

# Governor Chris Christie

Chris Christie was sworn in as Governor of New Jersey on January 19, 2010, and re-elected to a second term on November 5, 2013.

Under Governor Christie, New Jersey has taken on the biggest and toughest challenges with real solutions and bipartisan cooperation. He has implemented an aggressive reform agenda to restore fiscal integrity and accountability to state and local government; lowered New Jersey's property taxes; reformed and expanded treatment for individuals affected by addiction; and improved public education to ensure every child has access to a quality education.

Since taking office in 2010, Governor Christie has made balancing the State's budget a top priority. On July 4, 2017, the Governor signed his 8th consecutive balanced budget without raising the tax burden on New Jersey's citizens. Governor Christie fought for and achieved passage of a 2 percent cap on property taxes; delivered tax relief for working families with the expansion of New Jersey's Earned Income Tax Credit; and has been committed to pursuing meaningful, long-term reform in the pension system to ensure it is sustainable, affordable, and secure for retirees. After years of decline, New Jersey's economy has turned around, and more than 314,100 private sector jobs have been added under Governor Christie's watch.

While serving as a Freeholder in Morris County, the Governor first became involved in the fight against drug addiction as a member of the Board of a local treatment center in Mendham. During his tenure as Governor, he has spotlighted the need to address stigma, change the conversation on drug addiction, and focus on treatment. Governor Christie has remained steadfast in his advocacy for a holistic approach to battling the scourge of drug addiction by increasing funding for lifesaving overdose antidotes; expanding the successful recovery coach program; and proposing and signing a historic, first in the nation, 5 day limit on initial opioid prescriptions. Governor Christie has also followed through on his commitment to take a smarter and more effective approach focused on treating drug-addicted offenders by signing into law landmark, bipartisan legislation to put in place a state-wide, mandatory drug court program.

Governor Christie has encouraged community policing across all New Jersey municipalities, most notably in Camden. Combating a public safety crisis, he has taken aggressive action to bring about a sweeping reformation of their police services. With the support of the Christie Administration, the City and County of Camden implemented a ground-breaking reform by creating a county-wide force that is putting more officers on the streets of Camden, and more resources at their disposal. Governor Christie has been an advocate for continued discussion on positive engagement and outreach by law enforcement to the communities they serve.

In addition, Governor Christie has made education reform a top priority of his Administration, working to turn around failing schools, improve accountability, create a fair and meaningful evaluation system for teachers and principals and increase school choice in the state's worst performing districts with nearly 50,000 students enrolled in charter schools across the state. Governor Christie provided billions of dollars in additional state aid for New Jersey schools, setting a historic high for school funding for five consecutive years. In August 2012, Governor Christie signed into law landmark bipartisan tenure reform, modernizing the nation's oldest tenure law to increase teacher effectiveness and accountability in the classroom.

Since Superstorm Sandy struck in 2012, New Jersey has made real, substantial strides toward recovery and rebuilding. The Christie Administration has worked to deliver assistance to residents, businesses and communities at the Jersey Shore as they build back stronger and more resilient to withstand future storms.

A lifelong New Jerseyan, Governor Christie, 54, has a deep affection for and strong commitment to the state in which he has spent his entire life.

Born in Newark and raised in Livingston, Chris has lived in New Jersey his entire life, except to attend college at the University of Delaware. He and his wife, Mary Pat, have been married since 1986 and reside in Mendham, where they raise their four children, Andrew (born 1993), Sarah (born 1996), Patrick (born 2000), and Bridget (born 2003).

After graduating college in 1984, Chris attended Seton Hall University School of Law. He graduated in 1987 and joined a Cranford law firm, where he was soon named a partner. He was elected a Freeholder in Morris County, and served as Director of the Board in 1997.

Christie was named U.S. Attorney for the District of New Jersey in 2002. As the chief federal law enforcement officer in New Jersey, he earned praise from leaders in both parties and drew national attention for his efforts in battling political corruption, corporate crime, human trafficking, gangs, terrorism and environmental polluters.