

February 7, 2013

Re: League Analysis On Line: State Government and Your Local Property Taxes (What Residents & Businesses Should Consider)

Dear Mayor:

In order to help your constituents to better understand the connection between what happens (and doesn't happen) in our State Capital and their property taxes bills, our Legislative Relations Team has produced an interesting brochure entitled "State Government and Your Local Property Taxes (What Residents & Businesses Should Consider)." A copy is posted on our website at http://www.njslom.org/SG-Property_Taxes.html.

In 2011, property taxes increased by 2.4%. Last year, the increase was 1.7%. Obviously, local officials are doing all that they can to limit increases. They deserve credit for making the tough decisions in tough times. They have pruned budgets, pursued savings, engaged in tough negotiations, reduced the workforce, shared services, cut spending, applied best practices, emptied reserve accounts and deferred investments. They did this as property values declined, tax appeals increased, development and economic activity stalled, employment slumped and property tax relief funding was diverted to the State budget.

That said, they could not have limited increases to 2.4% and 1.7% without other reforms enacted by the Governor and the Legislature. For things like the cap on arbitration awards and pensions and benefits reforms, the Governor and Legislative leaders deserve our thanks and recognition. New Jersey tax policy for all levels of government is determined under the Gold Dome of our State House. As our brochure illustrates, more still needs to be done. We hope you can share this information with your local residents and business people. We believe that the more they know about this problem, the more likely are they to be our allies for meaningful and consistent property tax relief and lasting property tax reforms.

If you find this information useful, the flyer will be available for down-loading at our website – www.njslom.com. We sincerely hope you will find this helpful. If you have any questions, contact Jon Moran at 609-695-3481, ext. 121 or jmoran@njslom.com

Very truly yours,
William G. Dressel, Jr.
Executive Director