

RESOLUTION 7-2010-65
RESOLUTION CALLING ON THE STATE LEGISLATURE AND THE
GOVERNOR TO ENACT PROPERTY TAX REFORM WITH PASSAGE OF
THE “MUNICIPAL TOOLKIT” AND OTHER AND 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, that the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Barrington 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.

APPROVED: JULY 14, 2010

BY: _____
John D. Rink, Mayor

ATTEST: _____
Terry Shannon, RMC

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
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
4. NJ League of Municipalities
222 West State Street
Trenton, NJ 08608
Phone (609) 695-3481
Fax (609) 695-0151
NJLeague@njslom.com
5. Your State Legislators (State
Senator and Assembly Representatives)