

**Public Strategies Impact
THIS WEEK IN TRENTON
July 2, 2009**

Legislature in Recess

The Legislature is now in recess. Both houses of the Legislature held marathon voting sessions last Thursday during which they gave final legislative approval to the state budget, several additional budget related measures, economic stimulus legislation, legislation asking voters to approve a \$400 million open space bond question and legislation prohibiting the sale and purchase of more than one handgun per person, within a 30-day period. The Senate confirmed over 175 nomination submitted by the Governor including the nomination of Supreme Court Justice Barry Albin, granting him lifetime tenure, the nomination of MVC Chief Administrator Sharon Harrington to the Casino Control Commission and the nomination of Douglas Wheeler as Director of the Division of Insurance.

The Assembly is not expected to reconvene until after November's election. It is possible that the Senate may return earlier to handle judicial nominations.

Corzine Signs Legislation Concerning Lieutenant Governor Candidates

Governor Corzine signed **A3902/S2829**, legislation that establishes certain electoral and campaign finance requirements for candidates for the office of Lieutenant Governor.

As provided by the Constitution, a candidate for the office of Lieutenant Governor will be selected by the candidate for the office of Governor who is nominated at the primary election. This legislation clarifies that the candidate of each political party for the office of Lieutenant Governor will be selected by the candidate of that party nominated for election to the office of Governor within 30 days following the certification of the candidate for election to that office. Under the bill, such certification is to occur no later than the fourth Friday in June following a primary election for nominating a candidate for Governor. Similarly, a candidate for the office of Lieutenant Governor is to be selected by a candidate who is seeking election to the office of Governor through direct nomination by petition within 30 days following the certification of the candidate for election to the office of Governor, which is the same day as certification for candidates nominated for Governor at a primary election.

Under the law, candidates for Lieutenant Governor and Governor, who under the constitution are to seek election conjointly, will be treated as one candidate for the purposes of campaign contribution and expenditure limits and public financing. The law also requires that, when a gubernatorial candidate is accepting public financing and is required, therefore, to participate in two debates, the candidates for Lieutenant Governor will be required to participate in one debate.

The law further provides that a candidate for Lieutenant Governor must meet the same campaign financial disclosure requirements as a candidate for Governor, except that the disclosure statement would be required to be filed on or before the 30th day following the day the candidate for Lieutenant Governor is selected by the gubernatorial candidate. This different deadline recognizes that the Lieutenant Governor candidate may not be selected on the same day that the gubernatorial candidate is nominated.

The law also requires a candidate for Lieutenant Governor to disclose involvement with an issue advocacy committee, as gubernatorial candidates are required to do. Finally, the law provides that the same pay-to-play laws applicable to Governors and gubernatorial candidates will apply to Lieutenant Governor candidates and officeholders to prohibit the awarding of certain state contracts to business entities making campaign contributions.

State Receives Approval to Move Ahead with Greenhouse Gas Vehicle Program

New Jersey, along with 13 other states, received approval from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to establish greenhouse gas emissions standards for motor vehicles. New Jersey is one of 13 states that have opted into California's program to mandate cleaner standards for motor vehicles. Under the federal Clean Air Act, California has the right to implement more stringent motor vehicle emissions standards than the federal limits, and other states have the right to adopt the California standards in lieu of the federal standards. Today, the EPA granted California's waiver request from December 2005, allowing all 14 states to move forward with new greenhouse gas standards for motor vehicles.

In 2007, Governor Corzine signed an executive order to mandate a reduction in greenhouse gas emissions to 1990 levels by 2020, and an 80-percent reduction by 2050, goals that were codified later that year with the legislature's passage of the Global Warming Response Act. Just over a year ago, Governor Corzine signed a bill into law enabling New Jersey to participate in the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative, the first mandatory cap-and-trade program in the nation for carbon dioxide.

Legislative Action

There were no meetings of the Legislature this week. As reported earlier this week Governor Corzine signed the state budget along with several additional budget related measures.