

An Unpredictable Time in Trenton

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With the legislative session back in full swing this fall season, Trenton has been anything but predictable. The Governor and Legislature are still at odds with each other over pension & health reform, transportation projects and public school policy. As we enter the home stretch before the holiday break, Governor Christie is putting constant pressure on the Legislature to enact what he has deemed his reform agenda. Yet, the Democratic controlled Legislature has been reluctant to move many bills which would ultimately undermine the collective bargaining process.

Democratic leadership in both houses have acknowledged some change will come to the existing pension and health benefit system in place, but what changes will be made are unknown at this time, as many proposed reforms are potentially unconstitutional. They also acknowledged that the Governor signed a law earlier this year which requires him to make a payment in excess of \$512 million to the pension system and until he holds true to his promise, his reforms will not progress.

At some point, certain compromises will be made between the Governor's office and the Legislature and PANJ will be at the table to weigh in on those matters.

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