

2007 Legislative Candidates' Survey Results

(by District)

Candidates' responses are listed by district, as the candidate's name appears on the official general election ballot list for November 2007 General Election as of August 9, 2007. Responses are presented largely as received; however comments about opponents were deleted and obvious typographical errors corrected. Responses received after September 24 are not included.

* Denotes incumbent

Question 1 — Should the state make higher education a higher funding priority, and provide a regular and predictable appropriation to reduce the student's share of the cost of education from about 50% to 30%?

Question 2 — Should the state make an annual state appropriation of \$25 million for facilities renovation and repair, and place before the voters, within the next two years, a general obligation bond initiative of \$2 billion that would provide for the new facilities and technology for senior public higher education?

Question 3 — Should the state retain trustee autonomy at the nine state colleges and universities as the best way to provide for college access, quality, affordability and accountability?

District 1 — Cape May—Cumberland (part) Counties

State Senate:

Nicholas Asselta* (R) - No response received.

Jeff Van Drew (D)

#1—Education needs to be one of our top three priorities. It is shameful that so many of our New Jersey students are forced to attend out of state institutions. It is equally unfortunate that the individual student and their family are paying a higher percentage of the cost of education. We must have a permanent and predictable funding source for higher education.

#2—Yes, the state must make a significant investment in our educational infrastructure.

#3—In general we must maintain as much trustee autonomy as possible.

State Assembly:

Nelson Albano* (D)

#1—Yes, Education needs to be a priority. Our students should not be leaving our state to further their education because of the high expense. We need to fund higher education better. What we are doing now is unacceptable. We need to find a permanent funding source.

#2—Yes, the State must make a significant investment in our educational infrastructure.

#3—We should always try to maintain as much trustee autonomy as possible.

Matthew Milam (D)

#1—Yes, Education needs to be a priority. Our students should not be leaving our state to further their education because of the high expense. We need to fund higher education better. What we are doing now is unacceptable. We need to find a permanent funding source.

#2—Yes, the State must make a significant investment in our educational infrastructure.

#3—We should always try to maintain as much trustee autonomy as possible.

Michael J. Donohue (R) – No response received.

Norris Clark, Jr. (R)

#1 -Yes. I support all efforts to make funding of higher education a higher priority. Although colleges and universities should make every effort to find efficiencies and provide a higher education in the most cost effective manner, the state must do its part to ensure that colleges and universities receive sufficient funding to cover operating costs;

thereby keeping tuition increases at a reasonable level. Further, a more predictable method to fund higher education institutions should be developed to provide more stability to both institutions and students from year to year.

#2—I generally support the concept of investing additional state funds to ensure that the higher education facilities and technology infrastructure are first-rate and can keep up with increasing enrollment demands. However, due to the state's fiscal constraints and the need to address other issues such as school construction at the K-12 level, pension and benefits issues, and transportation infrastructure needs, I must reserve judgment at this time. I do agree, however, that this issue must be a priority and should be discussed along with the other pressing long-term needs of the state.

#3—Yes. I believe the state should retain autonomy at the nine state colleges and universities. The state colleges and universities must have the flexibility to make their own governance decisions to respond to the needs of each individual institution.

District 2—Atlantic (part) County

State Senate:

James “Sonny” McCullough* (R)

#1—Yes, the state should make higher education a priority and provide a regular and predictable appropriation to reduce the student's share from 50% to 30%. Quality affordable higher education is something that the state should put as a priority. New Jersey produces some of the brightest students in the country and keeping them in the state by providing affordable education should be a priority.

#2—Yes, the state should annually appropriate money for facilities for renovation and repair and issue a general obligation bond to build additional facilities and advance technology. In order to make our students competitive in the job market, it is imperative that New Jersey colleges and universities keep abreast of current and future technologies. In addition to building new areas of learning, maintaining the existing structures only makes good fiscal sense.

#3—Yes, the state should retain trustee autonomy at all colleges and universities. The independent nature of these boards is what is making our colleges and universities produce some of the most innovative programs and specialties around. The national rankings show that this system of governing and control works. Independent boards also add a local flavor that gives each college or university its own sense of identity.

James Whelan (D)

#1—As a member of the newly created Assembly Higher Education Committee, I share your sentiment that higher education funding needs to be a priority. Unfortunately, the state's current fiscal conditions required many difficult decisions over the last two budget cycles during which I have been in Trenton. That being said, I think we have to find creative new ways and sources of funding for our state higher education institutions. I have been working and have sought to sponsor legislation to spur public-private partnerships to build greater capacity at our institutions. This is one of my main priorities as a legislator.

#2—I do agree that our facilities need capital improvements and continued upgrades. This is why I am working on initiatives that join private entities with our public institutions to help make these capital investments. I am hesitant to commit to an annual appropriation without considering it in the context of our state's total revenues and mandated expenses.

#3—While I understand the context under which many policymakers have called for a return to greater regulation by the state, I believe that the current trustee arrangement should be continued.

State Assembly:

Vince Polistina (R) – No response received.

John F. Amodeo (R)

#1—I support all efforts to make funding of higher education a high priority. Higher education facilities must be efficient and the state must do its part to guarantee that colleges and universities receive proper funding to cover operating costs to help keep tuition affordable. Plus, we need a sustainable method of funding our state colleges and universities to provide stability to both the institutions and students.

#2—Yes, I support both the appropriation and the bond that would provide new facilities and technology for senior public institutions of higher education. By investing in the infrastructure of our colleges and universities, we can continue to offer the best education to our future students and ensure our colleges and universities will handle enrollment growth.

#3—Yes, I support that the state should retain trustee autonomy. Our state colleges and universities need ability to make their own management decisions to deal with the individual needs of each college and university.

Blondell K. Spellman (D)

#1—As a professor at Stockton College, I know firsthand how difficult increasing cost burdens can be for students and their families. I strongly believe the state government must support higher education as a top priority, and if elected to the Assembly, I will fight to make higher education more affordable and accessible for students. The State desperately needs to reach budget stability, but I believe we can address this concern in a way that also allows us to support higher education.

#2—Capital improvement projects are sorely needed at many of New Jersey's institutions of higher learning in order to ensure they continue to offer students the chance at a top notch education. It is important to fund these priorities, in order to make higher education more accessible and affordable for students and their families. At the same time, it is also critical that New Jersey address its budgetary problems. I am confident we can address these problems together in an effective way.

#3—Whenever I am teaching a course at Stockton College, I realize just how important it is for professors to be free from undue political influence in setting curricula and educational requirements. I oppose unnecessary political interference of this kind. To make New Jersey's colleges and universities affordable and high-quality, it is important that these institutions remain accountable to the State.

Joe Wilkins (D)

#1—Supporting higher education is a critical priority of state government, and I support steps to bring increased affordability into higher education. We should reduce the burden on students and families in order to increase access to the opportunities higher education provides. I support increased appropriations to support higher education. Before we can deliver a large increase in funding, however, the State must solve its own budgetary woes. If elected to the Assembly, I look forward to the dual challenges of getting New Jersey's fiscal house in order and to increasing state support of education.

#2—Higher education funding is an essential part of the services state government provides, and it is an indispensable investment in the future of our communities. I strongly support making college and higher education more affordable and more accessible for all New Jersey families who decide to pursue that option. While I am a strong supporter of increased education funding, I believe the State has an obligation to solve its budget problems and get on firm financial footing first. These problems were not brought about overnight, and it may take a few years to solve them. Providing the State can make progress toward that goal, I am very willing to work with the Association to support needed capital projects at New Jersey's higher education facilities.

#3—It is important to keep New Jersey's institutions of higher learning affordable, accountable, and high-quality. I oppose attempts to bring unwarranted political interference into trustee decisions, and I believe the State must make sure New Jersey's universities and colleges continue to perform highly, efficiently, and accountably to the taxpayers and the families of students.

District 3—Cumberland (part) - Gloucester (part) - Salem Counties

State Senate:

Stephen M. Sweeney* (D)

#1—I am a strong supporter of higher education and keeping costs low for our students. I was a co-sponsor of S664 to expand the NJ STARS program to include the last two years of education at a four-year school. In addition to NJ STARS, I supported this year's state budget and increases to the Tuition Aid Grant (TAG) program to assist over 60,000 full and part time students.

#2—I recognize our colleges and facilities need assistance with the renovation and repair of their facilities. I would support a measure to create a public ballot question and letting voters decide if a bond initiative is needed.

#3—I believe the State should retain trustee autonomy for its state colleges and universities. By having trustees who are involved with the school and community, schools can be assured they have individuals looking out for its best interests. The trustees have the ability to prioritize based on the school's needs. Under the previously existing Department of Higher Education, flexibility was not an option making it difficult for schools to operate.

Mark Cimino (R)

#1 -An investment in higher education is an investment in the future. Individuals with higher education are able to obtain higher paying jobs, thus leading to greater economic growth and a larger tax base. Cutting state funding for higher education is short sighted. Moreover, New Jersey's state colleges and universities provide the

opportunity for individuals who may have the ability, but not the financial means, to attend a place of higher learning.

