



Labor Fax

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NEW JERSEY LABOR MOVEMENT WILL BE ESSENTIAL TO CORZINE VICTORY ON NOVEMBER 3, 2009

By Charles Wowkanech & Laurel Brennan

Not only will we need to work harder than ever before leading up to the election on November 3, 2009, but we in the labor movement will be waging a high stakes fight in a very competitive race. Chris Christie has blamed unions for our state's budget crisis and promises to reverse over 10 years of our legislative achievements such as Paid Family Leave, project labor agreements, card check authorization, and prevailing wage enforcement.

Working together, on November 3, 2009, we will prove that politicians who seek public office based on a platform of vile attacks against our state's unions, are only setting themselves up for failure. Workers and their unions are essential to preserving the middle class in New Jersey and by brazenly criticizing unions, Chris Christie demonstrates that he does not respect labor's contributions to our state and nation. By joining together and getting involved over the summer, we can make the essential difference in this campaign and protect the interests of the people that work hard and play by the rules.

Similar to the rest of the country, all of New Jersey – its workers and its businesses, are experiencing financial stress and unusual hardship. New Jersey has been fortunate to address these challenges alongside Governor Jon Corzine, a proven friend of labor who dedicates himself everyday to the unsung task of making New Jersey a better place for working families. Had it not been for Governor Corzine's deliberate and conscientious leadership, our state would undoubtedly be under even greater economic pressure. In order to weather this economic storm, New Jersey needs the straightforward and open leadership of Governor Jon Corzine.

What our state does not need is a pseudo reform candidate that will haphazardly eliminate services, reduce taxes, and carelessly cut costs, not taking into account the economic and social repercussions of his actions. Chris Christie is that candidate, and he is building a campaign on the deception that workers, their unions, and our Governor are responsible for the problems we face as a state.



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Chris Christie is offering a Christine Todd Whitman approach to politics, which is not only wrong for New Jersey, but would pose an undue hazard to our state. Christie's conservative value of cutting state services has proven to be a net detractor from long term growth. In these economically volatile times, we need an independent thinker who is not afraid to make the tough decisions but will always put workers first. Governor Corzine has proven to be that leader.

This election will be a referendum on our unions and we respectfully ask that over the summer, you donate some of your time to involve yourself, your friends, and family in the New Jersey State AFL-CIO 2009 political program to prove "*Yes We Can - Again!*" on November 3, 2009. Specifically, we ask you and your local union to join us in distributing local union mail, worksite flyers, and providing member to member education on the stakes of this race. We also encourage all affiliates to participate in our Annual Legislative Conference being held at the Borgata Hotel in Atlantic City from October 6-7, 2009. For questions regarding the conference, please call (609) 989-8730.

DC HEALTH CARE RALLY TURNOUT TOPS 10,000

On Thursday, June 25, 2009, over 10,000 union members and health care activists made their intentions known to members of Congress - that we don't plan on settling for mediocre or watered-down health care reform. Instead, after a series of chants and evocative speeches, the message was clear: we want real health care reform and we want it now!

Union members from the New Jersey labor movement set a strong precedent for turnout, chartering a total of 26 buses and transporting over 1,300 activists to the rally. We cannot thank our affiliates enough for the effort they put forth in organizing and participating in this monumental event. As we continue the fight for reform, we will continue to exceed all standards in organizing and mobilizing.

Upcoming Events

August 12, 2009	Retirees' Committee Meeting New Brunswick, NJ
August 15-16, 2009	Annual Labor Candidates School New Brunswick, NJ
September 2, 2009	Public Employees Committee Meeting Trenton, NJ
October 6-7, 2009	New Jersey State AFL-CIO Legislative Conference Atlantic City, NJ

For more information on any events listed, please check our online calendar at www.njafICIO.org.

- NJ State AFL-CIO: The Voice for Working Families in New Jersey -

OPEIU:153

2008/2009 SUMMER RECESS LEGISLATIVE SUMMARY

Recapping significant legislative action impacting working families for the 2008 – 2009 Session, three pro-labor bills have been signed into law, three are on Governor Corzine's desk, and three have passed one House of the Legislature. One bill opposed by the New Jersey State AFL-CIO was also signed into law.

The New Jersey State AFL-CIO thanks the sponsors of these bills for their leadership on issues affecting working families. The names of the prime sponsors of the legislation are in parentheses following the bill numbers. Co-prime sponsors, indicated by a +, can be found for each bill by visiting the State Legislature's website at: www.njleg.state.nj.us.

