



Stop Trump and Protect Our Jersey Values Plan

JOSH
FOR JERSEY
★ **GOVERNOR** ★

LOWER TAXES. JERSEY VALUES.

“Stop Trump and Protect Our Jersey Values Plan”

I’m a born and bred Jersey guy. One of the reasons I love this state so much is because of the values I see every day in the hardworking people who call it home — resilience, decency, and a deep belief in doing right by each other. We look out for our neighbors, our children, veterans, and seniors. We get each other’s backs. We believe in personal freedom and safe communities. And we don’t back down from a fight when someone messes with Jersey.

That’s why the early actions of the Trump Administration are the complete antithesis of everything I’ve spent my life fighting for — and everything most people in New Jersey believe in. His policies, his rhetoric, his corruption, his attacks on our rights and values – our Jersey Values: They’re not just dangerous, they undermine basic American values and they’re not how we do things in Jersey. And the worst part? It’s happening in real-time, faster than we can keep up. By the time you read this plan, there will already be more damage done — more freedoms rolled back, more lies told, more chaos created.

The President’s War on Seniors -- on Social Security, Medicare, Medicaid – not to mention veterans and children are shocking and the opposite of what he supposedly ran on – helping lower costs for families. His tariff mess from the last week took his craven approach to another level: He is now actively attacking retirement savings and raising prices on nearly everything Americans buy. Trump’s tariffs amount to about a \$3,800 annual tax increase on every American family!

Now, every Democratic candidate for Governor says they’ll fight Trump. They say they’ll stand up to the radical right-wing agenda that extremists are trying to force on our state. But let’s be honest — talk is cheap. I’m the one in this race who’s been in the fight – who’s not afraid to fight, Jersey-style, with anyone who messes with our state. And I’m the only one who is laser-focused on making life more affordable -- on lowering taxes and lowering costs for Jersey families. In Washington, I’ve taken on the Trump machine head-on, and I’ve helped lead the charge to protect our economy, democracy, our freedoms, and our people.

I’m not stopping now. As Governor, I’ll bring that same urgency, grit, and determination to Trenton — with a real, detailed, and comprehensive plan to take on Trumpism and protect everything we believe in.

- I. Fighting Trump’s Tariffs and Economic Chaos**
- II. Protecting Choice, Women’s Health Care, LGBTQ+ Rights**
 - Defend Reproductive Health
 - Safeguard IVF Patients and Providers

- Protect LGBTQ+ residents
- Fight Trump's Extremist Agenda
- Defend State Sovereignty from Right-Wing Attacks
- Turn the Tables on Right-Wing Extremism

III. Fighting the War on Seniors

- Fight Antisemitism and Hate
- Defend Immigrants
- Protect Social Security, Medicare, Medicaid
- Help Our Veterans
- Feed Our Children
- Reduce Gun Violence

IV. Protecting Jersey's Air, Water, and Fighting Floods

- Safeguard Science and Learning
- Invest in Climate Resiliency
- Ensure Clean Water

V. Protecting the Right to Vote

- Increase Voter Registration
- Increase Voter Turnout
- Promote Mobile Voting

Fighting Trump's Tariffs and Economic Chaos

OUR CHALLENGE

Just as he did in his first term, Donald Trump has managed to take a healthy economy and turn it into one of the worst economic disasters in American history practically overnight. His tariff insanity has wiped trillions of dollars of wealth off the books of American families and business in mere hours, and converted a record-high stock market into a near bear market in less than a few weeks.

The tariffs by themselves represent the largest tax increase in decades – and by some measures the highest in American history – amounting to an average tax increase of about \$3,800 per household in 2025. As a result of his actions, American consumers are projected to face higher costs of about 2.5 percent of household spending and reductions in after-tax income of 1.9 percent. He is single-handedly reducing the country's Gross Domestic Product by almost a full point – and that's before foreign retaliation that will reduce it further.

Now, he's announcing a temporary pause and a 10 percent across-the-board tariff for 70+ countries, including key allies and trading partners. This isn't economic strategy -- it's chaos and craziness. He's playing chicken with millions of Americans' retirement savings, swinging markets and our economy by trillions of dollars. That's not what a leader should do.

