

Opinion: State Supreme Court ruling is a win for Murphy 'Miserable Failure'

ARL GOLDEN | AUGUST 15, 2017, BUDGET

For the opposition, the ruling is a win. History shows why.



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the governor deliberately so — and established New Jersey's chief executive as arguably the most powerful in the nation.

In legal challenges to executive action, the courts have more often ruled in favor of the executive. That the constitutional restraints on a governor are less than rigid and that the courts have often ruled in favor of far-reaching action particularly in addressing an emergency.

The courts have tilted the balance of power between the executive branch and the legislature.

seven Supreme Court justices six served either in high level positions in the governor's office or in Cabinet posts. Many of their predecessors possessed similar backgrounds.

They were in many instances wielders or co-wielders of the constitutional powers and developed a strong understanding and appreciation for executive-branch authority. They brought those qualities to their service on the bench.

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The history of executive authority is not confined solely to fiscal matters though.

The history

In the mid-70s for instance Gov. Brendan Byrne affixed his signature to an executive order that placed nearly 1 million acres of the hilly region of the state under state control.

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