



NJ Gubernatorial Race 2017: Democratic Candidates

	Phil Murphy	John Wisniewski	Raymond Lesniak	Jim Johnson
Economy	<p>As governor, Phil will focus on New Jersey's core advantages to attract businesses, empower workers, and grow the economy by growing the middle class. Critical investments have been put off for too long by governors whose only interest has been the next election. Phil Murphy will draw on his diverse experiences in the business, non-profit, and public sectors to create a dynamic and innovative 21st century economy that works for all New Jerseyans.</p> <p>Before there was Silicon Valley, there was New Jersey. Phil will restore our place as a</p>	<p>Has news article posted: Speaking before the New Jersey Policy Perspective conference in New Brunswick, gubernatorial contender John Wisniewski laid out a bold, progressive agenda to rebuild New Jersey's middle-class. Declaring that New Jersey's next governor "will inherit a rigged economy where most of the new wealth goes to the top 1%," Wisniewski advocated an immediate increase in the state's minimum wage to \$15 per hour, fully funding the School Funding Reform Act (SFRA) and renewed his call for tuition-free college and university for families earning less than \$125,000. "Our middle class workers are also struggling under the strain of rising</p>	<p>Taxes are too high and housing is not affordable for many New Jersey residents. Government must be restructured and reformed to cut unnecessary expenses and the public must be given a voice and a vote to oversee spending by state agencies like the Port Authority and NJTRANSIT which have wasted billions of tax and toll dollars through political maneuvers without scrutiny by the public.</p> <p>I will reduce property taxes for 443,300 seniors and citizens with disabilities by \$1000 and by \$800 for 209,500 homeowners earning up to \$75,000, by doubling the state</p>	<p>New Jersey deserves an economy that works for everyone – not just a privileged few. Jim is committed to ensuring economic progress is shared and felt by all, and that it is sustainable for our children and their children. This means investing in our infrastructure, supporting innovation and improving our schools and job training programs.</p>

	<p>leader in the innovation economy by:</p> <p>Rebuilding our cities through critical investments in transportation infrastructure to take full advantage of our state’s geography to attract workers and get new advancements to market;</p> <p>Re-investing in our institutions of higher education and community colleges to make them affordable;</p> <p>Providing student loan relief for STEM employees and incentivizing employer matches;</p> <p>Developing a STEM-oriented K-12 curriculum and expanding alternative pathways to success, including apprenticeship programs and vocational training; and</p> <p>Expanding small business incubators to incentivize new businesses to start here in New Jersey.</p>	<p>property taxes — the fastest way to provide property tax relief in New Jersey is to fully fund our public schools,” he said.</p> <p>Citing rising health care costs as another financial impediment for middle class families, Wisniewski advocated for single-payer healthcare, proclaiming that, “healthcare must be a right, not a luxury for the wealthy.</p> <p>On the need for job creation, Wisniewski championed transitioning to a clean energy economy as an incubator for job growth. “We face a climate emergency. Under my administration, our Clean Energy Program will be used as it was intended — to help homeowners, businesses and municipalities transition to clean energy alternatives. New Jersey must expand its investment in solar and wind energy to reduce toxic pollution and create good-paying jobs.”</p> <p>He also focused on the need for statewide public works program to address New Jersey’s aging transportation infrastructure. “These investments must focus on providing easy access to affordable housing and employment hubs with family-supporting jobs,” said Wisniewski. “New Jersey’s current transportation infrastructure under-serves working people —</p>	<p>appropriation for the property tax reduction program from \$322.5 million to \$645 million. This is be accomplished by closing corporate tax loopholes that have been closed in 40 other states, increasing state revenues by \$300 million, along with freeing up additional state revenues (See Cutting Government Spending).</p> <p>For all homeowners, I will direct the Office of the Comptroller to focus on municipal and county unnecessary or inefficient spending to reduce the need for property tax increases.</p> <p>Learn more about Cutting Waste In Government Spending to see how the outrageous cost of road construction can be reduced, how more than a \$billion a year can be saved by cutting education costs that don’t get into the classroom and by cutting corrections costs by eliminating the political patronage in our parole system. Also see how citizen oversight of the Port Authority and NJTRANSIT can save significant tax dollars.</p> <p>CUTTING WASTE IN GOVERNMENT SPENDING Direct The Office Of The Comptroller To Focus Exclusively On County And</p>	
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	<p><u>A Public Bank to Invest Directly in New Jersey -- and for New Jersey</u></p> <p>New Jersey currently deposits billions of dollars in state revenues in Wall Street and foreign banks — which overwhelmingly do not invest in New Jersey’s communities. Phil will take that money out of Wall Street and put it to work for New Jersey — creating jobs and growing the economy — through an innovative new public bank to make critical investments in our state and its people. By using state deposits to finance local investments, the Public Bank will support billions of dollars of critical investments in infrastructure, small businesses, and student loans — saving our residents money and returning all profits to the taxpayers.</p> <p>Raise minimum wage to \$15 an hour, so that those who want to work can support their family and ensure that no one who works full time in 2017 lives in poverty.</p> <p>Guarantee earned sick leave statewide, because no one</p>	<p>particularly people of color — who largely rely on public transportation.”</p>	<p>State Governments’ Expenditures And Make Cost Cutting Recommendations To Reduce Property Taxes.</p> <hr/> <p>Lesniak Willing to Sue Over \$300M Renovation Christie Is Pushing for State House Click here to see how</p> <hr/> <p>A Comptroller of Education Will Save More Than \$1Bil. That Doesn’t Get To The Classroom Click Here To See How</p> <hr/> <p>Giving The Public A Voice & A Vote In Government To Serve As Watchdogs Over Political Dealmaking At The Port Authority & NJTRANSIT Can Save Millions Hundreds of Millions Click here to see how</p> <hr/> <p>Replacing Political Patronage Appointees On The Parole Board Will Save Tens of \$Millions Click Here To See How</p> <hr/> <p>NJ Spends 3-10 Times More Than Other States For Infrastructure Construction. Using Design Build Procurements As Done In 40 Other States Will Save Hundreds of \$Millions Click here to see how</p>	
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	<p>should have to choose between a job and caring for a loved one.</p> <p>Ensure equal pay for equal work.</p> <p>Expand the EITC to 40 percent of federal level, so that working families can lift themselves out of poverty.</p> <p>Create a new child care and caregiver tax credit to alleviate the high cost of caring for a family in NJ.</p> <p>And finally make millionaires and corporations pay their fair share of taxes, so we can make the investments we need in our schools.</p>			
<p>Women's Rights</p>	<p>Women in New Jersey currently earn 79 cents for every dollar earned by a man performing equal work. This is unacceptable in 2016. Phil Murphy supports efforts to close the wage gap by banning</p>	<p>John Wisniewski is a strong supporter of reproductive rights for women, evidenced by his 100% perfect legislative score from Planned Parenthood Action Fund of New Jersey for 2016. As Governor, one of his first acts will</p>	<p>Just two years after Roe v Wade, and one year after I graduated law school, I litigated <i>Ponter v Ponter</i> 135 N.J. Super. 50 (1975) 342 A.2d 574 which established a woman's right to choose to have a sterilization operation.</p>	

	<p>unequal pay for substantially similar work, prohibiting employers from requiring applicants to disclose their current salary, increasing wage transparency, and strengthening legal protections for victims of wage discrimination.</p>	<p>be reversing the \$7.4 million in devastating cuts to family planning services made by Gov. Christie. Additionally, Wisniewski will work with Planned Parenthood to ensure maximum funding and accessibility for family planning throughout NJ. Should the Trump administration and congressional Republicans succeed in their plan to eliminate federal funding of Planned Parenthood, Wisniewski will push for additional state funding for this vital healthcare program. Additionally, his proposed single-payer health care plan will require coverage of contraceptives. John Wisniewski is a longtime advocate for sexual assault survivors. The recent media attention to campus sexual assaults is long-overdue. The idea that one-in-five women and one-in-16 men will be subjected to sexual assault during their undergraduate years is absolutely appalling. New Jersey can and must do better to reduce the number of assaults in colleges and universities. Over the last two decades, Wisniewski has worked to provide support to survivors of sexual assault with additional protections. This includes the Sexual Assault Survivor Protections Act of 2015 which expands the provisions for legal restraining orders to include survivors alleging sexual assault.</p>	<p>Other candidates for governor talk the talk, but I've walked the walk.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Equal Pay For Equal Work -Support For Planned Parenthood -Paid Family Leave -Strong Laws and Support For Victims Of Domestic Violence -Affordable Higher Education -Universal Health Care -Tax Credits for Day Care -Incentives For Women Majority Owned Businesses 	
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<p>LGBTQ Rights</p>	<p>Phil Murphy is a strong and consistent advocate for the equal treatment of the LGBTQ community. As a truly inclusive governor, Phil will expand and enforce anti-discrimination protections for LGBTQ individuals. He will ensure that all residents have equal access to health care, including</p>		<p>I am the proud prime co-sponsor of Marriage Equality and was not deterred when it only received 13 of 24 Democratic votes! I co-authored a book with Senator Weinberg, The Case for Same Sex Marriage and hosted the first same sex marriage in my Elizabeth home for Marsha Shapiro and Louise Walpin.</p>	

	<p>fertility treatment, regardless of sexual orientation. And he will eliminate once and for all the archaic and discriminatory laws that subject LGBTQ residents to second class status – including laws that prevent transgender individuals from designating their own gender on birth and death certificates. Phil strongly believes that no one in New Jersey – from military veterans to small business owners to aspiring parents – should be treated differently because of whom they love.</p>		<p>Lead the fight that stopped Anti-LGBT Ocean County Freeholder Jack Kelly, who tried to deny Ocean County Police Lieutenant Laurel Hester’s dying wish to leave her pension benefits to her domestic partner Stacie Andree, from getting a plush pension padding \$120,000/year patronage position on the New Jersey Parole Board.</p> <p>I was the Senate sponsor of New Jersey’s ban on the abusive “conversion therapy”.</p> <p>I am advocating legislation to: Aggressively fight any federal and state rollbacks of LGBT rights. Ban state paid travel to any state that violates LGBT rights. Support services for gay and transgender boys and girls and men and women.</p>	
<p>Higher Education</p>	<p>New Jersey is an expensive place to raise a child. A typical New Jersey family with two children pays over \$21,000 annually in childcare costs – 24 percent of the average family’s pretax income. Unlike 28 other states, however, New Jersey does not provide a Child and Dependent Care Tax Credit. That needs to change.</p>	<p>Every year in New Jersey, thousands of high school seniors prepare to attend college. However, in an economy that since 2000 has weathered a stock market crash, a sub-prime housing crisis, and a global recession, their ability to make that transition has become increasingly difficult. More and more students each year face the shock of not developing</p>	<p>Students and their families now pay—or borrow—much more than they can afford to get a higher education. New Jersey exports more college students out of state than any other state, a trend which will have grave consequences for New Jersey’s future economy.</p> <p>Overall, New Jersey’s higher education funding fell from its</p>	