Higher taxes, higher costs, more chaos, and an attack on our seniors savings, Social Security, Medicare and Medicaid – that's the Trump economy.

In contrast, I've fought in Congress throughout my career for lower taxes and lower costs, and I've released detailed plans to lower both as Governor. I not only will be the "Lower Taxes, Lower Costs" Governor – as Governor, I also will fight Trump's attempts to drive both through the roof.

MY RECORD

- Introduced the Reclaiming Congressional Trade Authority Act, to require the President to submit a clear strategy to Congress to justify imposing tariffs for emergency purposes.
- Cosponsored the Prevent Tariff Abuse Act, which clarifies current law to make it explicitly clear that the President cannot impose tariffs under the guise of a national emergency without congressional approval.

- Joined 46 of my colleagues to demand President Trump reconsider the 25 percent tariffs on imported building materials from Canada and Mexico.
- Announced a new online portal where Jersey families and small businesses can make their voices heard on how tariffs are hurting them – and I will send these comments to the White House and U.S. Trade Representative to help ensure Jersey voices are heard.
- Co-chair the bipartisan SALT Caucus, where I’ve fought to restore the full state and local tax deduction for Jersey families. President Trump was wrong to cap this critical deduction in 2017, and I’ll fight like hell to prevent him from doing it again this year.

AS YOUR GOVERNOR, I WILL:

- Pursue new strategic partnerships to work to lower or eliminate the Trump Tariffs in New Jersey.
- Work with our international trading partners and call for New Jersey-made products to be excluded from any retaliatory measures.
- Require utility companies to add a one-line “Trump Tariff” cost indicator on utility bills, ensuring that people in New Jersey can see exactly how much this federal policy is costing them each month.
- Direct our state government to bring suit against these destructive tariffs and have them declared illegal as clear violations of the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (IEEPA) as part of Trump’s continuing unconstitutional attempts to usurp the powers of Congress and set himself up as the sole legal authority in America.
- Protect seniors’ retirement security by cutting property taxes, instituting a “Senior Bonus” for Jersey residents who have lived here a decade and are 70 years old, fully funding the state pension contributions, and protecting Social Security and Medicare from cuts.

Not only is Trump not a king – he’s not even a good businessman. His mismanagement of the U.S. economy, and his imposition of higher taxes and higher costs on every American family, must be stopped. When I’m Governor, they will be.

With my “Tax Cut Plan,” I’ll cut property taxes by nearly 15 percent, give renters an annual rent rebate, lower income taxes for families and seniors, and incentivize people and jobs to come to our state. My “Lower Costs Plan” will take on five of the biggest ticket items in families’ budgets -- the cost of housing, childcare, utility bills, healthcare, and food. I’ll double the state

Child Tax Credit, expand energy production, build more housing, and tackle prices at the grocery store.

Protecting Choice, Women’s Health Care, LGBTQ+ Rights

OUR CHALLENGE

Never before in American history have our freedoms been so under assault from our own government and the whims of one man. Since paving the way to overturn *Roe v. Wade*, Trump and his allies have shown us exactly where they stand when it comes to reproductive freedom. His Administration has already moved to rescind key Biden-era protections for LGBTQ+ Americans, and we know he won’t stop there. Donald Trump believes there are no legal or Constitutional constraints on his power, and he intends to use it as he sees fit to destroy our freedoms.

But, we live in a system of limited government and the rule of law. Neither the President nor the federal government can take away our rights unless we let them. As Governor, I won’t let them. I will use our power as a state to fight back against abuse of power by the federal government. I will make sure that *our* state government pushes back on others that want to tell us what to do. I have a plan for how to lead that fight, because I’m not just a lawyer with a record in civil rights and defending the Constitution – I’m a Jersey guy.

MY RECORD

Donald Trump’s extremist agenda is assaulting virtually every area of life in which the federal government has protected the safety and freedom of *all* Americans. He’s come after women’s reproductive freedom, women’s health care, LGBTQ+ rights, and families across Jersey—and I’m fighting back. In Congress, I’ve:

- **Protected Women’s Access to Healthcare.**
 - Fought for greater federal action to improve maternal health and address the United States’s maternal mortality crisis, including by supporting the Black Maternal Health Momnibus Act.
 - Introduced the SEARCH Act (Securing Equal Access to Research, Care, and Health) to combat rare diseases impacting women.
 - Cosponsored numerous bills to expand and improve maternal healthcare and make it more affordable for patients.
 - Filed an amicus brief with the Supreme Court urging it to uphold the right of Medicaid beneficiaries to choose their healthcare provider.