#2 -Public education is a public responsibility. An educated work force not only helps the tax base but also attracts business and investment in the state as well. However, with any appropriation for renovations and repair, we must remain vigilant to ensure that the funds are not squandered for political pay backs to consultants and professionals. The recent debacle with the School Construction Corporation must not be repeated.

#3 -"Home" rule by autonomous boards of trustees is always superior to having politicians run our schools whether they be colleges and universities, or elementary and secondary schools.

William F. Mead (Independent)

#1— I advocate recalculating the state income tax to increase progressivity and devote more financial resources to education. But, simply giving universities and colleges more money and hoping they will continue to “have expanded programs” and shift a lesser share of costs “to the students and their families.” Higher education must reform administrative processes, enhance university-based technology infrastructure and sunset targeted program reductions. Any increase in education spending must dovetail with an ideology of fiscal restraint that educational institutions do not practice. Institutions of higher education must create strategies for partnership with regional innovation, business and economic growth stakeholders that more effectively leverages faculty driven technology transfer as a predictable revenue stream. Universities and colleges should be ranked in accordance with the percentage of resources devoted to commercialization of Research & Development projects. Increases in state funding should be tied to regional, “New Economy” development performance measures. Relief from the student and family share of educational costs would be better served by increases in financial aid, guaranteed loan, benefits and housing programs. Financial aid increases should be tied to academic performance metrics. Guaranteed loans should be exempt from bankruptcy filings. Veteran educational benefits should be extended to include veteran family members. Student housing for low income families, on or off campus, should be considered eligible for subsidization under federal and state housing assistance programs.

#2 - Annual appropriations or bonding for new construction, renovation or facilities management must be integrated with enhancing technology infrastructure innovations. I could support a \$25 million annual earmarked appropriation for facilities management or renovation that is tied to technology infrastructure innovation. These infrastructure innovations should operationalize identified mega-trends in education technology, such as: World Wide Web driven anytime-anywhere education, “cloud computing,” service-Oriented Architectures, Sharable Content Object Reference Models (SCORM), and Partnership for 21st Century Learning Skills deployments—among others. I would support a multi-billion dollar bond referendum “to cover (a percentage of cost for) senior public colleges/universities’ higher priority projects” only if a corresponding, calculated reduction in tuitions and fees accrues to the “students and their families (who) bear the responsibility for bond debt.” Prioritization would be given to new construction projects for classrooms and laboratories with enhanced technology infrastructure innovations. New constructions for residence halls and other facilities would not be covered.

#3—The state should retain autonomous boards of trustees under one condition. A voting majority of trustees should be either elected or appointed by other than government entities, such as alumni or professional associations. The political shenanigans that have occurred at Gloucester County Community College bear testimony to the need for stripping political entities of the sole power to appoint all members to boards of trustees. This would include gubernatorial appointments. The regulatory powers of the state government’s fiscal management over state colleges and universities could be enhanced, contingent upon reduction of state government appointed powers. The political shenanigans at the University of Medicine and Dentistry demonstrate the need for more effective fiscal oversight. The institution of advice and consent with a line item veto power would provide an effective deterrent to fiscal mismanagement. These observations could also be implemented for county community colleges

State Assembly:

John J. Burzichelli* (D)

#1—I support keeping costs low for our college and university students. To assist with costs, I am a co-sponsor of A-3361 to allow for the seamless transfer of college credits between schools. This important measure will save students money since they will not need to take courses twice. All credits would be transferred. In addition, I supported this year’s budget to expand NJ STARS and the Tuition Aid Grant (TAG) program.

#2—I would support legislation to create a ballot question allowing voters to decide on a bond initiative for repairs and renovations. I understand many schools have facilities in need of repair.

#3—I support retaining trustees for our state colleges and universities. Past efforts under a Department of Higher Education, often led to decisions that negatively impacted our schools. Trustees have shown the ability to

prioritize and address schools' needs quickly and in an affordable fashion.

Douglas H. Fisher* (D)

#1—I believe it is important to provide an affordable education for our students. I supported this year's budget to increase NJ STARS funding to over \$13 million as well as increased funding for Tuition Aid Grant (TAG) program. These programs help to maintain costs for our students enabling more of them to continue their education.

#2—Many schools need assistance with renovations and repairs to maintain their facilities. I would support a measure to create a public ballot question for voters to decide if a bond initiative is needed.

#3 - I believe quality, affordability and accountability can best be maintained by keeping the current trustee system. The previous Department of Higher Education often made decisions that hurt our schools since they did not properly understand each school's individual needs.

Phil Donohue (R) – No response received.

Jeffrey Stepler (R) – No response received.

Margie MacWilliams (Green Party)

#1—I would support more state funding for higher education. However, I feel overall costs would be lowered by cutting administrative expenditures and very high salaries at the top levels. Funding and state aid should come with fiscal responsibility.

#2 -I would support state funding for maintenance of public facilities.

#3 -Yes, the colleges should retain trustee autonomy to protect against political interference.

Charles Woodrow (Green Party) – No response received.

District 4—Camden (part) - Gloucester (part) Counties

State Senate:

Fred Madden* (D) –No response received.

John W. Jankowski (R) – No response received.

State Assembly:

Paul D. Moriarty* (D) – No response received.

Sandra Love (D) – No response received.

Patricia Fratticcioli (R) – No response received.

Shelly Lovett (R) – No response received.

District 5 - Camden (part) - Gloucester (part) Counties

State Senate:

Dana Redd (D) – No response received.

Hans Berg (R)

#1— Yes to higher funding priority and yes to reducing students' cost to 30%

#2— I would support a \$25 million appropriation for renovation and repair before voters

#3 - The nine state colleges and universities should continue to operate as autonomous boards.

State Assembly:

Joe Roberts* (D) – No response received.

Nilsa Cruz-Perez* (D)

I received your letter regarding the questionnaire. Thank you for your interest in learning about my position on legislative issues concerning higher education in the State. I have a long standing policy not to respond to questionnaires because legislative initiatives considered by the General Assembly are constantly changing. For

instance, if I take a particular position on a bill today and later it drastically changes when it is before the General Assembly, it will confuse my constituents and give them the wrong impression about the bill's intent. I want to emphasize that I respect your organization and its mission. Your input in matters affecting your members is important to my duty as a legislator. If you believe that a meeting would be beneficial, I would be more than happy to schedule time with you or representatives of the New Jersey Association of State Colleges and Universities to discuss any issues of concern. Please feel free to contact my office at (856) 541-1251. I look forward to hearing from you.

Jonathan Mangel (R) – No response received.

Edward Torres (R) – No response received.

Mark Heacock (R) – No response received.

Richard L. Giovanni (Green Party) – No response received.

District 6—Camden (part) County

State Senate:

John H. Adler* (D) – No response received.

Joseph A. Adolf (R)

Thank you for providing a survey related to the interests of the New Jersey Association of State Colleges and Universities. While we recognize the importance of the higher education, we have decided to conduct a grassroots campaign and devote our time to the interests of the people of District 6. To that end, we will not be completing the majority of surveys that are provided to candidates for state office. We have completed the Project Vote Smart National Political Awareness Test (NPAT). Major issues and our positions related to these issues can be reviewed through that instrument, which can be accessed at www.vote-smart.org. Also, you may view our positions that pertain to the interests of people of District 6 on our website at www.voteforchange07.com. In addition, we are limiting our association with special interest groups as part of our desire to run a clean campaign for the people of District 6. We are limiting our contacts, including interviews, with special interest groups.

State Assembly:

Louis D. Greenwald* (D)

I am writing in response to the 2007 Legislative Questionnaire for the New Jersey Association of State Colleges and Universities. As a member of the legislature for the past eleven years I believe that my record of legislative initiatives and my voting record, best address the questions included in your questionnaire. However, if you should require further explanation on a particular issue, please do not hesitate to contact me. Thank you for your consideration.

Pamela R. Lampitt* (D)

#1—I firmly believe that all students should have affordable access to higher education. As a mother of two college students and an administrator at a university, I know firsthand how important a college education is to the youth of our state. Our state has faced a fiscal crisis over the past few years that has led to our inability to fully fund higher education. While we were able to partially reverse this trend last year, I will continue to work tirelessly to ensure that this state devotes ample resources to our state's institutes of higher education. Last year funding to higher education increased more than \$50 million. As Vice-Chair of the Assembly Higher Education Committee, I have worked to ensure that our state's youth have access to affordable higher education, and I will continue to do so.

#2—I believe that our state's institutes of higher education are in vital need of an infusion of funding for capital improvement. The colleges and universities in our state suffer from aging facilities in need of repair, as well as the need for new facilities for research and education. As legislators, we must work to keep our state's higher education institutions competitive to continue to attract the brightest students both from within and outside the state. Quality facilities will help to diminish the effect of the aptly-named "brain drain" which plagues our state and causes us to export far too many of our state's brightest high school students. With rising enrollments at all our universities and colleges, new facilities must be built to provide adequate educational space for our state's next generation of students.

