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Fun with numbers: See how your town gets shafted on state aid

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As I've noted on numerous occasions, Chris Christie came into office inheriting a formula for state aid that looted the suburban homeowners who elected him and sent the money to the urban Democratic machines.

Christie got right down to business and did something about that:

He made it worse.

Just how bad can be seen in the chart below put together by Doug Wicks of Basking Ridge.



Chris Christie: Biting the hand that feeds him.

The Star-Ledger

Doug got a hold of figures for how much income tax is paid by the residents of each town. That's not easy to do. The state doesn't seem to want us taxpayers reflecting too deeply on this sort of thing.

He then compared the amount going out to the amount coming back in state school aid, which is the primary form of property-tax relief in New Jersey.

That's especially true after Christie turned the rebate system into a welfare system. Originally the rebates went to all taxpayers, but over the years governors started capping the rebates at a certain income level. In Christie's case, the cap is at \$75,000 yearly for regular working families. That's just low enough to insure that that money flows mainly to Democrats as well.

But the real problem is that there is now progressivity on both sides of the equation. Suburban taxpayers may pay 10 or 20 times as much into the property-tax relief fund (which consists of the entire income tax and half a cent of the sales tax) as urban taxpayers. And then they get out perhaps 50 times less in state aid.

That leads to what you see below. Many suburban taxpayers get back essentially zero on their income taxes. The sole exception in their towns is the piddling amounts that go to seniors and the disabled in the towns in the form of rebates. But that does you no good if you're struggling to raise a family.

Preemptive dimwit alert: Every time I comment on this, some dimwit replies that changing the formula to give a fair share to the suburbs would be "redistributionist." Don't be that dimwit. It's the current system that's redistributionist. If the Republicans don't have the courage to say their towns should get school aid at least equal to the cities, then they should just give up and become Democrats

Or run for president.

The spreadsheet didn't translate directly into this format from the spreadsheet, so the category headings are a bit off. Ignore the first category. That's just the state code for the school district. The second category is the amount of state aid going to the district, which may include more than one town. The third category is the amount of state income tax going to Trenton. The fourth is

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the percentage of tax returned as aid.

Notice all those towns getting zero back? Most voted solidly Republican.

Here are the data.

