

# STATEMENTS OF GUBERNATORIAL CANDIDATES

Dear Registered Voter: The New Jersey Campaign Contributions and Expenditures Reporting Act (N.J.S.A. 19:44A-37) provides that a statement, not exceeding 500 words, from each candidate for election to the office of Governor, who wishes a statement mailed on his or her behalf, shall be mailed with the sample ballots for the 2009 general election to each registered voter in this State to assist the voters in making their determination among the candidates. Attached herewith are statements from the candidates for Governor in the 2009 general election who chose to submit such statements.

*New Jersey Election Law Enforcement Commission*

**CHRISTOPHER J. CHRISTIE**  
*Republican*

Like you, I’ve lived a New Jersey life. Mary Pat and I have been blessed with the opportunity to raise four wonderful children here, counting on the fact that some day they will also call New Jersey their home. But today, we’re all struggling to make ends meet and there isn’t any relief in sight. We’re facing our highest unemployment rate in 32 years, the highest tax burden in the country, and quality jobs are leaving our state without any indication they’ll ever return.

We’ve watched for too long as politician after politician has promised the world, only to disappoint by failing to deliver any results. Unfortunately, we haven’t seen anything different over the last four years as our state has seemingly missed every opportunity to change the devastating course in which we’ve been headed.

Over the last four years, we’ve seen our taxes raised by \$8.9 billion with our property tax rebates eliminated as property taxes have grown 17%. The last four years have also brought complete inaction and complacency as jobs have exited our state and unemployment has doubled. Our current leadership is out of touch with the struggles we’re facing, and after four years of bad decisions, how can we expect the next four will be any different? We’re proud, tough, hard-working people here in New Jersey. We don’t want or need government to manage our lives, and we certainly don’t need it making things worse. First, we will get state spending reduced and permanently under control. Then we’ll cut taxes across the board. We’ve been paying too many taxes, only to see our hard-earned dollars wasted over and over again. We can create long-term, quality paying jobs by investing in our natural resources and focusing on making New Jersey the leader in manufacturing renewable energy. I will cut red tape to make it easier for businesses to come back to our state and bring their jobs with them. I’ll bring back our cities by improving public safety and attracting new business to our downtowns. Most importantly, if this is finally going to be action, and not just talk, I’ll change the way Trenton operates from the outside in.

As your former U.S. Attorney, I faced a lot of opposition saying I couldn’t combat corruption in New Jersey. We proved everyone wrong by putting corrupt Republican and Democrat officials behind bars and saving countless taxpayer dollars from waste, fraud and abuse. I knew we could be successful because standing up to the special interests in our state is the right thing to do. Changing the way Trenton operates will not be easy and it will not be without opposition, but I have never backed down from a challenge. With an aggressive approach and a willingness to do the right thing, even if it’s tough and unpopular, New Jersey will again be the place we once knew – a place where quality jobs, smaller government, and lower taxes will make us proud to call our state home again.

**JON CORZINE**  
*Democrat*

For nine years, it has been my highest honor to serve you in the United States Senate, and as Governor of our great state.

Much has happened since my first campaign for public office. Our nation endured the tragic attacks of September 11, fought – and continues to fight – two foreign wars, and is now weathering the longest, deepest economic recession since the 1930s.

But while we live in an era of stark challenges, I’m proud of the great strides that we’ve taken in making New Jersey a more progressive and prosperous state.

Because of our achievements, New Jersey is still the best state in the nation to work, live, and raise a family.

Our household income leads the nation. Our unemployment rate remains lower than the national average. Our home foreclosure rates are roughly 40 percent below the national average.

We’ve fought climate change by installing more solar panels than any state other than California, and we’re leading the way in off-shore wind production.

Homicides, crime and traffic deaths are down.

Under my leadership, New Jersey was the first state in the nation to pass an economic recovery act. Because we got ahead of the problem, New Jersey is poised to recover from this global recession sooner, and stronger, than other states.