- Pushed to pass the *Women’s Health Protection Act*, which would codify *Roe v. Wade* into federal law, safeguarding a woman’s right to access abortion services.
- Supported legislation to protect individuals crossing state lines to obtain abortion care and get timely and affordable access to contraception.
- Fought to increase funding for Title X family planning programs and expand access to affordable healthcare for women and families.
- **Fought For Equality.**
 - Beat an extremist bigot who said gay people shouldn’t run for Congress, flipping a seat that had been held by Republicans for 84 years.
 - Proudly co-sponsored the *Equality Act*, which amends the Civil Rights Act to include protections against discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity.
 - Supported the *Global Respect Act*, which imposes sanctions on foreign individuals who violate the human rights of LGBTQ+ people and co-sponsored the *Therapeutic Fraud Prevention Act* to ban harmful conversion therapy practices.
 - Fought for inclusive policies that protect transgender individuals and advocated for increased mental health resources for LGBTQ+ youth.
- **Pushed Back on Trump’s Chaos.**
 - Demanded Secretary of Defense Pete Hegseth’s resignation after leaking classified secrets on a commercial app monitored by our enemies.
 - I am introducing new legislation to prohibit major staffing cuts at the FAA if a fatal crash has occurred in US airspace within the last year.
 - Passed legislation requiring the FAA to deploy critical safety technology at airports across the country to help prevent “close calls” on and around our runways over the next five years – and have demanded answers from the Trump Administration on implementation of these key safety initiatives.

AS YOUR GOVERNOR, I WILL:

- **Defend reproductive health.** I will champion a constitutional amendment to enshrine a woman’s right to an abortion in the New Jersey Constitution. I will also:
 - Maintain New Jersey’s membership in the Reproductive Freedom Alliance, a non-partisan coalition of Governors committed to protecting and expanding access to reproductive care.
 - Promote enhanced access to preconception care for women, particularly those at risk for preterm delivery, with a focus on effective preventive treatments, and will

simplify the Medicaid enrollment process to increase access to people who need the care the most.

- **Safeguard IVF patients and providers.** In Congress, I introduced the Securing Access to Fertility Everywhere Act, or SAFE Act, which would protect a family's access to IVF treatments and protect IVF providers. And, I will enact a state-wide shield law to protect patients and providers from legal actions originating in states where IVF is restricted.
- **Protect our LGBTQ+ residents:** I will continue funding LGBTQ+ resource centers, housing programs, and crisis services.
- **Fund the Fight Against Trump's Illegality.** Governor Murphy announced that Jersey will add an additional \$1 million to the Attorney General's office to hire more staff and fight the Trump Administration in court. As Governor, I will continue to invest in this fight and expand the range of legal actions we take to protect our state, our people, and our values:
- **Fight Right-Wing Attempts to Tell Us What Laws We Can and Can't Enact.** Right-wing states have the power to enact whatever laws they want within their own borders (assuming they're constitutional). Now, they have decided they want to dictate the laws in *other* states, like ours.
 - The Trump Administration is clearly violating equal protection, and Trump's attacks on states and institutions are placing unconstitutional conditions on the receipt of federal funds. I guess they haven't read all the conservative Supreme Court decisions that conservative advocates pushed for decades, saying that the federal government can't do that. My Administration will go to court to make sure that the Tenth Amendment continues to protect *New Jersey's* rights and values, not just those of extreme zealots elsewhere.

The Trump Administration is trying to outright criminalize our rights. This is particularly true of abortion rights – but they've made it clear they won't stop there. They want to make it a crime for a person to leave their state to get an abortion even where it's legal. But, the Fourteenth Amendment gives Americans the right to interstate travel. As Governor, I will take legal action against the federal government or any state that attempts to violate people's right to travel across state lines to access abortion services, and we will defend people's right to facilitate a woman's legal right and choice. And I will never partner with the Trump Administration in its illegal targeting of people in New Jersey.