#3—The autonomy of our state's nine state colleges and universities allows these institutions to make decisions in the best interests of the students and the institution instead of based on politics. I support the autonomy of our state's institutes of higher education, though I do respect the need to ensure accountability for the hundreds of

millions of dollars of taxpayer money invested in our state's colleges and universities. New Jersey's colleges and universities must work together with each other and with the state to ensure that they adapt with the ever-changing economy, and therefore the needs, of our state. I sponsored A-4215, a bill which allows non-alumni to be appointed as an out-of-state trustee, in order to give colleges and universities more flexibility in the makeup of its board.

JoAnn R. Gurenlian (R)

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Bradley L. Mattson (R)

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Michael Gellman (Green Party) – No response received.

District 7—Burlington (part) - Camden (part) Counties

State Senate:

Diane Allen* (R)

#1—I am supportive of efforts to reduce the cost and expand access to higher education for New Jerseyans. I am proud to have worked with many of these institutions over the years to obtain needed funds and get cuts restored, and I look forward to continuing to do so. Unfortunately, while our state budget has expanded astronomically over the last six years, we have not seen a corresponding commitment to higher education in our spending priorities. I believe that higher education should become a higher priority in our budget process, thereby reducing the cost of our public colleges and universities and making appropriations more regular and predictable. Additionally, I believe that the proposed sale, lease, or monetization of the New Jersey Lottery would have disastrous consequences for the funding of higher education. The New Jersey lottery provides hundreds of millions of dollars a year in higher education funding which is guaranteed by law. Should the Lottery be "monetized", there is no guarantee that these funds would continue to be available.

#2—I believe that the Legislature must do more to assist New Jersey's public colleges and universities in meeting construction needs. These institutions see an ever-increasing need for expansion due to their stellar reputations, and we must do all we can to maintain New Jersey's reputation for having superior institutions of higher education. I would support an appropriation of \$25 million annually for facilities renovation and repair. I am also supportive of letting the voters decide whether or not the State should incur new debt for this purpose. We must recognize that this is a priority for the economic competitiveness of New Jersey, and act accordingly to appropriate the necessary funds.

#3—I am supportive of the current system of trustee autonomy. We need to ensure that our system of higher education is free of political encumbrances and bureaucratic red tape.

Richard S. Dennison, Jr. (D) – No response received.

State Assembly:

Jack Conners* (D)

#1— A reduction in student's cost share of higher education with a predictable annual state share is a reasonable goal that I support. Also, it is extremely important that our public colleges and universities be affordable and accessible to all New Jersey families. I will continue advocating for increased state aid for higher education.

Over the years student's share of tuition/room/board has steadily increased because of hard budget decisions. I believe this year's 4.5% increase in funding is a step in the right direction. We need to continue to work within the budget constraints while supporting our institutions and students. I was very pleased that the ASCU implemented a new advocacy program, "New Jersey College Promise."

Furthermore, higher education in FY 2008 totals approximately \$2.2 billion with a majority of the financial aid supporting Tuition Aid Grant Programs and the NJ Stars I and II Scholarships.

#2—I plan to work with the ASCU to advocate for annual investments from the state. If the state made an annual investment of \$25 million it's estimated the money raised would be \$2 billion. The money raised would help offset the staggering costs of new facilities and technology. This investment will allow New Jersey to compete in the global market for the best minds.

I just read in the ASCU *Policy Outlook*, Vol. 4, Issue 3, spotlighting a shortage in New Jersey's health care technology industry. We in the Legislature must make higher education a priority that meets the demands of our economy.

#3—State colleges and universities governing bodies should make decisions free from "political" interference, at the same time ensuring the higher education system meets appropriate performance standards, is accountable to the taxpayers and students.

It is critical that governing bodies of the various colleges and universities work together to meet the educational needs the workforce requires competing in a global economy.

Herb Conaway* (D)

#1—One of the most significant achievements of the current legislative session has been the renewed and enthusiastic support for funding higher education. This year's budget saw a 4.5% increase in funding for higher education, an initiative that I proudly supported. The total for direct state funding for higher education in the new budget is approximately \$2.2 billion. Financial aid increased by over \$18 million.

#2—I am grateful to be in a state that puts such a high premium on education from pre-school through graduate school. New Jersey has one of the best educated workforces in the country; to maintain and build upon that reputation, our facilities of higher education must have the funding they need to expand and advance.

With the help of the Association and with state colleges, I will work on and promote the annual \$25 million appropriation for renovation and repair. The billions of dollars that the bond initiative would raise would allow for the facility improvements and technological advances that will enable New Jersey to stay at the forefront of American higher education and our universities to be prepared to handle their growing number of students.

#3—The existing relationship between New Jersey and its state colleges and universities is significant. The governing bodies of these schools must have the ability to act with autonomy, however the state must retain the ability to measure schools in accordance with performance and efficiency standards and make them accountable to the taxpayers who fund them and the students and families of students who have invested their finances and futures in a given school.

While governing bodies should never be subjected to "political interference," it is important to maintain the mutual relationship between the state and its public universities and colleges.

Brian Propp (R)

#1—We must do more to lower the cost of higher education at our public colleges and universities for all New Jerseyans. Funding our higher education system should be made a priority in the budget process so that students do not get crushed under ever increasing tuition costs. In so doing, we must make appropriations that are predictable each year. This is a matter of living within our means as a state and funding our priorities, rather than more wasteful spending.

#2—I would be supportive of the annual appropriation, as well as putting a responsible bond issue question to the voters. Our public colleges and universities have earned a reputation as world-class institutions of learning, and we must ensure the longevity of this reputation by ensuring that expansion and renovation needs are addressed.

#3—The current system appears to be working well, and I support maintaining this system of autonomy.

Nancy Griffin (R)

#1—I am the product of New Jersey's state colleges and universities, having earned my J.D. from Rutgers University. Additionally, I do extensive mentoring with at-risk youth in the city of Camden, and can attest to the detrimental effect that rising tuition rates have on the ability of these young people to continue their education. I believe we must do everything we can to reduce the cost of higher education in New Jersey, and this must be reflected in our budget priorities through regular and predictable appropriations.

#2—A \$25 million appropriation for renovations and maintenance is a responsible, and feasible, budget priority. I would support allowing the voters to decide whether or not a bond issue should be made for new construction.

#3— I support the current governance system and believe that it should not be changed by the Legislature.

District 8—Burlington (part) Counties

State Senate:

Phil Haines (R) – No response received.

Francis L. Bodine (D) – No response received.

State Assembly:

Tracy L. Riley (D) – No response received.

Christopher D. Fifis (D) – No response received.

Dawn Marie Addiego (R) – No response received.

Scott Rudder (R) – No response received.

District 9—Atlantic (part) - Burlington (part) - Ocean (part) Counties

State Senate:

Christopher J. Connors (R) – No response received.

Russell K. Corby (D) – No response received.

State Assembly:

Brian E. Rumpf* (R) – No response received.

Daniel M. Van Pelt (R) – No response received.

William Coulter (D) – No response received.

Michele F. Rosen (D)

#1—As an Adjunct Instructor at Ocean County College, I know that the cost of education to my students is staggering. Many are forced to work 2 or 3 jobs to make ends meet and pay their tuition. We must return to a 50% percent State share, supported by a regular and predictable annual State appropriation. I am committed to making our public colleges and universities accessible to all New Jersey families and one of my top priorities will be advocating for increased state appropriations for higher education. While we can point fingers at other administrations and suggest they are at fault for the increase in the student share of tuition/room/board, those of us who desire to go to the Legislature must recognize that affording our children, those who are in the public schools and those who desire to go on to higher education, the ability to obtain the education they need and want is one of our most important responsibilities if we want them to be able to compete in a global society and a global economy. This year's 4.5% increase in funding for higher education is a step in the right direction; however it is not nearly enough. I am committed to finding more funding each year to support our state colleges and universities because they serve the public good and must provide an affordable, high quality education to thousands of students.

#2—I believe that support for our state colleges and universities requires that the State commit itself to providing a quality environment in which our students can learn, the tools by which they can learn and an atmosphere that is conducive to learning. To that end, I fully support an annual investment of \$25 million from a voter approved capital infrastructure bond for our public institutions of higher education. The approximately \$2 billion dollars this would raise for facility improvements would go a long way to enhancing the State's position in the higher education global community. As the 9th District Assemblywoman, I pledge to find a way, despite the budget problems facing the state, to provide quality facilities to our State colleges and universities. Frankly, we cannot continue to defer an investment in our children's futures and, by extension, our democratic society as has been done over the last two decades. State policymakers must make higher education a priority and find a way - in

difficult budgetary times - to provide quality facilities that keep us competitive. Only when we as legislators are prepared to fund our colleges and institutions so that they can accommodate all those who desire to attend them, will we be able to stem the flow of high school seniors to out-of-state colleges and provide the education they want and need here in New Jersey.

#3—While I don't object to the retention of trustee autonomy, I am concerned that all too often Boards support administrative decisions and recommendations to the detriment of the student population and the teaching staff. To me, college should be a path to opening students' minds, exchanging ideas and recognizing the many faceted opinions that exist in our society. Clearly, autonomy is important to our colleges and universities. However, I believe that the State has a duty to assure that the policies established do not infringe upon or deter students and faculty from the above concepts and that our higher education system meets appropriate performance standards and is accountable to the taxpayers, students and families.