	<p>New Jersey is home to 400,000 children five years old or younger in families in which both parents work. Phil Murphy supports giving families a child and dependent care tax credit that would provide immediate relief to these families.</p> <p>One of New Jersey's great assets is its higher education system. Unfortunately, Governor Christie has chronically underinvested in our colleges and universities. As a result, families of students at our public colleges now bear some of the highest costs in the country – which has produced extraordinarily high levels of student debt. 68 percent of NJ college graduates in 2014 had student debt, and NJ residents carry student debt totaling more than \$30 billion. We must tackle our higher education problem head on, by:</p> <p>Increasing state aid to institutions of higher education;</p> <p>Providing loan forgiveness to STEM graduates working in STEM jobs in the state; and</p>	<p>their potential at a state college or university because of the high costs. Those students that do go to college, find themselves trapped by unmanageable student loan debt that not only applies a sense of rigidity to the job search, but also follows them decades afterward. Residents from around the state can all point to recent graduates who either cannot find good paying jobs, live with their parents, or cannot start families or purchase homes. In today's economy, the wealthy are doing just fine while the middle class continues to struggle. In fact, most new wealth goes only to the top 1%, leaving the rest of us working harder and harder just to get by. Rising college tuition is part of this problem. Too many students leave college saddled with huge debts that they struggle to repay, setting them back financially for years, often decades.</p> <p>New Jersey's class of 2015 graduated from public colleges with an average of almost \$19,000 in debt – coupled with extraordinarily high interest rates. Only 13% of these students will manage to pay off this debt in the next five years.</p> <p>Making matters worse, President Trump and the Republicans in Washington are proposing to cut taxes for the wealthy again, while doing nothing about soaring college tuition costs.</p>	<p>peak of \$2.33 billion in 2006 to \$1.93 billion in 2013, a 17 percent decline. Funding per full-time equivalent student has fallen 29 percent since 2006. I will reverse this trend which will make New Jersey more affordable for students and their families.</p> <p>I have sponsored the Public-Private Partnership Act which allowed The College of New Jersey to develop a Campus Town, Montclair State University to develop a state of the art residential complex, Stockton College to develop classrooms and a museum, Rowan University to develop a Technology Park, William Paterson University to develop a Solar Energy Facility and at New Jersey City University, University Place, 163 market-rate apartment units, 10,000 square feet of retail, 177 structured parking spaces, two bike terminals and more than 25,000 square feet of indoor/outdoor amenity space enhancing not only the University but also downtown Jersey City.</p> <p>Making Higher Education Affordable Cap loan payments after graduation at 10% of take home pay.</p>	
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	<p>Helping New Jerseyans stuck with student loans at above-market rates by offering state-based refinancing at lower rates.</p> <p>Creating incentives for private sector employers to provide student loan relief as a core employee benefit.</p> <p>The Earned Income Tax Credit encourages and rewards work by providing a tax credit to working and middle class families.</p> <p>Because the EITC puts money in the pockets of people who spend it immediately and locally, every dollar that we spend on the EITC creates \$1.50 to \$2 in economic activity. NJ currently provides an EITC at 30 percent of the federal award level. Phil Murphy would raise the state EITC to 40 percent of the federal reward level, which would create almost \$180 million in new economic activity. It would also make our tax code fairer across all income levels.</p>	<p>If the next governor isn't willing to face this problem head-on, New Jersey will be ill-prepared to compete against neighboring states or attract good, high-paying jobs in the future.</p> <p>That's why as governor, John Wisniewski will enact New Jersey's 21st Century Workforce Scholarships Act to make our colleges and universities tuition-free for students coming from households with an annual income of \$125,000 or less. New Jersey has all the tools it needs to ensure our world-class public colleges and universities are as accessible as possible for the bright, young people that need it most. If we are going to rebuild our middle class, it starts with providing access to a college education.</p> <p>While ambitious, this plan is practical and necessary.</p> <p>Chris Christie has destroyed the higher education budget since he took office in 2010. This year alone, New Jersey is projected to spend \$158 million dollars less on supporting our public colleges and universities than it did seven years ago.</p> <p>This poorly conceived policy means employers requiring specialized skills are having a hard time filling vacant positions, and are ultimately leaving for states with a more competitive workforce. This outmigration has cost us tens of</p>	<p>Increase State aid per full time student by 30%.</p>	
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thousands of lost jobs, lost economic activity, reduced labor income, and lowered household spending by the billions.

Our tuition-free college plan will include students attending (or planning to attend) school under the New Jersey DREAM Act. It allows students who came to the United States as minors to attend New Jersey schools to be eligible for free tuition like any other, without having to register with DACA.

New Jersey's largest student loan program — NJCLASS (College Loans to Assist State Students) — has drawn national attention for its high costs, predatory loan repayment standards, and aggressive collection tactics.

The tremendous debt we saddle our future with only benefits the banks, while stifling the potential of our workforce. This must change.

New Jersey already has two main programs in place to alleviate the growing financial burdens students face: the Educational Opportunity Fund (EOF) and Tuition Aid Grants (TAG). John Wisniewski's plan would consolidate and restructure these programs and their funding (projected 2017 total: \$442.4 million) in favor of a system that would waive tuition for full-time students that meet the income requirements and are enrolled in a public college or university.

		<p>With respect to securing sustainable funding, using money solely from EOF and TAG is not sufficient. The plan would call on the Department of Education to determine how many students annually are eligible to take advantage of the program and mandate a reallocation of corporate business tax incentive programs (e.g., corporate welfare) to fully fund the scholarships.</p> <p>The targeting of certain, favored businesses for tax breaks and corporate welfare has been a popular tactic under Gov. Christie that has not equated to anything tangible in terms of economic growth. Instead, our economic strategy must be investing in a strong, educated workforce that encourages young, talented individuals to go to school here in New Jersey.</p> <p>The New Jersey 21st Century Workforce Scholarships Act makes John Wisniewski the only progressive candidate for governor with a bold plan to eliminate crippling student debt and invest in a tuition-free future. By doing so we take the first step toward rebuilding a strong middle class in New Jersey.</p>		
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Gun Safety

The gun violence epidemic is nothing short of a public health crisis. And yet, Governor Christie continues to stand in the way of sensible reforms. He has vetoed bills that had universal support from New Jerseyans. Governor Christie's continued opposition to sensible gun safety regulations does not protect our Second Amendment rights. It simply makes us less safe. A truly comprehensive answer to reducing gun violence must come from the federal government. Yet that is not an excuse for inaction. Phil Murphy believes that sensible regulations can encourage gun safety and lower levels of violence while still preserving Second Amendment rights for law-abiding residents. As governor, Phil would sign every piece of commonsense legislation that Christie vetoed; mandate gun safety training; promote smart gun technology; and tax gun sales to fund law enforcement, mental health services, and drug treatment. Together, New Jersey will be a national role model and we will lead this fight.

As NJ Democratic State Chair, I led the fight to defeat the Republican veto proof majority in both houses to override Governor Florio's veto of legislation to repeal NJ's Ban on assault weapons. As US Army veteran who qualified as a Sharpshooter, I am an effective voice against any efforts to weaken NJ's strict gun control laws and have supported every effort to strengthen them. More than 70% of crimes committed in NJ with guns are from guns from out of state. Federal laws to protect NJ must be strengthened. I would immediately go to court and get an injunction against any effort by Trump or Congress to give right to conceal carry in NJ.

I think firearms permits should be renewable every three years.

Environment

Phil will immediately restore New Jersey's place in the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI). Governor Christie's decision to pull out not only slowed progress on lowering emissions, but it also cost New Jerseyans tens of millions of dollars that should have been used to further reduce greenhouse gas emissions, increase energy efficiency, and improve air quality in urban communities.

Phil understands that we need to generate clean energy here in New Jersey and not import polluting electricity from neighboring states while exporting jobs. That is why he will increase the amount of electricity utilities are required to purchase from local wind and solar sources. He will also make sure New Jersey develops its enormous offshore wind opportunities, which will not only reduce our carbon footprint, but has the potential to create good, new jobs in New Jersey. Phil will also develop a plan for New Jersey to eventually reach 100% carbon-free electricity. Through these efforts, NJ will regain its place as a national clean energy leader, which will

John Wisniewski will make combating climate change a priority as governor, starting with calling it what it is — a climate emergency. Given President Trump and his cabinet — which includes an EPA administrator who does not believe in climate change and a former ExxonMobil CEO as Secretary of State — our climate emergency is also very political.

New Jersey's next governor must resist all efforts by Trump to deny our climate emergency.

John Wisniewski will stand up to all comers — President Trump, his cabinet of climate change deniers, the oil and gas lobby and Wall Street profiteers — who think they can put profits ahead of protecting New Jersey's environment and health. Today and beyond, we must be resolved to not only talk the talk on climate change, but we must also walk the walk. That means investing in projects that protect our homes and businesses and create a more sustainable and equitable economic future.

Working families and communities of color are disproportionately impacted by the effects of climate change. Many of our communities also suffer from an underinvestment in environmental infrastructure such as safe drinking water systems. Strictly looking at our climate emergency through the lens of basic

I have sponsored the most progressive environmental protection laws in the nation. New Jersey needs as governor someone who will continue the fight to protect our environment.

