



of public pension funds, and the year-long saga of closing access lanes to the George Washington Bridge.

Pressure will mount for decisive action on all these issues, as well as developing a balanced budget with more realistic revenue projections to avert the all-too-familiar last minute scramble to cut spending and divert money from other programs to head off a deficit, and confronting the perennial demand for greater control over local property taxes.

A few years ago, Christie learned the hard way the perils of being an absentee governor when a devastating snowstorm hit the state while he was vacationing in Florida and refused to return because he didn't want to disappoint his family.

He didn't make the same mistake twice. When Hurricane Sandy laid unprecedented waste to huge chunks of the state, Christie seemingly was everywhere, a ubiquitous presence on television surrounded by emergency personnel, comforting victims of the storm, and exuding a calming



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