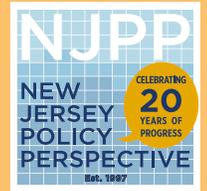




# THE ESSENTIAL ELEVEN:

Ideas to Move New Jersey Forward in 2018

November 2017 | [NJPP.ORG](http://NJPP.ORG)



In January 2018, Phil Murphy will be sworn in as the 56th governor of New Jersey, inheriting many challenges and many opportunities. New Jerseyans deserve big, bold, swift action from the new administration to increase economic justice and widespread prosperity.

## 1 Undo the failed tax policies of the Christie era

Restore the estate tax on millionaires and roll back the 2016 sales tax cut to recoup over \$1 billion in lost revenue each year.

## 2 Make our tax code fairer

Ensure that the wealthiest New Jerseyans and profitable corporations are paying their fair share by raising income tax rates on the top 5 percent of households and closing tax loopholes that allow large corporations to game the system and avoid New Jersey taxes.

## 3 Use new revenues to shore up and expand public investments

Build the foundation for a stronger economy and a brighter future by adequately funding NJ Transit, reprioritizing public higher education, expanding preschool and creating more affordable homes.

## 4 Boost and protect our lowest-paid workers

Gradually raise the minimum wage to \$15 an hour, ensure that all workers can take paid time off when they or a family member is sick and expand the state Earned Income Tax Credit for low-paid workers without children.

## 5 Rebalance our economic-development strategies

Revisit the reliance on increasingly costly tax breaks for large corporations and create a more balanced, sustainable approach to economic development.

## 6 Welcome and protect all immigrants

Make the Garden State a more inclusive, welcoming place by allowing qualified undocumented residents to drive legally and extending state financial aid to prospective undocumented college students.

## 7 Expand health coverage for our children

Prioritize universal health care for kids by including undocumented children in NJ FamilyCare, eliminating administrative barriers that prevent eligible kids from enrolling and reinstating the buy-in program for families that have incomes that are too high for NJ FamilyCare.

## 8 Help all workers achieve a better work/life balance

Expand the state's successful paid family leave insurance program in order to ensure more of the workers who pay into the program are able to use it when they need to.

## 9 Mend the biggest holes in a tattered safety net

Reverse the shameful 31-year streak of stagnant funding for cash assistance in WorkFirst New Jersey (TANF), tie assistance to future increases in inflation and repeal the punitive policy that denies assistance to babies of mothers already on WorkFirst New Jersey.

## 10 Protect the pensions of public employees while stabilizing the system

Revise retiree health benefits from "platinum" to "gold" levels for both current and retired employees and constitutionally dedicate the savings to ensure the funding for pensions.

## 11 Provide against the worst overreaches of the federal government

Keep a close eye on Washington and, when appropriate, take actions to protect the state's prosperity, its security and its residents. For example, exploring how to maintain the Medicaid expansion if the Affordable Care Act is repealed or offering sanctuary to law-abiding undocumented residents and providing legal representation to the unfairly detained.