

Ideals and Realities in Government

Brigid Callahan Harrison, Ph.D.

Professor of Political Science and Law
Montclair State University



The Public Purchasing Context

- The Fiscal Context
- The Importance of Real Electoral Competition
- Parties as watchdogs for electeds



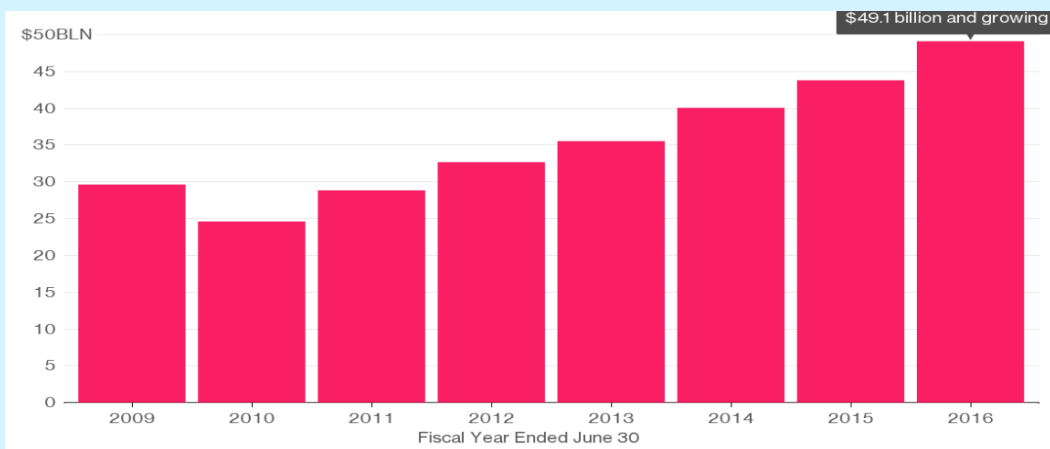
What's at Stake in 2017?

Pension Obligations versus Payments



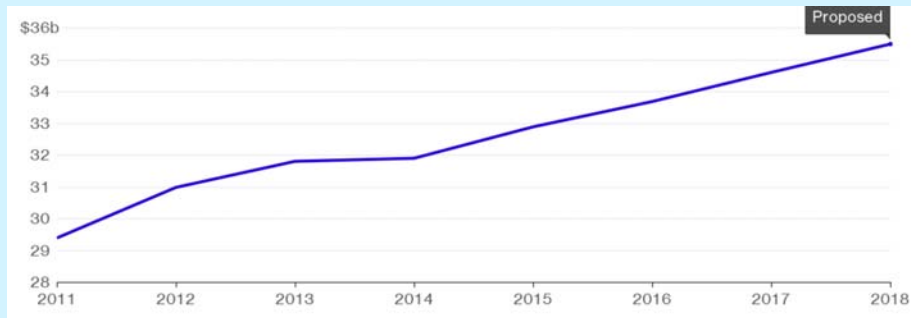
Source: New Jersey State Budgets, and P.L. 2011, c. 78 - State of New Jersey.

New Jersey's Unfunded Pension Liability



Source: New Jersey State Office of Public Finance and Bloomberg News.

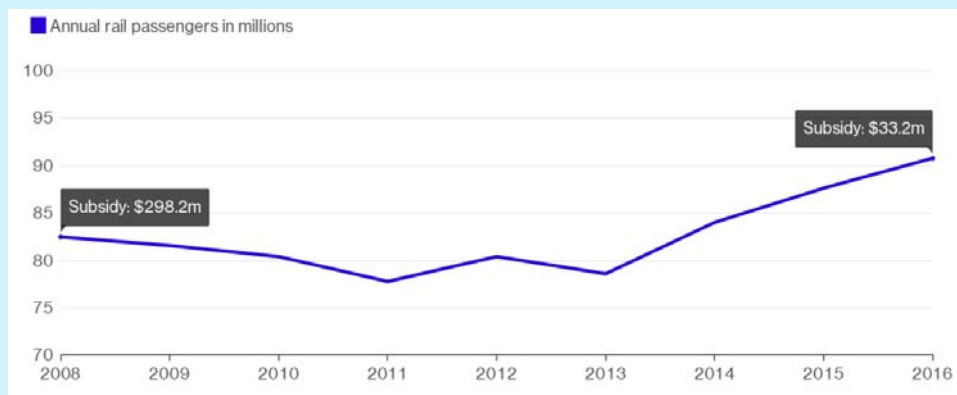
Pension, Debt Service Drive Budget Increases



Source: New Jersey State Treasury.

Need and Demand for Services Increases

Annual State Budget Subsidy of NJ Transit



Source: Bloomberg News.

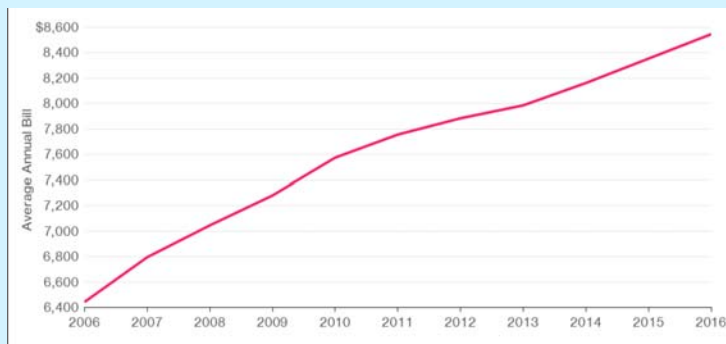
Borrowing Becomes More and More Expensive



Source: Fitch; Moody's; Standard and Poor's Global Ratings.