We’ve also proven that government can do more with less. I am the only governor in over six decades to shrink the size of government. I reduced the state workforce by 7,000 positions and cut the size of the budget by almost \$2 billion. But even as we’ve made government leaner and more efficient, we have stayed true to our core values.

Here in New Jersey, we believe that every child has a right to quality health care and education. That’s why my administration added 80,000 more children to the Family Care program and made New Jersey the second state in the nation to offer universal coverage for children. I also increased spending for education by \$1.8 billion and committed \$3.9 billion to school construction, because I share your belief that every child has a right to learn in schools that are the best in the world. Just look at the results. Achievement gaps between minority and white students are rapidly closing, and New Jersey students lead the nation in math and reading scores.

We also believe in the importance of honoring our seniors. That’s why my administration increased eligibility for the senior freeze, preserved homestead rebates for all seniors, and expanded home energy and nutrition assistance for the elderly.

Though we have cut the overall size of the state budget, I have committed more money to property tax relief – over \$7 billion – than any other governor in New Jersey’s history.

This election is about values. It’s about nurturing our children, honoring our seniors, protecting the most vulnerable, and creating a better world for your grandkids, and mine.

Let’s continue the important work we began nine years ago. Working together, no dream is beyond our grasp.

**JOSHUA LEINSDORF**  
*Fair Election Party*

Joshua Leinsdorf, 64, was elected to three terms on the Princeton Regional School Board. He served as Finance Committee chairman. Ubaldo Figliola, 47, an Army National Guard veteran and father of five, is the proprietor of Ultimate Car Care in Neptune. Josh has a proven record of raising school graduation standards, creating bicycle and jogging paths, sidewalks, ferries, and removing asbestos hazards. Visit his website at: http://www.leinsdorf.com.

Jobs in the private sector is the most urgent need. Fixing the schools is essential to job creation. Good schools graduate workers who can hold jobs and be taxpayers, rather than deadbeats or criminals who have to be supported by your high taxes.

Every high school student needs a laptop computer. Currently, students with computers excel, while those without them provide the excuse for low academic standards. The laptops can be bought with the money saved by asking middle and high school students to take transit buses to school where possible, rather than yellow school buses. This will save half a billion dollars every year. School budget elections will be kept.

Putting students on public transit will permit high school days to begin at a reasonable hour, which studies show would be the one change having the greatest impact on improving academic performance. Making students walk ten minutes will help reduce obesity, which is threatening to explode into a youth diabetes epidemic in the next five years, overwhelming the health care system.

Taxes can also be lowered by abolishing county government entirely. Counties are obsolete, gerrymanders, inefficient and the primary source of political corruption.

Trusts should be taxed on wealth, not income, and the proceeds used to create competitive venture capital pools for new industries.

Internet purchases must pay sales tax. The two-tiered tax system is killing commercial real estate, which pays local property taxes.

Government needs to be open more hours on more days, like private business. New sources of revenue are needed. We will sell money-losing NJ Transit to private carriers and create a comprehensive public transportation system. Every major traffic jam bottleneck in New Jersey is on a road with little or no public transit or at a toll booth. All toll collections will be electronic.

Only violent criminals should be in jail. Non-violent offenders should be penalized without punishing the taxpayers or their own families.

Joshua Leinsdorf has a proven record of creating wealth for other people. He was instrumental in bringing the New York ferry to the Bayshore, which triggered a twenty year real estate boom, and in creating the Henry Hudson Trail.

Leinsdorf and Figliola can win this election. There are five million registered voters in New Jersey. Three million are independent. Corzine won last time with 1,224,551. This time, he will get about 900,000 the same as Christie. If one in three independent voters casts a ballot for Leinsdorf and Figliola, we will win. Please vote for Josh Leinsdorf and Baldo Figliola to create jobs and restore your discretionary income.

**KOSTAS PETRIS**  
*Independent “For The People”*

Are you:
fed up with paying the highest taxes in the nation?
frustrated by empty promises?
tired of knowing corruption exists and nothing being done about it?
prepared to have me overhaul the mismanagement of state government?
ready to stand up for your rights?

