

## **DECISION 2009** **NEW JERSEY GENERAL ELECTION GUIDE**

PROMOTING AWARENESS OF KEY ISSUES SURROUNDING ADDICTION  
PREVENTION, TREATMENT, AND RECOVERY PROGRAMS

### **GUIDE HIGHLIGHTS:**

- ▣ POINTS TO SHARE AND QUESTIONS TO ASK CANDIDATES
- ▣ CANDIDATES FOR THE NEW JERSEY GOVERNOR, SENATE AND ASSEMBLY
- ▣ ELECTION FAQ'S

### **ISSUE HIGHLIGHTS:**

- ▣ THE ADDICTION TREATMENT GAP
- ▣ CRIMINAL JUSTICE AND THE ADDICTED OFFENDER
- ▣ YOUTH USE OF ALCOHOL AND DRUGS
- ▣ STIGMA AND DISCRIMINATION TOWARDS ADDICTION

## IMPORTANT GENERAL ELECTION DATES



### OCTOBER 13, 2009

Last day to register to vote for the November general election.

### OCTOBER 27, 2009

Last day to apply for an absentee ballot application by mail. (For information on how and where to obtain an absentee ballot, please refer to the Frequently Asked Questions section of this guide, page 11.)

### NOVEMBER 2, 2009

3 p.m. deadline for obtaining an absentee ballot application in person at the County Clerk's Office for the general election.

### NOVEMBER 3, 2009

General Election Day. Polls open 6 a.m. until 8 p.m.



*You may also access this guide free of charge, along with candidate survey responses and other election related information, at NCADD – NJ's Website: <http://www.ncaddnj.org>.*

## 2009 NEW JERSEY GENERAL ELECTION GUIDE

The 2009 New Jersey General Election Guide represents the non-partisan efforts of the National Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence – New Jersey (NCADD – NJ) to identify key issues affecting addiction prevention, treatment, and recovery programs and to educate the public about these issues. NCADD – NJ is a private, nonprofit public health agency that promotes the prevention and treatment of, and recovery from, alcoholism and drug dependence through advocacy and education.

NCADD-New Jersey works in partnership with and on behalf of individuals, families, and communities affected by alcoholism and drug dependence to promote recovery through excellence in prevention and treatment initiatives. Through the organization's leadership, laws and public policies will be established and enforced that promote recovery, eliminate discrimination, and remove systemic barriers that impede ready access to treatment.

The combined effort of NCADD – NJ and other advocates of addiction prevention, treatment, and recovery is often frustrated by the stigma that accompanies this illness. Mistaken beliefs about addiction being a moral failing or character flaw circulate throughout the community as well as through the government. These misconceptions have proven a formidable barrier to the implementation of programs to address addiction. Stigma also prevents addicted individuals from seeking and receiving the treatment they need.

As New Jersey's 2009 general election draws near, voters and candidates might want to consider how addicted individuals have been stigmatized and consider pursuing sound public policies that recognize addiction for what it is: a preventable and treatable disease. The 2009 New Jersey General Election Guide highlights some important issues pertaining to the prevention, treatment, and recovery from alcoholism and drug dependence. Please be aware of the issues brought forth in this guide and remember to vote on Election Day.

For additional information, please visit Decision 2009 on NCADD – NJ's Web site, [www.ncaddnj.org](http://www.ncaddnj.org).

## CLOSING THE ADDICTION TREATMENT GAP

Alcohol and drug addiction is one of the most serious health problems facing our society today. It affects millions of people, devastates families, individuals, and communities, and overwhelms our legal system and state budget. No other disease affects so many Americans and yet receives such little funding support.

There is a substantial gap between the number of New Jersey residents who need addiction treatment and the capacity to deliver such treatment.

The most recent numbers show 805,000 residents of New Jersey were in need of addiction treatment; sadly, only 7 percent get the treatment they need. Additionally, as many as 41,000 adults and 9,400 adolescents demanded treatment but were turned away because there is simply not the capacity in the state to treat them. In New Jersey, closing the addiction treatment gap could result in a savings of over \$3 billion in Medicaid, criminal justice, public employee health plans, child welfare and other areas.

