

Understanding NJEA PAC's endorsement process



On Nov. 7, New Jersey voters will head to the polls to elect a new governor and 120 state legislators. State government has a profound impact on what happens in New Jersey's schools. That's why the NJEA Political Action Committee (PAC) carefully screens all candidates for statewide public office.

NJEA PAC prides itself on having a sound, fair, and democratic process leading up to the endorsement of a candidate. The purpose of the process is to identify the candidate most supportive of NJEA's legislative program. Endorsing and electing candidates who support NJEA's goals significantly increases the association's ability to pass favorable legislation and stop negative legislation.



The screening process

Establishing a screening committee

PAC screening committees are established for each legislative district (LD). Each committee includes members of the NJEA PAC Operating Committee who represent their respective counties and the New Jersey Retirees' Education Association (NJREA) legislative county chairperson.

Screening committees also include NJEA Government Relations Committee and Congressional Contact Committee members from counties involved, the county president, and NJEA Executive Committee members from the counties involved.

Evaluating the candidates

For November elections, screening committees generally invite candidates for an interview in July. Prior to meeting the candidate, the committee reviews completed NJEA questionnaires

submitted by the candidate and if he or she is an incumbent, the candidate's voting record.

Each candidate screening session lasts up to an hour, allowing time for candidates to make a presentation and answer screening committee questions. Questions are based upon the issues described above and concerns within the county membership.

When evaluating the candidates, screening committees consider candidates' positions on issues and electability. For incumbents, committees also consider legislative voting records, committee assignments, leadership positions, sponsorship of pro-public education legislation, and accessibility to NJEA members.

Endorsing the candidates

The screening committee does not make the final endorsement. Rather, it recommends a position to be considered by the NJEA PAC Operating Committee.

To make its recommendation, the county screening committee discusses the merits of each

candidate. The committee may recommend the endorsement of one candidate in a race, recommend no endorsement, or recommend a "your choice" option, which indicates that both candidates are in agreement with NJEA's goals and positions.

The 125-member NJEA PAC Operating Committee consists of NJEA's officers, the NJEA Executive Committee, the county association presidents, the NJEA Government Relations Committee, the Congressional Contact Committee, the president of New Jersey Preservice Education Association, the NJREA legislative chairperson, and two NJREA regional legislative chairs.

For the November general election, the committee usually meets in August. It reviews the recommendations of the screening committees and brings votes to determine who will become NJEA PAC-endorsed candidates.

On the pages that follow are photos and statements from the legislative candidates who upon completion of the process were endorsed by NJEA PAC.

Note: There were no endorsements in Legislative Districts (LDs) 17, 26, and 29. Candidates are screened on their records and on their agreement with NJEA's goals and positions.

Candidates marked with an asterisk indicate a "your choice" endorsement. In those districts you may find more candidates are listed than there are positions up for election. "Your choice" indicates that each of the candidates listed meet NJEA's standards for endorsement.



LD 1
Senate

Jeff Van Drew (D)

I greatly appreciate NJEA's endorsement. I will continue to support needed resources for our public schools to ensure that our children can compete in a global economy. In recognizing the challenges facing our education professionals, I will continue to fight for fair working conditions for all public school employees.

Assembly

Robert Andrzejczak (D)

As a policymaker, my job is to ensure that our public schools have the resources they need, while not standing in the way of our educators' primary objective to teach. I appreciate the endorsement of the NJEA and will continue to support the work of teachers and education support professionals.



R. Bruce Land (D)

As a retired captain from the New Jersey Department of Corrections and a Vietnam veteran, I know the value of public service. I understand the importance of having the resources you need to fulfill your mission and the promise of a secure retirement at the end of your service. Public education is vital to the future of this nation, and I will always fight for it.



LD 2

Senate

Chris Brown (R)

I believe in New Jersey's public education system and have approached my legislative responsibilities with improving the opportunities of our children through our public schools. On behalf of our working families, I put aside party affiliation to stand up to Gov. Christie and defended the work of all public school employees.



