

# Sandy recovery expected to dominate of the State

By David Levine Staff writer | Posted: Tuesday, January 8, 2013 5:50 am

TRENTON — Gov. Chris Christie will deliver his State of the State speech Tuesday afternoon, and New Jersey's recovery from Superstorm Sandy is expected to dominate his discourse.

The Republican governor, who is up for re-election this year along with all 120 seats in the New Jersey Legislature, is scheduled to speak at 2 p.m. in the Assembly chambers. During interviews published last weekend, Christie said the speech would be focused on Sandy, which would likely command his attention for the next year or longer.

But Democrats in control of the Legislature say other issues deserve attention, too, notably the state's 9.6 percent unemployment rate.

During a Statehos5r(d o)(h)-.7(e)hi1(o)10..8(h)1(w-1d3y)- c1d3yuh1(o)10..8(h)M.7(i) rnrs5r(d y)- c24(e)1(d)nted32865240(17)8h7(10\$1)y1drew

Christie has yet to comment publicly on that possibility and has insisted that he hasn't abandoned the tax cut proposal.

Douglas said he didn't expect Christie to address the budget or tax cut in detail.

"He may mention it in passing simply because it was his trademark, but I doubt he'll spend a lot of time on it," he said.

Ditto for education reform and property taxes, which have been big issues during Christie's first three years. Douglas said he expects both will be largely overshadowed by Sandy in the governor's speech.

He said the Sandy focus was appropriate given the widespread devastation the storm caused.

"Frankly, that's where his priorities should be," Douglas said. "Most people don't care about the inside politics in Trenton. They're trying to get their damaged homes back in order."

*The Associated Press contributed to this story.*