Have you had enough of our needs being placed second to greed and personal gain? I say we can remember the documents of our founding fathers, particularly The Declaration of Independence. Our founding fathers understood the power of absolute power of a strong central government, be it local, state or federal and is proven in their words: “. . . That whenever any form of government becomes destructive of these ends, it is the right of the people to alter or abolish it, and to institute new government, laying its foundation on such principals and organizing its powers in such form, as to them shall seem most likely to effect their safety and happiness.” I want the government to exist to serve the people, not having people exist to serve the government!

Like Lincoln said, “a house divided can not stand,” and for too long we have been divided amongst ourselves. We are so busy fighting the issue of right versus left, Democrat versus Republican, that we have lost sight of what we should be doing as a state. It is said that the mark of insanity is doing the same thing and expecting a different result. In essence, we have been electing people from the Democratic and Republican parties, expecting them to change but it all comes out the same regardless. I want to stop the insanity and have the people of New Jersey achieve different results.

As your governor, I promise to make the best decisions for NJ residents in all issues at hand, based not on politics, but what is needed to assure that every New Jerseyan can prosper. I also pledge that I will do everything in my power to fulfill every promise I have made during my campaign and for you to expect me to say what I mean and mean what I say. Vote for Kostas Petris November 3rd.

**GREGORY PASON**  
*Socialist Party USA*

New Jersey, it’s time for change! Our state’s politics have been ruined by the Democrats and Republican monopoly on power. Political corruption, poor social services and soaring taxes on working people are the only things coming from Trenton these days. My name is Gregory Pason and I am running for Governor to offer voters a real alternative in this year’s election for Governor. I am a socialist, a husband and father and a community activist. I understand firsthand the struggles of working people in New Jersey.

New Jersey needs a Governor dedicated to human rights. We must end racial profiling, stop harassment of immigrant workers, end gender discrimination and create laws for same-sex marriage and same-sex/opposite sex civil unions. We must also support the rights of Native Americans.

Access to quality and affordable healthcare is the right of every person in this state. As Governor, I promise to push federal legislators to pass real healthcare reform in the form of a single-payer system. This measure would save New Jersey \$2.5 billion per year. While we push for federal reform, I will create a state wide single payer system to ensure quality and affordable healthcare for all residents of New Jersey.

Education is another key part of my plan for New Jersey. I reject the Washington mandated “No Child Left Behind” model of education. I will ensure that all residents have equal access to education. I will invest in public education with equitable per-pupil funding and will provide tuition free education for all residents from the Pre-K through post secondary level. I will also push legislation that slashes regressive property, sales and “sin” taxes and funds education through a progressive state income tax.

Schools should be safe spaces for students to learn, so I will enact legislation that will remove military recruiters from public schools and push to change federal statutes that base funding of public school on allowing military recruitment.

New Jersey needs to get back to work with good paying jobs. I support an increase in the minimum wage for New Jersey, from the federally mandated \$7.25 per hour, to a living wage of \$15 per hour. Protecting workers rights is essential and the best way to do this is through unionization. All workers have the right to unionize and, as Governor, I will protect these rights. As a socialist governor, I will put the interests of working New Jersey ahead of those of corporations and the wealthy. No more furloughs!

To help create jobs and expand democracy, I will fund efforts for community self-management through co-ops, community gardens, health clinics and other forms of grassroots organization.

A socialist New Jersey means a New Jersey that acts in the interest of its citizens. I will represent the working people of New Jersey and give them a voice in the future of our state.

Vote Socialist. Vote Gregory Pason for a real alternative! Also check our www.votepason.org or www.socialistparty-usa.org

**DAVID R. MEISWINKLE**  
*Middle Class Empowerment*

As a soldier in the U.S. military and as a police officer for 23 years, I swore to protect and defend the Constitution of the United States. Today, as an attorney, I continue the work of protecting people’s Constitutional rights.

The most horrific event in our Nation’s history occurred on 9/11/2001. Yet the 911 Commission was thwarted by lack of resources and subpoena power. Even the Commission cochairs said it “was set up for failure.” The 679 New Jerseyans who died that day deserve better. We will conduct a complete, thorough and objective investigation of what happened.