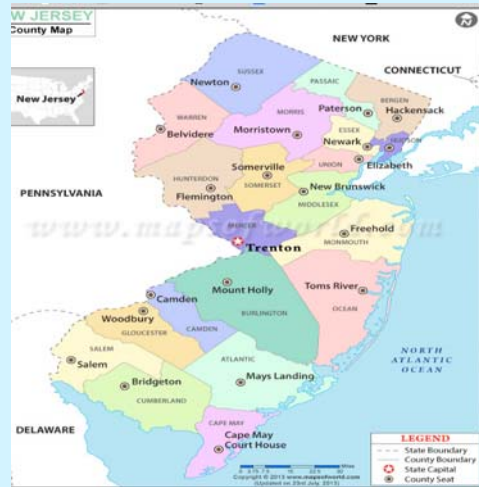
Municipalities Feel the Pinch

Average Annual Property Tax Bill



Source: New Jersey Department of Community Affairs.

New Jersey Governor's Race 2017



Democratic Primary

- Party line voting
- Campaign Funding
- New Jersey's media market
- Grassroots and Social Media
- The statehouse legacy



Amb. Phil Murphy



Sen. Ray Lesniak



Asm. John Wisniewski



Jim Johnson

Republican Primary

- The Christie legacy
- Campaign funding
- The national context
- The power of political machines



Lt. Gov. Kim Guadagno

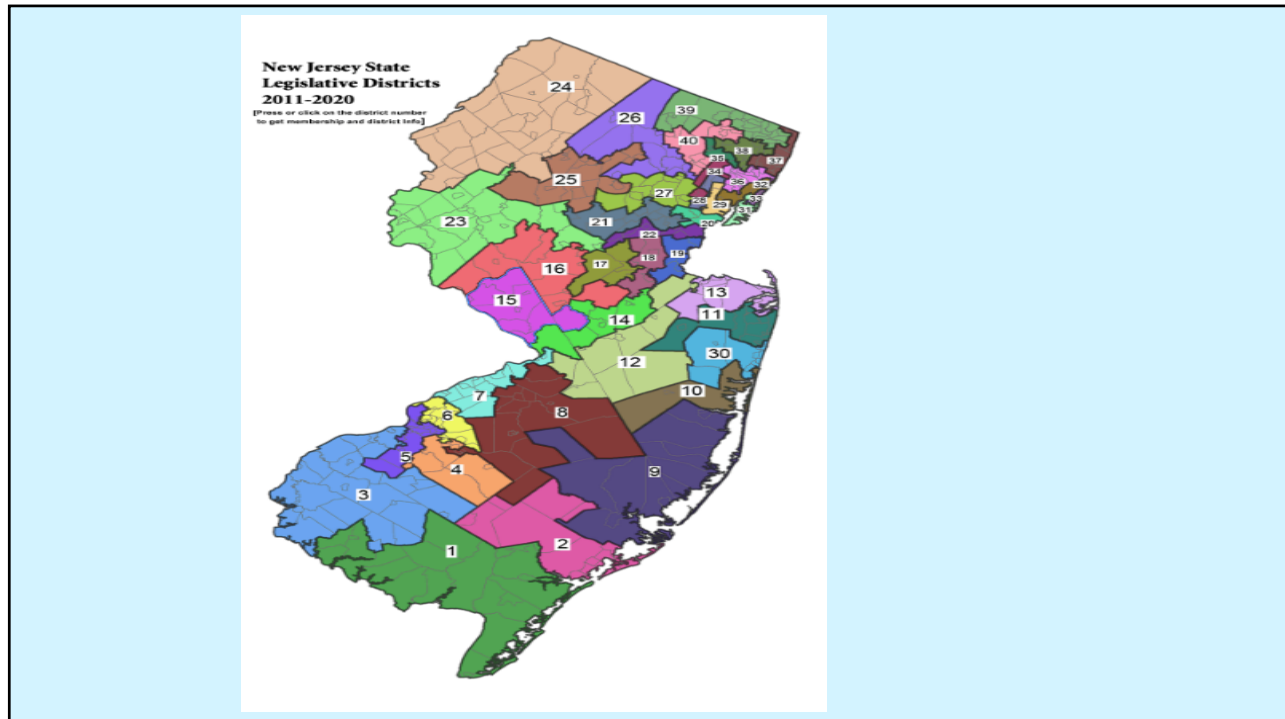


Asm. Jack Ciattarelli

Senate Retirements

- Sen. Jim Whelan (D-2)
- Sen. Dianne Allen (D-7)
- Sen. Joe Kyrillos (R-13)
- Ray Lesniak (D-20)
- Sen. Kevin O'Toole (R-40)





Competitive Primaries

- District 2 Assembly (Democrats) (highly competitive)
- District 7 Senate (Democrats)
- District 12 Senate and Assembly (Republicans) (highly competitive)
- District 13 Senate
- District 24 Senate and Assembly (Republicans)
- District 40 Senate and Assembly (Republicans) (highly competitive)



Looking Ahead: Competitive Generals

- District 2 Senate and Assembly
- District 11 Senate
- District 13 Senate
- District 40 Senate and Assembly



Concluding Thoughts and Discussion

- Importance of competition
- Importance of leadership, particularly in fiscal areas