



Probation Association of New Jersey

Serving New Jersey Since 1904

An affiliate of the American Probation and Parole Association

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June 28, 2018

Brothers and Sisters,

As you are all aware we are once again in the midst of State budget negotiations. A budget needs to be passed by midnight on Saturday June 30th in order to have a spending plan for fiscal year 2019. Without the spending plan in place the NJ State government will shut down.

Both the Legislative and Executive Branches have put forth their own budget plans, which confirms reports from earlier this month that the Legislative leadership and Governor are at odds of how to best fund the State.

The main difference between the two budgets is that the Governor is relying on revenues from a proposed millionaire's tax and raising the State sales tax back to 7 percent from 6.625 percent. These new revenues would pay for initiatives he promised on the campaign trail, like free college tuition and increasing payments to public pensions and education. Meanwhile, the Legislature wants to increase taxes on the State's business community, rather than citizens, and has advanced plans to increase the corporate business tax to 13 percent, making it the highest in the country, which would sunset in two years.

We are aware that other bargaining units are asking their members to call their legislators to tell them to pass a budget. As true advocates, we think speaking your voice is a wonderful idea. With respect to this particular impasse; PANJ will not weigh in on who's right and who's wrong. PANJ has several important causes that will eventually need support from all members of our Legislature, and the new administration. Picking a side will have a detrimental impact.

There is a lot of conjecture and rumors swirling around. What we know for certain is that today's Assembly and Senate budget voting sessions were cancelled. The voting session in each house is still scheduled for Friday, Saturday and Monday. We do know that the Governor intends to respond today to the very latest proposal from the Legislature.

We will be sending out member updates only when we have hard facts. We have been in constant communication with our lobbying firm, Capital Impact Group and our attorney's office, Zirrih Law. In the event of a shutdown please check our website, PANJ.org and or our Facebook page, Probation Association of New Jersey.

In Solidarity,

Dwight Covaleskie, President

Ellen Cribbin, 1st Vice President, Line Staff

Gavin Cummings, 1st Vice President, Supervisor's