



Gov. Christie to speak at D.C. think tank, discuss N.J. budget

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By **Salvador Rizzo/Statehouse Bureau**

TRENTON — Gov. Chris Christie will take his economic message to Washington on Monday, shifting gears from the television networks to the think-tank circuit.

Christie will discuss jobs, taxes and the budget with experts at the Brookings Institution, the think tank announced today. The event will be streamed live on the **Brookings website**.

The interview at one of the most influential think tanks in the country will follow a week of **post-budget appearances** on ABC, CNBC and Fox News.

After months of trading blows with the Democratic-controlled Legislature, Christie signed **a \$31.7 billion budget last week**, 6.7 percent larger than the one he approved last year.

But he didn't get a bill to cut taxes, despite his efforts. Democrats said they first need to see a speedier economic recovery in the next six months.

At Brookings, Christie will also "outline his bipartisan efforts and accomplishments to restore fiscal integrity and accountability to state and local government."

The Republican governor has championed his record of compromising with Democrats in recent months, saying Washington could learn from New Jersey. **In a speech to state lawmakers on Monday**, he drove that point home again while urging Democrats to pass a tax cut.

"Our state is a better place because of what we have done and our people can feel it," Christie said. "Let's not stop now. We know that we have the means after the years of shared sacrifice to give the people of New Jersey relief."

Democrats did not budge from their position. Assembly Majority Leader Lou Greenwald (D-Camden) said Monday that **Christie's rhetoric didn't match the reality of Trenton politics**.

"The governor likes to talk about bipartisanship when he's out of the state," Greenwald said. "(But) he has not yet once had a single meeting with any of the members of the budget team in his first three years as governor."

Christie gave a speech to the Cato Institute in May and the American Enterprise Institute last year