



PORKROLL REPORT

The Garden State's Greasiest Truth

A publication of



NJ BUDGET **SIZZLES FROM
\$30.9 BILLION TO \$58.8 BILLION**

**GOVERNOR SHERRILL
WILL CONTINUE TO**

BURN

**THROUGH YOUR
TAX DOLLARS
ON PORK PROJECTS!**



THE PORK ROLL REPORT

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From \$30.9 Billion to \$58.8 Billion — *What Comes Next?*

In FY2007, New Jersey's state budget totaled \$30.9 billion.

In FY2026, it stands at \$58.8 billion.

That's a \$27.9 billion increase — nearly a 90% expansion in state spending in less than two decades.

Now we await Governor Mikie Sherrill's FY2027 budget proposal, which will come in at \$_____ billion.

Whatever the final number, the long-term trajectory is undeniable.

The Growth Curve

For nearly a decade following the Great Recession, budgets remained relatively stable:

- FY2010: \$29.0B
- FY2015: \$34.4B
- FY2018: \$34.7B

Beginning in FY2019, spending accelerated:

- FY2022: \$46.4B
- FY2023: \$50.6B
- FY2026: \$58.8B



In just **four years** (FY2022–FY2026), **spending increased by \$12.4 billion** — *more growth in four years than in the previous decade combined*

The FY2027 number will determine whether that trend continues, stabilizes, or resets.



HOW DID WE GET HERE?



New Jersey Policy Institute

THREE MAJOR FORCES SHAPED THIS EXPANSION:



Pandemic-Era Federal Funds

Temporary federal dollars supported permanent spending increases, raising the baseline.



Structural Cost Pressures

Health benefits, pensions, and ongoing program commitments continue to grow year over year.



Limited Spending Restraint

Few major programs have been sunsetted or meaningfully restructured.

PORK ROLL PERSPECTIVE

1 To Spend or Not to Spend

When spending rises from \$30.9 billion to \$58.8 billion – and now to \$_____ billion – the conversation must shift from growth to governance.

The question is not whether government should function.

It's whether it should expand without guardrails.



2 Affordability Through Accountability

The FY2027 proposal presents an opportunity to evaluate priorities, reset expectations, and restore discipline before families are asked to shoulder more.

Because affordability isn't achieved through automatic increases.

It's achieved through accountability.

THE BIGGER QUESTION

Has government nearly doubled in effectiveness since 2007?

Have services improved proportionally?

Are taxpayers receiving significantly greater value? Or has the budget simply grown faster than the reforms needed to sustain it?



STAY TUNED. THE PORK ROLL REPORT WILL KEEP SLICING THROUGH THE NUMBERS.