I would like you to know that my commitment to the higher education community in the State of New Jersey goes well beyond my pledges to fund additional tuition aid and facilities improvements. I believe that our children are our legacy to the world and that the greatest gift that we can give them is quality education. Long ago, John Kennedy, the first President born in the 20th century said that "The torch has been passed to a new generation of Americans," Now, I believe that torch being passed once again although our children have not been "...tempered by war.. .", except from a distance; nor have they been "...disciplined by a hard and bitter peace" They are cynical about government and convinced that they have been left out by those who govern because that cynicism has resulted in their failure to participate in government. To me, our state colleges and universities offer the only opportunity for these young people to move beyond what is to what could be, to learn that government is the people, all of the people, not just senior citizens and special interests, but young people who hold the hopes and dreams for the future in their hands and in their heads. My hope is that, as the Assemblywoman from the 9th District, I can make a difference and that my belief in their capacity to reach for the stars will be rewarded by the knowledge that many, many more New Jersey students have actually reached the stars because I cared about them and I made sure that they had the education they deserved.

District 10—Monmouth (part) - Ocean (part) Counties

State Senate:

Andrew R. Ciesla* (R)

#1—Yes, I believe funding for higher education should be a higher priority. Colleges and universities must make every effort to find efficiencies and provide a higher education in the most cost effective manner. The state must also do its part to ensure that colleges and universities receive sufficient funding to cover operating costs, thereby keeping tuition increases at a reasonable level. In addition, a more dependable method to fund higher education institutions must be developed to provide more stability to the colleges and universities and also the students from year to year.

#2—I generally support the concept of investing additional state funds to ensure that the higher education facilities and technology infrastructures are first-rate and can keep up with increasing enrollment demands. However, due to the state's current fiscal constraints, I feel this is an issue that should be considered on a yearly basis depending on the needs of the college or university.

#3—Yes, I believe the state should retain autonomy at the nine state colleges and universities.

Britta Forsberg Wenzel (D) – No response received.

Jim Miller (Libertarian) – No response received.

State Assembly:

David W. Wolfe* (R)

#1—It is vital that New Jersey invest in its higher education to enhance the state's workforce and attract students from other states.

#2—I generally support and understand the concept of investing additional state funds to ensure that the higher education facilities and technology infrastructures are first-rate and keep up with the increasing enrollment demands. However, due to the state's current fiscal constraints, I feel this is an issue that should be considered on a yearly basis depending on the needs of the college or university.

#3—Yes, the state should retain autonomy at the nine state colleges and universities.

Jim Holzapfel* (R)

#1—Yes, I believe funding for higher education to be a high priority. However, colleges and universities should make

every effort to find efficiencies and provide education in the most cost effective manner. The state must also do its part to ensure that colleges and universities receive enough funding to cover operating costs, in order to keep tuition increases at a reasonable level. There should also be a more predictable method to fund higher education to provide more stability to the institutions from year to year.

#2—I generally support the concept of investing additional state funds to ensure that the higher education facilities and technology infrastructures are first-rate and can keep up with increasing enrollment demands. However, due to the state's current fiscal constraints, I feel this is an issue that should be considered on a yearly basis depending on the needs of the college or university.

#3—Yes, I believe the state should retain autonomy at the nine state colleges and universities.

John Kaklamanis (D)

#1—At this time, due to the state's shortfall in revenues, they have cut all spending. The present politicians have been spending more than revenues brought in. The budget has been misappropriated at which the cost must go up for students and families. The budgeting for the pension systems has been neglected which affects all areas. Ultimately the higher costs must be borne by families at this time.

#2—I believe certain issues should be voted on by the public voters. A referendum should be placed on the ballot. N.J. is not known for being proactive or ahead of other states. We must review all standards, stop wasteful spending. Education is an investment in our country's future; we must now compete with the world.

#3—Government must not get involved in everything, and must not have political interference. Independent boards must have equal control, if not more, on regulating their own destiny. The more political involvement, interference, the more the system gets off course.

Elizabeth Arnone (Green Party)

#1—Education should act principally to ensure equal opportunity to a quality education. Educational funding formulas at the state level need to be adjusted as needed to avoid gross inequalities between districts and schools. Education grants should provide necessary balance to ensure equal educational access for minority, deprived, special needs and exceptional children, in higher education, Federal scholarships and should be increased & aimed at excluding no qualified student.

#2—I believe if it were not for the unspeakable funding of illegal wars, wmd's & corp. welfare, we would not be having this conversation. We are being governed by a failed system of corruption which does not address the needs of its citizenry hurt the greed of the few. This must be changed.

#3—Eliminate all public school districts with the creation of a unified school district for the state.

Eliminate all local public school districts with the creation of a unified school district for the State of New Jersey. Administrative districts will be created and adjusted for practical administrative affairs under the Department of Education, the administrator. The Commissioner of Education will be eliminated from the Governor's cabinet with the creation of a State Superintendent of Schools voted for by Instant Runoff Voting (IRV) in the General Election as a partisan race. The State School Board at the Department will be voted for by proportional representation in General Election with 20 seats. This number of seats will allow for at least 5% for any party or Independent candidate to gain at least one seat. Property taxes will no longer pay for the public schools with its replacement by a progressive state income tax dedicated to the public schools. This tax and fund will be separate from the general revenues. The accounting of this system will be placed on a website available for tracking by all residents of the state with hard copies of appropriate materials placed in several public agencies such as libraries for review around the state. Serious thought needs to be considered for a merged junior (community) college and a state college/university systems for further financial and education improvements. An amendment to the New Jersey Constitution would also be necessary requiring that no funds for education are to be gained through property taxes. Given the budgets of local districts we would assume that \$500,000,000 would be saved in the first year of implementation.

Matthew Q. Dimon (Green Party) – No response received.

District 11—Monmouth (part) County

State Senate:

Sean T. Kean (R) – No response received.

John A. Villapiano (D) – No response received.

State Assembly:

David P. Rible (R) – No response received.

Mary Pat Angelini (R) – No response received.

John P. Napolitani, Sr. (D) – No response received.

John J. Pirnat (D) – No response received.

District 12—Mercer (part) - Monmouth (part) Counties

State Senate:

Ellen Karcher* (D) – No response received.

Jennifer Beck (R) – No response received.

State Assembly:

Mike Panter* (D)

#1—As someone who benefited greatly from higher education, I understand the importance and value it has for our students. I am also aware of the expenses associated with receiving a higher education and therefore believe it is imperative to make higher education a higher funding priority to alleviate some of the burden on students. I graduated from law school and college with nearly \$100,000 in loans, despite winning multiple scholarships and working numerous jobs. Keeping tuition in check should be a top priority, though even the best initiatives must be reviewed in light of our budget deficit.

#2—Although I would need more information on this issue, I understand how important it is to provide universities with the most up-to-date and technologically advanced facilities to ensure that the most promising and educated students are being recruited. Generally, I am opposed to increases in state borrowing; however, I believe existing revenues should be used more wisely.

#3—Although I believe that some state involvement should be encouraged at the university level, it is imperative that the boards are making the decisions that suit the colleges' needs and not the state's. Therefore, I believe those boards should remain autonomous in certain areas.

Amy Mallet (D)

#1—It is important to ensure that our students are financially capable of attending higher education facilities. As someone who received a bachelor's degree and an MBA and who is currently sending their child to college, I understand the importance and benefits of receiving a higher education, but also the expenses associated. Therefore we should make certain there is a mechanism in place to keep the costs reasonable.

#2—I would need more information on this issue to make an informed decision. However, I do recognize the importance of having the best facilities on campus in order to recruit the best and the brightest students. I would also be encouraged that a bond initiative would go before the voters for approval.

#3—Although I believe that some state involvement is necessary, university and college boards need to be making decisions that will be best for that institution and not for the state.

Declan O'Scanlon, Jr. (R) – No response received.

Caroline Casagrande (R) – No response received.

District 13—Middlesex (part) - Monmouth (part) Counties

State Senate:

Joe Kyrillos, Jr.* (R) – No response received.

Leonard L. Inzerillo (D) – No response received.

State Assembly:

Samuel Thompson* (R)

#1—Yes. It is absurd that the state actually cut funding to higher education in FY 2007 and has continually underfunded it over the last six years under Democrat control while increasing over-all spending by more than 50% (State budget FY 2001 \$22B, current budget \$33.5B). We owe far more than this to our students who are the future of our State and nation.

#2—I support the \$25 million appropriation. I am concerned relative to a \$2 billion bond issue. It took more than 225 years for New Jersey to create \$15B in bonded indebtedness by 2001. In the last 6 years, indebtedness more than doubled from \$15 to \$37B and much more bonding is already planned by the administration. This is consuming an ever increasing portion of revenues and will have to be repaid by today's students and generations to come.

#3—Trustee autonomy should be retained to avoid the vagaries arising from political interferences.

Amy H. Handlin* (R) – No response received.

Patricia Walsh (D) – No response received.

Robert “Bob” Brown (D) – No response received.