### POINTS YOU CAN SHARE WITH CANDIDATES

- Of the more than 800,000 in the state who have an alcohol or drug problem, only 7 percent are admitted for treatment. In excess of 50,000 New Jerseyans who sought treatment were unable to access it because of limited treatment capacity.
- Untreated addiction is the cause of other problems and illnesses like heart disease, lower work productivity, overcrowded jails and broken families. Untreated addiction costs New Jersey over \$3 billion, yet thousands of New Jersey residents cannot access the treatment and recovery services they need.
- New polling in the state shows two out of three people in New Jersey said they would pay higher health insurance premiums to have addiction treatment made more accessible and affordable. This view cuts across party lines, with 75 percent of Democrats in support of it and 60 percent of Republicans in favor.

### QUESTIONS YOU MIGHT ASK CANDIDATES:



Will you seek funding to ensure that treatment and recovery services are available to those who need them?

Would you support New Jersey mental health and addiction parity legislation that offers stronger patient protections than are found in federal law?

## YOUTH USE OF ALCOHOL

Underage drinking is a greatly troubling and growing epidemic in New Jersey. Approximately 395,000 youth in New Jersey drink each year. In 2007 over 76 percent of New Jersey high school students reported drinking alcohol in their lifetime, with over half (51 percent) of the students having drunk alcohol on at least one day during the prior 30 days, and almost one in three high school students (31.1 percent) drinking five or more alcoholic drinks on an occasion in the past 30 days.

Tragic health, social and economic problems result from the use of alcohol by youth. Youth are particularly vulnerable to harms associated with

alcohol. It not only affects their development but it leads to high rates of alcoholic-related violence, motor vehicle accidents, assaults, homicide, suicide, traumatic injury, drowning, burns, property crime, high risk sex, fetal alcohol syndrome, alcohol poisoning, and need for treatment for alcohol abuse and dependence. Motor vehicle crashes are the leading cause of death among youth aged 15–19 years in the United States, and during the past 30 days, about one-fourth (24.2 percent) of New Jersey students rode at least once in a vehicle with someone who had been drinking. Further, 12.8 percent of students did so on two or more occasions during this period.

### POINTS YOU CAN SHARE WITH CANDIDATES

- Teen drinking is the primary source of adult alcoholism. Young people who begin drinking before age 15 are five times more likely to have a problem with alcohol later in life than those who begin drinking at age 21.
- Alcohol is implicated in the four top causes of teen deaths: Accidents, unintentional injuries, homicide, and suicide. More teens die from an alcohol overdose or drunk driving crashes than from all other causes combined. Nearly one in three 15-20-year-old drivers who were killed in crashes had been drinking.
- The front part of the brain does not stop developing until the age of 21 and underage drinking harms this development.
- According to one study, the majority of youth not only drank (71.5 percent) but drank and drove (63 percent). During the prior 30 days, 20.1 percent of New Jersey high school students 18 years and older and 9.5 percent of 16-17 year olds reported they drove a vehicle after they had been drinking alcohol and more than one-fourth (27.5 percent) of the students rode at least once in a vehicle with someone who had been drinking and 3.9 percent of students did so on six or more occasions during this period.

### QUESTIONS YOU MIGHT ASK CANDIDATES:



Do you agree that the minimum drinking age should remain at 21?

Do you support state-wide keg registration and allowing judges to delay the issuance of driver's licenses for minors found drinking?

Do you support alcohol and drug testing in schools?

## CRIMINAL JUSTICE & TREATING THE ADDICTED OFFENDER

Untreated alcoholism and drug addiction fuels crime and recidivism. The majority of individuals released from prison have not received treatment and return to the correctional system with devastating costs to community safety and the state's budget. In New Jersey, 29 percent of prisoners are incarcerated due to a base offense involving drugs and 81 percent have a substance abuse problem.


According to the Office of National Drug Control

Policy (ONDCP) data from the 2008 Arrestee Drug Abuse Monitoring Program (ADAM II), the majority of arrestees in 10 major metropolitan areas tested positive for illicit drug use, with as many as 87 percent of arrestees testing positive for an illegal drug. The Bureau of Justice Statistics found that a third of state inmates reported having committed their current offense while under the influence of drugs, half reported drug use in the month before the offense and two thirds had used drugs regularly.

### POINTS YOU CAN SHARE WITH CANDIDATES

- Drug court and intensive treatment cost less than half of what incarcerating an individual does. Furthermore, drug court graduates have a much lower rate of recidivism compared to those released from prison.
- New Jersey has the nation's highest proportion of inmate population (over 25 percent) imprisoned for a non-violent drug offense.
- 81 percent of New Jersey inmates had some type of drug or alcohol abuse problem. Studies show that treatment can cut drug abuse in half, reduce criminal activity up to 80 percent, and reduce arrests up to 64 percent.

