

**TOWNSHIP OF VERONA  
COUNTY OF ESSEX, STATE OF NEW JERSEY**

**RESOLUTION No. 2026-110**

A motion was made by Councilwoman McGrath; seconded by Councilman Roman that the following resolution be adopted:

**CALLING FOR THE RESTORATION OF ENERGY TAX RECEIPTS  
AND INCREASED MUNICIPAL AID TO PROVIDE  
REAL PROPERTY TAX RELIEF**

**WHEREAS**, taxes on gas and electric utilities were originally collected by the host municipalities to be used for local purposes and to compensate the public for the use of their rights of way; and

**WHEREAS**, when the State made itself the collection agent for these taxes, it promised to dedicate the proceeds to municipal property tax relief; since, just as municipalities collect property taxes for the benefit of school districts, counties and other entities, the State is supposed to collect Energy Taxes for the benefit of municipal governments; and

**WHEREAS**, under various administrations through the years, the State budget has diverted funding from Energy Taxes to fund State programs; and instead of being spent on local programs and services and used to offset property taxes, the money has been spent as successive Legislatures and Administrations have seen fit; and

**WHEREAS**, while the State may need to have the right to override the statutory dedication of these revenues to local governments, in order to deal with emergencies and crises that may occur; current State policymakers should not exercise that right automatically; and

**WHEREAS**, while that right should be the exception, it has become the rule; and

**WHEREAS**, by keeping flat funding of the appropriation for CMPTRA year-over-year, State Budget makers have been able to continue collecting Energy Taxes, while keeping additional revenue that should have been returned to provide property tax relief; and

**WHEREAS**, in SFY 2023, the State did provide some much-needed relief in the allocation of \$75 million of new funds identified as the Municipal Relief Fund; and

**WHEREAS**, in SFY 2024, the State allocated \$150 million in Municipal Relief Funds, however, in SFY 2025 and, as proposed in SFY2026, no allocation will exist; and

**WHEREAS**, in the proposed SFY budget is \$60.7 billion, but Energy Tax Receipt funding is remaining flat at \$1.45 billion, a level that has remained largely unchanged despite inflation and rising operational costs; and

**WHEREAS**, the cumulative impact of years of flat funding and underfunding has left many municipalities with serious needs and burdensome property taxes; and

**WHEREAS**, local elected officials are in the best position to decide the best use of these resources that were always intended to fund local programs and services.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Township Council of the Township of Verona in the County of Essex, New Jersey hereby calls for the immediate restoration of funding of Energy Taxes consistent with the State's original commitments; increase formula based municipal aid to reflect inflation and rising service costs; and reestablish a fair and reliable fiscal partnership between the State and local governments.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that a copy of this Resolution is forwarded to Senator Corrado, Assemblymember Barlas, Assemblymember DePhillips, the Commissioner of the Department of Community Affairs Jacquelyn Suárez, the State Treasurer Aaron Binder, the Lieutenant Governor Dale Caldwell, the Governor of the State of New Jersey Mikie Sherrill, and the New Jersey State League of Municipalities

**ROLL CALL:**

**AYES:** McGrath, Roman, McEvoy, Tamburro

**NAYS:**

**ABSTAIN:** Holland

**THIS IS TO CERTIFY THAT THE FOREGOING IS A TRUE AND EXACT COPY OF A RESOLUTION ADOPTED BY THE TOWNSHIP COUNCIL OF THE TOWNSHIP OF VERONA AT A REGULAR MEETING HELD ON MAY 4, 2026.**

  
JENNIFER KIERNAN, RMC, CMC  
MUNICIPAL CLERK