District 14—Mercer (part) - Middlesex (part) Counties

State Senate:

Seema Singh (D)

#1—I graduated from Rutgers University in 1988. It was a great opportunity for me to get my education in New Jersey. I understand this in a personal way how important public education is. My daughter is starting high school this year, and I want her and her peers to have choices available to them that are only possible if the legislature increases their support of higher education and truly makes it a priority. I would support reducing the student's share of the cost to 30% and providing a predictable appropriation.

#2—We should have the capacity to accommodate our high school seniors at New Jersey colleges and universities and not force them out of state. I would support appropriating \$25 million for facilities renovation and repair, as well as getting a bond initiative on the ballot to provide for new facilities and technology.

#3—I am on the Board of Visitors of the College of Computing Sciences at the New Jersey Institute of Technology and President of the Indian Chamber of Commerce, so I understand the value in public institutions partnering with the larger community and businesses on a variety of issues, including preparing young people for rapidly developing technology sector. We must ensure that the public is being served by quality, affordable institutions. As a legislator, I would work with organizations and other legislators to find the best role for the State in the governance of state colleges and universities.

Bill Baroni (R) – No response received.

State Assembly:

Linda R. Greenstein* (D) – No response received.

Wayne P. DeAngelo (D)

#1 - As the cost to attend a college or university in New Jersey continues to soar; many students with the desire to pursue higher education are facing a financial barrier that closes the door to a bright and prosperous future. Currently, New Jersey's college and universities are providing an education to more than 74,000 undergraduates and 14,000 graduate students. Bearing in mind the impact a quality education can have on New Jersey's young in learning professional skills and becoming gainfully employed, the State must make funding for higher education a top priority. In order to do so, the State must provide a regular and predictable appropriation so that the share of the cost for families and students is reduced from 50 percent to 30 percent. While the State appropriated a \$52 million increase in funding for higher education for the 2008 fiscal year, the Legislature and Governor must work together to ensure the level of funding remains at a level that eases the burdens families and students are facing and so that no one is denied access to an affordable education at a four year college or university in New Jersey.

#2—I would actively support and pledge to work with the Association, the Legislature, the Governor, and colleges and universities around the State to guarantee an annual appropriation of \$25 million for facilities for renovation and repair. I would also support and educate voters about a bond initiative of \$2 billion that would provide for new facilities and technology and overall upgrade the quality of education students are getting inside the classroom. The stakes on this issue could not be any higher as the future of New Jersey's young lies in the hands of state lawmakers. Even as New Jersey becomes the highest exporter of college-bound high school seniors with 26,000 leaving the State to receive a higher education elsewhere, there is an opportunity for the State and voters to demonstrate their financial support and commitment to our institutions for higher education.

#3—As a legislator, I would consider in consultation with organizations and other legislators to determine the appropriate amount of trustee autonomy for NJ state colleges and universities. The State and colleges and universities must work together to provide quality public education that is affordable. and the institutions must be efficient and accountable to the public.

Thomas Goodwin (R) – No response received.

Adam Bushman (R) – No response received.

Jason M. Scheurer (Libertarian) – No response received.

Ray F. Cragle (Libertarian) – No response received.

District 15—Mercer (part) County

State Senate:

Shirley K. Turner* (D)

#1—I agree that higher education should have a higher funding priority; however, considering the state's strained financial situation, I cannot begin to determine how such an increase in funding can be made without further burdening the state's taxpayers. I firmly believe that before legislators can make any commitments for substantial funding increases, our first priority should be to reform our state's system of property taxation to better determine where we can afford to save and where we can afford to spend. During the FY'07 budget, I fought against the proposed cuts to higher education, and I was pleased to see that most of the funding was restored to the budget. During the FY'08 budget, the legislature approved an increase of \$35.7 million in direct operating aid for senior public colleges and universities and an additional \$11 million in salary funding. I have supported other initiatives to help reduce tuition costs for New Jersey students. I cosponsored the NJ STARS implementing legislation to provide higher education opportunities for more students. I sponsored a budget resolution to provide \$3.2 million for the Outstanding Scholars Recruitment Program, and since this budget resolution was not approved, I am having legislation drafted in support of this appropriation. I sponsored a budget resolution to provide \$1 million for the Educational Opportunity Fund, and since this budget resolution was not approved, I am having legislation drafted in support of this appropriation. I am also the sponsor of legislation (S1349) which establishes the NJ HOPE Scholarship Fund. We need to make education more affordable for students.

#2—Again, considering the state's strained financial situation, I do not see how this need can be met. I would not commit to a \$25 million annual appropriation. I would support placing a bond initiative before the voters.

#3—I am not convinced that the current system is working, nor am I convinced that it would be beneficial to return to the previous system of oversight. I believe that this is an issue that still requires greater consideration, discussion, and review.

Bob Martin (R) – No response received.

State Assembly:

Reed Gusciora* (D)

In my previous eleven years in the Legislature, I have placed a high level of importance on improving this state's higher education system and look forward to continuing my efforts in Trenton.

As an adjunct professor in the Political Science department at the College of New Jersey, I have seen firsthand the positive impact institutions of higher education have on the lives of their students. I fully support any measures to reduce the cost of tuition for New Jersey students from and will also support any legislative initiatives to improve infrastructure and facilities at our public colleges. By taking these steps, we can encourage more young persons to stay in-state and curb the amount of individuals leaving New Jersey for college and never returning.

Furthermore, I believe that the nine state colleges should continue to operate under autonomous boards of trustees. Each individual school is in the best position to decide policies in order to maintain a high level of quality, affordability, and accountability.

I believe my voting record and legislative history speaks for itself in terms of the importance I place on higher education. If you have any questions or wish to discuss my qualifications further, please do not hesitate to contact me. Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

Bonnie Watson Coleman* (D) – No response received.

Sylvester Bobby Bryant (R) – No response received.

Norbert E. Donnelly (R) – No response received.

Nicholas Mellis (Green Party)

#1—I and the Green Party support free education for all NJ college eligible students.

#2—I would support full funding for all needs relating to colleges and universities.

#3—No, I support the current systems. Keep up the good work!

District 16—Morris (part) - Somerset (part) Counties

State Senate:

Christopher “Kip” Bateman (R)

#1—Funding for all education purposes should be a top priority in all budget discussions. I would support a review and/or study that would look to ways to provide a stable source of funding for our higher education institutions.

#2—There are a number of bills (A-710, S-1477/A-2786, S-1560) currently pending that would provide for the issuance of approximately \$2 billion or greater in bonds for construction and renovation of higher education facilities. All are sitting in their respective committees waiting to be scheduled for review. I would support the review of these bills so that we may move forward on a new funding source for our colleges and universities.

#3—At this point in time, I would support the continuation of the Commission on Higher Education and the New Jersey President’s Council as governing boards for our state colleges and universities. I believe it is important that they have the flexibility through the Commission, and the knowledge through their boards, to better serve the higher education community.

Wayne G. Fox (D) – No response received.

State Assembly:

Pete Biondi* (R)

#1—Yes. I support all efforts to make funding of higher education a higher priority in the State's budget. The State must do everything that it can to ensure our colleges and universities receive sufficient funding to cover operating costs in order to keep tuition increases at a reasonable, and affordable, level. We, in the Legislature, must also work on a more stable method to fund higher education to provide stability to both institutions and students from year to year.

#2—Yes. It is only through the investment in our infrastructure of New Jersey's higher education students that we can continue to attract the best and the brightest students and faculty and ensure that the colleges can support continued enrollment growth.

#3—Yes. The state should retain autonomy at the nine state colleges and universities. Each institution must have the flexibility to make their own governance decisions to respond to each institution's individual needs.

Denise Coyle (R)

#1—Yes, the funding of higher education should be a higher priority. While the state and the institutions must both do their part to keep tuition increases at reasonable levels, I would support a predictable source of funding so as to provide more stability to funding methods from year to year.

#2—I agree with appropriating dollars for infrastructure. If the state wants to maintain its technological edge and attract the best and the brightest this needs to be done. I agree that this issue must be a priority; however, the K-12 construction funding must also be evaluated.

#3—Yes, I support the continuation of the Commission on Higher Education and the New Jersey Presidents’ Council. At this point, it seems that they are best equipped to respond to the needs of our higher education institutions.

Michael Fedun (D) – No response received.

William Kole (D)

#1—The State should absolutely make funding higher education a high priority as education is the ticket to a future. I am currently a college student and understand the financial burden that so many students and families undertake in order to ensure a future. Therefore, I would look to obtain whatever funding is necessary to ensure students are not burdened with large bills. While the state has increased funding for higher education in this year's budget, it is not nearly enough.

#2—I support an annual investment of \$25 million annually to repair and renovate facilities. Additionally I support the \$2 billion bond initiative for facility improvements as this would go a long way in preserving New Jersey's universities are maintaining its place in this knowledge-based, global economy. Having adequate facilities must be a priority in this state as more and more students in New Jersey are attending college and New Jersey must entice top students to continue their education in New Jersey.

#3—Autonomy is absolutely important to our public institutions of higher education. However, the State must ensure that performance standards are met, be accountable to the taxpayers, and most importantly to students and families. It is also important that governing bodies of our State institutions coordinate and cooperate to meet the changes in the ever-changing educational and workforce demands.