ALLENDALE BORO	40	0	16,953,264	0%
ALPINE BORO	80	0	19,003,942	0%
CARLSTADT BORO	740	0	3,061,372	0%
CLOSTER BORO	930	0	11,577,096	0%
DEMAREST BORO	1070	0	15,155,913	0%
EMERSON BORO	1360	0	6,859,937	0%
GLEN ROCK BORO	1760	0	17,348,227	0%
NORTHVALE BORO	3730	0	2,476,659	0%
OAKLAND BORO	3760	0	14,487,949	0%
OLD TAPPAN BORO	3850	0	17,624,446	0%
PARK RIDGE BORO	3940	0	15,540,656	0%
RAMSEY BORO	4310	0	22,335,454	0%
RIDGEWOOD VILLAGE	4390	0	60,728,096	0%
RIVER VALE TWP	4430	0	15,486,807	0%
ROCKLEIGH	4500	0	933,247	0%
SADDLE RIVER BORO	4620	0	44,124,549	0%
TENAFLY BORO	5160	0	45,575,936	0%
TETERBORO	5170	0	29,135	0%
UPPER SADDLE RIVER BORO	5330	0	28,840,470	0%
WOODCLIFF LAKE BORO	5880	0	20,964,966	0%
WYCKOFF TWP	5920	0	45,046,789	0%
HADDONFIELD	1900	0	5,471,735	0%
AVALON BORO	170	0	3,975,034	0%
STONE HARBOR BORO	5060	0	1,956,441	0%
CALDWELL-WEST CALDWELL	660	0	12,723,987	0%
ESSEX FELLS BORO	1400	0	14,833,989	0%
GLEN RIDGE BORO	1750	0	11,512,391	0%
LIVINGSTON TWP	2730	0	106,284,154	0%
MILLBURN TWP	3190	0	118,584,963	0%
NORTH CALDWELL BORO	3630	0	25,835,110	0%
SECAUCUS TOWN	4730	0	9,960,726	0%
STOCKTON BORO	5050	0	497,108	0%
CRANBURY TWP	970	0	13,779,378	0%
METUCHEN BORO	3120	0	15,168,475	0%
DEAL BORO	1000	0	5,492,420	0%
LITTLE SILVER BORO	2720	0	17,598,079	0%
MANASQUAN BORO	2930	0	6,819,075	0%
RUMSON-FAIR HAVEN REG	4580	0	3,057,458	0%
SEA GIRT BORO	4690	0	8,335,151	0%
SPRING LAKE BORO	4980	0	14,033,787	0%
WEST LONG BRANCH BORO	5640	0	7,495,693	0%
HARDING TOWNSHIP	2010	0	49,873,585	0%
MADISON BORO	2870	0	31,374,525	0%
MENDHAM BORO	3090	0	30,949,879	0%
MOUNTAIN LAKES BORO	3460	0	23,766,459	0%
BAY HEAD BORO	210	0	2,602,388	0%
BEACH HAVEN BORO	230	0	1,364,015	0%
BERKELEY HEIGHTS TWP	310	0	21,636,894	0%
NEW PROVIDENCE BORO	3560	0	17,337,728	0%
SPRINGFIELD TWP	5000	0	26,147,465	0%
SUMMIT CITY	5090	0	89,168,309	0%
MENDHAM TWP	3100	2,113	38,088,940	0%
RUMSON BORO	4570	3,434	49,753,093	0%
PARAMUS BORO	3930	7,879	28,749,591	0%
ENGLEWOOD CLIFFS BORO	1380	6,218	19,499,742	0%
HARRINGTON PARK BORO	2050	3,731	6,292,976	0%
FRANKLIN LAKES BORO	1580	44,398	68,608,178	0%
MONTVILLE TWP	3340	31,267	48,248,582	0%
HAWORTH BORO	2090	5,774	6,689,750	0%
FAIRFIELD TWP	1465	13,001	9,550,659	0%
FLORHAM PARK BORO	1530	46,581	30,012,318	0%
WARREN TWP	5470	139,398	67,718,946	0%
TOTOWA BORO	5200	29,330	13,687,743	0%
MONMOUTH BEACH BORO	3250	22,190	9,391,633	0%
CRESSKILL BORO	990	63,066	25,049,349	0%
ORADELL BORO	3870	38,169	12,930,465	0%
RIVER EDGE BORO	4410	27,842	8,950,778	0%
CEDAR GROVE TWP	760	62,853	17,831,604	0%
ATLANTIC HIGHLANDS BORO	130	25,740	6,504,349	0%
VERONA BORO	5370	70,811	17,372,118	0%
MOUNTAINSIDE BORO	3470	58,067	13,314,837	0%
FAIR HAVEN BORO	1440	64,314	13,963,633	0%
SCH DIST OF THE CHATHAMS	785	408,719	86,780,643	0%
BRIELLE BORO	560	92,772	18,405,712	1%
WATCHUNG BORO	5540	106,031	20,979,841	1%
WESTFIELD TOWN	5730	448,345	79,439,796	1%

