

## **For Christie, 2011 holds promise and peril**

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**Carl Golden/NJ Voices**

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2010 will go down in New Jersey as the Year of the Governor. Gov. Chris Christie, that is.

Christie stood astride state government, controlling the political environment and the public policy agenda in a fashion rarely seen.

He didn't rack up very many style points for diplomacy or show any sign of letting up in his rhetorical saloon brawl with the leadership of public employee unions and the New Jersey Education Association. However, his public support didn't suffer and he captured and held the imagination of taxpayers with his unrelenting drive



They cannot afford to absorb another embarrassing political hit like the one it took when --- after announcing it with a great fanfare at a news conference --- it was forced to scrap its proposal for changes in the binding arbitration system to settle public employee contract disputes because they couldn't secure sufficient support for it in their own party.

Christie won't be on the ballot in 2011, but for him it w