Oral argument will soon be scheduled on my appeal of Governor Christie's giveaway to ExxonMobil. I sued Exxon and the NJ petrochemical industry and won in *Lesniak v. United States* to make them pay my surcharge to cleanup abandoned hazardous waste sites. This surcharge and my sponsorship of ECRA cleaned up tens of thousands of contaminated sites and saved New Jersey from an environmental disaster.

Governor Christie has ignored 12 testing recommendations of hazardous contaminants by the Drinking Water Quality Institute established under my Safe Drinking Water Act. I have sponsored S2468 to adopt those recommendations despite Governor Christie's objections.

Priority funding must be appropriated to remove lead lined pipes in school districts and lead paint in public housing.

	<p>both protect our environment and grow our economy.</p> <p>Phil also knows that transportation is by far the largest source of climate pollution in the state. That is one reason why he believes it is paramount that the mismanagement of NJ Transit be corrected immediately. Phil will work to restore the safety and reliability of the country's best statewide transit system. He also believes more needs to be done to make sure that electric vehicles are a priority and that all travelers, especially commuters, have easy, affordable access to electric vehicle charging stations.</p> <p>Protecting the Jersey Shore</p> <p>Phil understands that enjoying the Shore is a birthright for all New Jerseyans. That is why it is essential that we work with federal authorities to continue to protect the Shore from damaging storms like Superstorm Sandy, and the ever increasing threat of sea level rise. A more resilient Jersey Shore can thrive if we work hard to protect it. With the Trump Administration</p>	<p>business practices, a simple conclusion can be reached — an economy reliant on the old fossil fuel dependency model is unstable and risky. Whereas, shifting to a clean energy economy is more sustainable and will lead to enormous economic growth and job creation. We need look no further than the climate emergency initiatives implemented by California — they have some of the boldest environmental initiatives in the world and their clean energy economy is booming. California currently boasts the sixth largest economy in the world. New Jersey — working with other northeastern states — can replicate this sustainable and fiscally rewarding model. That's why on day one of his administration, John Wisniewski will commit New Jersey to re-joining the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI), a collaborative effort among Connecticut, Delaware, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New York, Rhode Island and Vermont to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Additionally, the RGGI compact can become a powerful bargaining unit, leading the way in clean energy solutions and resisting President Trump's efforts to dismantle environmental standards. Ten northeastern states synchronizing</p>	<p>Three proposed natural gas pipelines, Penn East, South Jersey Gas and Pilgrim Oil present serious environmental hazards and little if any benefit to New Jersey residents. Penn East: Threatens drinking water from the Highlands to the Pinelands. NJDEP should exercise its authority under the Clean Water Act since the route does not avoid wetlands. South Jersey Gas: Through the fragile Pinelands which hold 17 trillion gallons of pure water, this proposal violates the Pinelands Comprehensive Management Plan and should be rejected. Pilgrim Oil: Should be rejected because it's of no benefit to NJ and threatens endangered species, wetlands and critical habits.</p> <p>Unlike Governor Christie's Attorney General, New Jersey will not challenge President Obama's Clean Power Initiative to reduce CO2 emissions and curb climate change. As a coastal state, New Jersey is on the front line of a disaster from unabated global warming.</p> <p>The No. 1 contributor to New Jersey CO2 emissions is transportation and old diesel</p>	
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	<p>threatening to drill everywhere, we also need to be vigilant to protect the Shore from the possibility of oil drilling off our coast. Working with our federal delegation, Phil will be a leader to prevent oil spills from damaging our multibillion tourism and fishing economies.</p> <p>Preserving Open Space</p> <p>As the most densely populated state in the nation, Phil understands that preserving our open space is essential. Phil will stop the practice of diverting constitutionally-dedicated open space funding away from its intended purpose. He will also depoliticize key environmental staff and commissions — including those that protect the Highlands and Pinelands — and restore New Jersey as a leader in smart planning.</p>	<p>their clean energy initiatives and environmental protection resources can become a global, clean energy economic superpower.</p> <p>We will also reduce our carbon footprint and create jobs by committing to generate 80 percent of the state’s electricity consumption from renewable sources by mid-century. This bold pledge gets off the ground through the implementation of a constitutional amendment to put an end to the environmentally disastrous, Chris Christie era budgetary practice of stealing clean energy funds to balance the state budget. New Jersey’s Clean Energy Program (NJCEP) was designed to help homeowners, businesses and municipalities transition to clean energy alternatives — not to be raided and used as a slush fund for fiscally irresponsible governors. New Jersey must expand its investment in solar and wind energy to reduce toxic pollution, create good-paying jobs, and reduce our dependence on foreign oil. As a strong supporter of PACE (Property Assessed Clean Energy), Wisniewski will seek to expand this program — which provides financing for retrofitting buildings for more energy efficiency — to include requiring all new industrial and commercial construction to include cleaner, cheaper, and more reliable</p>	<p>trucks are a large part of the problem. My legislation, S2507, will get these dirty trucks, which are particularly troublesome in neighborhoods leading to ports in Newark, Elizabeth, Jersey City and Bayonne, off the road.</p> <p>A ticking time bomb that threatens the health, safety and quality of life of residents in communities throughout the state, a multi-billion dollar bond initiative must be passed before the threat of sewer overflow and contaminated water becomes a reality.</p>	
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		<p>solar energy components.</p> <p>As governor, John Wisniewski will fight for environmental justice by making polluters pay for the mess they create. As a member of the Environment and Solid Waste Committee, he co-sponsored a bill opposing the proposed \$225 million ExxonMobil settlement (originally \$8.9 billion in damages) for natural resource damages at the Bayway and Bayonne oil refinery sites. He will work doggedly to recoup the billions in fines ExxonMobil is trying to skirt paying, so that cleanup can be funded by the polluter.</p> <p>Next, Wisniewski will push for legislation to make 100% of money received (instead of the first \$50 million) from environmental fines go toward cleaning up and protecting our environment.</p> <p>John is opposed to the construction of new pipelines that would cut through preserved lands such as the North Jersey Highlands and Pilgrim pipelines. He also signed onto legislation opposing the PennEast Pipeline, which would leave up to 88 waterways compromised if a spill occurred.</p> <p>John is proud to have voted in favor of legislation prohibiting sewage treatment facilities from processing fracking water. He will also vigorously oppose efforts to force Pennsylvania into lifting their fracking ban in the Delaware River</p>		
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Basin. Over half of New Jersey's drinking water comes from the Delaware River Basin and renewed fracking in this basin will dangerously jeopardize our future. John Wisniewski will uphold President Obama's decision to implement a permanent ban on oil and gas drilling in portions of the Arctic and Atlantic oceans — and will fight any attempts by President Trump to drill off New Jersey's shores as well as in our National Parks.

John will work to support and uphold the Environmental Protection Agency's Clean Power Plan and other regulatory actions that protect our land, air, water, and wildlife. He will oppose President Trump's efforts to gut EPA regulatory enforcement and enable corporate polluters.

New Jersey's Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) will be fully staffed with most qualified expertise we can attract. Working with our outstanding research facilities housed within New Jersey's public colleges and universities, Wisniewski plans to deploy a cutting-edge DEP committed to addressing our climate emergency, delivering environmental justice and driving our clean energy economic powerhouse.

New Jersey has made great progress

		<p>in protecting our environment and health, and John Wisniewski will not allow President Trump to turn back the clock and threaten the health of New Jersey's families.</p> <p>Unchecked toxic pollution damages our health, causing asthma, cancer and lung disease. John Wisniewski can be counted on to defend our health from corporate polluters and will expand upon the environmental strides made in New Jersey by working with governors across the region and nation to resist President Trump's assault on our planet.</p>		
<p>Affordable Housing</p>	<p>New Jersey has among the most expensive housing in the nation. A minimum wage earner in the state has to work 100 hours per week just to afford an average, one-bedroom apartment. For 15 years, the courts have been misused to effectively stop the development of new affordable housing. At the same time, Governor Christie has cut much needed aid to seniors and low- and middle-income New Jersey residents struggling with the nation's highest property taxes – which continue to increase despite a cap. We must support the development of new, affordable housing while</p>		<p>Housing in New Jersey is not only unaffordable for low income residents, it's often unaffordable for those earning above the state's medium income as well. That's why, in addition to legislation I sponsored to transform abandoned foreclosed homes through bundling and financing through the NJ Housing & Mortgage Finance Agency for occupancy by low and moderate income families, which was vetoed three times by Governor Christie despite support from realtors, bankers, the League Of Municipalities and not for profit and for profit housing developers, I will as Governor: Establish the Mortgage</p>	

