

## WASHINGTON

# Voters say Trump's plan to kill property tax deduction is a bad idea

**Jonathan D. Salant**  
For Times of Trenton

New Jersey officials would have plenty of support as they seek to block President Donald Trump's effort to end the federal deduction for state and local taxes.

In a Quinnipiac University Poll released Thursday, 57 percent said Trump's plan to eliminate that tax deduction and all others except those for mortgage interest and charitable donation was a bad idea.

Just 35 percent applauded his proposal.

The loss of the state and local tax deduction would be especially tough on New Jersey residents, who pay the highest effective property tax rate at 2.31 percent, according to an ATTOM Data Solutions study published by RealtyTrac.com.

Trump's tax plan, which included several major tax breaks for wealthy Americans such as himself, was seen as hurting the country by 49 percent of those polled. Just 29 percent said it would help the nation.

**Unknown is how Trump personally would benefit from his tax plan since he has refused to release his income tax returns, as he promised to do before winning the presidency and as how every president before him has done for 40 years.**

Voters disapproved of the plan by 52 percent to 30 percent, and 57 percent said it would increase the federal deficit, as opposed to 27 percent who said it wouldn't.

More than six in 10 voters polled, 63 percent, said Trump's proposal would help wealthy individuals, while just 31 percent said the middle class or lower-income taxpayers would benefit.

Almost one-third, 31 percent, said the plan would hurt them while only two in 10, 20 percent, said they would be helped. Another 42 percent said the proposal would have no impact on them.

During the campaign, Trump proposed a tax-cutting plan giving most of its benefits to the richest 1 percent of Americans and increasing the federal defi-

cit by trillions of dollars, according to independent analyses.

The state and local tax deduction is estimated to cost the U.S. treasury an estimated \$63.3 billion in 2018, the ninth largest tax expenditure, according to the Tax Policy Center, a Washington-based research organization jointly operated by the Urban Institute and Brookings Institution.

Eliminating the deduction would increase the average annual tax bill for a New Jersey resident by more than \$3,500, according to the Tax Policy Center.

More than four in 10 New Jersey taxpayers itemized rather than took the standard deduction on their 2014 federal returns, behind only Maryland and Connecticut, according to the Tax Foundation, a research group in Washington.

The tax deduction was worth 8.7 percent of the state's adjusted gross income, second only to New York.

Unknown is how Trump personally would benefit from his tax plan since he has refused to release his income tax returns, as he promised to do before winning the presidency and as how every president before him has done for 40 years.

More than two-thirds of U.S. voters, 69 percent, said Trump should release them, with just over one-quarter, 26 percent, disagreeing.

Protesters gathered in Newark; Washington, D.C.; and other cities on April 15 to demand that Trump make his returns public.

Rep. Bill Pascrell Jr. (D-9th Dist.), has tried to get the House Ways and Means Committee he sits on to

request the returns, as it can do under a 1924 law enacted in response to the Teapot Dome scandal.

Pascrell has said that the returns would show whether Trump had any financial ties to Russia, which U.S. intelligence agencies said intervened in the presidential election to help him get elected.

Trump has said he will release his returns once they are no longer being audited.

The poll of 1,078 voters was conducted May 4-9, and had a margin of error of 3 percentage points.

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## HAMILTON

## Man had 100 bags of heroin in his car, police say

An Ocean County man pulled over for a traffic violation was driving while intoxicated and had 100 bags of heroin, State Police said.

Dario Jefferson, 28, of Jackson, was eastbound in Interstate 195 when Trooper Keith Ashley pulled him over shortly before 3 p.m. Monday, at milepost 3.1 in

## HAMILTON

The heroin is worth \$300, the state police said.

Jefferson is charged with possession of heroin, being under the influence and drunken driving, the State Police said.

He was released pending a court appearance. Jefferson has a 2012 criminal conviction for fraud related to an attempt to illegally obtain oxycodone through a fake prescription, court records show.

— Kevin Shea

## WILLINGBORO TWP.

## Cops: Man found in home charged with burglary

A man who allegedly entered a vacant home through an unsecured window was arrested while squatting there Thursday, police said.

Quran Webb-Kittreles, 20, of Delanco Township, faces charges of burglary and possession of less than 50 grams of marijuana, Will-

ingboro Township police said in a release.

Just before 2:30 p.m., police responded to a report of a person in the empty Petunia Lane home. Upon arriving, officers found Webb-Kittreles squatting in the house, police said.

He was taken to the Burlington County Jail.

— Amanda Hoover



ULTIMATE MEDIA AND ZEE TV PRESENT  
THE ASIAN AMERICAN HERITAGE FESTIVAL



Ultimate Media and Zee TV present the Asian American Heritage Festival on May 21st 2017 at the NJ Expo and Convention Center in Edison, NJ. The Festival commemorates the Asian American Heritage Month of May in the US. This is a one of its kind event in this part of the country and its goal is to bring the diverse cultures and proud heritage of the Asian American diaspora under one roof. The 2016 edition of the Festival had over 5000 people in attendance, with 20 corporate sponsors and 80 vendors. In addition, over 600 students from various dance and performing academies put together a variety of stunning and dramatic dance performances as part of the cultural showcase of the Festival.



Taapsee Pannu - Celebrity Guest at Asian American Heritage Festival 2017

This is truly a Lifestyle event, because it addresses every aspect of an Asian family's life in the US and has something at offer for every member of the family. Ultimate Media has created a unique forum that combines the three things that appeals to this population segment – entertainment, food and shopping.

Over 600 students from 25 dance and performing academies from all around NJ put up breathtaking performances that cover

Indian, Chinese, Filipino, Korean and Thai traditional dance forms. This year, the Festival will be supported by 20 corporate sponsors and over 100 exhibitors. Attendees enjoy a day filled with shopping, entertainment and dining in a festive and relaxed environment. The highlight of the Festival will be the presence of Ms. Taapsee Pannu – Bollywood's new rising star who has gained critical acclaim for her hard hitting roles in films like Pink, Baby and Naam Shabana. Ms.Pannu has rapidly ascended to become one of the leading spokespersons for empowerment of women in India.

“Our goal was to create a unique experience for the members of the Asian American community, our corporate client and vendor partners,” said Ms. Mamta Narula, CEO, Ultimate Media. “While there are several festivals and events targeted at individual segments of this vast community, for the first time, we are putting together an event of this scale and size that caters to the entire Asian American population. It's heartening to see a great response from the community and our vendor and sponsor partners for the 2017 Festival, which provides the motivation to put up an even bigger and better event this year.”

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