### QUESTIONS YOU MIGHT ASK CANDIDATES:



Are you in favor of expanding drug courts, including implementing municipal drug courts?

Should first- and second-time, simple drug possession offenders have the opportunity to receive substance abuse treatment instead of incarceration?

## STIGMA AND DISCRIMINATION TOWARDS ADDICTION

The medical profession has long recognized addiction as a disease, specifically as a chronic condition much like diabetes or hypertension. Yet the stigma associated with alcohol or drug disorders often prevents people from seeking the treatment they need, contributing to disease severity and adding huge costs to public programs.

Despite the ample and growing scientific research demonstrating that addiction is a lifelong disease, the public has not embraced this concept. Pub-

lic opinion polling done several years ago by NCADD-NJ shows 40 percent of New Jerseyans still believe addiction is a moral failing. That said, there appear to be gains in this area, with a new poll showing that 56 percent of state residents strongly agree with the statement “addiction is a disease.” Nonetheless, policies and attitudes persist that hinder access to treatment and make it difficult to sustain recovery.



### POINTS YOU CAN SHARE WITH CANDIDATES

- A new poll shows that nearly two in three (65 percent) New Jersey residents know someone who has been addicted to alcohol or drugs.
- Addiction requires a long-term care approach focused on disease management. Symptoms may recur, as they do with other chronic illnesses (relapse).
- Alcohol and drug addiction treatment are very effective and work as well as other established medical treatments for illnesses such as diabetes, asthma and hypertension. In fact, the rate of relapse for addiction is lower than for diabetes.

### QUESTIONS YOU MIGHT ASK CANDIDATES:

Do you agree that alcohol and drug addiction are preventable, treatable, chronic diseases?

Are you in favor of the state pursuing strategies that reflect a public health approach, as opposed to a criminal justice approach, to alcohol and drug addiction?



# MAJOR PARTY CANDIDATES FOR

The following is a listing of major party candidates for Governor, Senate and General Assembly in the upcoming General Election. Candidates who filled out the addition issues survey by September 11 appear in **bold**. Candidates who replied with a letter but did not fill out the survey are in *italics*. Those who gave no reply are in plain text. Individual candidate responses can be accessed at [www.ncaddnj.org](http://www.ncaddnj.org). If candidates seeking your vote have not responded, you can request that they do so. Their contact information is available at <http://www.vote-smart.org> or [www.njvoterinfor.org](http://www.njvoterinfor.org).

## Governor

NAME	PARTY
Chris Christie	Republican
Jon Corzine	Democrat

## Senate

NAME	DISTRICT	PARTY
Joseph A. Adolf	6	Republican
James Beach	6	Democrat
Micheal Doherty	23	Republican
Harvey Baron	23	Democrat

## Assembly

NAME	DISTRICT	PARTY
Harry Adams	7	Republican
Dawn Marie Addiego	8	Republican
John Agostinelli	40	Democrat
Nelson Albano	1	Democrat
Norman Albert	21	Democrat
John Amberg	12	Democrat
<b>John F. Amodeo</b>	2	Republican
<b>Mary Pat Angelini</b>	11	Republican
Leah J. Arter	7	Republican
Irene Kim Asbury	31	Republican
John Barbadillo	33	Republican
Peter J. Barnes	18	Democrat
Barry Bellin	37	Republican
Bruce Bergen	21	Democrat
Peter J. Biondi	16	Republican
J. Randy Bishop	11	Democrat
<b>Andrew Bloschak</b>	28	Republican
Richard J. Bolger	11	Democrat
Mark Bombace	40	Democrat
Jon Bramnick	21	Republican
Adam Brown	6	Republican
Bill Brown	8	Democrat
Robert Brown	13	Democrat
<b>Anthony Bucco</b>	25	Republican
John J. Burzichelli	3	Democrat
Rob Calabro	14	Republican
Ralph R. Caputo	28	Democrat
Michael Patrick Carroll	25	Republican

