

**RESOLUTION 2026-132**

**RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF LITTLE EGG HARBOR, COUNTY OF OCEAN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, OPPOSING THE NEW JERSEY GOVERNOR'S BUDGET CUTS TO THE STAY NJ PROPERTY TAX RELIEF PROGRAM FOR NEW JERSEY'S SENIOR CITIZENS**

**WHEREAS**, New Jersey homeowners continue to face some of the highest property taxes in the nation, and those costs place a particular burden on senior citizens living on fixed or limited incomes; and

**WHEREAS**, the Stay NJ Property Tax Relief Program was established to help eligible senior homeowners remain in their homes and communities by providing meaningful property tax relief and supporting the ability of older residents to age in place; and

**WHEREAS**, under the current Stay NJ framework, eligible senior homeowners may receive a benefit that brings their total property tax relief up to 50 percent of property taxes paid, subject to a maximum Stay NJ benefit of \$6,500, with eligibility extending to applicants with incomes up to \$500,000; and

**WHEREAS**, in the Governor's Fiscal Year 2027 budget proposal announced on March 10, 2026, the State proposed modifying Stay NJ by reducing the qualifying income threshold to \$250,000 and lowering the maximum benefit amount of \$4,000; and

**WHEREAS**, these proposed reductions would substantially weaken a program specifically designed to address New Jersey's affordability crisis for seniors and would diminish the relief available to many older homeowners who have spent decades paying taxes and contributing to their communities; and

**WHEREAS**, Ocean County has a significant senior population, and many residents rely on property tax relief programs such as Stay NJ, ANCHOR, and Senior Freeze to remain in their

**r|m|s|h|c**

Rothstein, Mandell, Strohm,  
Halm & Cipriani, P.A.  
ATTORNEYS AT LAW

98 East Water Street  
Toms River, NJ 08753

o: 732.363.0777  
f: 732.905.6555

homes, maintain financial stability, and avoid being priced out of the communities they helped build; and the State itself describes these property tax programs as major affordability measures for homeowners and seniors; and

**WHEREAS**, reducing Stay NJ benefits would have a direct and harmful impact on senior residents of Ocean County by increasing their housing cost burden at a time when many are also facing rising utility, insurance, medical, and everyday living expenses; and

**WHEREAS**, preserving strong and predictable property tax relief is essential to helping seniors remain independent, sustain homeownership, and continue contributing to the economic and civic life of Ocean County; and

**WHEREAS**, the Mayor and Committee find that balancing the State budget should not come at the expense of senior citizens who depend on Stay NJ to remain in their homes and age with dignity in New Jersey.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, by the governing body of the Township of Little Egg Harbor, County of Ocean, State of New Jersey as follows:

1. The Mayor and Township Committee hereby strongly oppose the proposed reductions to the Stay NJ Property Tax Relief Program contained in the State's Fiscal Year 2027 budget proposal, including the reduction of the income eligibility threshold from \$500,000 to \$250,000 and the reduction of the maximum Stay NJ benefit from \$6,500 to \$4,000.
2. The Governing Body urges the Governor and the New Jersey Legislature to reject these proposed cuts and preserve the Stay NJ program in the manner that continues to provide meaningful and reliable property tax relief for New Jersey senior homeowners.
3. The Governing Body further urges State leaders to protect seniors in Ocean County and throughout New Jersey from policies that would make it more difficult for them to remain in their homes and communities.
4. A certified copy of this Resolution shall be forwarded to the Governor of the State of New Jersey, the President of the New Jersey Senate, the Speaker of the New Jersey General

**r|m|s|h|c**

Rothstein, Mandell, Strohm,  
Halm & Cipriani, P.A.  
ATTORNEYS AT LAW

98 East Water Street  
Toms River, NJ 08753

o: 732.363.0777  
f: 732.905.6555

Assembly, the legislators representing Ocean County, the New Jersey Association of Counties, and all municipalities within Ocean County.

**CERTIFICATION**

I, **KELLY LETTERA, CMC, RMC**, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true copy of a resolution adopted by the Governing Body of the Township of Little Egg Harbor at a meeting held on the **14th** day of **May, 2026**.



**KELLY LETTERA, CMC, RMC**  
Township Clerk  
Little Egg Harbor Township

**r|m|s|h|c**

Rothstein, Mandell, Ströhm,  
Halm & Cipriani, P.A.  
ATTORNEYS AT LAW

98 East Water Street  
Toms River, NJ 08753

o: 732.363.0777  
f: 732.905.6555