Assembly

Vince Mazzeo (D)

I've taken the time to visit schools to talk about the issues facing public education. We need to focus on what's happening in the classroom – improving educational opportunities by putting off costly testing that isn't proven, focusing on curriculum that we know works, and taking care of our teachers and education support professionals.



***John Armato (D)**

New Jersey has always been known as a leader in quality public education. As an assemblyman, I will fight every day to ensure that teachers and support staff have access to the tools they need to succeed, full funding for our schools, and a curriculum that's proven and works.



***Vince Sera (R)**

As a teacher for the past 11 years, I understand and appreciate the hard work and dedication of all our teachers and educational support professionals. I am committed to making sure our pensions are fully funded and that we bring an end to excessive high stakes testing. I am honored to have NJEA's endorsement and am looking forward to being your voice in Trenton.



***Brenda Taube (R)**

I feel honored to be among candidates who are aligned with NJEA goals and positions. Our teachers and educational support professional team provide a vital role in our society—educating our future.

LD 3

Senate

Fran Grenier (R)

I want to thank the NJEA for their endorsement and the members in Gloucester, Salem and Cumberland counties for everything they are doing to get me across the finish line on Nov. 7. The education of our children is one of the most important things we do as a society and supporting teachers and educational support professionals is deeply important to me.



LD 4

Senate

Fred Madden (D)

I am deeply appreciative of the support and confidence of teachers and educational support professionals in the Fourth Legislative District and beyond. I look forward to working in partnership with the education community to ensure that we are collectively providing the children of this state with the best education possible.



Assembly

Paul D. Moriarty (D)

I appreciate the contributions of NJEA members to the education and development of our children and the future of our state. I look forward to working with you to find fair solutions to our most pressing issues: adequate school funding and fulfilling pension obligations. Thanks for your endorsement and support.



Gabriela Mosquera (D)

Educators and educational support staff are instrumental in molding the minds and transforming the lives of young people. They serve as role models, motivators, and life coaches. They continuously encourage students to achieve their highest potential. Their passion for education and their commitment to a student's future is inspiring. I am honored to receive this endorsement.



LD 5**Senate****Nilsa Cruz-Perez (D)**

I remain committed to working in partnership with our teachers, educational support professionals, and NJEA to craft sound policies that protect them, preserve the high quality of public education this state has to offer, and ensure the thorough and efficient education our students deserve regardless of where they live.

Assembly**Patricia Egan Jones (D)**

I am proud to receive the support of teachers and support staff. The work you do is priceless, and I look forward to working each and every day to ensure that your hard work and sacrifice are not in vain. Thank you so much for your endorsement.

Arthur Barclay (D)

I am honored to be endorsed by the hard working men and women who teach and support our students. I have dedicated much of my professional life to supporting and mentoring youth and know how important, and at times difficult, it can be.

LD 6**Senate****James Beach (D)**

As a former educator and member of the Senate Education Committee, I am honored to receive your endorsement. I have tirelessly advocated for the state to meet its fiscal obligations to the children of New Jersey, improve safety and security in our schools and ensure that every district's transportation needs are addressed. We owe it to children, parents and educators alike to make these issues a top priority.

Assembly**Louis Greenwald (D)**

Strong public education is the backbone of our society. I have proudly supported increased school funding, placing a moratorium on the implementation of PARCC testing, and fully funding our pension obligation. We must honor the promises made to all educators that we will invest in them and their students.

Pamela R. Lampitt (D)

Our children deserve the highest quality education, and I will continue to be a strong advocate for our public schools and educators by supporting measures to provide necessary funding for public schools, reduce the emphasis placed on standardized testing in teacher evaluations, and fully funding the pension system. I am proud to stand with the NJEA to fight for our public schools and educators.