HO HO KUS BORO	2200	101,789	17,983,835	1%
ROSELAND BORO	4530	63,368	10,774,358	1%
SHREWSBURY BORO	4770	38,908	6,599,812	1%
TEWKSBURY TWP	5180	165,221	27,676,404	1%
MONROE TWP	3290	238,696	37,963,856	1%
MONTVALE BORO	3330	82,664	12,942,067	1%
CLARK TWP	850	88,988	13,836,875	1%
NORTH HALEDON BORO	3640	120,364	16,373,323	1%
HOLMDEL TWP	2230	396,303	44,256,927	1%
BOONTON TWP	460	131,514	14,152,843	1%
COLTS NECK TWP	945	417,855	44,039,874	1%
FORT LEE BORO	1550	385,683	40,499,447	1%
BERNARDS TWP	350	847,891	86,167,160	1%
EAST HANOVER TWP	1190	165,140	13,909,813	1%
MIDLAND PARK BORO	3170	73,411	6,107,000	1%
WEST ESSEX REGIONAL	5630	178,991	14,443,054	1%
CHESTER TWP	820	452,272	36,227,687	1%
HANOVER TWP	2000	221,147	16,926,713	1%
CLINTON TWP	920	336,237	23,735,691	1%
FRANKLIN TWP	1600	86,488	5,918,034	1%
LITTLE FALLS TWP	2700	173,689	11,881,368	1%
MAHWAH TWP	2900	735,363	46,090,861	2%
CHESTERFIELD TWP	830	62,901	3,873,111	2%
NORWOOD BORO	3740	166,422	9,945,513	2%
OCEAN CITY	3780	248,391	14,704,458	2%
LONG HILL TWP	4000	244,088	14,396,658	2%
SCOTCH PLAINS-FANWOOD REG	4670	708,590	41,349,873	2%
WALDWICK BORO	5410	130,028	7,531,751	2%
READINGTON TWP	4350	509,929	29,145,786	2%
WEST WILDWOOD	5700	5,539	300,256	2%
DENVILLE TWP	1090	442,117	23,014,638	2%
KINNELON BORO	2460	557,186	28,790,545	2%
OCEANPORT BORO	3830	170,553	8,606,076	2%
MOORESTOWN TWP	3360	1,501,159	72,085,365	2%
LAMBERTVILLE CITY	2530	96,901	4,539,431	2%
INTERLAKEN	2320	37,520	1,731,794	2%
MEDFORD LAKES BORO	3070	897,594	41,235,348	2%
MARGATE CITY	3020	252,824	11,303,777	2%
PARSIPPANY-TROY HILLS TWP	3950	1,068,183	46,150,692	2%
AVON BORO	180	64,061	2,613,824	2%
HILLSDALE BORO	2180	286,864	11,623,641	2%
LONGPORT	2780	75,031	2,926,832	3%
RIVERDALE BORO	4440	64,843	2,446,557	3%
ALLENHURST	50	43,879	1,606,541	3%
GREEN BROOK TWP	1810	341,872	12,072,628	3%
BRANCHBURG TWP	510	772,214	25,956,154	3%
LONG BEACH ISLAND	2760	203,330	6,773,675	3%
MONTGOMERY TWP	3320	1,871,805	60,823,870	3%
SPRING LAKE HEIGHTS BORO	4990	116,884	3,759,477	3%
SOUTHERN REGIONAL	4950	485,499	14,495,902	3%
RED BANK REGIONAL	4365	330,983	9,838,284	3%
CRANFORD TWP	980	751,837	22,131,921	3%
LEBANON BORO	2590	36,515	1,007,409	4%
POINT PLEASANT BEACH	4220	170,525	4,621,210	4%
WEST AMWELL TWP	5600	144,286	3,760,289	4%
LAWRENCE TWP	2580	1,708,386	43,056,753	4%
EDGEWATER BORO	1270	388,881	9,349,871	4%
FAIR LAWN BORO	1450	1,095,364	25,995,268	4%
SEA ISLE CITY	4700	139,301	3,293,318	4%
SADDLE BROOK TWP	4610	372,677	8,024,670	5%
LAVALLETTE BORO	2550	97,933	2,102,444	5%
WAYNE TWP	5570	295,796	6,327,211	5%
ISLAND HEIGHTS BORO	2350	85,439	1,740,891	5%
WALL TWP	5420	1,976,991	39,803,989	5%
MONTCLAIR TOWN	3310	3,549,764	71,238,168	5%
MANSFIELD TWP	2960	325,102	6,309,948	5%
HASBROUCK HEIGHTS BORO	2080	415,068	8,024,796	5%
BOONTON TOWN	450	462,132	8,902,981	5%
WESTWOOD REGIONAL	5755	451,079	8,575,951	5%
UNION TWP	5270	364,854	6,714,402	5%
SOUTH HACKENSACK TWP	4870	71,530	1,314,515	5%
ROCKAWAY TWP	4490	1,387,892	24,819,444	6%
ROCHELLE PARK TWP	4470	187,770	3,307,633	6%
PEQUANNOCK TWP	4080	1,153,148	20,108,385	6%