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SHERRILL PITCHES \$60.7B BUDGET



ANNE-MARIE CARUSO, NEW JERSEY MONITOR

Gov. Mikie Sherrill on Tuesday called for the state to still spend more than it takes in through taxes and fees, but her plan largely avoids new and costly programs that would boost the state's expenses.

Spending outpaces revenue as gov. urges belt tightening

NIKITA BIRYUKOV
newjerseymonitor.com

Gov. Mikie Sherrill proposed New Jersey spend a record \$60.7 billion in her administration's first budget plan, one underwritten by the removal of legislative spending additions and cuts to a property tax relief program championed by the Assembly speaker, among others.

In her first annual budget address to a joint Legislature, Sherrill on Tuesday called for the state to spend nearly \$1.7 billion more than it takes in through taxes and fees, a slight decline from the structural deficit in the current fiscal year, but largely avoided new and costly programs that would boost the state's expenses.

The spending gap marks a reduction from what Sherrill last week said would have been a \$3 billion deficit absent cuts to state spending.

"If we do nothing, our entire \$7.2 billion surplus will be gone in less than two years — and we'll be another \$750 million in the hole. Since our Constitution requires a balanced budget, failing to act now would trigger far worse in the future," Sherrill said.

Sherrill, a Democrat, took office on Jan. 20.

Her budget proposal is just the start of

New Jersey's budget season. The plan now goes to lawmakers, who will spend the next roughly three months hosting budget hearings before sending their own budget plan back to Sherrill for her signature or veto. The state must have a budget in place by July 1.

Sherrill's plan would leave New Jersey's surplus at \$5.4 billion, roughly half of its pandemic peak but still far larger than the near-nothing surpluses New Jersey maintained for much of this millennium.

Sherrill is also seeking reductions to the nascent Stay NJ property tax relief program championed by Assembly Speaker Craig Coughlin (D-Middlesex).

That program, which promises to cut New Jersey seniors' property tax bills in half and began issuing its first benefits this quarter, would see its maximum award reduced from \$6,500 to \$4,000 and its income eligibility cap slashed from \$500,000 to \$250,000.

Benefits from the senior freeze and Anchor property tax relief programs are counted against Stay NJ awards, and Sherrill proposed removing the extra \$250 senior homeowners receive under Anchor, though they would still receive that money from

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Reynolds: Office acted properly in Small case

WAYNE PARRY
Staff Writer

Atlantic County Prosecutor William Reynolds says his office acted properly and "in good faith" in bringing child abuse charges against Atlantic City Mayor Marty Small Sr. and the mayor's wife.

The prosecutor told The Press of Atlantic City Monday evening that the prosecution was based on evidence that his office had a legal duty to pursue.

Small filed a notice last week of his intent to sue Reynolds and Atlantic County Executive Dennis Levinson over what he called a "malicious and improper" prosecution.



Reynolds

The notice is required to be filed at least six months before suing a public entity in New Jersey.

"The tort claims notice filed last week contains allegations that we strongly dispute," Reynolds said. "The charges in the underlying case were brought only after a careful review of evidence and a determination that probable cause existed under the law."

"Prosecutors have a duty to pursue criminal charges when supported by credible evidence, and that is exactly what occurred in this matter," Reynolds said.

Because the matter is likely to be the subject of litigation, Reynolds refrained from commenting further on the specifics of the case.

But he did say, "We are confident that the facts and the law will demonstrate that the actions of this office were proper, lawful and undertaken in good faith."

In his notice of intent to sue, Small accused the men of conspiring to try to remove him from power.

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Goldhoff to lead casino association

WAYNE PARRY
Staff Writer

ATLANTIC CITY — George Goldhoff, president of Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Atlantic City, is the new president of the Casino Association of New Jersey.

He assumed leadership of the group, which is the trade association for Atlantic City's nine casinos, Tuesday morning.

Goldhoff succeeds Mark Giannantonio, president of Resorts Casino Hotel, who held the association job for the past four years. In the recent past, casino executives served about a year in the role before making way for a successor.

"It is an honor to step into the role of Casino Association of New Jersey president and continue the strong foundation that Mark Giannantonio helped build," Goldhoff said. "The Atlantic City casino industry plays a vital role in our state's economy, from supporting jobs, to driving investment and attracting visitors from across the region."

"I look forward to working alongside our members, local officials and state leaders to build on this momentum and further strengthen Atlantic City's position as a world-class resort destination," he said.

Challenges Goldhoff will face in his new role as the face of the Atlantic City casino industry include a push by



Goldhoff

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Rowan unveils \$690M campus expansion

USA TODAY NETWORK

Situated between Routes 55 and 322 in Gloucester County, a 220-acre stretch of property owned by Rowan University used to be home to a maze of peach trees. Soon, university President Ali A. Houshmand hopes the land will be a bustling economic and community hub as a result of a \$690 million development project.

Using partnerships within the health care and private sectors, the multiphase project is an undertaking that, at fruition, will be a community hub of multigenerational housing within an envisioned Rowan

VIEW: To read Rowan's report on its planned expansion, point your smartphone camera at the QR code, then tap the link [NEWSVU](#)

University Wellness Village as well as an industry powerhouse for research and workforce development through the Rowan University Center for Manufacturing Innovation.

The development will "not only lift Rowan ... [but] lift everybody along with it," Houshmand said.

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ROWAN UNIVERSITY, PROVIDED

Rowan University wants to build a 220-acre West Campus, including the Rowan Center for Manufacturing Innovation.