

For Immediate Release:

Skye Gilmartin for Assembly

Forget Murphy's 'Taylor Ham' proclamation – This Year's Budget is stuffed with 'Pork' (Roll)

The budget process this year is a sad continuation of the Governor and his Democrat pals in the Legislature's lack of transparency and sensibility when it comes to the treatment of New Jersey taxpayers.

“Governor Murphy may have made a shameless plea for love from ‘Swifties’ when he recently declared Taylor Ham, Egg and Cheese to be the official sandwich of NJ, but the reality is the budget he just signed is nothing but Pork Roll”, said Skye Gilmartin, a Republican candidate for Assembly in District 14.

The FY 2024 New Jersey budget checks in at an alarming \$54.5 Billion, nearly \$20 Billion (or 57%) higher than the last one signed by Governor Chris Christie in FY 2017, seven short years ago.

The budget process this year was rife with mistakes, missteps and an overall lack of communication and transparency on the part of the Murphy Administration and the Democrat Majority in the Legislature. Many last-minute modifications were not timely communicated in part due to system failures at the Office of Legislative Services. In addition, neither the Senate, nor Assembly Budget Committees allowed public testimony on the budget bill.

While COVID relief programs have injected higher levels of Federal funding into NJ over the last few years, over One Billion Dollars of the current budget has been identified as obvious Pork Projects, including tens of millions of dollars for things such as museums, ballet and art programs, social clubs, marina and stadium subsidies, a dog park, a zoo, and even a jazz radio station.

“Whereas some of these items may be worthwhile, positive endeavors, they have no business being funded by taxpayers throughout the State. Most people have some level of appreciation for arts, recreation, and animals, as I do, but the responsibility for supporting these things should fall on those who utilize them. They should not be advanced via a compulsory tax regime and directed mainly to towns headed by fellow Murphy Democrats. The State budget is about funding things necessary to keep the state operational – schools, roads, police, etc. – it should not be about handing out goodies to those whom you owe favors!” Gilmartin continued. “All three District 14 legislators voted for this government waste! They owe taxpayers an explanation and must be held accountable!”