District 17—Middlesex (part) - Somerset (part) Counties

State Senate:

Bob Smith* (D)

#1—Yes.

#2—Yes.

#3—Yes.

John Costello (R) – No response received.

State Assembly:

Joseph V. Egan* (D) – No response received.

Upendra Chivukula* (D)

#1—One of the cornerstones to a strong, growth-oriented economy is a highly educated workforce. I believe if we want New Jersey to be competitive and attract new business we need to devote significant resources to our higher educational institutions. The issues we face with the budget make it difficult to provide the type of funding we need for higher education. The increase in the student's share of the cost of education from 30% to 50% occurred due to a number of factors, state funding, more services provided by higher education institutions, campus construction and numerous other causes. It is an issue that cannot be fixed overnight. The state will need to work hard to provide the dollars needed while addressing property taxes, infrastructure improvements and pensions to name but a few of the issues confronting the State. The direct state funding for higher education in fiscal year 2008 is nearly \$2.2 billion. I will do all that I can to increase funding for higher education, it is too important not to try.

#2—I support making the annual appropriation of \$25 million for facilities for renovations and repair. Improving our infrastructure, whether it is transportation, telecommunication or education is of critical importance. I am often approached by families requesting assistance in gaining admission for their children to New Jersey colleges and universities. Children, whom in years past would have been eagerly accepted, now must look elsewhere because there is no available space. New Jersey is losing too many of their children to out-of-state universities because our institutions of higher education do not have sufficient space. I support placing a bond to provide the funds needed for facility improvements. This funding is necessary to give New Jersey the edge in a global economy.

#3—The autonomy of New Jersey's state colleges and universities is important. It is important that the trustee boards are able to provide direction for these institutions. At the same time it is important to realize we have an obligation to maintain an oversight capacity. It is a responsibility to the taxpayers who fund these institutions; it is a responsibility to the parents and students of those attending these schools or plans to attend them. By working together we ensure that these institutions remain capable to adapt and respond to a continuously changing world.

Matthew "Skip" House (R)

#1—No, NJ taxes (property, sales, income) high enough now. However, let's add an "effective" I & R system to our NJ constitution!

#2—No, but see I & R issue, Question #1, and my August 2007 letter: "Trenton continues to disgrace our NJ constitution's demand for a balanced budget. Close to \$100 billion is needed now to ensure funding for promised health and pension benefits of our public career workers, professionals; and the multitude of appointed and elected politicians who opportunistically added themselves. First, let's drop these opportunists so we can assess the actual damage. Second, determine what we can reasonably afford toward what the real NJ public worker expects from our elected officials' outlandish promises. Finally, demand a responsive I & R system to give Constitutional weight to the reforms proposed.

#3—Yes. Competition is good. Government is a "drag."

Leonard J. Messineo (R) – No response received.

District 18—Middlesex (part) County

State Senate:

Barbara Buono* (D) – No response received.

Daniel H. Brown (R) – No response received.

State Assembly:

Patrick J. Diegnan, Jr.* (D)

#1—A clear, fair and understandable funding formula must be established for Higher Education. I am drafting legislation which will extend the sales tax to professional services to be dedicated to Higher Education funding.

#2—I support these initiatives. We must address the capital needs of our public colleges and universities. I am a prime sponsor of A3677 which can be of assistance.

#3—I support autonomy, but the public institutions have lost their "seat at the table." I believe a balance needs to be struck between independence and a coordinated higher education plan for our state.

Peter J. Barnes, III* (D) – No response received.

William England (R) – No response received.

Joseph Sinagra (R)

#1—Yes. I support all efforts to make funding of higher education a higher priority. Although colleges and universities should make every effort to find efficiencies and provide a higher education in the most cost effective manner, the state must do its part to ensure that colleges and universities receive sufficient funding to cover operating costs; thereby keeping tuition increases at a reasonable level. Further, a more predictable method to fund higher education institutions should be developed to provide more stability to both institutions and students from year to year.

#2—Yes. I support the annual appropriation of \$25 million for facilities renovation and repair. Further, I support placing a question before the voters regarding a \$2 billion bond initiative to fund the construction of new facilities and technology for senior public institutions of higher education. Only by investing in the infrastructure of our state's higher education students can we continue to attract the best and brightest students and faculty and ensure that the colleges can support continued enrollment growth.

#3—Yes, I believe the state should retain autonomy at the nine state colleges and universities. The state colleges and universities must have the flexibility to make their own governance decisions to respond to the needs of each individual institution.

District 19—Middlesex (part) County

State Senate:

Joseph F. Vitale* (D)

#1—Public colleges and universities are among the most valuable assets to New Jersey. It is necessary to provide the proper funding for students who are willing to enroll in higher education programs throughout the state. Many college students in New Jersey have incurred too much debt for higher education. New Jersey should make higher education a higher funding priority.

#2—I agree that a new funding formula must address the needs of all higher education students throughout New Jersey. Our higher education students should have access to the best facilities and learning environments possible.

#3—It is important that colleges and universities retain some independence from the State legislature. Addressing the best interests of the student population should be the focus of both the Legislature and the autonomous boards. If that goal is best achieved through independent autonomous boards, than I would agree with this approach.

Donald H. Nelsen, Jr. (R)

#1—I am a staunch supporter of education and as a college graduate, realize how important it is for the government to pay their fair share. If elected, I would work to increase educational funding in accordance with the points you mentioned above.

#2—The state has a responsibility to renovate and repair state facilities of higher education. Whatever can be done to alleviate your above noted points obviously needs to be done. If I am elected, I would work to see these goals fulfilled.

#3—I believe an autonomous authority free from political patronage best serves the needs stated above. State regulation and their hands in the pot do not equal access, quality, affordability, or accountability by any means.

State Assembly:

John S. Wisniewski* (D)

Thank you for sending me your candidate questionnaire. I appreciate you sending it to me and would value your support in the upcoming election. When I first ran for the Legislature, the only way you could evaluate me was through a series of questions and answers that would enable you to understand where I stood on issues of importance to your organization. Now, after twelve years in the Legislature, I have a record of hundreds, if not thousands of votes. That is a record that accurately depicts where I stand on the issues of importance to your organization. Questionnaires, and their answers, do not capture the full measure of where I stand on any particular issue. Therefore I must regretfully decline your invitation to answer this questionnaire, and instead ask that you look at my record of votes as a member of the New Jersey General Assembly in considering whether to support my re-election.

Joseph Vas* (D)

#1—I am committed to ensuring that all New Jersey residents who wish to pursue higher education can do so. I support lowering the student's share of the cost of education back down to 30%, but due to budget constraints, it is going to take more than one State budget cycle.

#2—I will support an annual appropriation of \$25 million for a voter-approved capital infrastructure bond for our institutions of higher education. In order to maintain our state's competitiveness, we need to explore various options in order that our institutions of higher education are capable of handling an ever increasing capacity of students, as well as the capability of providing education utilizing the latest advances in technology.

#3—Accessibility, quality, accountability and affordability are the necessary key components in sustaining a high performing higher educational system in our state. To ensure that our school system meets or exceeds appropriate performance standards, and is accountable not only to the taxpayers, but its students, it is essential for the state and all institutions of higher education to cooperate and work together.

Paul “Daniels” Danielczyk (R) – No response received.

Reyes Ortega (R) – No response received.

District 20—Union (part) County

State Senate:

Raymond J. Lesniak* (D) – No response received.

Linda Gaglione (R)

#1—Funding should be a priority so that we do not see a decline in children attending higher education due to costs. This funding should not result in higher taxes. Cutting waste or different appropriations may be necessary. We need to work together to make State Colleges & Universities the best in the nation. The result will be a step to putting people where they can help move us to the future.

#2—Maintaining facilities should be of utmost importance. However, after seeing the mess result of the SSC, it should be each individual location's responsibility. Any appropriations should be done by not impacting taxpayers. It is important that there is proper spending reducing waste and reduction of political favoritism.

#3—The state colleges & universities should continue to be autonomous. I believe it helps to keep the individuality. There must be a continuation to reduce tuitions on a greater scale so that we do not have a reduction of college bound students. Programs must be designed to adapt to a new breed of technologically advanced students. Students need to graduate to be confident. Monitoring for accountability is a high priority to succeed in the future.

Stanley J. Moskai (Clean Up Government) – No response received.

State Assembly:

Neil Cohen* (D) – No response received.

Joseph Cryan* (D) – No response received.

Marlene J. Abitanto (Clean Up Government) – No response received.

Lester Dominguez (Clean Up Government) – No response received.

District 21—Essex (part) - Morris (part) - Somerset (part) - Union (part) Counties

State Senate:

Thomas H. Kean, Jr.* (R) – No response received.

Gina Genovese (D)

#1—In recent years as the government has provided less money for education, tuition costs for students have become unreasonable. The State should make funding for higher education a priority in order to reduce the burden of higher tuition from students attending New Jersey Colleges and Universities.

#2—In addition to the State providing more money for education to reduce tuition costs, the State should take on more of a role in providing for the renovation and improvement of classrooms, laboratories, residence halls and other facilities. The State should seriously consider placing such a bond before the voters.

