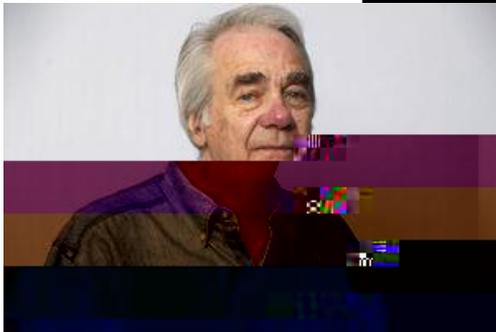


Opinion: State Supreme Court ruling is a win for Murphy 'Moral Authority'

By Carl Golden | August 15, 2017 | NJ.com

For the opposition, the ruling is a win for Murphy. History shows why.



Carl Golden

the ruling is a win for Murphy. History shows why. The state Supreme Court ruling upholding the governor's administration's proposal to borrow nearly \$1 billion to rescue the state budget from the brink of collapse is a win for Murphy.

In legal challenges to executive action, the courts have more often ruled in favor of the executive branch. The constitutional restraints on a governor are less than rigid and often tilted in favor of far-reaching action particularly in addressing an emergency.

The courts have tilted the balance in favor of the executive branch more often than not.

seven Supreme Court justices six served either in high level positions in the governor's office or in Cabinet posts. Many of their predecessors possessed similar backgrounds.

They were in many instances wielders or co-wielders of the constitutional powers and developed a strong understanding and appreciation for executive-branch authority. They brought those qualities to their service on the bench.

No vindication of a biased court

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The history of executive authority is not confined solely to fiscal matters though.

The history

In the mid-70s for instance Gov. Brendan Byrne affixed his signature to an executive order that placed nearly 1 million acres of the hilly region c

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