



Fighting Hate and Racial Disparities

JOSH
FOR JERSEY
★ **GOVERNOR** ★

LOWER TAXES. JERSEY VALUES.

Fighting Hate and Racial Disparities

Since the pandemic, hate crimes have been on the rise, and racial disparities are only getting [worse](#).

I won't stand for that.

My "Tax Cut Plan" and "Lower Costs Plan" will reduce the cost of owning a home, a key driver of the racial wealth gap in New Jersey. I'll cut property taxes by nearly 15 percent and give renters relief too with an annual rent rebate. As Governor, I'll make sure we're building more housing that's more affordable—and we've got to cut red tape and build it faster, so that we can quickly address our housing shortage and high costs of rent and ownership. Learn more about my Lower Taxes and Lower Costs Plan to solve our affordability crisis [here](#).

Now, President Trump is targeting Jersey families even more. The Trump Administration has already declared war on Medicare, Medicaid, Social Security, immigrants, and veterans, just to name a few. They've tried to undermine voting rights and take away healthcare from children and families. They've aggressively gone after schools and programs that promote diversity. Our next Governor will need to be a fighter who isn't afraid to go round after round to protect Jersey families.

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 government and will continue to be a hallmark of my administration in Trenton.

MY RECORD

- Fought to pass the Black Maternal Health Momnibus with Rep. Lauren Underwood.
- Proudly cosponsored and voted for the John Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act to strengthen our democracy and improve civic participation.
- Voted for the George Floyd Justice in Policing Act to crack down on racial bias and reform police procedures.
- Worked to strengthen the Department of Education's enforcement of civil rights violations.

- 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.
- Defended education by joining other New Jersey Democrats in condemning Trump's move to abolish the federal Department of Education.
- Worked to support our Dreamers through a signed letter to USCIS Director Jaddau urging action to process DACA renewal applications and cosponsored legislation to provide a pathway to citizenship for Dreamers, TPS, and DED holders.
- Supported legislation to celebrate the legacy and contributions of immigrants and opposing discriminatory immigration policies.
- Introduced the Freedom from Discrimination in Credit Act to prohibit credit discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity.
- Was an original cosponsor of the Equality Act to extend the Civil Rights Act to LGBTQ+ individuals.
- Cosponsored and supported legislation to help minority and women-owned small businesses thrive.
- Supported the NO BAN Act and a resolution recognizing Muslim American Heritage Month to help protect and honor our Muslim communities.
- Introduced legislation denouncing the rise of islamophobia and antisemitism across the country.
- Denounced anti-Asian hate after the pandemic in a resolution led by Grace Meng and worked hard to pass the NO HATE Act to crack down on hate crimes.
- Fixed disparities in veterans' benefits by passing the Korean American VALOR Act to extend benefits to Korean Americans who fought in the Vietnam War.
- Worked to prevent anti-Sikh hate as a member of the Sikh Congressional Caucus.
- Secured hundreds of thousands in nonprofit security funding for a Sikh Gurudwara to prevent hate and violence.
- Cosponsored legislation to celebrate Hindu Americans and condemn attacks on Hindu places of worship and anti-Hindu bigotry.
- Member of the India and Indian American Caucus and Hindu-Jewish Caucus.
- 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.

AS YOUR GOVERNOR, I WILL:

- **Fight Hate and Bigotry.** Anti-Black, anti-Asian, anti-Sikh, anti-Latino, anti-Catholic, antisemitism, Islamophobia, homophobia, and any other form of hate has no place in Jersey.
- **Uphold Hate Crime Laws.** Ensure we aggressively enforce our hate crime laws so no one is the target of a crime based on bias, hatred, or racism.
- **Prevent Discrimination in the Classroom.** Make sure that the NJDOE remains committed to upholding civil rights protections within schools and ensuring that anti-discrimination policies and practices continue, even in the absence of federal oversight.
- **Invest in Education.** I'll make sure every child gets to attend Universal Pre-K and full-day kindergarten, as well as get free school meals every day. We need to reevaluate the school funding formula so that schools and students are getting the resources they need and it doesn't perpetuate disparities or put the burden on towns with lower tax bases.
- **Tackle Maternal Mortality Disparities.** I've been very involved in doing more to promote maternal health, including convening a virtual maternal health summit with First Lady Tammy Murphy to tackle this crisis. I've also fought to pass the Black Maternal Health Omnibus in Congress. The First Lady has done a phenomenal job leading on maternal health in Jersey. I will build on that, setting measurable, results-based equity goals with specific attention to disparate impact. We know, for instance, that medical providers over-perform C-sections on mothers of color, which can lead to complications for the mother and significantly extend recovery time. As Governor, I will implement new oversight mechanisms to avoid unnecessary C-sections, including requiring hospitals to track and address racial disparities.
- **Protect Innocent Immigrants.** Donald Trump's mass raids and round ups of innocent immigrants are un-American and go against our Jersey Values. As Governor, I'll be at the front door to stop him if he comes to schools, churches, restaurants, and businesses to round up families.
- **Promote Health Equity.** Take on racial disparities in our healthcare system and medical workforce. People of color often experience more adverse outcomes or malpractice when getting healthcare. I'll convene stakeholders to tackle these disparities and recommend state policy changes to address them.
- **Build More Affordable Housing.** We're short 220,000 housing units, which is driving up costs across the state. I'll prioritize building more housing that's more affordable—and doing it faster. We should build wherever we can: in abandoned office parks, unused government land, and near mass transit hubs.
- **Eliminating Food Deserts.** Too many communities across Jersey, particularly Black and Latino neighborhoods, are food deserts. We must build more grocery stores and supermarkets so families have reliable, close access to affordable, healthy food. I'll also

work to lower the cost of groceries by fighting Trump's tariffs and going after meat processor monopolies that drive up prices.

- **Reduce Barriers to Voting.** I'll expand early voting so more people can participate in our elections and I'll implement same-day voter registration across Jersey. I'll also make it easier for military members and their families stationed overseas to vote, and I'll push for sixteen and seventeen year olds to be allowed to vote in school board elections.
- **Cut Taxes for Low-Income and Middle-Class Families.** My Family Tax Credit will cut state income taxes in half for households in the lowest income bracket, and by around one quarter for people making up to the state's median income. I'll also double the state Child Tax Credit to help families afford food, childcare, healthcare, and more.