

NJ SENATE REPUBLICANS

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Senator Tom Kean
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Kean and Webber Ask Governor Corzine to Take Note: New Jersey Labors Four Months Just to Pay Its Taxes

Senate Republican Leader Tom Kean, R-21, and Assemblyman Jay Webber, R-26, issued the following statement marking Tax Freedom Day in New Jersey. This is the day when the average Garden State worker finally has earned enough to pay all of his federal, state and local taxes for the year. Tax Freedom Day comes to New Jersey later than to any state other than Connecticut, where it will come tomorrow. New Jersey taxpayers spend one-third of the year laboring to pay for the cost of government.

“The Corzine administration remains in denial about the impact that this huge tax burden has on New Jersey’s economy and its struggling middle class,” Senator Kean said. “The governor refuses to acknowledge any responsibility either for an unemployment rate that is much higher than any neighboring state’s or the exodus of tens of thousands of our friends and neighbors over the last eight years who can no longer afford to live in New Jersey.”

“New Jersey’s high taxes take a terrible toll on our families, employers, and citizens. Now, when our State’s people are hurting the most, Governor Corzine’s only proposal is new tax increases and removal of tax relief, which will force Tax Freedom Day to come even later next year,” Assemblyman Webber said.

Republicans have offered dozens of ideas over the last eight years that would create jobs, generate new revenue and let taxpayers get the value they deserve from the

dollars that government takes from them. These ideas include a constitutional ban on diverting money from the state Unemployment Insurance Fund, the Transparency in Government Act that would help ferret out waste, and Senate Bill 281, which would jump-start this state's economic development efforts after eight years of inexcusable mismanagement.

Until late 2008, when he belatedly adopted some of the budget savings and economic growth proposals in the Common Sense Plan for a More Affordable New Jersey, Governor Corzine rejected news ideas for job creation and making government more efficient and accountable.

"It's clear the state Treasurer isn't alone in believing that New Jersey's taxes aren't too high," Senator Kean said. "Until this year, there was no evidence this governor believed that new ideas that gave taxpayers a more efficient government were worthy of real consideration."

"This year, Governor Corzine still can't find a way to balance the budget without raising income taxes, motor vehicle fees and other job-killing taxes by a total of \$1 billion during a recession," Assemblyman Webber said. **"The solution is not for more families to flee our Garden State and its backbreaking taxes, but for Governor Corzine and his failed tax-and-spend policies to leave Drumthwacket and the State House."**

"When all revenue from the federal government and other one-shot sources is included, this proposed budget will spend about \$48.3 billion, more than any state budget in history," Senator Kean said. "No one who believes in being honest with the public should let this governor continue to spin the fantasy that he has made government more efficient, or that he ever will."

"We will not vote for a budget that ensures Tax Freedom Day will come later and later each year for hard-working middle class families," Kean and Webber said. "We urge our colleagues in the Legislature to join us in opposing a budget that will make life harder for middle class New Jersey."

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