- They're also suing to stop "Blue" states from enacting laws that "Red" states don't like. For instance, right-wing Attorneys General recently sued blue states for enacting environmental laws, arguing that it violates their constitutional rights to carbon-polluting industries. Trump recently signed an executive order with the same aim. We will sue the states that have tried to force us to allow polluting industries and instead force *them* to stop polluting *our* air and *our* oceans. After all, *their* lax environmental standards actually *do* affect New Jersey – allowing acid rain generated within their borders to be dumped on our communities and pollution produced in their states to wash up on our beaches.
- Right-wing extremists are trying to overturn every long-standing federal precedent protecting individual rights – from freedom of speech to criticize Trump and Musk, to reproductive freedom, to duly-enacted environmental laws. That's why we have federalism and *state* constitutions. Every precedent that SCOTUS or the Trump Administration overturns, we'll enshrine in New Jersey law so that those rights are preserved at least in the Garden State.
- **Stop sending Red Moocher States our money to trample on our values.** Red states say they don't like welfare and handouts – but they take more of them than anyone else. I've been saying for years that the MAGA states are Moochers, taking far more from the federal governments in subsidies than they pay in taxes (New Jersey gets back about 75 cents for every dollar it sends to the federal government; Mississippi gets back around \$4). A new analysis shows that this continues to be true – and that New Jersey gets less back for what it gives to the federal government than any other state but one. If Texas and Florida and Alabama and Mississippi dislike getting our tax dollars so much, I'm going to call out their hypocrisy with a proposed Moocher Amendment to prohibit a state from receiving one nickel more in federal expenditures than it pays into the federal treasury. This goes back to the 19th Century policies they like so much where taxes had to be apportioned amongst the states according to their populations – so that people in successful states like New Jersey won't have to pay more federal taxes than we receive back in aid.

It's time to force Red States to live with their own policies, instead of making the rest of us do so while *we* subsidize them.

Fighting the War on Seniors

OUR CHALLENGE

People are worried about whether they'll be able to access healthcare, whether their rights will be respected, and whether they or their families will be safe. They're worried about a rise in hatred, the quality of their kids' education, and how their community will be targeted. That's not a shock, given the war the Trump Administration has already declared on Medicare, Medicaid, Social Security, and veterans, just to name a few.

That fear isn't unfounded — it's policy and it was enshrined in Project 2025, something we warned was the far-right's blueprint, even though Trump lied and said he never read it. Across the country, Trump and his allies have shown us exactly where they stand when it comes to gun violence, book bans, homelessness, and of course various efforts to undermine voting rights. The federal government under Trump wants to turn back the clock — on equality, on justice, and on basic decency.

I won't stand for that.

MY RECORD

Protecting these rights is not just a policy priority — it's a core part of who I am and what I've fought for throughout my career. I served as a Senior Advisor to the Chair of the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights and published the book "Ripples of Hope: Great American Civil Rights Speeches," before my time in Congress. That commitment to civil rights, justice, equality, and the rule of law have been central to my work in Congress and will continue to be a hallmark of my administration in Trenton. I have:

- **Combated Hate and Antisemitism.**
 - Wrote the *Antisemitism Awareness Act*, which directs the Department of Education to adopt the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) definition of antisemitism when enforcing anti-discrimination laws on college campuses.
 - Introduced the *Holocaust Education and Antisemitism Lessons (HEAL) Act*, which evaluates the effectiveness of Holocaust education in public schools and helps ensure future generations understand the consequences of unchecked hate.
 - Led multiple efforts to condemn antisemitic rhetoric and actions, including resolutions to denounce antisemitism on college campuses and condemn hate-filled attacks on synagogues and Jewish communities.

- **Defended Education** by joining other New Jersey Democrats in condemning Trump's move to abolish the federal Department of Education.
 - Fought to protect the more than one billion dollars New Jersey schools receive from the federal government to support students with disabilities and schools in underserved communities.
 - Worked to strengthen the Department of Education's enforcement of civil rights violations.