We also thank the legislators who have voted in support of these bills. We urge our affiliates to distribute this information to their membership so they can see which legislators stood with them on issues important to workers, and which legislators did not. All 80 State Assembly seats are up for election this November 3, 2009.

It is important to support those legislators that have a strong pro-labor voting record and to urge our membership not to support legislators that have a poor overall voting record. The New Jersey State AFL-CIO thanks all the affiliated unions for their support of these legislative initiatives that create a better life for New Jersey's workers and their families.

School Construction: NJ State AFL-CIO Position - SUPPORT

A-2873 (Assembly members Al Coutinho, Grace Spencer, Nellie Pou, Eleese Evans, Mila Jasey, Cleopatra Tucker, Bonnie Watson Coleman + 3) & S-1457 (Sen. Ron Rice and Sen. Shirley Turner + 4), supported by the New Jersey State AFL-CIO, which allocates \$3.9 billion for school construction, passed the Senate narrowly by a vote of 21-18, mostly along party lines. All Democrats voted yes, except Senators Jeff Van Drew (D-1) and John Adler (D-3), who voted against the bill. All Republicans present voted against the bill. The bill passed the Assembly 42-36, also mostly along party lines, with all Democrats voting yes, except Assembly members Albano (D-1), Barnes (D-17), Diegnan (D-18), Milam (D-1), Stender (D-22) and Wisniewski (D-19) who voted no. All Republicans voted against the bill, except Assemblymen John Amodeo (R-2) and Vince Polistina (R-2), who abstained. Governor Corzine signed the bill into law on July 9, 2008.

The New Jersey State AFL-CIO thanks those legislators that supported this important legislation that will allow for the construction of modern educational facilities for our children, as well as providing an important economic stimulus for our state in regard to job creation.

Paid Family Leave: NJ State AFL-CIO Position - SUPPORT

We are proud that New Jersey has become the third state in the nation to pass Paid Family Leave Legislation (A-873: Assembly members Nelson Albano, Sheila Oliver, Linda Greenstein, Wayne DeAngelo + 11) & S-785 (Sen. Steve Sweeney and Sen. Barbara Buono + 3). This is a much needed and long overdue policy for New Jersey's working families.

In the Senate, all Democrats voted in support of the bill, except Senators Turner and Gill, who voted against it, and Sen. Rice, who did not vote. All Republicans present voted against the bill, except Sen. Baroni, who voted in support.

In the Assembly, the bill was also passed mostly along party lines. All Democrats present voted yes, except Assemblyman Milam who voted no, and Assemblywoman Joan Voss, who abstained. All Republicans voted no, except Assemblyman John Amodeo and Assemblyman Ron Dancer, who voted in favor, and Assemblyman Malone, who abstained.

The New Jersey State AFL-CIO would like to thank Governor Corzine who signed the bill into law on May 2, 2008, for his long time advocacy, as well as Senate President Codey and Speaker Roberts for posting this legislation. We also would like to thank all the legislators that voted in favor of this bill, as well as the lead sponsors, Senators Steve Sweeney and Barbara Buono, Assemblyman Nelson Albano, Assemblywoman Sheila Oliver, Assemblywoman Linda Greenstein, and Assemblyman Wayne DeAngelo.

Casino Employees Allowed to Run for Atlantic City Public Office: NJ State AFL-CIO Position - SUPPORT

S-1987 (Senators Jim Whalen, Jeff Van Drew) & A-3820 (Assembly members John Burzichelli, Nelson Albano, Paul Moriarty + 2), permits casino employees to serve on Atlantic City governing body in certain circumstances. The bill passed with broad bipartisan support in both houses. To view the vote, please visit www.njleg.state.nj.us.

2008/2009 SUMMER RECESS LEGISLATIVE SUMMARY (Continued)**Reduction of Certain Public Employee Benefits: NJ State AFL-CIO Position - OPPOSED**

The legislature passed S-1962 / A-2818 (Senators Barbara Buono, Steve Sweeney, Nicholas Scutari, Tom Kean and Speaker Joe Roberts +6), which makes various changes to public employee health insurance and pension plans, including increasing the retirement age from 60 to 62 and eliminating Lincoln's Holiday and changing eligibility thresholds for pension and health insurance for part-time workers. The legislation passed the Senate by a vote of 31-8-1, with mixed support from Democrats and with all Republicans supporting, except Sen. Bill Baroni (R-14) who voted no. The bill also passed the Assembly by a vote of 52-13-14-1, also with Democrats split on the issue, and with all Republicans present voting yes, except Assemblymen Amodeo (R-2), Polistina (R-2), Merkt (R-25) and Rooney (R-39) who voted no. For the complete vote, please visit www.njleg.state.nj.us