## Assembly

NAME	DISTRICT	PARTY
Caroline Casagrande	12	Republican
<b>Anthony Chiappone</b>	31	Democrat
Gary R. Chiusano	24	Republican
Upendra J. Chivukula	17	Democrat
Bonnie Watson Coleman	15	Democrat
William Collins	4	Democrat
<b>Herb Conaway</b>	7	Democrat
<b>Jack Conners</b>	7	Democrat
Rebekah Conroy	25	Democrat
Carmen Pio Costa	36	Republican
William J. Courtney	23	Democrat
<b>Alberto Coutinho</b>	29	Democrat
<b>Denise M. Coyle</b>	16	Republican
Joseph Cryan	20	Democrat
<b>Ronald S. Dancer</b>	30	Republican
Marie Day	31	Republican
Wayne P. DeAngelo	14	Democrat
Alex DeCroce	26	Republican
Domenick DiCicco	4	Republican
<b>Patrick J. Diegnan</b>	18	Democrat
John DiMaio	23	Republican
Donald Diorio	36	Republican
Michael J. Donohue	1	Republican
Joseph V. Egan	17	Democrat
Elease Evans	35	Democrat
Eli L. Eytan	10	Democrat
Judith Fisher	38	Republican
Reginald Floyd	2	Democrat
<b>Angel Fuentes</b>	5	Democrat
Barry Funt	27	Republican



*Individual candidate responses can be accessed at [www.ncaddnj.org](http://www.ncaddnj.org).*

Assembly

NAME	DISTRICT	PARTY
Douglas Herbert	26	Democrat
<b>Jim Holzapfel</b>	10	Republican
<b>Valerie Vainieri Huttle</b>	37	Democrat
Mila M. Jasey	27	Democrat
Robert Jones	18	Republican
<b>Roberta Karpinecz</b>	16	Democrat
Frederick J. Katz	24	Democrat
Brian Kluchnick	5	Republican
John Kocubinski	30	Democrat
Peter Kothari	19	Republican
Pamela R. Lampitt	6	Democrat
Eugene E. T. Lawrence	4	Republican
Fernando E. Linhares	29	Republican
Nicholas Lonzisero	38	Republican
Lee Lucas	3	Republican
Charles Mainor	31	Democrat
<b>Joseph R. Malone, III</b>	30	Republican
Wayne B. Marek	26	Democrat
Martin Marks	22	Republican
Jimmy Martinez	2	Democrat
Brad Mattson	6	Republican
<b>Anthony Mazzola</b>	17	Republican
John A. McCann	1	Republican
Michael J. McCarthy	39	Democrat
Alison Littell McHose	24	Republican
John F. McKeon	27	Democrat
Michael G. Mecca III	34	Republican
Mark Meyerowitz	27	Republican
Matthew Milam	1	Democrat
Paul Moriarty	4	Democrat
Nancy F. Munoz	21	Republican
Salim A. Nathoo	17	Republican
Donald Norcross	5	Democrat
John T. O'Leary	19	Democrat
Sheila Y. Oliver	34	Democrat
Declan J. O'Scanlon	12	Republican
Erik Peterson	23	Republican
Richard W. Piatkowski	19	Republican
Vincent J. Polistina	2	Republican
Nellie Pou	35	Democrat
Vincent Prieto	32	Democrat
Joan Quigley	32	Democrat

Assembly

NAME	DISTRICT	PARTY
Annette Quijano	20	Democrat
Ruben J. Ramos	33	Democrat
David P. Rible	11	Republican
Celeste M. Riley	3	Democrat
Caridad Rodriguez	33	Democrat
Michelle Roth	12	Democrat
Scott Rudder	8	Republican
Robert E. Rue	9	Democrat
Scott T. Rumana	40	Republican
Brian E. Rumpf	9	Republican
David C. Russo	40	Republican
Aracelis Sanabria-Tejada	29	Republican
Debbie Sarcone	8	Democrat
George Sawey	35	Republican
Frederick Scalera	36	Democrat
Gary S. Schaer	36	Democrat
Robert Schroeder	39	Republican
John L. Shahdanian II	39	Democrat
Lynn Anne Shortway	35	Republican
Wojciech Siemaszkiewicz	37	Republican
Joseph Sinagra	18	Republican
Tammeisha Smith	23	Democrat
William Spedding	30	Democrat
L. Grace Spencer	29	Democrat
Linda Stender	22	Democrat
Kim Taylor	15	Republican
Samuel D. Thompson	13	Republican
Charles P. Tivenan	10	Democrat
Cleopatra G. Tucker	28	Democrat
Matthew Tyahla	34	Republican
<b>Charlotte Vandervalk</b>	39	Republican
William Vastine	22	Republican



Individual candidate responses can be accessed at [www.ncaddnj.org](http://www.ncaddnj.org).

