

OPINION: IN BATTLE WITH NORCROSS, MURPHY SEIZES MORAL HIGH GROUND

CARL GOLDEN | JUNE 28, 2019

Rookie governor has positioned himself in faceoff with powerbroker as the champion of a fair and open government, guided by integrity



In his 19 months as governor, Phil Murphy has suffered some notable failures: legalization of recreational marijuana, tax increases on incomes in excess of \$1 million, disclosure of donors to so-called "dark money" organizations, free tuition at county colleges, among others.

However, in the burgeoning scandal involving billions of dollars in tax incentives awarded by the Economic Development Authority, Murphy has clearly seized and held the moral high ground.

With each revelation of corner-cutting, ignoring regulations and caving to political influence in approving the incentives, Murphy is solidly on the side of the angels, using the findings of a task force he appointed to portray an agency operating with little or no oversight and accountability while favoring private and politically-connected interests.

Murphy has taken on the bromM M

George Norcross has denied any misbehavior, arguing that the tax incentives were granted in

