



Board of Chosen Freeholders

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MEDIA RELEASE

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Adopted Hunterdon Budget Holds Tax Rate Steady

Hunterdon County's Freeholder Board adopted the 2019 County budget on May 6th, that keeps the County tax rate at 31.5 cents per \$100 of property valuation, the same rate as in 2018.

Freeholder Board Director Suzanne Lagay, the presiding member of the Board's Budget Committee, stated, "The 2019 budget of \$88,491,725 is \$330,000 less than the 2013 budget (\$88,826,025) that Freeholder John Lanza and I inherited when we joined the Board. What else in anyone's life is less costly now than it was six years ago?"

Freeholder Matt Holt, a member of the Board's Budget Committee, said, "Not only is the budget lower than it was in 2013, but, as was discussed when the budget was introduced, the 2019 Hunterdon County budget is almost \$12 million less than the nearly \$100 million County budget of 12 years ago.

I believe there is no other County in New Jersey that can make that claim. In fact, I will bet that no County has a budget today that is even one cent less than the one adopted over a decade ago. That is an exceptional achievement."

Lagay added, "Through this budget the County continues to deliver the expected high level of service to the public, has expanded our role in shared services with our municipalities to help them control their costs, and created an economic development initiative that is paying and will continue to pay dividends for the residents of Hunterdon County."

Lagay noted, "The lower budget did not happen by accident. The County implemented new sound financial controls, enforced a spending encumbrance system that prevents over expenditures, and set a mission for the purchasing division to find opportunities for taxpayer savings.

The proof these improvements have worked is not only a lower budget and a steady tax rate, but also the fact that in the last two years there have been no findings of financial issues by the independent auditor."

A copy of the adopted budget is available, please copy and paste into your browser:

<http://www.co.hunterdon.nj.us/pdf/finance/2019budget.pdf>