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

### ❑ WHO IS ELIGIBLE TO VOTE?

If you are a United States citizen of the age of 18 or older, a resident of New Jersey for at least 30 days prior to the election, and a registered voter, then you are able to vote.

### ❑ HOW AND WHEN DO I REGISTER?

In order to be able to vote in a New Jersey election, you must register at least 29 days prior to the specified election date. You can register in person through your Municipal Clerk or County Commissioner of Registration. Registration can also be completed by mail, by obtaining an application from the Municipal Clerk, the County Commissioner of Registration, public libraries, public assistance offices, or the motor vehicle agency, and returning the specified form 29 days prior to the next election.

**Note:** You *must* re-register to vote if you have had a change of address or name since the previous election.

### ❑ WHERE DO I VOTE?

The locations for polling places are printed on the sample ballot mailed to all registered voters one week prior to the general election.

### ❑ WHAT TYPE OF IDENTIFICATION IS NEEDED AT THE POLLING PLACE?

New Jersey does not require voter identification in order for registered voters to vote. A voter's signature, however, is required before a vote can be cast.

### ❑ HOW DO I JOIN A POLITICAL PARTY?

You can join a political party by voting in the primary election or by obtaining and completing a party affiliation card from the Commissioner of Registration.

### ❑ HOW AND WHERE DO I APPLY FOR AN ABSENTEE BALLOT?

In New Jersey, any voter can now vote by Absentee Ballot for any election - you do not need a reason to vote by Absentee Ballot. A voter may obtain an Absentee Ballot application by calling (609) 292-3760 or by visiting [www.state.nj.us/lps/elections/absentee\\_doe.html](http://www.state.nj.us/lps/elections/absentee_doe.html) and mailing the application to their County Clerk up to 7 days prior to the election. A voter may also apply in person to the County Clerk until 3:00 p.m. the day before the election. The County Clerk cannot accept faxed copies of an Absentee Ballot Application since an original signature is required.

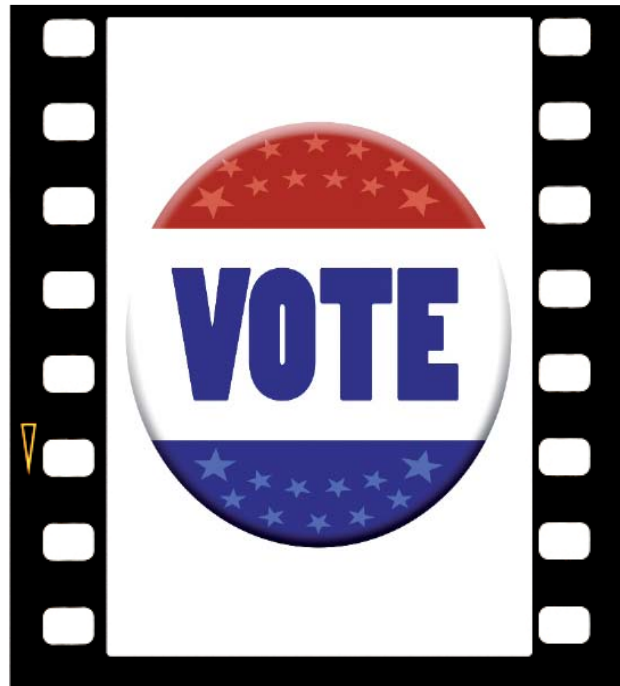
### ❑ CAN I CHANGE PARTY AFFILIATIONS?

Yes, you can change party affiliations by obtaining a party affiliation card from the Commissioner of Registration and returning it at least 50 days prior to the primary election.

### ❑ DO I GET TIME OFF TO VOTE?

Private businesses are not required to give time off for employees to vote on Election Day. State employees in New Jersey are given the day off to cast their ballot. Registered voters who are unable to vote due to the nature and hours of their employment can apply for absentee ballots.







If you would like to receive additional copies of this election guide please contact us at:

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360 Corporate Boulevard, Robbinsville, NJ 08691  
**E-mail:** [policy@ncaddnj.org](mailto:policy@ncaddnj.org) **Tel.:** 609/689-0121  
[www.ncaddnj.org](http://www.ncaddnj.org)



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*Together There's Nothing We Can't Change*

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