LD 7**Senate****Troy Singleton (D)**

As a union member, I am honored to be endorsed by NJEA. Investing in our children's education, in our educators, and in our schools is critical for a brighter future. Our children deserve a high-quality education no matter where they grow up. As an assemblyman, I have worked hard to support those dedicating their lives our children, and I will continue that work as your Senator.

Assembly**Herb Conaway (D)**

As the son of a history teacher, I know the hard work and dedication our teachers bring to the classroom every day. Our educators and public schools are the backbone of our state. I have fought every day to ensure all our schools are fully funded and pensions are protected. I look forward to continuing this work so we can ensure our children have the incredible education they deserve.

Carol Murphy (D)

I was taught to give back to the community, which spurred my involvement volunteering to improve our parks and work to build and modernize public schools. I'm proud to lead the efforts to fully fund

LD 8**Senate****George Youngkin (D)**

These are difficult times for unions, labor, educators, and their support teams have been under attack. Good public educators are imperative for our future, and need the support of State Legislators. We cannot continue to have rights eroded away. I will fight to ensure public and school funding are fair again.

LD 9**Senate****Christopher Connors (R)**

Consistently, I've remained a strong supporter of New Jersey's public education system and education professionals in representing the interests of my constituents. These constituents include not only parents who want their children to receive the best education possible, but also dedicated teachers committed to excellence in our public school system.

Assembly**Jill Dobrowsky (D)**

I am a public school administrator who spent years as an elementary school teacher. I have dedicated my career to protecting public education, special education, LGBTQ rights, female rights, and the environment. I

will work to fund our pensions and bring back the respect that everyone who works with our children deserves.



Brian Rumpf (R)

An effective public education system is even more vital in the increasing competitive global economy. Accordingly, I remain a steadfast supporter of prioritizing public education as a means of providing our teachers and educational professionals with the resources necessary to ensure our children receive a world class education.

LD 10
Senate



***Emma L. Mamano (D)**

I can think of no more vital role than caring for the intellectual, social, and emotional needs of children. Our education policies must reflect a deep respect for school personnel. Our state budget must make educating children, and fairly compensating those who do so, a top priority. Our communities will thrive when education is fully supported.



***Jim Holzapfel (R)**

I am a product of the public schools of Ocean County. I oppose vouchers and have successfully fought to regain funding for Ocean County schools after the implementation of the Democratic school funding plan. My son, daughter and daughter-in-law are teachers. For over 20 years, the 10th Legislative District has awarded "Teacher of the Year"—Teachers Affect Eternity.

Assembly



Gregory P. McGuckin (R)

Education of our students is one of our most important issues. My wife is a teacher and I know firsthand how hard teachers and school staff work to educate our youth. The problems they face today are much different than when we were young. If I am re-elected, I will continue to work with NJEA on issues affecting our students and teachers.



David Wolfe (R)

As a past chairman and current member of the Assembly Education Committee, I have always made education, teachers, and school staff my top priority. If re-elected, I will continue to work with NJEA to ensure New Jersey's teachers and students are given the resources they rightfully deserve.

LD 11
Senate



Vin Gopal (D)

Investing in our children's education means investing in a brighter future for New Jersey. I am proud to receive the endorsement of the NJEA and vow to fight for our strong public schools,

our educators, and our children if elected. New Jersey children deserve the best education possible and as State Senator I will fight to make that a reality.

Assembly



Joann Downey (D)

As a mother of two daughters, the sister of a special education teacher, and the wife of a history teacher, I know what incredible work our educators do. As Assemblywoman, I have fought for our educators, our schools, and our children. I am honored to receive this endorsement and look forward to continue to fight for these values.



Eric Houghtaling (D)

I am honored to receive the NJEA endorsement. My mother worked for over 30 years in the Neptune School system and today, I am proud to be able to stand up and fight for our public school employees. I will continue to work tirelessly to improve our schools and ensure our children have the great education they deserve.

LD 12
Senate



David H. Lande (D)

As a person who was educated in New Jersey's public schools, I have intimate knowledge of the outstanding work of New Jersey's educators and educational support professionals whom I fully support. In the Senate, I intend to work with NJEA to ensure that all children have access to the same high quality education.