	<p>adhering to a smart, sustainable growth model.</p> <p>Phil is committed to helping make sure that anyone who works hard and plays by the rule has a chance to build a middle-class life. Governor Christie has waged war on affordable housing in order to pay for giveaways to developers and special interests, and he has turned his back on homeowners who need help. As a result, New Jerseyans face some of the highest housing costs and the highest property taxes in the nation. We also continue to suffer from the effects of the Great Recession, including the second highest foreclosure rate in the country.</p> <p>We face an affordable housing crisis in our state. Phil will tackle it head-on by:</p> <p>Stopping Governor Christie's practice of diverting affordable housing funds to plug holes in the budget;</p> <p>Expanding counseling programs to keep people in their homes and repurposing foreclosed</p>		<p>Foreclosure Transformation Act vetoed by Governor Christie three times.</p> <p>Provide \$650 million tax credits for housing development in low and moderate income neighborhoods to rebuild inner city neighborhoods and establish housing that's affordable for not only low but also moderate income families. The tax credits will pay for themselves and more so by stabilizing neighborhoods and attracting businesses deterred from moving to New Jersey because of our high cost of housing.</p> <p>Approve Tiny Homes legislation so seniors, empty nesters, homeless can have a safe, comfortable, and affordable place to live.</p> <p>I have supported tax credits for urban areas. I also have legislation pending for \$650 million of tax credits for housing in low and moderate income neighborhoods.</p>	
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	<p>properties as affordable housing</p> <p>Expanding tax credits to create new housing; and</p> <p>Lowering property taxes by funding our schools, incentivizing shared services, and restoring rebates to low-income, seniors and disabled residents.</p>			
<p>Immigration</p>	<p>For New Jersey to succeed in the 21st century and for all of us to thrive, we need to continue to be a state that welcomes people who want to come here to work hard, contribute to our economy, and get ahead, and not close ourselves off from the world or turn our backs on our neighbors. Phil believes that there is no greater tragedy than when we pay hundreds of thousands of dollars to educate a hard-working student through 12th grade, only to tell them that they are on their own.</p> <p>Now that Donald Trump is President, Phil will protect the Dreamers and oppose any efforts to use state and local</p>	<p>News Article: Democratic gubernatorial candidate John Wisniewski blasted U.S. Attorney General Jeff Session’s attack on sanctuary cities vowing that New Jersey would stand up to his “bullying of immigrants.”</p> <p>“Attorney General Sessions’ attack on sanctuary cities will do nothing to improve the safety of residents or improve their quality of life,” said Wisniewski. “If successful, he will only make it harder for police to do their jobs as the immigrant community will become much more distrustful of authorities.”</p> <p>“The United States is built on a culture of openness to new people and ideas. This Administration is trying to overturn 250 years of history in a misguided and futile</p>	<p>America is a land of immigrants, built by immigrants, defended by immigrants and economically prospered by immigrants. We have an obligation to:</p> <p>Establish a path to citizenship for those who have lived in the United States, obeyed the law and paid their taxes (unlike President Trump).</p> <p>Protect US citizen children from being torn apart from their parents.</p> <p>Allow drivers licences for all residents so they can get to work, go shopping, drive their children to school.</p> <p>In-State tuition (Which I co-sponsored) and student aid eligibility for all students from low-income New Jersey families.</p> <p>An educated New Jersey resident population improves</p>	<p>As President Trump and Republicans in Congress make it more difficult to keep immigrant families together, New Jersey will have to assist immigrant families in finding competent and adequate legal representation. The Council will begin by working together with non-profit organizations and legal groups to implement a “Lawyer Surge,” increasing the number of pro bono lawyers available to families facing uncertain immigration situations.</p> <p>The New Jersey Immigration Council will also act as a resource for immigrant families trying to navigate the complexities of this new immigration landscape, whether it is a family struggling to bring</p>

	<p>police to assist in mass deportations. He will also end Governor Christie’s pandering to the hard-right special interests and take action at the state level to make life easier for our undocumented neighbors by:</p> <p>Providing drivers licenses and statewide ID to undocumented residents;</p> <p>Extending in-state financial aid to the Dreamers;</p> <p>Increasing access to professional licenses for immigrants; and</p> <p>Raising the minimum wage, guaranteeing earned sick leave, and strengthening workplace protections.</p>	<p>attempt to roll back the nation’s demographics. When combined with Governor Christie’s fawning gestures of being a ‘willing partner’ on immigration issues, this action shows the urgency for making New Jersey a Sanctuary State.”</p> <p>Wisniewski’s “Sanctuary State” bill in the New Jersey Assembly will prohibit law enforcement from using state resources to investigate, interrogate, detain, or arrest anyone for immigration enforcement reasons.</p> <p>It also prevents state law enforcement officers from cooperating with federal officers on immigration issues. The legislation will create new data retention policies for schools and health care providers to prevent the federal government from being able to access individuals’ immigration status.</p> <p>Multiple studies show that sanctuary cities are likely to have lower crime rates and stronger economies than non-sanctuary cities. The Police Foundation says that local police involvement in immigration enforcement could have a chilling effect on the immigrants cooperating with police — making it harder to catch criminals and reducing public</p>	<p>the quality of life for all New Jersey residents.</p>	<p>their elderly parents to the United States from overseas or an immigrant college student trying to build a better life here in America. The Council will also work to protect immigrants from scams and fraudulent law firms. Often, immigrants are the targets of incompetent and unethical lawyers, seeking to take advantage of those in desperate situations. The Council will work together with the legislators on legislation to increase penalties for predatory law firms that overcharge and underdeliver. Republicans are also looking to curtail services for immigrants. The Immigration Council will act to ensure that New Jersey immigrants retain access to critical services like healthcare and education. The Council will serve in a coordinating role, deciphering federal regulations and working with local officials on the ground to figure out how best to protect access to services for immigrants. Finally, the Trump Administration has declared that they will attempt to threaten cities that decide to become sanctuary cities. The Immigration Council will work in conjunction with the Attorney General to provide technical</p>
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		<p>safety for the larger community.</p> <p>“If the Attorney General is so hell-bent on upholding the law, he might want to start with the Trump Administration,” concluded Wisnieski. “And leave New Jersey’s cities alone.”</p>		<p>assistance and protect funding for municipalities, doing any legal work necessary to ensure that New Jersey taxpayers don’t suffer the costs of the federal government’s anti-immigrant policy.</p>
<p>Electoral Reform</p>		<p>Not only does John Wisniewski personally believe campaigns should be fair, open, and free from the clutches of special interests and big money, he practices it – by participating in New Jersey’s public financing system. The state’s program matches donations at \$2 for every \$1 dollar raised and limits total campaign spending. John was proud to stand with Sen. Bernie Sanders in his presidential campaign because of his commitment to overturning Citizens United and shutting down a corrupt campaign finance system that props up a rigged economic system. Our democracy has been terribly damaged by allowing billionaires and wealthy special interests to corrupt our campaign finance system and effectively buy elections. As governor, he will work to pass a constitutional amendment to block special interest “dark money” and corporate millions from influencing</p>	<p>One of the planks on my platform at http://ray4gov.com Issues Cutting Waste in Government is giving citizen appointees on key boards like the Port Authority and NJ Transit to be watchdog for the people over agencies that spend billions of taxpayer dollars</p>	<p>In the last gubernatorial election, New Jersey’s voter turnout was an abysmal 39.6%. For decades, political insiders have tried to make people believe that their voices don’t matter. Jim believes exactly the opposite. He has spent his entire career fighting for more democratic elections and protecting average citizens from voter suppression. As Chair of the Brennan Center for Justice, he fought against big money in politics. He was personally involved in voter protection efforts in Colorado and Florida, successfully preventing voters from being wrongly removed from the voter rolls. As Governor, he’ll work to ensure that elections are contests that reflect the will of the people, not just party bosses or insiders. He’ll also work to make sure that citizens don’t have their rights to</p>

		<p>our state elections. Reforming New Jersey's outdated electoral systems "... To [Phil Murphy's] opponents and experts, Murphy is pouring cash into the contest to influence the outcome. 'To me it smacks of a candidate buying the nomination. That is certainly his prerogative. I would caution that we've been down this road before in the form of Jon Corzine,' said Montclair State University political science professor Brigid Harrison." – Associated Press, February 4, 2017 On the state level, John will explore expanding New Jersey's public financing system for elections beyond just the governor's race. It is imperative to counter the influence of special interest money and help level the playing field against millionaire candidates who use their personal wealth to buy elections. He will impanel a committee to recommend reforms ranging from how we finance state campaigns to how we can fairly nominate candidates through primaries. As the current race for governor is proving, a handful of party bosses wield far too much power over our nominating process. The antiquated system that rewards cronyism, stifles debate, and thwarts challengers must be scrapped for a more open and democratic system. The future of the Democratic Party,</p>		vote wrongly taken away.
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and elections in general, is one of openness and inclusion. Allowing corrupt, transactional party bosses to dictate ballot position is undemocratic and irreparably harms our ability to engage younger generations in the political process. To that end, we must modernize our outdated systems by installing automatic voter registration — turning 18 in New Jersey should mean you are automatically registered to vote. Also, 17 year olds, who will be eligible to vote in general elections, should be allowed to vote in primaries.

New Jersey must further modernize by allowing online voter registration as well as in-person, same day registration on Election Day. Additionally, New Jersey needs to recognize that a vast portion of our population commutes and therefore demands we install reasonable early voting and more accessible vote-by-mail options throughout the state.

The Democratic Party must lead on electoral reform with an eye for openness, inclusiveness and convenience, while remaining unified in blocking attempts to restrict voting by enemies of democracy who would impose onerous and restrictive ID requirements.

President Trump has been relentlessly attacking our democracy

		<p>and election systems. Our next governor must be free from the influences of the corrupt special interests and Wall Street millions that dominate Trenton politics today in order to mount a credible defense. John Wisniewski is an independent Main Street businessman who is ready to take on President Trump and Trenton’s transactional party bosses.</p>		
<p>Anti-Hate</p>		<p>Assemblyman John Wisniewski released the following statement upon the Bayonne Zoning Board’s denial of the The Muslims of Bayonne’s request to build a mosque:</p> <p>“Having met with several of the proponents of the Bayonne Mosque to voice my support, this result is disappointing. Americans of all backgrounds must be able to worship how they see fit, regardless of their religion.</p> <p>“I see no zoning or planning reason to deny this application. We must call this for what it is: bigotry — plain and simple.</p> <p>“And where are the New Jersey Democratic Party’s leaders? Bayonne’s Muslim community is making a principled stand against bigotry and our Democratic Party leaders are silent. That’s unacceptable.</p> <p>“For my part, I will continue to</p>	<p>Racial bigotry, religious persecution, anti-Semitism, Islamophobia or any other form of hatred cannot be wiped out unless each and every one of us confronts it within ourselves, our own circles of family, friends and others that we interact with. Silence is seen as consent. It takes courage to stand up for the other. It is important to prevent bigoted speech coming from public officials, but it is even more critical to focus on our own individual responsibility to prevent bigotry we may see around us. By taking this pledge, each one us can make a profound difference in the world.</p> <p>The Pledge While interacting with members of my own faith, ethnic, or gender community, or with others, if I hear hateful</p>	

		support the mosque and community center being built on their chosen site in Bayonne. We must fight bigotry and stand up for religious freedom.”	comments from anyone about members of any other community, I pledge to stand up for the other and challenge bigotry in any form.	
NJ Veterans	<p>New Jersey has more than 435,000 proud veterans. They have served us valiantly at home and abroad and have had our back in times of war and peace — and it’s past time that we had theirs.</p> <p>Phil Murphy has worked with Marlboro Councilman and U.S. Army Colonel Jeff Cantor, who is also the Democratic candidate for Sheriff, to develop a new plan forward that divides New Jersey’s Department of Military and Veterans Affairs (DMAVA) into two separate agencies — one with responsibility for the National Guard and another responsible for veterans.</p>			
Jobs/ Wages	Phil Murphy supports raising the minimum wage to \$15 per hour. Raising the minimum wage would benefit nearly one million workers, equal to one-quarter of all workers in our state. New Jersey’s current minimum wage is grossly inadequate. The current		I believe workers should not have to work at poverty wages. We should follow New York City’s lead by increasing the minimum wage for fast food workers to \$15 per hour by December 31, 2018 and for airport workers immediately and by December 31, 2019 for all	

