



Probation Association of New Jersey

Serving New Jersey Since 1904

An affiliate of the American Probation and Parole Association

2409 Paynters Road

Wall, NJ 08736

Phone (732) 223-1799 Fax (732) 223-8363

Website: www.panj.org

Below are the highlights of the Governor's budget as it relates to PANJ

When the Budget in Brief comes out in the next month or so (when legislative hearings begin), there will be more details regarding funding to Judiciary. However, according to the overall numbers in the budget summary for the Judicial Branch, the only change in funding right now is an additional \$4.5 million for Drug Courts

OVERALL FY 2015 BUDGET

- Budget is \$34.4 billion, an increase of 4.2 percent, or \$1.16 billion. It's the largest spending plan in New Jersey history.
- There are no tax increases in this year's budget, nor has the Governor renewed his call for an income tax cut.

PENSION

- Included in the budget is the largest payment in history to the state's pension fund — \$2.25 billion. However, that payment is still only 57 percent of what actuaries say is needed for the fund to be solvent. Governor Christie has committed to making increased payments each year until reaching 100 percent in 2018. (This is mandated by Law.)
- The Governor continues to call for additional changes to the pension system, despite requiring public employees to pay more in 2011 and raising the retirement age from 62 to 65.
- He has not mentioned any specific proposals, but has called on the Legislature to address further pension reforms. (PANJ will continue to address these issues as they arise with CIG.)
- Legislative leaders are opposed to implementing additional pension reforms. "We're not doing it," said Senate President Sweeney, in response. "If we stay the course, the pension system will be fine — it's not going to bankrupt us. ... What's missing here is we haven't grown our economy, and that's the issue."
- Christie said at his town hall meeting and on NJ 101.5 Ask the Governor that he's willing to take "extreme measures" if Democrats in the Legislature don't work with him on reforming the pension system.

Expansion of the Drug Court Program.

- Last year, Governor Christie signed into law legislation to help individuals dealing with drug addiction reclaim their lives with treatment, rather than warehousing them in prison. In fiscal year 2015, Governor Christie further acts on his commitment by proposing to increase funding by \$4.5 million.
- This additional funding will permit the Department of Human Services to expand treatment to approximately 1,000 clients in both inpatient and outpatient facilities, providing the capacity needed to continue drug court expansion.
- PANJ and CIG will continue to monitor the Budget Process and report to membership on developments

Dwight Covaleskie



President, PANJ