- **Protected Social Security, Medicare, Medicaid.**
 - Helped to introduce new legislation, the Keeping Our Field Offices Open Act, to suspend the closure of all Social Security offices.
 - Demanded the Trump Administration immediately halt plans for any further office closures or staffing reductions.
 - Stood up to Elon Musk by introducing the Protecting Americans' Social Security Data Act to stop his DOGE cronies from accessing sensitive data systems at the Social Security Administration.
 - Urged Speaker Mike Johnson to consider the devastating damage cutting Social Security, Medicare, and Medicaid will have on Jersey seniors and families, while urging him to protect these critical programs.
 - Introduced the Connecting Caregivers to Medicare Act to require the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services to expand access to Medicare for family caregivers.

- **Defended our Veterans.**
 - Negotiated and passed the PACT Act to help veterans get access to healthcare, especially for those exposed to toxic burn pits and cancer-causing pollution during their service.
 - Introduced legislation to connect service members and their families to nutrition assistance programs, including SNAP and WIC, during their transition from military to civilian life.
 - Worked to streamline the appeals process for veterans, giving them access to key documents related to their claims, creating an electronic filing system to further improve access to case records, and giving the U.S. Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims more power to review decisions.
 - Fought to require a resident advocate at every veteran's home in Jersey and across the country. This advocate would be a direct line of contact and a voice for our veterans and their families, ensuring that every day they have access to someone who can immediately help with any concerns and elevate their needs to the necessary levels.
 - Removed barriers to housing eligibility through the Housing and Urban Development-Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing (HUD-VASH) Program with bipartisan legislation.

- **Reduced Gun Violence.**
 - As co-chair of the Problem Solvers Caucus, I helped negotiate and pass the first bipartisan, commonsense gun safety bill in more than thirty years, which expanded background checks, encouraged red flag laws, and closed domestic violence loopholes.
 - Wrote legislation to invest in well-trained School Resource Officers to ensure that every school has a first responder on campus in the event of a critical incident and require silent panic alarms in all schools.
 - Led efforts to strengthen background checks and close the Charleston Loophole, improve safe gun storage, as well as improve coordination among law enforcement and lawmakers to stay ahead of undetectable firearm technology.
 - Fought to ban the importation, sale, manufacture, transfer, and possession of high-capacity gun magazines that hold more than fifteen rounds and prohibit the sale of certain semi-automatic weapons, including the AR-15 rifle, which has been used in some of the nation's most horrific mass shootings.

AS YOUR GOVERNOR, I WILL:

- **Fight antisemitism and hate.** The Trump Administration talks a good game about fighting antisemitism – but they don't walk the walk. They have been busy cutting the funding for providing security to synagogues, other places of worship, and nonprofit organizations, and for monitoring and combating antisemitism in education. When I'm governor, I'll fund security for synagogues and places of worship and the antisemitism efforts in New Jersey that Trump *eliminated*.
- **Uphold hate crime laws.** Ensure we aggressively enforce our hate crime laws. Hate has no place in our Jersey Values.
- **Protect law abiding immigrants.** I support the current Jersey Immigrant Trust Directive that boosts trust in law enforcement, helps protect innocent immigrants, and enables police officers to investigate and solve crimes. If the President tries to come into Jersey and round up innocent people in churches and schools, I will block him at the front door. Mass roundups and raids of innocent immigrants are unacceptable.
- **Protect Medicaid, Medicare, and Social Security.** In Congress, I've voted against Medicaid spending cuts, but the Trump Administration won't give up. So, I will:

