Property Tax Relief First: NJ Poll

NJ voters show less support for Christie's income tax cut.

By Catherine Brown | Tuesday, Feb 21, 2012 | Updated 12:48 PM EST

There's no debate about the tough fiscal choices facing the NJ budget to be unveiled on Tuesday by Gov. Chris Christie.

He's expected to propose a $30 billion budget that could include the first phase of an income tax cut that will cost $150 million.

A new poll shows 52 percent of NJ voters support the governor's plan for a 10 percent income tax cut. But 76 percent would favor a plan to reduce property taxes first.

A new Rutgers-Eagleton Poll also shows voters anticipate a median savings of nearly $750 with an income tax cut of 10 percent. The actual savings would be just under $100 per year for a taxpayer making $50,000 and about $275 for those making $100,000.

The poll also shows strong partisan differences in support for an income tax cut -- 72 percent of Republican voters want it, while only 38 percent of Democrats offer support.

Some Democrats complain the cut disproportionately benefits the wealthy. But Christie could add a request to revive the earned income tax cut that benefits poor working families to help blunt that criticism.

The survey questioned 914 registered voters statewide from Feb. 9-11 and has a margin of error of plus or minus 3.3 percent.

See the complete poll results here.

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