As the Nov. 7 Election Day approaches New Jersey will continue to be the center of attention. While most states are in an “off” election year, meaning they have few races, N.J. is only one of two states with a gubernatorial election this year. Additionally, all 80 members of the Assembly and 40 State Senators are also up for election.

**Governor’s Race**
Ambassador Phil Murphy, the Democratic candidate, has proposed tax increases that would raise roughly $1.3 billion a year. The majority of the dollars would be raised by new taxes on the state’s wealthiest residents, and on pot smokers. Murphy campaign officials said the state could raise $600 million by enacting a “millionaire’s tax.” Under the most recent version of that plan, the marginal tax rate on income above $1 million would rise from 8.97 percent to 10.75 percent. The Murphy team expects that the state would gain $600 million by enacting a “millionaire’s tax.” Under the most recent version of that plan, the marginal tax rate on income above $1 million would rise from 8.97 percent to 10.75 percent. The Murphy team expects that the state would gain $600 million by enacting a “millionaire’s tax.” Under the most recent version of that plan, the marginal tax rate on income above $1 million would rise from 8.97 percent to 10.75 percent. The Murphy team expects that the state would gain $600 million by enacting a “millionaire’s tax.” Under the most recent version of that plan, the marginal tax rate on income above $1 million would rise from 8.97 percent to 10.75 percent. The Murphy team expects that the state would gain $600 million by enacting a “millionaire’s tax.” Under the most recent version of that plan, the marginal tax rate on income above $1 million would rise from 8.97 percent to 10.75 percent. The Murphy team expects that the state would gain $600 million by enacting a “millionaire’s tax.” Under the most recent version of that plan, the marginal tax rate on income above $1 million would rise from 8.97 percent to 10.75 percent. The Murphy team expects that the state would gain $600 million by enacting a “millionaire’s tax.” Under the most recent version of that plan, the marginal tax rate on income above $1 million would rise from 8.97 percent to 10.75 percent. The Murphy team expects that the state would gain $600 million by enacting a “millionaire’s tax.” Under the most recent version of that plan, the marginal tax rate on income above $1 million would rise from 8.97 percent to 10.75 percent. The Murphy team expects that the state would gain $600 million by enacting a “millionaire’s tax.” Under the most recent version of that plan, the marginal tax rate on income above $1 million would rise from 8.97 percent to 10.75 percent. The Murphy team expects that the state would gain $600 million by enacting a “millionaire’s tax.” Under the most recent version of that plan, the marginal tax rate on income above $1 million would rise from 8.97 percent to 10.75 percent. The Murphy team expects that the state would gain $600 million by enacting a “millionaire’s tax.” Under the most recent version of that plan, the marginal tax rate on income above $1 million would rise from 8.97 percent to 10.75 percent. The Murphy team expects that the state would gain $600 million by enacting a “millionaire’s tax.”

The Republican candidate and current Lieutenant Governor Kim Guadagno focuses on continuing to decrease property taxes. Her proposal would cap the school portion of a homeowner’s property tax bill to 5 percent of their household income. Any amount owed in excess of the 5 percent circuit breaker threshold will be applied directly to the homeowner’s property tax bill as a credit. Under this program, a family making New Jersey’s median household income of $72,000 will save an average of $895 on their property taxes annually. This proposal will apply to primary residences only and be capped at $3,000 annually.

Currently the polls have Mr. Murphy leading by double digits, but as we know elections are decided in the voting booths.

**Legislative Races**
With both houses up for reelection, it appears there is little chance of a party switch in either the Assembly or Senate.

**Senate District 2** - A late September poll has Democrat Colin Bell, who was appointed to Senator Whelan's seat earlier this month, at 46.5 percent compared to Republican Chris Brown's 46.2 percent with less than six weeks to go before the Nov. 7 general election.

**Senate and Assembly District 11** - Both Assembly seats in Monmouth County’s 11th District flipped for the Democrats two years ago and the party is pushing hard to unseat Republican Sen. Jennifer Beck this year, running businessman and former county chairman Vin Gopal. At the same time, Democratic incumbent Assembly members Joann Downey and Eric Houghtaling are trying to hold onto the seats they won two years ago by slim margins. Beck’s GOP running mates are Ocean Township Deputy Mayor Rob Acerra and Red Bank Councilman Mike Whelan. Four years ago, Beck won handily, and with Guadagno at the top of the ticket this will be the race to watch.

**Assembly District 16** - In west-central Jersey, this district became split two years ago when Democrat Andrew Zwicker unseated Republican Donna Simon to win an Assembly seat by 78 votes. The freshman is defending his seat and hoping to bring with him to Trenton Roy Freiman, a former financial executive from Hillsborough. Republican Assemblyman Jack Ciattarelli gave up his seat to run for governor so there is a vacancy. Simon is trying to win her seat back, running with Somerset County Freeholder Mark Caliguire. Sen. Christopher “Kip” Bateman, a Republican, had no trouble winning in the past, but the Democrats’ win two years ago has left them emboldened. This year he faces Laurie Poppe, a Hillsborough attorney.

For additional information on this month’s legislative update, please contact Jeff Keller at 800-292-6752 or jkeller@nrla.org.