Our Founding Fathers fervently believed government should serve the needs of the people. But in New Jersey, we have been betrayed by self-serving politicians and powerful commercial interests. As a result, New Jersey tax rates are the highest in the Nation.

As Governor, I will vigilantly defend your rights. I will empower the middle class and protect our standard of living. I will reduce the tax burden on hard-working citizens and we will regain the public’s control of government by:

- Enforcing honest government and controlling quasi-government agencies;
- Creating jobs and protecting small businesses;
- Promoting democracy through Initiative, Referendum, and Recall.

My running mate for Lt. Governor, Noelani Muscicaro, and I are ordinary middle class folks. We desire only to serve the Public Good and return control of government back to the people.

As a police officer in New Brunswick, I uncovered extensive corruption in a city run by John Lynch, who was also a State Senator and the most powerful political boss in New Jersey. Lynch’s brother-in-law is an organized crime mobster and convicted murderer serving time in federal prison. As a result of my investigations, the City Police Director, City Attorney and others were convicted of crimes. Recently, Lynch was sentenced to three years in federal prison for corruption.

Every year, hundreds of millions of taxpayer dollars are squandered and stolen by crooked politicians who channel money through hundreds of secretive quasi-governmental agencies that operate without public oversight. By eliminating corruption and enforcing public control of these agencies, we will save billions of taxpayers dollars.

As Governor, I will launch major investigations into corruption. We will institute the most powerful ethical standards in the country, end dual office holding, prohibit pensions for parttime politicians, and end influence peddling and “pay to play.”

We will enable the public to by-pass our dysfunctional legislature by making it easier to adopt laws by petition (Initiative), repeal bad laws (Referendum), or remove politicians from office (Recall). Once our legislators know that they can be overruled by the people, they will be more responsive to the Public Good.

We will boost the economy of New Jersey by turning the state into a center for solar and other “green” technologies similar to the way California spawned the computer revolution with its “Silicon Valley.” We will protect small businesses by alleviating tax burdens and reducing compliance paperwork.

To learn more about our positions, please visit Meiswinkle4Governor.com

**GARY T. STEELE**  
*Independent*

I am running as an Independent candidate for Governor of New Jersey. The following questions you should ask yourself prior to voting for Governor:

- Should your Governor be experienced with figures and budgets? I have a degree in Accounting and worked as an Accountant for 6 years.
- Should your Governor have experience in investigating Fraud and Waste? I Audited government projects for 2 years and worked with the Passaic County Prosecutor’s Office when issues were uncovered.
- Should your Governor know about Taxation and its effects on you? I earned an LLM in Taxation from NYU School of Law and have been a Tax Attorney for 25 years running my own firm for the last 19 years. I taught taxation for 12 years at Seton Hall Law School and currently teach taxation at William Paterson University.
- Should your Governor inform you of his Plan to reduce spending and taxes? My website garytsteeleforgovernor.com explains how I will reduce spending and taxes.
- Should your Governor have the best interests of NJ at heart? I was born in Passaic General Hospital. I lived in Clifton for 40 years and live in Kinnelon for the last 13 years. My children attend public school here. I am NJ and always have been.
- Are you tired of the Trenton Insiders pushing OUR STATE in the wrong direction? I will bring NJ back to where it once was. My plan to cut spending and taxes will make the state affordable for all of us and will lead directly to job creation.
- Should your Governor exhibit LEADERSHIP, INDEPENDENCE and VISION? I have lead in every aspect of my life from teaching taxation at Seton Hall Law School and William Paterson University to being the head coach of many ice hockey teams and running a successful practice for 19 years. My Independence is unparalleled. I am not a member of any party and am the people’s choice for Governor. I do not have to answer to either party – just to the citizens of New Jersey. My vision for NJ is one where people want to live with lower taxes and plentiful jobs.
- Should your Governor make promises he knows he cannot keep? Any promise I make I will adhere to. The only way to reduce taxes is to reduce spending. If you do not reduce spending, you cannot lower taxes.
- Should your Governor promise to reduce the size of Government? Yes, I will reduce the size of Government, starting at what the size of government was 6 years ago.
- Can your Governor deliver jobs to our State? We have all witnessed what has happened in this State these last 4 years. The only way to attract jobs to New Jersey is to make it affordable and a “Tax Friendly” State. My spending reduction Plan will ultimately reduce taxes and will make NJ an affordable place to live.