- Work to ensure that all eligible for Medicaid/CHIP get enrolled in the program, and I'll fight any attempt to slash Medicaid benefits.
- Enact presumptive eligibility for children's coverage under Medicaid and CHIP, so that children don't have to wait until their coverage is processed to access care.
- Ensure that children on Medicaid remain continuously eligible until they are three years old, as Oregon did in 2022 and many other states, including New York and Pennsylvania, are now beginning to do under Section 1114 waivers.
- Sue to stop cuts in entitlement benefits for current beneficiaries. These are a contract we have made with recipients; we can't take their promised pensions and health care away just because that's what Elon Musk does to *his* people.
- **Stand by Our Veterans.**
 - **End Veteran Homelessness.** I'll continue the funding and support for the Bringing Veterans Home program. Their mission is to enhance existing systems, create rapid access to housing, and ensure homelessness becomes rare, brief, and non-recurring. The program creates a clear path to stable housing for veterans experiencing homelessness through a coordinated network of services and support. The program includes:
 - A relaxation of qualifications for and expedited processing of benefits like rental assistance vouchers specifically for veterans.
 - Enhanced coordination among public and nonprofit veterans' services providers, including training in the new measures for providers.
 - **Increase Proactive Outreach to Veterans.** At every touch point with a government agency, the agency will ask if a person is a veteran. If the answer is yes, that agency will refer them to Unite Us, a coordinated care referral network of health and social service providers. Unite Us helps veterans navigate additional government services available exclusively to them. It connects New Jersey's military and veteran community with resources such as benefits, food assistance, housing, education, transportation, behavioral health services, peer support, and more. This increase in outreach will educate veterans about the full range of support available to them.
 - **Create a Standalone Veterans Affairs Department.** More than half the states in U.S. already have separate departments for veterans and active duty and National Guard members in the State. In Jersey, I will separate the department out and create a Veterans Affairs Department, allowing each to be more focused on their work.

- **Make School Breakfast and School Lunch Universal.** Donald Trump and Elon Musk are cutting funding for school meals—putting our kids at risk of going hungry. I won't stand by and let that happen. I will make sure that every Jersey child obtains adequate nutrition by making this program universal.
- **Protect Education.** Trump has recently signed an executive order aimed at dismantling the federal Department of Education. This means that state governments are going to have to take over many of the duties that were previously done by the federal government—and we are going to have to act quickly. I will:
 - **Make sure that the NJDOE remains committed to upholding civil rights protections within schools,** ensuring that anti-discrimination policies and practices continue, even in the absence of federal oversight.
 - **Keep school textbooks free of right-wing censorship.** Extremist right-wing governors are trying to regulate free speech nationwide. They're requiring book publishers to produce textbooks that don't mention subjects they don't want students to know – for instance, that slavery was actually *bad* (You can't make this stuff up). Our state will prohibit our school systems from buying any books from publishers that comply with Texas and Florida requirements to whitewash the history of slavery and Jim Crow, and I'll work with other Governors to make this a national movement. Publishers will have to choose whether they want to publish extremist ideology or truth.
- **Reduce Gun Violence**
 - **Expand microstamping of guns.** Gun microstamps can be used by law enforcement to quickly and easily identify the gun that bullets came from after a shooting. New Jersey became the third state in the country to pass microstamping legislation, following New York and California. As Governor, I will expand NJ A43681 to require all firearms to have microstamping, as California is doing.
 - **Raise gun ownership age.** Currently in New Jersey, a person must be 21 years old to rent a car, buy alcohol, cigarettes, or a handgun, but they only have to be 18 years old to buy a rifle or shotgun. That simply doesn't make sense. As Governor, I will raise the age of buying rifles or shotguns to 21 years old in New Jersey.
 - **Ban assault weapons.** Assault weapons in New Jersey are already banned, which means no new assault weapons are being sold. That law, however, did nothing to

reduce the number of dangerous assault weapons that are already in New Jersey. I will make ownership of an assault weapon illegal and implement a mandatory gun buy-back for previously banned assault weapons.

- **Eliminate the Ghost Gun loophole.** Ghost guns are firearms that are made by individuals, not a federally licensed manufacturer or importer, and typically do not have a serial number, making them difficult to trace. They are increasingly becoming a problem in the United States as they are predictably emerging as a weapon of choice for violent crime and by people legally prohibited from buying firearms. As Governor, I will require that all new gun barrels in New Jersey, not just frames and receivers, have serial numbers.
- **Require new handgun models to have security features.** Hundreds of thousands of guns are stolen every year from cars, homes, and stores. These guns are then frequently used to commit violent crimes. But there's a way to turn these guns into useless pieces of steel if they are being used by an unauthorized user. Like the thumb scan or passcode available on many smartphones, this technology can be applied to guns. This technology will not only reduce violent crime but will also make it impossible for a child to operate a gun. As Governor, I will require that all new handgun models sold in New Jersey have these smart gun safety features.

