

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

RESOLUTION NO. 2019-38

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

**SUPPORT OF PATH TO PROGRESS RECOMMENDATIONS MADE BY
NEW JERSEY ECONOMIC AND FISCAL POLICY WORKGROUP**

WHEREAS, New Jersey faces a daunting fiscal crisis; and

WHEREAS, for two decades, while county and municipal governments made the proper pension payments, New Jersey governors from both parties severely underfunded the pension system for teachers and State government workers; and

WHEREAS, while local government pension systems are funded at the national average, the State's unfunded liability for pensions and retiree health benefits now tops \$150 billion – four times the size of the State budget; and

WHEREAS, actuaries project the State will have to increase its pension contribution from \$3.2 billion in this year's budget to \$6.7 billion to reach the Actuarially Required Contribution (ARC) by FY 2023; and

WHEREAS, health care costs continue to rise, and New Jersey and its local governments cannot sustain the unparalleled platinum-level benefits that they provided to their employees; and

WHEREAS, municipalities cannot address other major costs drivers, such as career-end sick leave payouts in excess of \$100,000, without relief from State government; and

WHEREAS, the State must bring pension and health care costs under control before they crowd out all other important spending needs, such as reinvestment in NJ Transit, making higher education more affordable and properly funding state aid to school districts to hold down property taxes.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Township Council of the Township of Verona expresses its support for the recommendations of the Path to Progress report issued by the New Jersey Economic and Fiscal Policy Workgroup; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution is forwarded to Assemblywoman BettyLou DeCroce, Assemblyman Jay Weber, Senator Joseph Pennacchio, Senate President Sweeney, Assembly Speaker Coughlin, Senator Paul Sarlo, Senator Steve Oroho, Assembly Majority Leader Greenwald, Assemblywoman Eliana Pintor-Marin, Senator Tony Bucco, Senator Troy Singleton, Senator Dawn Addiego, the Governor of the State of New Jersey, the new Jersey Association of Counties, and the New Jersey State League of Municipalities.

ROLL CALL:

AYES: Giblin, McEvoy, Roman, Nochimson, Ryan

NAYS:

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 THE REGULAR MEETING HELD ON JANUARY 7, 2019.


JENNIFER KIERNAN
MUNICIPAL CLERK