I want you to feel good about New Jersey Again. I look forward to your support on November 3rd. Thank you.

**KENNETH R. KAPLAN**  
*Libertarian Party*

“If everyone who agrees with me votes for me, I’ll be the next Governor!”

Are you afraid to vote for anyone who isn’t a Democrat or Republican? If I were you, I’d be afraid to vote for anyone who is a Democrat or Republican. All I have ever seen in my lifetime are Democratic and Republican Governors. All they have ever given us is bigger government, less freedom, and massive corruption. It’s time for a change! Libertarians believe strongly in individual liberty. Government’s only legitimate purpose is to enforce your rights, rights which are guaranteed by the state and federal constitutions. The state government is ill-equipped to make decisions about your children’s education, health care, auto insurance, how to construct your home, your working conditions and salary, your sex life, ad infinitum. These matters should be returned to individual control so that you will be able to make the best decisions for you and your family without government interference.

Here are some specifics:

**TAXES**
New Jersey’s broad-based taxes are out of control. We are drowning in a sea of property taxes, income taxes, and sales taxes. We need to move away from these broad-based taxes in favor of user fees. A user fee is simply a fee paid for a service that is actually used. Funding services in that manner will result in some services being performed by the private sector rather than by government. That will make government smaller, and enable us to cut those taxes. It will also give individuals the power to save money by not paying for services they don’t want or don’t need. The rate of the income tax can be stepped down in tandem with each reduction in the size of government until that tax vanishes. Then we can get to work reducing the sales tax.

**MARIJUANA LEGALIZATION**
This is an issue of personal freedom. Whether or not marijuana is good for anyone is irrelevant. Every adult should have the right to make his or her own choices as to what to ingest— be it alcohol, marijuana, nicotine, or cherry pie. Let our drug laws continue to protect children, but let adults have freedom of choice.
**GAY RIGHTS**
New Jersey needs a marriage equality law which would allow same sex couples to marry. This is a civil rights issue. All New Jersey citizens should enjoy the same rights.

**EDUCATION**
Public education is failing in many districts, and is unfair to taxpayers who have no children or who home school or send their children to private or religious schools. Privatization of education, whereby diverse schools supported by tuition payments instead of taxes would compete for students, will force schools to improve their quality and efficiency or lose enrollment to those that do. Vouchers can be a useful transitional tool to give parents more choices immediately.

More information about Ken Kaplan at www.kaplanforgovernor.com
Also see www.njlp.org
Take the World’s Smallest Political Quiz: http://www.theadvocates.org/quizp/index.html
You may discover that you have been a Libertarian all along!
**ALVIN LINDSAY, JR.**  
*Independent*

I, Alvin Lindsay, Jr., as an independent Candidate for Governor of New Jersey will make a continuous effort to reduce the high rate of unemployment and to bring jobs back to New Jersey by offering incentives to companies to encourage job creation. I will also find alternative means to close the budget gap.

In order to combat high energy prices, the focus should be placed on clean, renewable energy and alternative means of energy production, such as wind and solar power. A tax freeze should be implemented for the next four years. Senior citizens should be exempt from paying taxes when they turn seventy years of age and the minimum wage should be increased to \$10 per hour.

Shelters should be expanded to accommodate the increasing number of homeless residents. In order to combat rising health care costs, a plan should be implemented to make health care more affordable and accessible to all New Jersey residents. Veterans should also receive an identification card upon returning home from the war zone. They should be able to go to any hospital of their choosing for free. They should have prescription cards so that they receive all of their medication for free. Veterans put their lives on the line for the people of the United States and they should be treated with the respect and dignity that they deserve.