

The Fund For New Jersey Newsletter

March 2024

Produced by Hellen Zamora-Bustos

The Fund News

Fund for New Jersey President, Brandon McKoy, participated as a panelist on NJ Spotlight News' <u>The Change Talks: State Budget & Taxes</u>. The conversation centered New Jersey's unique budget process and current tax challenges.

Policy Updates

- More than 15 years since the School Funding Reform Act (SFRA), advocates like The Education Law Center (ELC) state that it is time for some changes. As per the outdated formula, some programs like special education continue to suffer from a lack of full funding. Among proposed changes, ELC recommends creating floors and ceilings for changes in state aid, and for the formula to be reviewed every few years. Read more <u>here</u>, and check out ELC's SFRA report <u>here</u>.
- Fair Share Housing Center (FSHC) is celebrating extended protections to the Mount Laurel Doctrine with the signing of a new law. FSHC stated that this newly passed legislation "streamlines the affordable housing development process for everyone involved by codifying the methodology used to determine affordable housing obligations." Furthermore, the new law keeps a ban on regional contribution agreements and creates more opportunity for New Jersey's affordable housing market to increase. Read more <u>here</u>.
- Advocates celebrated a federal judge's decision to stop the use of the county line on ballots for the upcoming June primary elections. Represented by the New Jersey Institute for Social Justice and Campaign Legal Center, organizations like the League of Women Voters of New Jersey, New Jersey Alliance for Immigrant Justice, New Jersey Policy Perspective, and Salvation and Social Justice had previously filed an amicus brief on the case, arguing the unfair advantages provided by county line endorsements in New Jersey's primaries. Read more <u>here</u> and <u>here</u>.

Policy Reports

• The Housing and Community Development Network of New Jersey (HDCNNJ) and the National Low Income Housing Coalition (NLIHC) released <u>The Gap: A Shortage of Affordable Homes</u>. The report provides detailed information about affordable rental homes availability relative to need across the nation, and what the numbers mean for <u>New Jersey</u> and all other states.

Events

• March 26 - June 25 – <u>Migration Justice Webinar Series</u>, American Friends Service Committee.



• April 6 – <u>Grassroots Organizing Conference</u>, Environment New Jersey and NJPIRG Students.

Job Announcements

- <u>New Jersey Conservation Foundation</u> <u>multiple positions</u>
- <u>NJ Citizen Action</u> <u>multiple positions</u>
- <u>New Jersey Institute for Social Justice</u> <u>multiple positions</u>
- Eagleton Institute of Politics multiple positions

Please send policy news and updates, job announcements, and staff updates to Hellen Zamora-Bustos at <u>hzb@fundfornj.org</u> or you can Tweet: <u>@FundforNJ</u>