#3—Yes, trustee autonomy is very important in allowing the colleges and universities to function efficiently. The boards of trustees need to act in the best interests of the colleges and universities and be free from political interference.

State Assembly:

Eric Munoz* (R) – No response received.

Jon M. Bramnick* (R) – No response received.

Bruce Bergen (D) – No response received.

Norman Albert (D) – No response received.

George DeCarlo (Green Party)

Reforming the design and financing of the public colleges/universities by improving the basic structure will address the issues in the three questions asked in your letter.

All public colleges/universities as well as community (junior colleges) in the state shall be unified under a statewide university system. All separate trustee structures made by appointment via a patronage system shall be eliminated in favor of elected officials for a statewide system.

Central administration may be handled through the Department of Education with offices for this division located in Newark or Camden as possible sites.

A State Dean of Higher Education acting as head of this newly created unified system will be voted for by Instant Runoff Voting (IRV) in the General Election as a partisan race in an off-year General Election when the General Assembly also runs for office. A Higher Education Board of Trustees will replace the Commission on Higher Education and will be voted for by proportional representation in an off-year General Election with 20 seats. This number of seats will allow for at least 5% for any party or Independent candidate to gain at least one seat. Property taxes will no longer supplement Higher Education. The accounting of this system will be placed on a website available for tracking by all residents of the state with hard copies of appropriate materials placed in several public agencies such as libraries for review around the state. After four years once the new Higher Education system commences, an evaluation of the financing structure shall be made with recommendations for possible revenue sources to secure reasonable tuition, fees and room/board for New Jersey residents.

Financing for the state's share of funding may be made by a similar plan proposed for the public schools K-12. We recognize that funding will come from the state with federal grants and the individual students providing a reasonable payment. *An amendment to the New Jersey Constitution would also be necessary requiring that no funds for education are to be gained through property taxes. The current dramatic and continual rise in tuition, fees, and room/board for colleges/universities in the state is not sustainable for the residents of the state and educational goals of students.

Ryan P. Reyes (Green Party)

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Darren Young (Libertarian) – No response received.

Jeff Hetrick (Libertarian) – No response received.

District 22—Middlesex (part) - Somerset (part) - Union (part) Counties

State Senate:

Nicholas P. Scutari* (D) – No response received.

Rose McConnell (R) – No response received.

#1—Absolutely -as a former teacher and guidance counselor I have seen many students who were college material wasted. What a waste of brain power for society because of circumstances mainly financial.

#2—Yes - The state has the obligation to maintain educational facilities. It is their fiduciary responsibility.

#3 -Trustee autonomy is necessary. What makes those people in Trenton think they can help. They are a hindrance.

State Assembly:

Gerald “Jerry” Green* (D)

#1– I am strongly committed to providing affordable public college education to New Jersey's citizens. The state should begin, again, to provide 50% of the cost as a reasonable step towards this goal. This year, funding increased by 4.5%. This, too, is a step in the right direction. The system was not defunded overnight and this will not be corrected by one year's budget. However, providing affordable public education through public universities must be a priority.

#2– I will work with the Association to ensure an annual \$25 million investment through voter-approved capital infrastructure bonds. The facilities at universities must be maintained and improved so that those universities can compete in the current educational marketplace.

#3– Governing bodies of state colleges and universities should operate without undue political pressure. However, those boards must make sure that they cooperate with the state to ensure that the needs of students and faculty are addressed.

Linda D. Stender* (D) – No response received.

Bryan E. Des Rochers (R) – No response received.

Robert Gatto (R) – No response received.

Sean Colon (Libertarian) – No response received.

Dolores Makrogiannis (Libertarian)

#1—No.

#2—No.

#3—Yes.

District 23—Hunterdon (part) - Warren Counties

State Senate:

Leonard Lance* (R)

#1—Yes.

#2—Yes.

#3—Yes.

Harvey Baron (D) – No response received.

Daniel Z. Seylor (For State Senate) - No response received.

State Assembly:

Michael J. Doherty* (R) – No response received.

Marcia A. Karrow* (R) – No response received.

Dominick C. Santini, Jr. (D) – No response received.

Peter G. Maurer (D)

#1—Unless our State institutions can attract students and faculty nationwide, our economic status will only deteriorate, and the "brain drain" sadly continues. Our State constitution holds forth the promise of a "thorough and efficient" education - this should include higher education, as well. Business thrives on a trained and technically proficient workforce; unless we make that a reality, business will look elsewhere.

#2—Education is the best "investment" we can make to ensure New Jersey's future...and the continued economic viability of the USA. I would support and advocate a voter- approved bond issue for facility improvement at our State colleges.

#3—The autonomy of the State college boards of trustees should be maintained to ensure diversity and Lehr-und Lehrnerfreiheit. A State university "chancellor" and a single Board will only lead to political gamesmanship and "power politics" that will ultimately sap the creativity and entrepreneurship needed in the last three- quarters of the twenty-first century for New Jersey to maintain its economic superiority.

District 24—Hunterdon (part) - Morris (part) - Sussex Counties

State Senate:

Steven V. Oroho (R) – No response received.

Edwin C. Selby (D)

#1—Yes!

#2—The state has an obligation to keep all of its assets, especially academic facilities in good repair and up to current standards. That said, before the voters are asked to incur additional debt, all other funding sources should be explored.

#3—While our state colleges and universities must coordinate their programs and activities, they must also remain autonomous if academic excellence is to be maintained.

State Assembly:

Alison Littell McHose* (R) – No response received.

Gary R. Chiusano (R) – No response received.

Toni Zimmer (D) – No response received.

Pat Walsh (D) – No response received.

District 25—Morris (part) County

State Senate:

Anthony Bucco* (R) – No response received.

Frank Herbert (D) – No response received.

State Assembly:

Rick Merkt* (R)

#1—The state budget has grown about 50% since 2001, yet support for higher education has eroded during this same period. Obviously, recent leaders in Trenton have not taken funding higher education seriously. I believe that a change in funding priorities is in order and that New Jersey's state government should be more sensitive to the tuition increases its policies have forced on students.

#2—The present leadership in Trenton has jeopardized the state's solvency through massive increases in state borrowing conducted without the people's approval in direct violation of the state constitution. Our state is now in deep fiscal trouble due to these irresponsible policies. Notwithstanding the careless borrowing that has gone on, it would be proper to put annual appropriations in the state budget for facilities development, but I cannot support yet another large bond issue right now.

#3 -The recent serious problems at UMDNJ document the dangers of political meddling in public universities and colleges. I support efforts to make boards less subject to political pressure and to ensure that the boards that oversee public institutions are truly independent.

Michael Patrick Carroll* (R) – No response received.

Marshall L. Gates (D) – No response received.

Dana Wefer (D) – No response received.

District 26—Morris (part) - Passaic (part) Counties

State Senate:

Joe Pennacchio (R) – No response received.

Wasim A. Khan (D) – No response received.

State Assembly:

Alex DeCroce* (R)

Thank you for taking the time to send me your campaign questionnaire. Each election cycle legislative candidates are asked by many different interest groups throughout New Jersey to state their positions on important issues. While I believe an honest and forthright discussion of the issues is vital to every campaign, I have decided not to complete individual questionnaires for several reasons. First, I have been a member of the New Jersey General Assembly since 1989 and have established a voting record which is available to the public for review. Many of the issues outlined in your questionnaire have been addressed by the Legislature--and my vote has been recorded. Secondly, specific questions dealing with issues under consideration, or in the process of development by the Legislature, assume that the proposed legislation will pass without any discussion, debate or amendments. Legislation often changes before a legislator has the opportunity to cast a vote on the bill. Consequently, I prefer to let proposed legislation make its way through the legislative process. At that time, I will carefully make a decision based on the final form of the legislation and input from my constituents. Finally, I am always available to meet with representatives of your organization for a discussion of issues. I welcome the opportunity to speak with you, and all interest groups, about the important challenges facing New Jersey.

Jay Webber (R) – No response received.

David Modrak (D)

#1—Yes, as an adjunct professor (Montclair State and Rutgers Universities), I've seen the result of reduced funding on education affordability and infrastructure (relevant to question 2).

#2—Yes.

#3—Yes.

Wayne Marek (D) – No response received.

Kenneth R. Kaplan (Libertarian) – No response received.

Matthew Norton (Green Party) – No response received.

Michael Spector (Green Party)

#1—Yes.

#2—Yes.

#3—Yes, providing tuition and salary levels for teachers and adjuncts are maintained at equitable levels.

District 27—Essex (part) Counties

State Senate:

Richard J. Codey* (D) – No response received.

Marc Cinque (R) – No response received.

State Assembly:

Mims Hackett, Jr.* (D) – No response received.

John F. McKeon* (D) – No response received.

Mark Meyerowitz (R)

#1—N.J. already has the highest taxes in the nation - due to pork barrel politics, uncontrolled spending and waste. Once we get spending and taxes under control, we need to prioritize spending so we don't waste money on junk. Fighting gangs and education need to be top priority. Education includes K through graduate school. Unless we get our house in order, it doesn't pay to educate people who are going to leave the state because taxes are too high to afford.