Protecting Jersey's Air, Water, and Fighting Floods

OUR CHALLENGE

Since taking office, Trump and his Administration have laid off civil servants in scientific research, halted funding, and blocked research programs. They are quite literally killing people with their policies, from abruptly halting medical treatment trials to downplaying the seriousness of a deadly measles outbreak. It should not be controversial to be pro-science, but under the current administration, it unfortunately is.

And when we cut funds for science, we are inherently eliminating funds for education.

The Trump Administration also is doing everything it can to roll back environmental policies. They're gutting basic environmental protections for Americans and the agencies that protect and deliver them. Trump has issued widespread executive orders targeting the environment, including pulling out of the Paris Climate Accords. He's cut funding to basically any climate-related spending being made at *any* agency, from the obvious Environmental Protection Agency to even the Justice Department and Defense Department. Despite all this harm that has been done

at the federal level, we can protect the environment and fight against climate change at the state level.

MY RECORD

I'm proud of my 97% rating from the League of Conservation Voters, reflecting the years I've spent defending our environment and fighting against climate change. In Congress, I've:

- Wrote and negotiated the Bipartisan Infrastructure Bill, which is delivering billions for climate resilient infrastructure, to replace lead pipes, build EV charging stations, and develop clean energy technology in New Jersey.
- Helped pass the largest investment to fight climate change in history, the Inflation Reduction Act, which expanded clean energy tax credits and is helping Americans reduce pollution across the country.
- Worked hard to protect the forested watersheds that supply clean, safe drinking water to millions of people across New Jersey, New York, Connecticut, and Pennsylvania. Preserving these critical ecosystems is essential to maintaining clean water, recreational opportunities, and biodiversity in the region.
- Led the charge to eliminate PFAS chemicals—known as “forever chemicals”—that contaminate water sources and endanger public health. My legislation establishes national drinking water standards and accelerates the cleanup of PFAS contamination, reflecting my unwavering commitment to protecting the health and safety of New Jersey families.
- Set big goals to combat climate change by sponsoring a comprehensive bill aimed at achieving a 100% clean economy by 2050. This legislation invests in clean energy, modernizes infrastructure to withstand the effects of climate change, and implements safeguards to reduce carbon emissions. I have always believed that we can reduce our carbon footprint while fostering innovation, creating good-paying jobs, and ensuring a more sustainable future for New Jersey.
- Championed the *Water Resources Development Act* to fund critical upgrades to water systems and strengthen our infrastructure against the growing threats of extreme weather. Ensuring that our communities are prepared for flooding and other climate-related challenges is a top priority, and I remain committed to making sure that New Jersey's water systems are resilient and safe for generations to come.

During this time when science and the environment are under attack from the federal government, it is important to establish safeguards at the state level that ensure scientific research is free from political interference.

AS YOUR GOVERNOR, I WILL:

- **Protect Scientific Integrity.** I will enact a state policy that explicitly prohibits the attempted or actual manipulation and suppression, without scientific merit, of scientific evidence used and produced by state agencies. This protection will extend to scientists working in or for state government, ensuring they can publish their research, participate in conferences, and share their findings publicly without fear of political or bureaucratic interference. I will also make state funded research publicly available and free. Doing so will make it harder for federal officials to suppress information. By safeguarding scientific integrity, this will promote transparency, uphold public trust, and ensure that policy decisions are based on the best available science.
- **Ensure Scientific Integrity.** I will create a state-level policy to establish procedures for handling disagreements about scientific methods and conclusions and to define consequences for violations of scientific integrity. Some individual universities and research institutions in New Jersey currently have their own policies, but a statewide framework would ensure consistency, transparency, and accountability across all state agencies and publicly funded research entities.
- **Continue the Wildfire Safety Campaign.** Last year, New Jersey had a worse-than-expected wildfire season. Unfortunately, we must continue to prepare for wildfire seasons to come. As Governor, I will continue the new campaign, NJ Wildfire SMART (Safety, Mitigation, Awareness, Response, Training). This program is extremely comprehensive, including forest management projects such as prescribed burns and information tools to keep residents informed and safe.
- **Increase and Improve Public Transportation.** Transportation is the biggest contributor to Greenhouse Gases (GHG) emissions in the United States, making up 28% of the US total in GHG emissions. This is something we have a lot of control over at the state level. I will invest in improving public transportation and in turn, decrease GHG emissions. NJ Transit needs massive fixing. Fares increased by 15 percent last year, yet service has deteriorated, especially in the summer. Amtrak's been sticking it to us for years now, too.
- **Invest in resilience measures for all our communities.** Climate change is a reality, not a "hoax" as Trump believes, and we must be prepared for it. As a coastal state, we will face rising sea levels and more intense hurricane seasons, while also dealing with