Assembly



Ronald S. Dancer (R)

I have a consistent voting record as an advocate for the collective bargaining process. My voting record has earned NJEA PAC support in past years by voting in favor of quarterly pension payments, the School Funding Reform Act of 2008, and ending PARCC. I support protections for jobs of support staff (ESP) and helped defeat a charter school application in Old Bridge that residents and NJEA opposed.



***Gene Davis (D)**

As a proud union member, I stand by all members of the NJEA in the fight for fair pay and working conditions. I am a product of New Jersey public schools and I will fight side by side with the NJEA as the next Assemblyman from the 12th Legislative District.



***Robert D. Clifton (R)**

Since joining the Legislature in 2012, I have proudly stood with New Jersey's teachers. We have one of the best public school systems in the nation and much of that is owed to the men and women who work tirelessly to ensure every child receive a world class education.

LD 13**Senate****Sean Byrnes (D)**

I am honored to receive the NJEA's endorsement. My experience in a diverse public education environment shaped my beliefs and provided me with an educational foundation that anchors me as an attorney and business owner. More than ever, we need to support and protect our incredible public education system and all the teachers and professionals who educate our children.

Assembly**Tom Giaimo (D)**

As the son of public school teachers, I am proud of this endorsement. As an assemblyman, I pledge to advocate and protect the rights of teachers and ESP to collectively bargain. My mission is to work with educators and parents to develop a curriculum focused on providing children with the skills necessary to deal with the challenges they face in their everyday lives.

**Serena DiMaso (R)**

Maintaining the high quality of education in New Jersey is of paramount importance to our residents. Supporting our schools, educators and children will be my highest priority as a member of the Legislature. Our residents deserve nothing less.

LD 14**Senate****Linda Greenstein (D)**

I am proud of NJEA's endorsement and will continue to fight for additional school funding. Through my service on the Senate Budget and Appropriations Committee I will continue to be a voice for public education.

Assembly**Daniel Benson (D)**

This is an important time to stand up for public education and the staff that have delivered educational excellence for our children. I'm proud to have the support of NJEA, its members, and will always be ready to fight for them and for a strong public education system for our children.

LD 15**Senate****Shirley K. Turner (D)**

Our family of educators has the awesome responsibility of cultivating our future and they deserve the support and security necessary to be effective in helping our children to reach their full potential. I remain committed to our public schools, educators, and staff and will continue to do all that I can to ensure that they have the tools they need for success.

Assembly**Reed Gusciora (D)**

Fundamentally, I believe that the quality of your education, and your well-being, shouldn't be determined by your ZIP code. Since I joined the General Assembly, I have worked to ensure that all schools provide a healthy, safe environment for students to learn, and for our dedicated educational professionals to work.

Elizabeth Maher Muoio (D)

While some schools in New Jersey are state-of-the-art institutions, others lack the resources necessary to prepare students with the skills they need for college or employment. I am committed to providing our teachers with the equipment and support staff they need to effectively teach vital skills to children of all abilities.

LD 16**Assembly****Andrew Zwicker (D)**

Everything I've accomplished is due to my own New Jersey public school education. As a scientist, I bring an evidence-based approach to policy-making. As a father married to a public school educator, I strive to ensure that our children have the tools they need to succeed. I support full payment of pensions, proper funding of schools, and minimizing the impact of standardized testing.

Roy Freiman (D)

The unwavering commitment of NJEA members helps New Jersey schools earn top rankings year after year. I am honored to be associated with you and will proudly advocate on your behalf as you continue to provide quality education to our children.

LD 18**Senate****Patrick Diegnan (D)**

I stand with the professional women and men standing tall in front of classrooms in all corners of our state to entrust our daughters and sons with the ever expanding skills needed to compete in a global economy and to inspire them to dream big and bold. I value your service and appreciate all that you do for our children and your local communities.

