

NEW JERSEY ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES

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COUNTY AND MUNICIPAL OFFICIALS HOLD PRESS CONFERENCE ON DEADLINE TO EXTEND 2% CAP ON INTEREST ARBITRATION AWARDS

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(Trenton) The New Jersey Association of Counties (NJAC) and the New Jersey State League of Municipalities (NJSLOM) held a joint press conference today to urge Governor Chris Christie and the State Legislature to enact legislation that will permanently extend the 2% cap on interest arbitration awards set to expire on April 1st.

“The 2010 law that imposed a 2% cap on binding interest arbitration awards empowered county and municipal governments to effectively control public safety employee salaries and personnel costs,” said NJAC President and Monmouth County Clerk Claire French.

County and municipal officials from across the State gathered on the steps of the State House to urge Governor Christie and the Legislature to extend the 2% cap on interest arbitration awards. As has been well documented, local governing bodies dedicate a substantial portion of their annual operating budgets for employee salaries, wages, health benefits and other personnel costs; and, face a restrictive 2% cap on the amount in which they may raise local property taxes.

“In light of the fiscal pressures imposed by the property tax levy cap, a declining ratable base, and unfunded State mandates, failure to extend the 2% cap on interest arbitration awards will force county and municipal governments to further reduce or even eliminate essential services, critical personnel, and long overdue infrastructure improvement projects,” commented French.

NJAC is committed to advocating for legislation, regulations, and policy directives that empower county governments to operate more effectively and efficiently. As a non-partisan organization that represents the only true regional form of government in the State with a unified and proactive voice, NJAC is dedicated to advancing innovative programs and initiatives that enhance the level of service provided and save valuable taxpayer dollars. Please visit our website at www.njac.org for additional details about our growing organization.