wildfires and droughts inland. I will carry out New Jersey’s new climate resilience strategy and ensure that the state is providing technical assistance to every community to help make the needed climate adaptations.

- **Safeguard our state’s drinking water.** Our state has led the nation in tackling toxic PFAS “forever chemicals” and microplastics in drinking water. I will go further and invest in modern water infrastructure across New Jersey. That includes upgrading outdated water supply lines, stormwater drainage, and sewer systems to prevent leaks and pollution. We will dedicate funding to get rid of lead in older homes – replacing lead pipes and removing lead paint – to ensure safe water in every household. We’ll also crack down on the dumping of untreated sewage into our rivers and streams, so that our waterways are cleaner and our communities are safer from floods and contamination.

Protecting the Right to Vote

OUR CHALLENGE

Trump is anti-democratic; he’s been clear about that in his rhetoric and in his policies. When he lost the 2020 election, he refused to accept it. There is nothing pro-democracy about declaring yourself king. Most recently, he said there’s a “loophole” in the Constitution that would allow him to run for a third term. Trump is also trying to make it more difficult to vote. In a recent legally dubious executive order, Trump is pushing to require proof of citizenship to register to vote as well as the return of all mail ballots by Election Day. Elected leaders should want it to be easier for eligible voters to cast their ballots, not more difficult.

MY RECORD

I have always fought to expand and protect our democracy. In Congress, I am proudly the original cosponsor of the following bills:

- *The John Lewis Voting Rights Act:* This bill protects the right to vote and safeguard our democracy by restoring and modernizing the full protections of the Voting Rights Act of 1965 to combat voter discrimination.
- *The Democracy Is Strengthened by Casting Light On Spending in Elections Act:* This bill requires additional financial disclosure requirements for corporations, labor organizations, Super PACs and other entities involved in political spending.

I recently introduced the Election Worker and Polling Place Protection Act of 2024, aimed at enhancing protections for election and poll workers against intimidation and harassment.

Additionally, I sponsored the Electoral Count Reform and Presidential Transition Improvement Act of 2022, which was subsequently signed into law. This legislation ensures that no voter has their choice overturned by state legislature. Under the current administration, it is more crucial than ever to uphold voting rights and fortify every facet of our democratic system.

While Trump and his extremist allies are focused on disenfranchising millions of voters with the SAVE Act, which I fought against in Congress, here in Jersey we believe in the right to vote and encouraging participation in elections.

AS YOUR GOVERNOR, I WILL:

- **Implement same day voter registration.** Over a dozen states have some version of same day voter registration. When I'm Governor, I will add New Jersey to this list. If someone is eligible to vote in New Jersey, we want them to vote.
- **Expand in-person early voting.** I do not believe that people's busy lives should get in the way of them being able to vote. That's why as Governor, I will expand New Jersey's early voting to mirror Vermont's, which allows voting up to 45 days before the election.
- **Introduce universal mail-in voting.** Many states including Oregon, Washington, and Vermont have universal mail in voting. As Governor, I will ensure that New Jersey follows in their footsteps and automatically sends out mail-in ballots to all registered voters. If people still want to go to the polls to vote or were unable to register in time for mail-in voting, in-person voting will be available to them.
- **Expand automatic voter registration.** Currently, when someone receives their driver's license in New Jersey, they are automatically registered to vote unless they choose to opt out. When I'm Governor, I will expand automatic voter registration to other government services like Medicaid, SNAP, and unemployment.
- **Implement mobile voting pilot.** Voting should be as inclusive and accessible as possible. As Governor, I will start a mobile voting pilot program, like West Virginia has, that will allow deployed and overseas military members and their families to vote online. Government is often slow to keep up with technology, but it doesn't have to be.