Assembly**Nancy J. Pinkin (D)**

I thank you for your support. By representing educators, NJEA stands for great schools, which make New Jersey a leader in the nation for education and a great place to raise a family. I stand with you to improve the pension system and to make changes to standardized testing. Class time should be spent teaching, not administering tests.



Robert Karabinchak (D)

As a product of public schools, I know firsthand the importance of public education. We need to make public education a state priority and improve it so that our teachers and support staff can prepare our children for the jobs of the future.

LD 19

Senate

Joseph Vitale (D)

If granted another term as District 19's senator, I will continue the work we have started in fighting the opioid crisis, move reform of out-of-network, surprise medical bills across the finish line, and work with my caucus to create sustainable solutions for school funding and our pension obligations.



Assembly

Craig J. Coughlin (D)

As a product of public schools, I am a staunch believer that public education is the "great equalizer." Our system provides an efficient, free and thorough education to all students regardless of any demographic and our society has the moral obligation to provide and protect this aim at all costs.



Yvonne Lopez (D)

Thank you for your endorsement. I am ready and willing to advocate for increased school aid and resources for our teachers, educational support professionals, and most importantly, students. Education is the cornerstone of advancement and our teachers are the masons. It is imperative to make sure they have the tools necessary to build.



LD 20

Senate

Joseph P. Cryan (D)

I've always had the interests of working men and women in the forefront during every decision. In my last speech on the Assembly floor in 2013, I urged my colleagues to remember that educators make a difference, and that they should consider them throughout the process. I will bring that same mindset to the Senate if I am lucky enough to return to the Legislature.



Assembly

Annette Quijano (D)

I am a steadfast supporter of public education and am well-known for my support of educators, including educational support professionals. I am a proud product of the public school system and believe that education is the key that opens the doors to success for everybody.



Jamel C. Holley (D)

I am honored to serve the constituents of Elizabeth, Union, Hillside and Roselle. As a product of a New Jersey public education, I feel compelled to advocate for enhanced working conditions, job security and pensions for our teachers. I have been a strong advocate of the state fulfilling its obligation to schools, along with being emphatic on a fair, established and constitutionally sound school funding formula.

LD 21

Assembly

Lacey Rzeszowski (D)

As a community leader and coalition-builder, I will bring people together to find solutions to put New Jersey on sound economic footing so that our children can follow their dreams here at home.



LD 22

Senate

Nicholas P. Scutari (D)

I am a former member of the Linden School Board and have a master's degree in education from Rutgers. I have a great appreciation for our public schools and the work NJEA members do. I look forward to continuing my strong relationship with the NJEA over the next four years in the Senate.



Assembly

Gerald Green (D)

After several years in the Assembly, I continue my commitment to support our state constitution that all children are entitled to a thorough and efficient education. Our school employees are the backbone of this great state, who take on the responsibility of shaping our young people for the future.



James J. Kennedy (D)

As a longtime supporter of the NJEA and spouse to a former Rahway public school kindergarten teacher, I hope to make sure New Jersey remains one of the top states for education. I will be an advocate in the Legislature for school funding, pension and health benefits, and ensuring we provide the proper support for teachers and students at all public schools.



LD 23

Senate

Christine Lui Chen (D)

Government is broken and we need everyday people to fight for much-needed reform. I'm not a politician. Born and raised in New Jersey, I'm a mom, neuroscientist and healthcare executive committed to fight for our educational support professionals and quality NJ public schools.



Assembly

Laura Shaw (D)

I am a retired engineering executive and entrepreneur who knows how to solve complex problems like stimulating New Jersey's economy and eliminating waste. I'm proud that my four highly accomplished daughters are products of our public schools. I support fully funding public schools and pensions while restricting unproven standardized tests.



Charles Boddy (D)

It is a moral obligation to ensure that all of our children have access to a high quality education. My three daughters are products of New Jersey's public education system and its universities. The high quality education they received has led to opportunities which have enriched their lives and livelihoods. I am and will always remain a strong advocate for New Jersey's public schools.



