

Hunterdon Freeholders: Lobby Legislators Right Now To Restore State School Aid Cuts

Saying Hunterdon County residents and taxpayers must act right now to press the state legislature to restore \$2.6 million in school aid cut from twenty county school districts under Governor Phil Murphy's new budget, Hunterdon County Freeholders John E. Lanza and Zach Rich have announced an on-line 'Emergency Lobbying Action Plan' for residents to use to reach out to area legislators.

Freeholder Lanza said, "We have to act immediately. The state budget is being finalized right now, with \$4 billion in borrowing and \$700 million in new taxes, but not one penny more for Hunterdon County schools."

Residents can log onto the 'Emergency Lobbying Action Plan' on the Hunterdon County website; <http://www.co.hunterdon.nj.us/RestoreSchoolAid.html>, to direct a message to legislators representing Hunterdon County to restore education aid for local school districts.

Freeholder Rich stated, "This marks the third straight year the Governor has proposed school aid cuts for Hunterdon County. There is no recognition by the state of the added costs brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic; the need to support remote learning and the expenses for schools in our County that are having in school learning full or part time.

The Legislature, according to media accounts, is moving forward with increases in the income tax, corporate tax and the tax on health insurers, taking more money for the state, but where is the consideration of Hunterdon County's school children and property taxpayers?"

The Emergency Lobbying Action Plan will give residents from the various Hunterdon County towns the email addresses and twitter accounts of the state legislators representing their communities in order to direct them a message to restore school aid.

The state legislature can restore the school aid cuts in the final state budget that will be approved by October 1, 2020.

The Freeholders said concerned residents need to act right now. "Please join us in calling on Hunterdon County's state legislators to press their legislative leaders to restore our school aid in the state budget. The school children of Hunterdon County need your help."