	<p>minimum wage of \$8.38 per hour is roughly 50 percent below a “living wage” – the amount an individual in NJ needs to meet basic needs. The argument that raising the minimum wage kills jobs is a myth that is simply not supported by evidence.</p> <p>New Jersey continues to struggle with long-term unemployment. As of 2015, our state had the third highest rate of long-term unemployed in the nation – more than 41 percent of all unemployed individuals had been out of work for 27 weeks or more. Last year, Phil Murphy began tackling this issue head on through the New Start Career Network, which provides free, personalized career services to long-term unemployed individuals over the age of 45, and already it’s having an impact. As Governor, Phil will develop partnerships with the private sector to expand job training and placement for individuals who are out of work.</p> <p>One million New Jersey workers do not receive earned sick leave. Too often as a result, these individuals must</p>		<p>workers. Also workers should be eligible for 12 weeks of paid family leave in 2018. The time may be used for caring for family members during a serious health condition. Workers should have paid sick time. It has been proven to increase productivity and helps keep fellow workers from getting sick as well.</p>	
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	<p>choose between their health and their job. Opponents of earned sick leave claim it will hurt workplace morale and lower performance, a claim unsupported by experience. In fact, earned sick leave creates a more healthy and productive workplace. Phil Murphy will work to ensure that all workers have the right to earned sick leave.</p>			
<p>Retirement</p>	<p>Keeping Our Promises and Putting Our State's Finances Back On Track: New Jersey currently carries a \$43 billion unfunded pension liability. This has been created almost entirely by the state's failure to make its annual contributions. Eleven years ago, Phil Murphy chaired the first commission to evaluate the state's pension system in light of a growing unfunded liability. One of our primary recommendations was that the state must meet its funding obligations going forward. Eleven years later, the problem has only grown worse. We must get our pension funds back on track to solvency — starting with the state living up to its commitments. As Phil said in 2005, when Governor Codey appointed him to chair</p>			

	<p>an effort to address our pension problems, “a constitutional amendment guaranteeing state pension contributions should be part of the solution – but the solution must be comprehensive and ensure a reasonable payment schedule.”</p> <p>Create a New Retirement Plan for Employees of Small Businesses:</p> <p>More than half of private-sector employees in NJ work for employers who do not offer retirement plans. Because setting aside money for retirement on your own is difficult, these employees understandably save too little during their careers. Phil will follow the lead of other states and offer a simple, opt-in retirement plan for small business employees. Doing so will help ensure that all workers in our state can adequately save for their retirement.</p>			
<p>Criminal Justice Reform</p>	<p>Phil believes that the status quo in criminal justice has failed too many, and it is time to address the structural racism in our criminal justice system. For too long, special interests, like the for-profit</p>	<p>Wisniewski indicates support of the following principles regarding crime. Support programs to provide prison inmates with vocational and job-related skills and job-placement assistance when released. End parole for repeat violent</p>	<p>New Jersey has led the way ending mass incarceration with my legislation repealing most mandatory minimum sentences for non-violent drug offenses which exclusively targeted minorities in urban areas</p>	

	<p>prison industry, have driven criminal justice policies – both nationally and here in New Jersey under Governor Christie. We can no longer accept policies that disproportionately target communities of color.</p> <p>This is an issue Phil has grappled with both personally and in his capacity as a National Board member of the NAACP. He has led by inclusion – having brokered the first meeting between the head of the state PBA and the state chapter of the NAACP. He knows the law enforcement community must be a part of the solution, as the vast majority want to do the right thing.</p> <p>Phil is committed to building a smarter, more humane criminal justice system in NJ. He will:</p> <p>Create a commission to comprehensively re-examine our criminal laws, including mandatory minimums;</p> <p>Fully implement bail reform so no one sits in jail because they</p>	<p>offenders.</p> <p>Implement penalties other than incarceration for certain non-violent offenders.</p> <p>Support the restriction of the sale of products used to make methamphetamine (e.g. tablets containing pseudophedrine, ephedrine and phenylpropanolamine).</p>	<p>reducing our prison population by 50% for drug offenses, 20% overall.</p> <p>I expanded treatment for addicted offenders instead of prison so they could get an opportunity to be sober and lead a productive crime free life.</p> <p>I was prime co-sponsor of Ban The Box which gives ex-offenders a fair shot at employment.</p> <hr/> <p>I am advocating legislation to:</p> <p>Sign legislation I sponsored which Governor Christie vetoed to end the abuse of solitary confinement.</p> <p>Enact legislation I sponsored, Presumptive Parole and Earn Your Way Out, which will further reduce the prison population by 20% and will begin re-entry at entry into prison rather than upon release from prison so inmates are given an opportunity to come out of prison as better persons than when they entered prison.</p> <p>Close two prisons as a result of enacting Presumptive Parole and Earn Your Way Out saving tens of millions of tax dollars and gaining tens of millions of tax revenue from development of the closed prison sites.</p> <p>Require the Attorney General to investigate all killings by law</p>	
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	<p>cannot afford to pay a fine;</p> <p>Legalize marijuana so police can focus resources on violent crimes;</p> <p>Expand re-entry services, so that the people coming out of prison have the support they need to return to productive lives; and</p> <p>Expand the use of body cameras to promote transparency and accountability.</p>		<p>enforcement and a special prosecutor, appointed upon recommendation by the NJ Chief Justice, for killings by State police, to ensure the public's confidence of our criminal justice and fund dash cams and body cameras for police.</p> <p>Aggressively lobby Congress for universal background checks for all gun purchases. More than 70% of gun violence in New Jersey involve guns from other states.</p> <p>I sponsored the abolition of the death penalty making NJ the first state in four decades to do so.</p> <p>I won an International Human Rights Award from Le Memorial de Caen, the D-Day/Human Rights museum, Normany France for my speech: The Road to Justice and Peace.</p> <p>I also wrote a book: The Road to Abolition: How NJ Abolished the Death Penalty.</p>	
<p>Healthcare</p>	<p>Access to health care is a basic right – one that is under assault by Donald Trump and Republicans in Washington and the special interests that support them. New Jersey is no exception. For too long we have let special interests like for-profit hospitals outweigh</p>	<p>News Article: “Health care is not an option, it is a basic human right,” Wisniewski boldly stated in front of a crowd of about 100 at Hudson County Community College in Jersey City.</p> <p>He also criticized Republicans for only expressing concern for “insurance company profits” and</p>	<p>I would provide a version of Romney care so successful in Massachusetts to provide universal health care for all New Jersey residents.</p>	

	<p>the interests of 9 million residents. As governor, Phil will end that.</p> <p>New Jersey has been a national leader on healthcare in the past and Phil will make sure we lead once again. This starts with standing up to Donald Trump and the right-wing agenda to repeal the ACA and gut Medicaid and Medicare, which would cause nearly 800,000 people in NJ to lose coverage.</p> <p>Phil will also take the lead on health reform at the state level by:</p> <p>Lowering insurance premiums by reining in excessive out-of-network costs;</p> <p>Restoring state funding to Planned Parenthood and ensuring that all-FDA approved methods of contraception remain accessible to New Jersey women with no out-of-pocket costs;</p> <p>Working to identify the state's 75,000 uninsured children and enrolling them in health</p>	<p>“privatizing Medicare.”</p> <p>“That crisis of uncertainty threatens our health and our economic future. That crisis of uncertainty has a name, Donald Trump,” Wisniewski also stated at the very beginning of address to the attending public.</p> <p>He explained that the Republicans in congress have begun the repeal of the Affordable Care Act, which would leave “over 400,000 that have coverage directly from the market place instead of from an employer” without medical insurance.</p> <p>He also pointed out that there are 43,000 New Jersey residents that will most likely lose their expanded Medicare coverage.</p> <p>Additionally, Wisniewski brought up the major concern for expecting mothers, college students and those “that have that scourge in preexisting condition and the “uncertainty of healthcare.”</p> <p>He also referenced Gov. Chris Christie’s (R) State of the State address on the Opioid Crisis. During the governor’s address, he mentioned that people would be able</p>		
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	<p>coverage; and</p> <p>Expanding access to addiction treatment and services.</p>	<p>to receive treatment for drug addiction.</p> <p>However, Wisniewski reminded the public that Christie failed to address what happens to this program if the Affordable Care Act is repealed.</p> <p>As far as the high cost of prescription drugs, U.S. Sens. Bob Menendez and Cory Booker (D-NJ) also received criticism for voting against bringing in cheaper prescription drugs into the United States that had the same quality and effectiveness of domestic drugs.</p> <p>According to a statement from Menendez, Wisniewski's criticism is inaccurate since the Sanders Amendment would not have achieved that.</p> <p>He has been in full support of "lowering prescription drug costs and advocates for the safe importation of regulated medicines from other countries," his office said.</p> <p>If elected governor, he would first sit with the CEO of pharmaceutical companies in New Jersey and ask for a "break on prescription medicine. They can't all be about profits," the</p>		
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		<p>candidate exclaimed.</p> <p>Wisniewski also proposed a “Medicare for all system”, “so that people in New Jersey, once and for all, regardless of what happens on the national level, will no longer have to continue to wonder about where their future in health care lies.”</p> <p>“As your next governor, I am going to do everything in my power, to head off this crisis and work towards a single payer system right here in New Jersey.”</p>		
<p>Public Employees and Organized Labor</p>	<p>Phil Murphy is a strong advocate for organized labor and is proud to have been endorsed by leading labor organizations across our state. He has stood with striking workers in picket lines across our state and has appeared before the Port Authority to protest their unwillingness to provide fair wages to workers at Newark Airport. As governor, Phil will stand up for our brothers and sisters in organized labor and work to create new pathways into good, union jobs that foster a</p>			<p>A top priority of the governor, legislators and public employees and their unions must be to secure the fiscal integrity of the public employee pension and health benefits. No employees, public or private, should have to worry about the security of their pension and health care, but worry they must because left unattended the funds will be depleted in ten to twenty years. Every New Jersey resident must also worry because without reform, backbreaking tax increases or devastating cuts across the board in state</p>