LD 24

Senate

Jennifer Hamilton (D)

Fair funding for all the schools in the 24th district is a priority of my campaign. It's imperative that our schools receive the quality resources they need so that our students and teachers can flourish. We must also fix and fund the state's pension system so that all of education professionals can retire knowing that their future is secure.



Assembly

Kate Mateson (D)

It is more important than ever that we have representatives who will support relief from Chapter 78, provide a strong voice for handling the pension crisis, and make sure our students receive the best New Jersey education they can get. I also pledge to maintain and strengthen education infrastructure that attracts people to live and raise their families in Northwestern New Jersey.



Gina Trish (D)

As a legislator and a teacher, I will fight for the highest rate education that incorporates the best technology in the classroom, and puts an end to the underfunding. I will advocate for updated infrastructure to improve quality of life and stimulate local economies and job growth to encourage families to come and stay in our district.



LD 25

Senate

Lisa Bhimani (D)

I am honored to have the endorsement of the NJEA. I come from a family full of educators, and the ones in Morris and Somerset counties deserve better than these last eight years of



Christie's raw deal. Let's build a brighter future for our public schools.

Assembly

Thomas Moran (D)

Few factors are as crucial as quality public education in driving New Jersey's future. In Trenton, I will fight to ensure educators and students have the resources they need to succeed. NJEA's endorsement gets us one step closer.



Richard Corcoran (D)

"Thank you to the NJEA for your endorsement of my candidacy. Let's work together to end PARCC testing as well as the systematic underfunding of the teachers' pension fund. Our public schools are too important to let these problems get worse."



LD 27

Senate

Richard Codey (D)

The NJEA members are the bedrock of our state as they are the ones who teach, nurture and support our children to help them succeed in life. As the husband of a recently retired teacher, I know the passion and effort put into preparing lesson plans, teaching and being there for the children far beyond the hours of the school day. I am proud to support teachers and educational support professionals.



Assembly

Mila Jasey (D)

Teachers and support professionals deserve respect and resources as they guide our children, the state's most valuable asset, into engaged and productive citizenship. I continue to be committed to preschool expansion, adequate funding, reduced high stakes testing, pathways to career and affordable college access.



John F. McKeon (D)

No school district can succeed absent outstanding teachers and support staff professionals. Teachers are integral to every community. We have an obligation to support them, empower them, and to protect their hard-earned salaries and benefits.



LD 28

Senate

Ron Rice (D)

I thank NJEA for the organization's endorsement of my candidacy for the state Senate. I am honored to have received this endorsement and support from NJEA's leadership, teachers, and educational support professionals who work so hard, under very difficult circumstances to provide a quality, thorough and efficient education to the children in New Jersey's public schools.





Assembly

Cleopatra G. Tucker (D)

I support NJEA. I very much appreciate teachers for their hard work in educating our children. With parents, they play a valuable role in children's lives. I have always supported the right to collective bargaining. I support a fully funded pension and am hopeful that we will find a solution to pension funding in the near future.



Ralph R. Caputo (D)

I have been a supporter of public education for my entire professional life. My record shows my support for fully funding SFRA and pensions, collective bargaining, and opposition to the over-the-top PARCC testing current mandated. I oppose using student standardized test scores in teacher evaluation. I am committed to promoting educational initiatives that result in the improvement of public education.

LD 30

Assembly

Sean T. Kean (R)

I would like to thank NJEA for your endorsement. It is an honor to know that I have the backing of teachers and educational support professionals. Please know that I plan to continue my efforts to make New Jersey a more affordable place to live and work, help to maintain the high-quality education that New Jersey offers, and ensure that teachers are treated fairly.



Eliot Arlo Colon (D)

During my seven-year tenure with my local board of education, and now president, I have viewed firsthand how state rules involving the 2 percent cap, Chapter 78, reduced pension funding, standardized testing and expansion of charter schools wreak havoc on school communities in our district. I promise to fight for fairness, respect and investment for our educators and support staff.

