

## OPINION: CHRISTIE AND SWEENEY ACT OUT THEIR PARTS, AS EXPECTED

CARL GOLDEN | JUNE 24, 2014

The governor and the Senate president come away from their budget blowout with exactly what they wanted

When the Earth ceases its trembling in the confrontation over the state budgets, the chief protagonists -- Gov. Chris Christie and Senate President Steve Sweeney -- will come away from their stare-down having achieved their predetermined goals.

Christie, by fulfilling his promise to veto any tax increases, will be able to continue to point to his record of blocking any rise in broad-based taxes -- income, sales, corporate, or gasoline. A laundry list of fee increases and another delay in the homestead rebate program won't figure into his political equation.

Carl Golden

year when the shortfall reached \$800 million and threatened to topple the budget into deficit unless covered by the end of June.