	<p>middle-class life.</p> <p>Phil will restore respect to our public sector employees.</p> <p>Governor Christie has demonized public sector workers at every opportunity in order to further his own right-wing political agenda. Phil believes that our public sector employees should be celebrated, not demonized. Phil will end Governor Christie's name-calling and once again treat our public sector employees with the respect they deserve.</p> <p>Phil will honor the state's pension promises and put our pension system back on track.</p> <p>New Jersey has the worst-funded pension system in the country, which is a result of this governor and other Trenton insiders choosing to provide for the well-connected, rather than fulfill their obligations. Twelve years ago, Phil Murphy chaired the first commission to evaluate the state's pension system in light of a growing unfunded liability. The commission recommended, first and foremost, that the state must meet its</p>			<p>programs will be necessary to keep the public pension and health care funds solvent. The state must keep its obligation to fully fund its share of pension and health care benefits. To accomplish that without draconian cuts in other vital responsibilities of government, a tiered millionaire's tax to raise \$1bil. a year for the pension and health care funds must be enacted. This millionaire's tax will have marginal impact on only 1% of residents. Those impacted have received a \$500 mil. tax cut when the legislature phased out the estate tax.</p> <p>By keeping its commitment to the pension funds as "guaranteed" in Chapter 78 (Which I voted against and spoke out against at two public rallies), reducing the cost of health care benefits must be negotiated. To reduce costs, a prescription analytical company can be brought in to renegotiate prescription drug costs. Medicare options should be explored and negotiated. These cost saving are substantial and can help alleviate the added costs paid by public employees under Ch. 78.</p> <p>Pension padding through multiple jobs by elected officials</p>
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	<p>obligations, respect the collective bargaining process and remain committed to a defined benefit pension system. These are the first principles Phil will bring to the issue as governor.</p> <p>Trenton insiders ignored these recommendations and today, the problem has only grown worse. Phil is committed to getting our pension funds back on track to solvency — starting with the state living up to its commitments. As Phil said in 2005, when Governor Codey appointed him to chair an effort to address our pension problems, “a constitutional amendment guaranteeing state pension contributions should be part of the solution – but the solution must be comprehensive and ensure a reasonable payment schedule.”</p> <p>Phil has also led the effort to boost the pension funds’ returns by calling on the state to divest from private equity and hedge funds. These investments cost us hundreds of millions annually in fees while delivering only middling results. Phil will stop this practice, and ensure that pension fund dollars are put to</p>			<p>and through political patronage positions of short term duration must be prohibited.</p> <p>Sign legislation I sponsored that was vetoed by Governor Christie giving support staff grievance rights and contractual protections.</p> <p>Use of high fee hedge funds to invest pension funds must be prohibited.</p> <p>By focusing on economic growth which has been tepid under Governor Christie and ensuring strong and smart economic growth policies combined with careful evaluation of government structure and priorities state government will ensure that our primary obligations to the people of NJ, including pension and health benefits are fulfilled.a</p>
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	<p>work for the people who earned them, not for Wall Street.</p> <p>Phil will stand up for workers' rights to collectively bargain.</p> <p>Phil is a strong supporter of unions and their right to collectively bargain. In 2005, Phil made clear that any changes to benefits must be made through the collective bargaining process. As the U.S. Ambassador to Germany under President Obama, Phil also worked in an advanced economy where organized labor is celebrated and maintains strong relationships with management. As governor, Phil will defend the right to collectively bargain, including by standing up to Donald Trump and the Republican agenda that seeks to enact national right to work legislation.</p> <p>Specifically, Phil will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ensure that all workers receive a living wage by enacting a minimum wage of \$15 an hour;• Oppose any effort to turn New Jersey into a right-to-work state,			
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	<p>including national right-to-work legislation promoted by President Trump and the Republicans in Congress;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Enact paid sick leave for all workers statewide; ● Strengthen our prevailing wage law so that more workers on public works projects receive fair wages; and ● Support efforts to ensure that striking workers are eligible for unemployment benefits after 30 days. 			
<p>Education</p>	<p>Last August, the State Board of Education passed a resolution making passage of the nationalized PARCC tests a requirement for graduation. PARCC tests are considered by many educational experts to be outdated, expensive, and not helpful to students. They have also been criticized by teachers, parents, and school administrators alike for taking away too much classroom instruction time and for forcing curricula to align with</p>	<p>John Wisniewski knows that education drives our economy and he is committed to fully funding K-12 education in his very first budget as governor. Fully funding SFRA will help solve another problem plaguing New Jerseyans — property taxes. Year after year, as our Governor has underfunded education, our school districts have had to pick up the slack. The fastest way to immediately provide property tax relief in NJ is to fully fund our public schools.</p>	<p>New Jersey ranks second in the nation in student achievement in our public schools but we rank last in having the largest gap between the best schools and the worse. My experience leads me to believe we are also at the top of spending not getting into the classroom. Click here to see my views on Cutting Waste In Government Spending. I would focus on supporting wrap around community schools in low income neighborhoods that would provide family</p>	<p>New Jersey used to be a leader in education, but for the last eight years, we've taken steps backward. As the son, nephew and father of teachers, I come from a family that views education as the essential pathway to success. My parents' commitment to education allowed me to become a first generation college student — an education I was able to pay for by taking out student loans. As Governor, I will draw from my experience to ensure that</p>

	<p>test topics to ensure higher scores. New Jersey is an outlier in its reliance on PARCC: only a handful of states still use the test, and only one other state is using it as a graduation requirement.</p> <p>Phil Murphy is committed to ending New Jersey’s reliance on PARCC tests and eliminating standardized testing as a requirement for graduation. If elected, he would direct the state Department of Education to work with educators to create an assessment that would meet the federal reporting requirements of ESSA. He also would eliminate passage of a standardized test as a graduation requirement.</p> <p>Phil believes that standardized tests have a role, but we should not be overly reliant on them. And as he has said throughout his campaign, “Good teachers and good students can have bad test days. Too much emphasis is being put on a single test, as opposed to weighing a student’s progress through years of instruction.”</p> <p>Specifically, Phil will:</p>	<p>John Wisniewski is prepared to close the educational funding gap by taking the following actions:</p> <p>Restore the estate tax. We must overturn the “deal” made between the Legislature and Gov. Christie last year that began the phase out and eventual elimination of the estate tax. John Wisniewski voted against eliminating the estate tax because New Jersey is already underfunding education and we cannot afford tax breaks that benefit an estimated 3,500 super wealthy families at the expense of 1.4 million students. Restoring the estate tax will generate an estimated \$150 million within the first year and will eventually put as much as one billion in revenue back into the State budget.</p> <p>Freeze corporate welfare. John Wisniewski will enact an immediate freeze and review of all corporate business tax incentive programs. Gov. Christie has abused these giveaways as he has doled out \$7.4 billion in corporate welfare to his wealthy friends and political cronies – without generating any measurable economic activity. Simply freezing these giveaways will free up an estimated \$800 million annually.</p> <p>Wisniewski will sign a millionaire’s tax. Adjusting New Jersey’s highest marginal tax rate will generate \$500-600 million annually.</p> <p>Education is an investment in our</p>	<p>services from pre-natal to three years old, the most important time in the development of a child’s ability to learn.</p> <p>On Charter Schools, I would make them accountable by the same standards that are applied to district schools.</p> <p>Also, I would hold harmless for three years state aid to schools losing students to a charter school so adjustments could be made by the sending schools which otherwise would immediately lose state aid.</p>	<p>every child, regardless of race, income status, or zip code has access to high-quality education. Putting all of our kids on the same path to a bright future is not only the right thing to do, it’s a smart investment when it comes to growing our state’s economy.</p> <p>That’s why I have proposed programs to restore the promise of education to all of New Jersey’s students, including universal pre-K, middle school afterschool programs, “Serve to Learn” service programs, and two free years of community college. Read my plans at the links below.</p>
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	<p>End PARCC testing;</p> <p>Eliminate the exit test graduation requirement; and</p> <p>Solicit educator input to take advantage of the new federal Every Student Succeeds Act, which gives states the ability to develop innovative, lower-stakes assessments that will reduce student and educator stress, and save valuable classroom time and money.</p>	<p>future that pays dividends. It is not unreasonable to ask New Jersey's wealthiest residents to help fully fund education and provide property tax relief.</p> <p>Overtake Gov. Christie's \$300 million State House renovation. New Jersey has to tighten its belt and this extravagance must wait or be bid out for much less money. Our next governor must think about New Jersey's next generation, not the next election. John Wisniewski will fully fund K-12 education. Immediate moratorium on charter schools.</p> <p>Gov. Christie's fixation with charter schools has significantly drained resources from our public schools and drifted far from their original intention. As Governor, John Wisniewski will place an immediate moratorium on all new charter schools and charter school expansion pending a review of the entire program.</p> <p>New Jersey currently has 89 charter schools serving 41,000 students. Originally introduced into the education system as laboratories for innovation, under Gov. Christie charter schools have ballooned into a largely unchecked drain on New Jersey's public school system over the past decade.</p> <p>Because charter schools operate in a semi-public/semi-private grey area, they tend to be selective about the</p>		
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		<p>students they accept, resulting in charter school populations that do not reflect the racial and special needs demographics of the school districts they reside in.</p> <p>Further, because Gov. Christie caters to his wealthy Wall Street friends above all else, many of the new charter schools under his watch are operating more as corporate private entities than public schools.</p> <p>Allowing billionaires, hedge fund managers and other wealthy elites into the management ranks of our schools is the first step on a path to privatizing our public education systems.</p> <p>An immediate moratorium will allow us to reassess the future of charter schools in New Jersey and get us back to the original purpose of innovation, not private revenue generators for Wall Street.</p> <p>John Wisniewski will fight to fully fund our public schools. He will take on the transactional bosses in Trenton who would rather make backroom deals at the expense of our schools. He will eliminate the corporate gimmickry of Chris Christie that has punished our students and rewarded the Wall Street elite. And he will take immediate funding measures to lower New Jersey's outrageous property taxes.</p>		
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Transportation

We cannot grow our economy without world-class infrastructure, but the same old politicians in Trenton have spent decades letting our roads, bridges, railways, and ports crumble. Governor Christie has let our transportation infrastructure fall even further into disrepair – allowing the Transportation Trust Fund to go bankrupt, cancelling the ARC tunnel, and turning the Port Authority into a personal political patronage pit. His mismanagement of key transportation agencies resulted in dangerous roads and unsafe and unreliable rail, all while tolls and fares keep going up due to the lack of fiscal discipline in Trenton.