LD 31

Senate

Sandra B. Cunningham (D)

I look forward to continuing a productive relationship with the NJEA. As chairperson of the Senate Higher Education Committee, I am aware of the need to support our teachers and our educational support professionals. We all need to work together to provide a solid education for our New Jersey students.



Assembly

Nicholas Chiaravalloti (D)

I am proud to be endorsed by the NJEA. As an assemblyman, I have fought for fully funding our schools. We need long-term solutions that improve our public education system. High-quality free public education is the foundation for any future progress.



LD 32

Senate

Nicholas J. Sacco (D)

As a former teacher and school administrator and NJEA member for over 40 years, I'm proud to be an advocate for public education, fair school funding and keeping promises made to public employees. I have strongly opposed many Christie administration policies that hurt teachers and slashed school aid. I will continue to be a voice for public schools and against vouchers, for-profit schools and all attempts to gut tenure.



Assembly

Vincent Prieto (D)

I am one of the state's strongest supporters of fully funding the pension system. I know that we must keep the promises we made to hard-working teachers and educational support professionals. I am a product of a great public education and will continue to work to dedicate more funding to vocational and career-focused education.



Angelica Jimenez (D)

I am very thankful for the endorsement from NJEA and its members. I will continue to fight for the pension to be funded. I will also continue the fight against PARCC to ensure its reform is beneficial to both students and teachers.

LD 33

Assembly

Raj Mukherji (D)

I am humbled to receive the NJEA endorsement. I stand in solidarity with our public educators and New Jersey school children and will continue, as I have for four years, to fight for a budget that adequately supports our urban families, socioeconomically disadvantaged districts, and public schools that enable our kids to realize their full potential.



Annette Chaparro (D)

As a legislator, supporting New Jersey teachers and educational support professionals is one of the most important and personal jobs I have. You work tirelessly to educate our students and shape our children's futures. Their hard work needs to be recognized and supported, and I am proud to stand with the NJEA to continue fighting for New Jersey's public schools.



LD 34

Senate

Nia H. Gill (D)

Public schools are the cornerstone of our communities. I believe that the best way to provide a quality education to all of our children is through supporting our local public schools and giving children the opportunity to succeed.



I look forward to continuing to work with the NJEA and its members to make sure we provide our children with excellent public education.

Assembly

Shelia Oliver (D)

I became civically involved and an activist as a high school student, recognizing the social, educational, and economic injustices that existed within the political system. I understood the political system could influence the quality of life for people. An ardent education advocate continuing to stand up for our public school systems, as well as advocating for access to higher education, I believe that education changes lives.



Thomas P. Giblin (D)

As a first generation American born, I and my family have been the beneficiaries of all this great country and state have to offer. New Jersey's education system has always provided superior opportunities. I have always been and will continue to be a supporter of New Jersey's teachers and NJEA. Teachers and education support professionals are all too often unheralded and not shown the appreciation that they deserve.



LD 35

Senate

Nellie Pou (D)

Quality education for all students is only possible when schools are fully and properly funded. Proper funding protects fair wages, pension benefits for teachers and resource staff, and safe, clean and updated facilities. I will continue to hold Trenton responsible for its statutory obligations to your benefits.



Assembly

Shavonda Sumter (D)

I work diligently to promote the values of the Democratic Party that puts the poor, middle class, children and seniors first. I am opposed to any reduction in aid to school districts and any formula that would negatively impact at risk, English language learners or special education students. It is our duty to ensure that our students are prepared to compete in the global job market.



Benjie Wimberly (D)

I have been an educator in the Paterson Public School District for 26 years. My wife is also a teacher in the district. I will continue the fight to fully fund public education and our pensions. I have always been an advocate for our youth. You can count on me to continue to fight for them, and us, in the next legislative session.



