Opinion: High taxes, high costs a e endemic to NJ. Can Mu phy find a cu e?

CARL OL EN

arl Gol n

His r p at r f r nc s to affor ability," th political buzzwor of 2022, in icat it will b th thrust of his m ssag .

Add essing NJ's high cost of living

It's mor pr cis finition an th path towar achi ving it ar rath r vagu, but Murphy's pr s ntation may fill in som of th blanks or, at th v ry l ast, provi sugg stions to a r ss growing complaints that th high cost of living has l to an xo us whil at th sam tim pr s nting a ma or obstacl to thos who wish to r main an mak th ir way up th conomic la r.

In a stat in which the mean house hole income is slightly more than \$5,000, the average cost of a home is \$440,000 and the average property tax now at \$9,2–4, affore ability appears hop 1 ssly out of reach for many.

En rgy costs an auto insuranc pr miums — particularly with an un rag riv r in th family — a to th v ry ay bur n of n c ssary xp ns s.

It is on of the most xp nsive states in the nation in which to live an eproperty taxes remain the principal culprit.

In his post- I ction comm nts, Murphy cr it his a ministration for hol ing th av rag prop rty-tax incr as last y ar to 1.9% although in out-of-pock t ollars it r mains th high st in th nation.

In a subs qu nt burst of I ction uphoria, h ass rt h wasn't satisfi with m r ly bragging about slowing th rat of incr as but int n to work towar prop rty-tax r uctions — a goal that has lu all his pr c ssors.

With about 53% of prop rty-tax r v nu ir ct to public ucation, gov rnors hav r li almost xclusiv ly on annual bu g t incr as s in stat ai as th most ir ct way to x rt som | v | of control on th local tax | vy. Murphy has follow that patt