

THE BOARD OF CHOSEN FREEHOLDERS

OCEAN COUNTY
TOMS RIVER, NEW JERSEY 08754-2191



Joseph H. Vicari
Freeholder

(732) 929-2002
Fax (732) 505-1918

May 8, 2018

Honorable Phil Murphy
Office of the Governor
PO Box 001
Trenton, NJ 08625

Dear Governor Murphy:

As you know, Ocean County has a larger percentage of senior citizen residents than any other county in the state. The vast majority of these seniors are on fixed incomes. On behalf of these seniors, I am respectfully requesting that you restore full funding for the Homestead Property Tax Credit in the upcoming budget.

This year's cut in the rebate, from an average of \$516 per senior household to \$267, created a severe hardship for many of our older families. Social Security cost of living increases have not kept pace with rising medical, utility and other costs borne by our senior citizens. A \$249 annual cut in property tax rebates, or about \$20 per month, may not seem like much on the surface, but for seniors, some of whom cannot afford the \$2 charge for meals-on-wheels, this is a significant loss.

Caring for the needy and less fortunate among us has been a priority of your administration, as it has been a priority of our county government. I ask you to please support our senior citizens and restore the Homestead Property Tax Rebate to its full level of funding.

As usual, should you wish to discuss this important matter further, please do not hesitate to call my office.

Best wishes,

Joseph H. Vicari
Freeholder