LD 36

Senate

Paul Sarlo (D)

I oppose outsourcing our educational support professionals (ESPs) and would support legislation prohibiting school districts from subcontracting services during an existing contract. Outsourcing provides only minimal cost savings to our taxpayers, the real answer is providing the required state funding under the school funding formula. ESPs provide an invaluable service by building bonds with our children. They should have good and safe working conditions, quality healthcare and fair wages.



Assembly

Gary Schaefer (D)

It is our fundamental responsibility to ensure that our children have access to unequalled educational opportunities, a top-notch curriculum and a secure learning environment where they can gain the skills and knowledge needed to succeed in the 21st century workforce. I have continually supported fully funding public school education as well as efforts to fully fund our pension obligations in order to attract and retain high-quality teachers.



Marlene Caride (D)

Our children are our future and their education is critical. Teachers and staff invaluable serve as their instructors, motivators, mentors, and guides, to name a few of their many roles. I hope to be afforded the opportunity to continue to work closely with NJEA on issues that impact education.



LD 37

Senate

Loretta Weinberg (D)

I hope to continue initiatives that support working families: controlling property taxes by increasing state funding for public schools, working toward full funding of the pension obligation, working for genuine pay equity and a livable minimum wage, expanding access to higher education and for increased Pre-K and after-school programs, and expanding access to health care for families and women's health.



Assembly

Gordon M. Johnson (D)

I am asking for your support to continue my service in the Assembly. If elected, I will continue to fight for the middle class and ensure that all children have access to a quality public education. The future shows great promise of reversing the damage caused by the governor for the past eight years.





Valerie Vainieri Huttle (D)

New Jersey has an excellent public school system thanks to NJEA, teachers, and educational support professionals. A strong public school system is the key to a vibrant, creative, and productive society. We must ensure that all schools have the resources to provide an environment that will nurture the students' minds. When we invest in our students, we invest in the future of our state.

LD 38

Senate

Bob Gordon (D)

I am the product of public schools, and I was blessed with superb teachers who shaped my life. I am proud to stand with NJEA in defense of your pensions and benefits, and look forward to our continued collaboration in support of proper funding of schools, appropriate use of standardized testing and equitable treatment of ESPs.



Assembly

Timothy Eustace (D)

Thank you to the NJEA for endorsing my candidacy for re-election! During my last three terms I've been honored to represent the interest of students and educators in Trenton. I look forward to working with NJEA to right the wrongs of the Christie administration. Let's get to work.



Joseph A. Lagana (D)

As a parent of public school students and as an Assemblyman elected to represent thousands of New Jersey families, I am very thankful that New Jersey has NJEA members to help our children achieve their dreams. It is a privilege to work with your organization to achieve our shared goals.



LD 39

Senate

Linda H. Schwager (D)

The 200,000 teachers, educational support professionals and retired public employees of NJEA fight every day to improve the Garden State. I'm honored to have their endorsement.



Assembly

Jannie Chung (D)

Bergen and Passaic counties have some of the best schools in our state thanks to the men and women of NJEA. We'll fight for you each and every day in Trenton.



Annie Hausman (D)

People move to our district because of our fantastic schools. I'm running because investment in education is an investment in our future.

LD 40

Senate

Kristin M. Corrado (R)

Teachers are the most vital public servants needed to ensure a bright future for New Jersey. Their dedication ensures our children are equipped with the knowledge and skills to succeed. As the proud sister of teachers, I will work closely with the NJEA to lead our students to boundless opportunities.



Assembly

Paul Vagianos (D)

New Jersey teachers and educational support professionals are among the finest public servants in the nation. As the father of two girls who went through Ridgewood's public school system, I cannot thank public educators enough. We must ensure Trenton does all it can to care for teachers and support staff who work tirelessly to prepare the future of New Jersey.



Christine Ordway (D)

Our schools consistently rank among the top in the nation because of NJEA's members. I'm ready to fight in Trenton for our educators who have made New Jersey the model to follow. We must protect and strengthen our public education system with full funding, and carry through on pension promises made to our professional educators. 🏠