As governor, Phil will work to create a 21st-century economy that works for all of us, not just the special interests, and part of that is growing our economy through investments in our infrastructure. Specifically, Phil will:

- Complete Gateway and fight for every federal transportation dollar;
- Distribute TTF projects based on

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● need, not politics;● Start a public bank that will assist towns with small-scale infrastructure projects;● Increase oversight of the Turnpike, NJ Transit, and the Port Authority; and● Increase state investment to lower the burden on consumers. <p>NJ Transit: Tens of thousands of New Jerseyans depend on NJ Transit to get to and from work every day. It is a vital engine of our state's economy.</p> <p>Governor Christie has neglected NJ Transit. He has slashed state funding for NJ Transit operations by over 90 percent. As a result of this sharp decrease in aid, NJ Transit had to raise fares by 36% under Governor Christie – passing more costs onto New Jersey's working families, which in effect created a burdensome commuter tax. And he has diverted billions of dollars from NJ Transit's capital budget – which should</p>			
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	<p>be used to make essential investments to expand service – in order to make up for his lack of fiscal discipline.</p> <p>At the same time, Governor Christie has staffed NJ Transit with political cronies who lack the professional and technical expertise to manage such an essential agency. He drove top officials out of the agency, including a respected executive director who left NJ Transit to join the MTA.</p> <p>And to make matters worse, in one of the worst public policy decisions in the history of our state, Governor Christie canceled the ARC tunnel – which would have expanded capacity for our tunnels and made us more secure after Hurricane Sandy. The ARC project would have been completed next year, and canceling the tunnel set our state and our region back at least a decade and many billions of dollars. It caused businesses not to invest here and people not to move here – and our rail service and economic security have been badly damaged as a result.</p> <p>By omission and commission,</p>			
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	<p>Governor Christie has taken NJ Transit from a system that was widely viewed as a national model to one that is in a state of disrepair. NJ Transit had the most mechanical failures of any peer railroad in 2015, with over 50% more failures than the second-highest ranking railroad. The agency won federal approval to install modern safety technology in 2010, but the technology – which could have stopped the September 2016 crash in Hoboken that killed one and injured 110 – has not yet been implemented.</p> <p>New Jersey desperately needs a governor who will restore NJ Transit to a well-managed lifeline for our state. As Governor, Phil will:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Increase state operating assistance to NJ Transit, decreasing the need for it to raise fares on commuters or raid the capital fund;2. Fight for every federal dollar and work with our congressional delegation to support funding for the Gateway Project;			
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none">3. Restore professionalism to NJ Transit management by ensuring that it is run by transportation experts who will make decisions based on the best interests of the agency – not political actors; and4. Strengthen oversight by supporting legislative investigations into NJ Transit’s financial and operating practices that will ensure that the agency is being run in a safe and efficient manner.5. Keep commuters safe by accelerating the implementation of long overdue safety and maintenance upgrades, including installing Positive Train Control automatic braking technology.			
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<p>Other Issues</p>	<p>Opioid Crisis</p> <p>Too many residents and their families continue to struggle with addiction. Too many communities continue to be ravaged by an epidemic of overdoses, particularly from opioids. Most tragically, over the last decade, 5,000 residents of our state have died from heroin and opioid overdoses alone. Phil recognizes that addiction is an illness, and that it is treatable with the right resources and focus in place. Treating and preventing addiction saves lives and allows people to return home to their families and get back to work.</p> <p>Disability Rights and Services</p> <p>As governor, Phil is determined to make New Jersey the most inclusive and most accessible place to live, work, and raise a family for people with disabilities. That goal begins with our state government.</p> <p>Even as he was handing out billions of dollars in corporate tax giveaways, Governor Christie cut vital programs that fund housing and lower</p>	<p>PARCC Testing</p> <p>Eliminate PARCC testing. Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC) tests must be eliminated. PARCC is a poorly designed and confusing testing system that only benefits the corporations that are earning billions off their usage at the expense of our students and teachers.</p> <p>When used properly, standardized tests show trends. They should never be used to make decisions about the performance or advancement of educators; they should never be used to determine whether or not a child graduates from school; or whether a school should be closed. They are not, and never were meant to be, diagnostic. When PARCC was first implemented, there were 24 states in the consortium. Now there are only six. That is because the test is deeply flawed and has been a huge unfunded liability for school districts. The cruelest cut of all is that “English as a second language” (ESL) and special needs students must take the exact same test as a mainstream student — with no modifications except for extended time.</p> <p>John Wisniewski supports parents having the ability to opt their children out of PARCC tests this</p>	<p>Animal Rights</p> <p>I am proud that New Jersey, The Humane State, was the first state in the nation to ban transactions in Ivory and rhino horns under legislation I sponsored.</p> <hr/> <p>My legislation made it a criminal offense to transport through New Jersey, The Humane State, “trophies” of Lions, Tigers and other threatened animal species.</p> <hr/> <p>My legislation, S63, banning sourcing of dogs and cats from Puppy Mills has passed the Senate and been released from Assembly Committee. It awaits further action in the Assembly and the Governor’s signature.</p> <hr/> <p>My legislation, S2702, Pedal’s Law, which establishes non-lethal methods of black bear management, has been released from Senate Committee and awaits Senate and Assembly action and the Governor’s signature.</p> <hr/> <p>My legislation, S2750, to ban Leghold Traps authorized by the NJDEP in 2015, has been bottled up in the Senate</p>	<p>Anti-Corruption</p> <p>New Jersey needs to end the old-style Trenton politics of cutting insider deals with allies and punishing anyone who refuses to play ball. Crony politics has crippled our state for far too long—and it’s time for a new way of conducting the people’s business that includes and welcomes all New Jersey residents to have a stake in their government.</p> <p>New Jersey’s strength comes from its neighborhoods, the cornerstones of our communities. But today, too many neighborhood needs have gone unheard and unmet by a state government more focused on currying favor with political insiders and special interests. Jim recognizes that for our lives together to improve, all of us will need to step up, and the governor will need to focus on making our communities vibrant so that families can thrive, not just survive, with better jobs, greater opportunity and excellent schools.</p>
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	<p>property taxes for our low-income residents. Phil will never put special interests ahead of those residents who most need our help.</p> <p>In addition, Phil will work to better coordinate state services for people with disabilities. Currently, Trenton provides an array of disability-related programs, services, and supports. Many are good. Most, however, are unknown or seemingly beyond the reach of those who need them most. Phil believes we need to do better.</p> <p>As Governor, Phil will make sure that people with disabilities have a seat at our policy-making table. That will be true for the full range of issues, from housing and transportation to employment and education to emergency preparedness and response. And that will be true for children, adults, seniors and veterans.</p> <p>For Phil, improving the lives of people with disabilities is a top priority.</p>	<p>spring and as Governor will eliminate these tests.</p>	<p>Environment Committee.</p> <hr/> <p>Nosey's Law, S2508, has passed the Senate and awaits action in the Assembly and the Governor's signature.</p> <hr/> <p>My legislation vetoed by Governor Christie after intense lobbying by the pork industry in Iowa when he was campaigning for president has been re-introduced, S2786, and awaits a new governor.</p> <hr/> <p>My legislation banning the cruel, painful practice of catching a shark, cutting off its fins and dumping the shark back into the water to bleed to death was stymied in the Assembly last legislative session. I have reintroduced it, S2044. It awaits Senate and Assembly action and the Governor's signature.</p> <p>MEDICAL MARIJUANA</p> <p>I was prime co-sponsor of NJ's medical marijuana law. I would leave expanded use based on the best medical evidence.</p> <p>Marijuana Decriminalization</p> <p>I support decriminalization. It's not a matter of tax revenues.</p>	
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			<p>Legalization needs to be evaluated on a net social benefit basis. As a member of the recovery community, I am not against legalization, but need to see more empirical data on its net social benefits.</p>	
<p>Voting Rights</p>	<p>Phil believes that we are a better, stronger, more representative democracy when more people participate. Across the nation, Republicans have systematically tried to disenfranchise voters – an effort Governor Christie has supported here in New Jersey in an effort to cater to national right-wing special interests.</p> <p>New Jersey ranked just 29th in turnout in the 2016 presidential election. As governor, Phil Murphy will empower voters and increase participation by:</p> <p>Making voter registration easier through:</p> <p>Automatic voter registration: Five states have automatic voter registration at their Motor Vehicle Commissions (MVC). This means that residents are automatically</p>			<p>We know that in this country, it has been a battle for some communities just to have their voices heard in the democratic process. New Jersey is the site of one of the most famous instances of voter suppression in American history. In the 1980s, a court found that the Republican National Committee unlawfully interrogated and challenged registered black and Hispanic voters before kicking them off the voting rolls. We cannot go back to those times. We need to work to ensure that hard-won voting rights are not rolled back and that we continue to ensure that communities who have been targeted for voter suppression in the past are protected. As Governor, Jim will support the following initiatives to protect and expand voting rights:</p> <p>Access to Weekend Early Voting. Early voting has been shown to increase turnout. According to</p>

	<p>registered to vote when they visit the MVC unless they opt out. Governor Christie vetoed a law that would make NJ the sixth such empowering state.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Online voter registration: There is no reason why our residents should be able to bank and shop online, but not register to vote. 38 states have already moved towards online voter registration in some form. NJ should follow suit. ● Same-day voter registration: Sixteen states have authorized voters to register the day of elections. NJ requires that our residents register 21 days before an election – Phil believes we should eliminate this requirement. ● Allowing early voting: 21 states allow residents to vote early at the polls prior to election day – easing the burden for working families that 			<p>Professor Elliott Fullmer of Randolph-Macon College, “Early voting does increase participation. In order to do so, however, it must be widely accessible.” With turnout reaching a record low of 39.6% in the 2013 governor’s race in New Jersey, it’s clear that we need to make it easier for people to vote. Early voting, especially on the weekends, also helps those who are working parents or who work jobs with odd hours. Implementing early voting will help ensure that the voice of every New Jerseyan is heard.</p> <p>Online Voter Registration: Online voter registration would have many positive effects. First, it would improve voter roll accuracy, as an online registration system cuts out illegible handwriting and duplicative data entry. It would also save taxpayers money, with states that have implemented online voter registration reporting anywhere from 25 cents to \$2 of savings per online registration submitted. Finally, it would increase access to voter registration, helping to bring eligible Americans who have not yet registered into the political process.</p> <p>Automatic Voter Registration:</p>
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cannot get to the polls in person. Governor Christie vetoed a bill that would have required counties to establish between three and seven polling places available for early voting during the 15 days prior to the election.

