



# Vision Bergen: Blueprint for Our Future

## "Taming the 800 Pound Gorilla: Reining In Local Budgets"

Tim Evans • New Jersey Future • May 18, 2010



# Median Real Estate Tax Bill (2008)

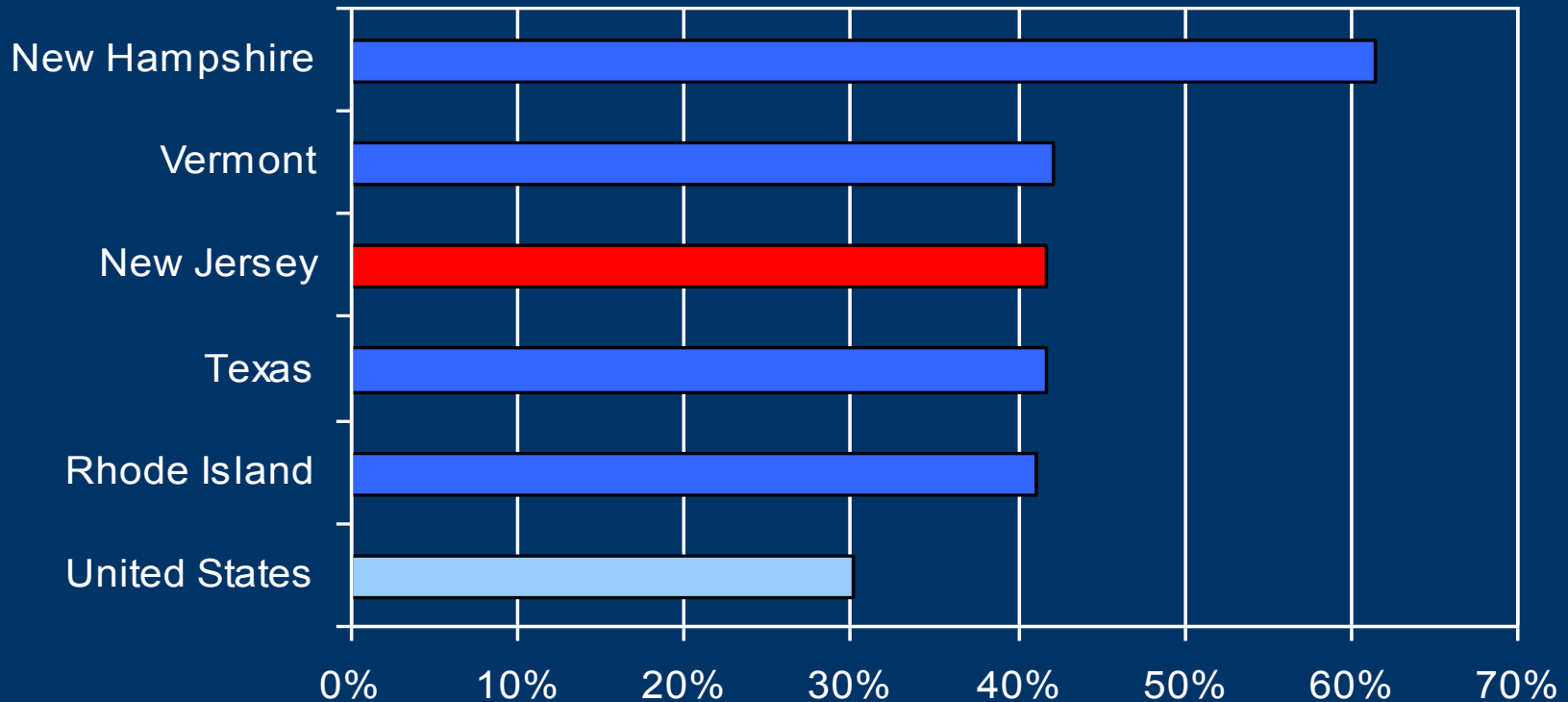
New Jersey	6,320
Connecticut	4,603
New Hampshire	4,501
New York	3,622
Rhode Island	3,534
United States	1,897

*Data source: 2008 American Community Survey*



# Over-Reliance on Property Tax

Percent of Total State and Local Tax Revenue Derived From Property Tax



Data source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, 2007 Census of Government Finance



# 3 big counties, similar populations, dissimilar school systems

	2008 population	number of municipalities	number of school districts	munis per school district
Bergen County NJ	889,915	70	75	0.933
Montgomery County PA	778,452	62	23	<b>2.696*</b>
Montgomery County MD	953,685	<b>19*</b>	1	<b>NA</b>

- Three school districts in Montgomery County PA contain at least one municipality in another county; counting these additional munis brings the muni/district ratio close to 3:1.
- Only one in six residents of Montgomery County MD lives in an incorporated municipality.

# North Penn School District, Lansdale PA

	2008 population
<b>North Penn School District:</b>	<b>96,494</b>
Hatfield borough	2,836
Hatfield township	17,134
Lansdale borough	15,526
Montgomery township	24,132
North Wales borough	3,226
Towamencin township	17,618
Upper Gwynedd township	16,022



	2008 population
<b>3 Bergen regional districts:</b>	<b>95,051</b>

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PASCACK VALLEY REGIONAL (9-12)	32,975
Hillsdale borough	9,848
Montvale borough	7,566
River Vale township	9,620
Woodcliff Lake borough	5,941

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RAMAPO-INDIAN HILL REGIONAL (9-12)	41,829
Franklin Lakes borough	11,619
Oakland borough	13,312
Wyckoff township	16,898

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WESTWOOD REGIONAL (K-12)	20,247
Washington township	9,548
Westwood borough	10,699



# Bergen County school system much more fragmented

	2008 population	number of municipalities	number of school districts
North Penn School District	96,494	7	1
3 Bergen regional districts	95,051	9	10

# Bergen County school system much more fragmented

	2008 population	number of municipalities	number of school districts
North Penn School District	96,494	7	1
3 Bergen regional districts	95,051	9	10
<b>Woodbridge township</b>	<b>97,963</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>



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