

Hunterdon Freeholders Reduce Budget By Nearly \$1 Million

Fifth Consecutive Year Of Budget Reductions

The Hunterdon County Board of Chosen Freeholders introduced an \$87,779,652 County budget on May 8th that is \$982,167 less than last year's budget, the fifth consecutive year the budget has been reduced.

Freeholder Director Matt Holt said, "The lower budget is a result of cost savings and financial planning. It is substantially lower than the nearly \$100 million Hunterdon budget from over a decade ago.

We are seeing the dividends from investments in technology, which have resulted in the streamlining of government operations, and the use of private sector contractors, where appropriate, to help deliver cost savings.

And, while the budget is lower, it still provides for the numerous County shared service programs that save costs for our municipalities and taxpayers."

Freeholder John Lanza noted, "The budget protects services to Hunterdon's most vulnerable residents. It also continues to make needed investments in key areas, such as public safety, health services, and upgrades to our park system, which helps to maintain Hunterdon County's unique quality of life."

Freeholder Holt added, "The Freeholders have forced a reduction in the total budget amount to help to minimize the first tax rate change in five years that resulted from a reduction in non-tax revenues.

In fact, the new tax rate (31.5 cents) is still lower than the tax rate was in 2005 (31.9 cents)."

The County tax rate has been held steady by the Freeholders, at 30.9 cents per \$100 of assessed property value, for four straight years. The 2018 rate will be 31.5 cents. County taxes make up less than 13% of the full property tax bill.

Hunterdon Budget Lower Again

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Freeholder Lanza stated, "The County budget is in stark contrast with the state budget proposed by Governor Phil Murphy that increases state spending by nearly 8% and contains nearly \$1.5 billion in tax increases."

The public hearing on the Hunterdon County Budget is scheduled for Tuesday, May 29, 2018, at 5:30 pm, at the Freeholders' Meeting Room, County Administration Building, 71 Main Street, Flemington.