Health and Senior Services](#)
[Assembly Commerce and Economic Development Committee](#)
[Assembly Environment and Solid Waste Committee](#)
[Joint Legislative Committee on Constitutional Reform and Citizens Property Tax Constitutional Convention](#)

[Merkt, Richard A.](#)

BORN: July 30, 1949
EDUCATION: B.A., Yale University (History); J.D., Fordham University; M.G.A., University of Pennsylvania (Governmental Administration)
OCCUPATION: Corporate Counsel, Transistor Devices, Inc.
PUBLIC SERVICE: Deputy Attorney General, Division of Gaming Enforcement 1983-86

LEGISLATIVE SERVICE: Assembly 1998-present

MEMBERSHIP: [Assembly Higher Education Committee](#)
[Assembly Appropriations Committee](#)
[Intergovernmental Relations Commission](#)
[Joint Legislative Committee on Constitutional Reform and Citizens Property Tax Constitutional Convention](#)

[Joint Legislative Com. on Public Employee Benefits Reform](#)

Committee's charge (pursuant to ACR-3) – "It shall be the duty of the committee to review and formulate proposals that address abuses of the system of benefits provided to public employees, including all branches of State government and all local government entities, and to control the costs of the State and its political subdivisions for public employee retirement, health care and other benefits, as well as such other proposals as the committee deems appropriate. As a basis for its deliberations, the committee shall use the recommendations of the Benefits Review Task Force contained in its December 1, 2005 report, as well as other relevant reports."

[Scutari, Nicholas P.](#) - Co-Chair

BORN: November 18, 1968

EDUCATION: B.A. Kean University (Psychology); M.Ed.D. Rutgers University (Education); J.D. The Thomas M. Cooley Law School

OCCUPATION: Attorney, Law Offices of Nicholas P. Scutari

PUBLIC SERVICE: Union County Board of Freeholders 1997-present, Chair 1999, Vice Chair 1998; Union County Planning Board 2000-present; Linden 2003-present, Prosecutor; Linden Board of Education 1994-97

LEGISLATIVE SERVICE: Senate 2004-present

MEMBERSHIP: [Senate Judiciary Committee](#)
[Senate Commerce Committee](#) (Vice Chair)
[Senate State Government Committee](#) (Vice Chair)
[Joint Legislative Committee on Public Employee Benefits Reform](#) (Co-Chair)

[Pou, Nellie](#) - Co-Chair

EDUCATION: Kean College; Rutgers University (Municipal Budget and Finance)

OCCUPATION: Assistant Business Administrator, Paterson

PUBLIC SERVICE: N.J. Task Force on Child Abuse and Neglect 1997-present; Paterson Department of Human Resources 1983-97, Chair; Passaic-Bergen County HIV Health Services Advisory Council 1993-97

LEGISLATIVE SERVICE: General Assembly 1997-present, Deputy Speaker 2002-03, Assistant Minority Leader 2000-2001

MEMBERSHIP: [Assembly Appropriations Committee](#) (Chair)
[Assembly Judiciary Committee](#)
[Assembly Education Committee](#)
[Joint Budget Oversight Committee](#)
[Joint Legislative Committee on Public Employee Benefits Reform](#)
(Co-Chair)

[Giblin, Thomas P.](#)

BORN: January 15, 1947

EDUCATION: B.A. Seton Hall University (Political Science); Seton Hall University and Rutgers University (Post-Graduate Studies)

OCCUPATION: Labor Union Officer, Local 68 Operating Engineers

PUBLIC SERVICE: Essex County Democratic Committee 1993-2002, Chair; N.J. Democratic State Committee 1997-2001, Chair; Essex County Surrogate 1990-93, Board of Freeholders 1982-90, 1977-78; N.J. Real Estate Commission 1979-82, Commissioner

MILITARY SERVICE: N.J. Air National Guard 1966-72, Staff Sergeant

LEGISLATIVE SERVICE: General Assembly 2006-present

MEMBERSHIP: [Assembly Higher Education Committee](#)
[Assembly Transportation and Public Works Committee](#)
[Joint Legislative Committee on Public Employee Benefits Reform](#)

[Gormley, William L.](#)

BORN: May 2, 1946

EDUCATION: B.A., University of Notre Dame (History); J.D., Villanova University

OCCUPATION: Attorney, Piper Rudnick

PUBLIC SERVICE: Atlantic County Freeholder 1975-77

MILITARY SERVICE: Marines 1972-75, Captain

LEGISLATIVE SERVICE: Senate 1982-present; General Assembly 1978-82, Assistant Minority Leader 1982

MEMBERSHIP: [Senate Wagering, Tourism and Historic Preservation Committee](#)
[Senate Budget and Appropriations Committee](#)
[Joint Legislative Committee on Public Employee Benefits Reform](#)

[O'Toole, Kevin J.](#)

BORN: October 5, 1964

EDUCATION: B.A., Seton Hall University (Political Science/Public Administration); J.D., Seton Hall University Law School

OCCUPATION: Attorney: Picillo Caruso O'Toole

PUBLIC SERVICE: Intergovernmental Relations Commission 1998-present, Chair 2000-present, Vice Chair 1998-99; Essex County Executive

Chief of Staff 1995-96; Cedar Grove Township Mayor 1990-91, 1993-94, 1995-96, Township Council 1989-96

[Rice, Ronald L.](#)

BORN: December 18, 1945

EDUCATION: A.S., Essex County College (Political Science); B.S., John Jay College of Criminal Justice; M.A., Rutgers University (Criminal Justice)