- Allowing 17-year-olds to vote in primaries if they will be 18 by election day:
Currently, New Jersey citizens who turn 18 after the primary but before the general election are put in an unfair position where they have to vote for the candidates on the ballot but did not have a say in choosing who is on the ballot. 24 states allow these voters to vote in the primary as well, and New Jersey should join them.

When New Jersey citizens turn 18, they should automatically be registered to vote. We should make it as easy as possible for people to exercise their rights and registering citizens unless they decline would be a great step in that direction. Automatic voter registration would be a powerful tool to eliminate registration errors and make it more difficult to commit voter fraud. Most importantly, it would bring down barriers to the right to vote and increase turnout. Jonathan Brater of the Brennan Center for Justice has said, "It's one of the biggest things you could do to boost participation nationwide." Unfortunately, Gov. Christie vetoed a bill that would have instituted the policy in New Jersey. As Governor, Jim will ensure that it passes once again and he will sign it.
Same-Day Voter Registration:
One final step New Jersey could take to make sure all eligible voters can participate is to allow same-day voter registration. Scientific studies have shown that allowing registration on Election Day is one of the key ways that we can increase voter participation and ensure all eligible voices are heard.
Fight Against Voter

				<p>Intimidation: In New Jersey, there is a long history of attempts to suppress voters. In 1982, a federal court handed down a consent decree in regards to allegations that Republicans attempted to suppress minority votes in New Jersey. As Governor, Jim would ban any intimidation, threats, or coercion to prevent the casting of a free and secret ballot. He would also ban any attempts to implement deceptive voting practices in specific districts that target a specific racial or ethnic group for voting suppression.</p>
Ethics Reform				<p>Around the country, New Jersey politics has become synonymous with shady, backroom deals. For decades, bipartisan groups of elected and unelected leaders have created a politics that takes care of those in office rather than the people they are supposed to serve. Every election year, the political insiders and party bosses handpick candidates rather than give voice to the will of the people. The result is fewer dollars for schools and hospitals and taxpayer relief. It means more federal grants lost due to incompetence. It means a government that responds to</p>

				<p>special interests, rather than the needs of working families. Real change requires real democracy. It is going to take an independent change agent who is willing to call the insiders out and tell them that this time will be different. Jim Johnson has taken on the mob and drug cartels as a federal prosecutor, and has a long history of bringing communities together to achieve results. He won't be afraid to challenge the powerful. Johnson has a six-part plan to clean up Trenton and put power back where it belongs: in the hands of the people of this state. Eliminate No-Bid Contracts. In New Jersey, receiving state business is often dependent on who you know, not the quality of the job you'll do. That costs taxpayers millions and perpetuates a system based on crony capitalism. The Christie Administration's practice of awarding nine-figure contracts in a no-bid process must end. If Johnson is elected Governor, any contracts awarded by state agencies will go through transparent and open processes that select proposals based on merit rather than favoritism or nepotism. In addition, a Johnson administration will increase transparency by posting</p>
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				<p>details of the bidding process online as well as progress on projects. That way, taxpayers can hold government accountable.</p> <p>Stop the “Revolving Door” of Lobbyists. As the chair of the Brennan Center for Justice, Johnson spent much of his career fighting the negative influence of money in politics. We know that too often lobbyists use political contributions in order to drown out the will of the people. That’s why he’ll ban political contributions from lobbyists. Additionally, many towns and counties hire lobbyists to act on their behalf and taxpayers deserve to know how much of their own money is going toward lobbyist payment. Finally, lobbyists will have to disclose when they’re lobbying at the local level instead of the current requirement where disclosure is only necessary when they’re lobbying at the state level.</p> <p>Implement A Transparency Pledge. As more New Jersey politicians try to hide their schedules from public view, Johnson’s Administration will pledge to be the most transparent in New Jersey history. He will release his public schedules online, provide</p>
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				<p>a visitor's log for all state business and disclose any meetings that take place so the public can be confident that there are no conflicts of interest. He will also direct agencies to proactively release data that the state has so researchers and journalists can have the access they need to innovate and hold government accountable.</p> <p>Only Allow One Public Pension. There are too many public officials that "double dip," a practice where they can receive two public pensions or receive one public pension while they continue to work in another government job. In the past, lawmakers have taken part-time public positions just to enhance the amount of their pensions. This is unfair to taxpayers and to public employees who use the pension system as it was originally intended. It also limits the ability of more citizens to participate in government.</p> <p>Ban "Conflict Of Interest" Employment For Legislators And County Executives. Some New Jersey lawmakers work part-time jobs for companies with millions of dollars in government contracts. This creates conflicts of interest where lawmakers can pass legislation and influence</p>
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				<p>contracts that pad their own pocketbooks. In order to clean up these conflicts of interest, Johnson will end this practice. Fill Appointments To State Boards With Competent Subject-Matter Experts. For too long, New Jersey politicians have treated seats on policy advisory boards as favors to be handed out to political loyalists and donors. In order to ensure that the Governor is getting the best possible advice and that the government is working in service of the people, Johnson will appoint qualified, impartial subject-matter experts to government boards. He will build on the work of other initiatives around the country where appointments are made through an open and transparent application process with openings posted online. He will undertake strong recruitment efforts to get the most diverse and talented candidate pool possible before an independent screening committee helps to select candidates based on merit.</p>
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<p>Other Reforms</p>	<p>“THE CHRISTIE-TRUMP AGENDA PUTS WALL STREET POWER BEFORE THE WELL-BEING OF RETIREES AND MIDDLE-CLASS FAMILIES TRYING TO SAVE FOR THEIR FUTURES. AS GOVERNOR, I’LL LEAD THE WAY IN GETTING WALL STREET OFF OF STATE STREET.”</p> <p>Rather than holding bankers accountable for wrecking the global economy, Governor Christie and the insiders in Trenton kept looking out for special interests while all the economic gains went to those at the top. In New Jersey, the wealthiest 1% continue to pay a far lower share of their income in state and local taxes than the lowest-income residents. Phil strongly believes that is unacceptable in 2017.</p> <p>Phil will put the interests of New Jersey’s working and middle-class families ahead of Wall Street by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Creating a public bank to invest in Main Street, so that NJ money is put to work 		<p>The following would be my legacy/accomplishments after serving 2 terms as NJ Governor:</p> <p>Fiscal stability, a state well on its way to attaining a fossil fuel based economy with more and better mass transit, a state that has lowered the property tax burden and has affordable housing available for its residents, a state which treats its teachers as the professionals they are entrusted with the education of our children and that has substantially decreased the gap between the highest performing schools and the lowest, a state with a \$15 minimum wage and universal health care, a state with opportunity for all qualified students to afford a college degree and a state that gives its citizens a voice and a vote on government agencies to serve as Watchdogs over taxes, tolls, utility rates and our environment and a state that embraces all cultures, religions, ethnicities and sexual orientations as our brothers and sisters and a state which has continued to adopt my criminal justice reforms.</p>	<p>New Jersey’s election process is suffering from an influx of unprecedented amounts of “dark money.” Dark money comes from political action committees that don’t have to disclose the names of their donors and are not subject to contribution limits. In 2016, these independent groups spent \$28 million, according an analysis by New Jersey’s Election Law Enforcement Commission. That’s SEVEN TIMES as much money as was spent by the state political parties and legislative leadership committees. These secret high-dollar donors need to be held accountable for their attempts to influence elections through massive spending. Jim will seek to pass legislation that mandates the disclosure of names and employers for all donors to dark money groups. That way, millionaires and billionaires will no longer be able to influence elections while hiding in the shadows. That’s why our campaign is working through the public finance system, which limits campaign spending to \$6.4 million. Jim has also called on his opponents to agree to a \$15 million spending cap for the Democratic primary election.</p>
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	<p>for NJ, not for Wall Street;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Divesting our pension funds from hedge funds and private equity;● Establishing a state-level Consumer Financial Protection Bureau and strengthening existing regulations in light of President Trump's efforts to roll-back the federal Dodd-Frank Wall Street reform law;● Ensuring tax fairness by enacting a millionaire's tax and closing loopholes for wealthy individuals and large corporations; and● Holding bankers accountable by prosecuting financial fraud.			<p>New Jersey also needs to do work to ensure that elections take place on an even playing field. For more people to get involved in the political process, Jim will ensure that people don't feel elections are stacked against them. Currently, New Jersey gives priority ballot position to certain candidates that receive the backing of party insiders. New Jersey should join the majority of states that design ballots so that every candidate has an equal shot. That's why Jim would eliminate ballot lines that place a preferred candidate on top and call for ballots to be created either by random drawing or with names listed in alphabetical order. These reforms will result in a stronger democracy with more viable candidates and more competition in elections.</p>
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