On the Governor' Desk:

A-3372: BPU Prevailing Wage (Assembly members Barnes, Diegnan, Egan and Evans + 8) & S-2340 (Senators Steve Sweeney and Barbara Buono +3): The bill requires the payment of the prevailing wage in construction projects connected with Board of Public Utilities financial assistance. The bill passed the Assembly in May 2009 by a vote of 54-22-3-1. All Democrats present voted in favor, as did Republicans Malone, Polistina, Rible, Rumana, Amodeo, Dancer, Thompson and Van Pelt. S-2340 (Senators Sweeney and Buono +3) passed the Senate in June 2009 by a vote of 32-8. Voting "yes" were all Democrats present and Republicans Thomas Kean, Bill Baroni, Jen Beck, Joe Kyrillos, Kevin O'Toole, Steve Oroho, Sean Kean, Bob Singer, Kip Bateman and Tony Bucco. The New Jersey State AFL-CIO supports the legislation and respectfully ask Governor Corzine to sign it into law.

S-2498: Concerns "Stop Work Orders" (Sen. Fred Madden / Sen. Sandra Cunningham / Sen. Bill Baroni) & A-3569 (Assembly members Egan and Quijano + 1): Allows the use of a "Stop Work Order" for failure of an employers to provide Workers' Compensation coverage and for certain types of independent contractor misclassification. The bill passed the Assembly in March 2009 by a vote of 46-24-7. All Democrats present voted yes, except Assemblywomen Spencer and Vanieri-Huttle, both of whom abstained. The only Republicans voting in favor were Assembly members Polistina, McHose and Amodeo. The bill passed the Senate in May 2009 by a 33-4-3 vote. All members that cast a vote, voted yes, with the exception of Senators Marcia Karrow, Jen Beck, Tony Bucco and Gerry Cardinale, who voted no. The New Jersey State AFL-CIO supports the bill and respectfully ask Governor Corzine to sign it into law.

S-1421: Concerns Certain Wage Records (Sen. Paul Sarlo / Sen. Fred Madden) & A-2593 (Assemblymen Scalera and Egan +1): The bill requires the reporting of wage records by certain employers under solid waste contracts. The bill passed with broad bipartisan support in both houses. To view the vote, please visit www.njleg.state.nj.us. The New Jersey State AFL-CIO supports the bill and respectfully ask Governor Corzine to sign it into law.

Passed One House:

A-2754 (Assemblyman Joe Egan and Assemblyman Ruben Ramos + 3): The "Jobs, Trade and Democracy Act" is supported by the New Jersey State AFL-CIO. The bill seeks to establish a role for the State Legislature in analyzing international free trade agreements and requires legislative approval for the State to "sign on" or consent to international free trade agreements negotiated by the U.S. Trade Representative. The bill also allows the State to implement certain types of trade policy at the state level. The bill passed the State Assembly in March 2009 with broad bipartisan support. The Senate companion has been released from committee. We respectfully urge Senate President Codey to post S-1802 (Senators Weinberg and Madden +1) this legislative session.

SCR-60 (Sen. Steve Sweeney / Sen. Tom Kean +14): The resolution, supported by the New Jersey State AFL-CIO, proposes a constitutional amendment requiring contributions collected from assessments on wages to be used for employee benefits and prohibits the use of these contributions for any other purpose. If enacted, the resolution would seek to stop the future "raiding" of pro-worker funds, such as the Unemployment Insurance Fund and others. The resolution passed the Senate unanimously in November 2008. The New Jersey State AFL-CIO respectfully urges Assemblyman Joe Egan, Chairman of the Assembly Labor Committee, to post ACR-134 (Burzichelli / Albano / DeCroce), the Assembly companion resolution for consideration this legislative session.

S-1702 (Sen. Sweeney / Sen. Van Drew): The legislation, supported by the New Jersey State AFL-CIO, seeks to allow employees of the Casino Control Commission to organize. Currently, due to their confidential employee status, they are unable to do so. The bill passed the Senate in March 2009 by a vote of 35-3. We respectfully ask Assemblyman Burzichelli, Chairman of the Assembly Tourism and Gaming Committee to post A-3677 (Burzichelli / Milam / Albano / Chiappone + 15), the Assembly companion bill for a vote.