OCCUPATION: Full-Time Legislator

PUBLIC SERVICE: Newark, Deputy Mayor 2002-present, City Council 1987-98

MILITARY SERVICE: Marines 1966-70, Sergeant

LEGISLATIVE SERVICE: Senate 1986-present, Associate Minority Leader 1998-2001, Deputy Assistant Minority Leader 1992-98, Assistant Majority Leader 1990-91

MEMBERSHIP: [Senate Community and Urban Affairs Committee \(Chair\)](#)
[Senate Health, Human Services and Senior Citizens Committee](#)
[Joint Committee on the Public Schools \(Co-Chair\)](#)
[Joint Legislative Committee on Public Employee Benefits Reform](#)

[Joint Legislative Committee on Public School Funding Reform](#)

Committee's charge (pursuant to ACR-3) – "It shall be the duty of the committee to review and formulate proposals that address the manner in which government provides for the maintenance and support of a system of free public schools for the instruction of the children of this State. The committee may consider proposals to: provide State support based on student needs rather than geographic location; eliminate disincentives to the regionalization of school districts; control school district spending, particularly administrative spending; and improve the effectiveness of the current law limiting increases in school district spending; as well as such other proposals as the committee deems appropriate."

[Adler, John H.](#) - Co-Chair

BORN: August 23, 1959

EDUCATION: A.B., Harvard College (Government); J.D., Harvard Law School

OCCUPATION: Attorney, Earp Cohn, P.C.

PUBLIC SERVICE: Intergovernmental Relations Commission 1998-2001; New Jersey Israel Commission 1995-present; Cherry Hill Township Council 1988-89

LEGISLATIVE SERVICE: Senate 1992-present, Democratic Conference Chair 2002-03, Assistant Minority Leader 1994-200

MEMBERSHIP: [Senate Judiciary Committee \(Chair\)](#)

[Senate Environment Committee](#)
[Joint Legislative Committee on Ethical Standards](#)
[Joint Legislative Committee on Public School Funding Reform](#) (Co-Chair)

[Conaway, Herb](#) - Co-Chair

EDUCATION: B.A., Princeton University (Politics); M.D., Jefferson Medical College; J.D., Rutgers Law School

OCCUPATION: Physician, Private Practice

MILITARY SERVICE: United States Air Force, Captain (Medical Corps)

LEGISLATIVE SERVICE: General Assembly 1998-present, Deputy Speaker 2002-03

MEMBERSHIP: [Assembly Health and Senior Services](#) (Chair)
[Assembly Appropriations Committee](#)
[Assembly Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee](#)
[Joint Legislative Committee on Public School Funding Reform](#) (Co-Chair)

[Cardinale, Gerald](#)

BORN: February 27, 1934

EDUCATION: B.S., St. John's University (Chemistry); D.D.S., New York University

OCCUPATION: Dentist

PUBLIC SERVICE: Republican National Convention Delegate 1984, 1988, 1992; Republican State Platform Committee 1983; Demarest Mayor 1975-79; Demarest Planning Board 1975; Demarest Board of Education 1967-73, President 1969-71

LEGISLATIVE SERVICE: Senate 1982-present, Deputy Majority Leader 1994-2001, Majority Whip 1992-93, Assistant Minority Leader 1987-89, Minority Whip 1985-86; General Assembly 1980-81

MEMBERSHIP: [Senate Judiciary Committee](#)
[Senate Commerce Committee](#)
[Joint Legislative Committee on Ethical Standards](#)
[Joint Legislative Committee on Public School Funding Reform](#)

[Doria, Joseph V.](#)

BORN: June 28, 1946

EDUCATION: A.B., St. Peter's College (History) M.A., Boston College (American Studies) Ed. D, Columbia University Teacher's College

OCCUPATION: Mayor of Bayonne

PUBLIC SERVICE: Mayor of Bayonne 1998-present; Federal Education

Commission 1982-present; NJ Commission on Business Efficiency in the Public Schools 1980-2003; Governor's Commission on Science and Technology 1983-84, 1988; Hudson County School Board Association President 1978-81; Bayonne Board of Education President 1976-79

LEGISLATIVE SERVICE: Senate 2004-present, General Assembly 1980-2003, Minority Leader 1992-2001, Speaker 1990-91, Deputy Minority Leader 1988-89, Minority Conference Leader 1986-87, Majority Conference Chair 1984-85

[Stack, Brian P.](#)

BORN: May 16, 1966

EDUCATION: Emerson High School

OCCUPATION: Mayor, Union City

PUBLIC SERVICE: Union City, Mayor 2000-present, Commissioner 1997-98; Hudson County Board of Freeholders 1998-present

LEGISLATIVE SERVICE: General Assembly 2004-present

MEMBERSHIP: [Assembly Regulated Professions and Independent Authorities Committee \(Vice Chair\)](#)
[Assembly Transportation and Public Works Committee](#)
[Joint Legislative Committee on Public School Funding Reform](#)

[Wolfe, David W.](#)

BORN: October 11, 1942

EDUCATION: B.A., Westminster College (History); M.Ed., University of Delaware

OCCUPATION: Professor: Ocean County College

PUBLIC SERVICE: Brick Township Council 1975-91, (President 1980-81, 1987-88)

LEGISLATIVE SERVICE: General Assembly 1992-present, Assistant Republican Leader 2002-present, Assistant Majority Leader 1996-98

MEMBERSHIP: [Assembly Telecommunications and Utilities Committee](#)
[Assembly Education Committee](#)
[Joint Committee on the Public Schools](#)
[Joint Legislative Committee on Public School Funding Reform](#)