#2—I am against new debt. The renovations and improvements should come from the money saved by eliminating bloated government, aimless spending, waste, and misappropriation.

#3 -Right now the state is badly mismanaged, and returning authority to N.J. will only create more political patronage and graft. We need to keep education apolitical and bipartisan.

Edward B. Marable, Jr. (Ethical Efficient Government)— No response received.

District 28—Essex (part) County

State Senate:

Ronald L. Rice* (D)

#1—Yes.

#2—Yes.

#3—Yes.

Herbert Glen (R) – No response received.

State Assembly:

Cleopatra G. Tucker (D) – No response received.

Ralph R. Caputo – No response received.

Michael V. Lewis (R) – No response received.

Andrew M. Bloschak (R) – No response received.

District 29—Essex (part) - Union (part) Counties

State Senate:

M. Teresa Ruiz (D) – No response received.

Al-Samar Douglas (R) – No response received.

Dick Hester (Pro Life Conservative) – No response received.

Sara J. Lobman (Socialist Workers Party)

#1—Lifetime education is a right for working people. It should be free and accessible from preschool through university and beyond. I can be paid for by a steeply graduated income tax on capitalist families, wealth professionals, and others who live off profits, interest, rents, and dividends. Until society is reorganized so that education is a human activity from the time we are very young until the time we die, there will be no education worthy of working, creating humanity. Cuba sets an example. Its "University for All" provides free classes in languages, art history, science, and literature to workers and others.

#2—A massive, government funded, public works program could build much-needed facilities for universities, high schools, and other educational institutions and put thousands to work at union scale wages. Instead of general obligation bonds, which enrich the wealthy at the expense of working people, these programs should be a steeply graduated income tax on the rich.

#3—So long as education in this country is aimed at perpetuating class differences--in preparing the vast majority for a life of obedient toil and in giving "the educated" a stake in believing that their vastly higher income is because they are "smarter"- -it doesn't matter whether officials in Trenton or a board of trustees operate the state colleges and universities.

William D. Payne (Independent) – No response received.

Luis A. Quintana ("The People's Choice")

#1—Yes. I am a true believer that we must continue to assist our students to continue their education. They are the future of our country and our country must continue to compete with other countries that are much advanced in their technology and on their educational goals. The future of our country depends on what we teach our young generation.

#2—Yes, as these represent the tools I would approve. You can't plow a field with a teaspoon...

#3—Yes, retain the trustees but with a high degree of inspection and accountability. Complacency in (sic) job of the nature often breeds "maybe tomorrow" I'll get to it... We must make sure that they are doing the job that they were hired to do.

State Assembly:

L. Grace Spencer (D) – No response received.

Alberto Coutinho (D) – No response received.

Miguel A. Sanabria (R)

#1—Yes, with conditions and voter's approval

#2—As long as the budget meets the conditions and the money is available, yes.

#3—Why not. I would agree

Elaine L. Guarino (R) – No response received.

Edward Beck (Socialist Workers Party) – No response received.

Katie Fowler (Pro Life Conservative) – No response received.

Aisleigh Riley (Pro Life Conservative) – No response received.

Carlotta Hall (New Woman Leadership) – No response received.

Dolores Henry Metz ("The People's Choice") – No response received.

Joanne Miller (For Our Community)

#1- Yes, the State of New Jersey should make higher education a priority. New Jersey must also provide more state funding for tax incentives and financial aid to help make our colleges more affordable.

#2- Yes, the voters should decide on the bond initiative of \$2 billion for higher education.

#3- Yes, the best way to provide for our colleges and universities is to increase state funds for school capital improvements.

Bessie Walker (Putting People First) – No response received.

District 30—Burlington (part) - Mercer (part) - Monmouth (part) - Ocean (part) Counties

State Senate:

Robert W. Singer* (R)

We are responding to your questionnaire regarding the New Jersey Association of State Colleges and Universities. We stand on our record of consistent and positive support for the continuation and enhancement of the education system. Our voting record confirms our commitment to our educational institutions and our constituency whose future goals depends on the success of our Colleges and Universities. In the New Jersey State Senate and in the New Jersey Assembly our voting record has always been in support of higher education. Should you want to speak to us personally, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Steven Morlino (D) – No response received.

State Assembly:

Joseph R. Malone, III* (R)

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Ronald S. Dancer* (R)

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Jeffrey Williamson (D)

#1—I would support the increase funding once we put the state on a sound financial footing.

#2—I would support a bond initiative but would not want to lock in a particular funding amount until the budget was sound.

#3—No.

Sharon Atkinson (D) – No response received.

District 31—Hudson (part) County

State Senate:

Sandra Bolden Cunningham (D) – No response received.

Louis Vernotico (Eliminate Primary Elections) - No response received.

State Assembly:

Anthony Chiappone (D) – No response received.

L. Harvey Smith (D) – No response received.

District 32—Bergen (part) - Hudson (part) Counties

State Senate:

Nicholas J. Sacco* (D) – No response received.

John Pluchino (R) – No response received.

State Assembly:

Joan M. Quigley* (D)

Thank you very much for inviting me to reply to your questionnaire about issues facing this and future New Jersey Legislatures. However, I must decline to respond to any surveys.

In the 14 years I have served in the Legislature, I learned many things. One of them is that there are precious few important issues that can be summed up in a sentence or two, and still fewer that can be irrevocably supported or opposed throughout the legislative process. Amendments, adjustments, compromises, additions and deletions all change not only the Bills themselves, but also the impact of the proposed laws on various constituencies. As they say, the devil is in the details and the details change frequently.

So I no longer feel comfortable saying in advance that I will support or oppose something in concept. By the time I vote on the final product, I hope to have had some real influence in shaping it into something that will benefit all concerned.

Another thing that I have learned is that history does tend to repeat itself – and so my positions on various issues are probably pretty predictable to those of you who pay attention to such things. You know you can count on me to support issues that will improve health, fight crime, keep taxes stable, and make our communities better places to live. A review of my voting record will probably tell you all you need to know about me – where I've stood and where I am likely to stand.

I hope you will appreciate my caution in not giving snapshot answers to complex issues and I hope you will find my record assures you I am on your side in the things that count.

Vincent Prieto* (D) – No response received.

Edward T. O'Neill (R) – No response received.

Jacob Hahn (R) – No response received.

District 33—Hudson (part) County

State Senate:

Brian P. Stack (D) – No response received.

State Assembly:

Ruben J. Ramos, Jr. (D) – No response received.

Caridad Rodriguez (D) – No response received.

District 34—Essex (part) - Passaic (part) Counties

State Senate:

Nia H. Gill* (D) – No response received.

State Assembly:

Thomas P. Giblin* (D) – No response received.

Sheila Y. Oliver* (D) – No response received.

Clenard H. Childress, Jr. (R) – No response received.

Robert C. Bianco (R) – No response received.

District 35— Bergen (part) - Passaic (part) Counties

State Senate:

John A. Girgenti* (D)

#1—The state should make higher education a higher funding priority and provide a regular and predictable appropriation to reduce the cost of education to 30%.

#2—Providing a set amount for facilities renovation and repair in the annual budget should be the goal to support public colleges and universities. The current budget deficit makes that difficult to do at this time however we should look for the first opportunity to fulfill this goal. I support a bond referendum to provide new facilities and technology.

#3—The state should retain trustee autonomy at the nine state colleges and universities.

State Assembly:

Alfred E. Steele* (D) – No response received.

Nellie Pou* (D) – No response received.

Chauncey I. Brown, III (R) – No response received.

District 36—Bergen (part) - Essex (part) - Passaic (part) Counties

State Senate:

Paul A. Sarlo* (D) – No response received.

Michael A. Guarino (R) – No response received.

State Assembly:

Frederick Scalera* (D) – No response received.

Gary Schaer* (D)

#1—I support a 50 percent state share of public higher education funding for New Jersey's students. Quality and affordable higher education is an essential component of New Jersey's economy, which depends upon a well educated workforce. As a member of the Assembly Budget Committee, I supported this year's higher education budget increase of more than \$50 million. I nonetheless recognize that dramatically more is needed in order to achieve our goals statewide and more must be done to secure funds in the future.

#2—New Jersey has deferred its obligation for capital improvements in our higher education system for too long. I recognize the practical implications of limited dorm space, technologically inadequate study areas and outdated buildings to student and faculty recruitment and overall educational quality. An annual appropriation of \$25 million would be a good first step in helping our public colleges and universities remain competitive in our region and nationally. Despite our state's continuing fiscal crisis, I believe that this item is of sufficient importance that I would consider supporting a bond initiative to upgrade the facilities of our public colleges and universities

#3—I believe that it is to the benefit of all to have Trustees reflect the full spectrum of needs and concerns of the community, university or college, and the state. As such, I would favor the consideration of boards whose composition included all stakeholders: students, faculty, administration, local or regional authorities, and the state. I sponsored legislation this past year which required that Trustees for all New Jersey hospitals complete an in depth course, to be determined by the Department of Health and Human Services, which would fully acquaint them with all issues related to their responsibilities. I would support a similar requirement for Trustees of all colleges and universities which would assist their understanding of their duties and responsibilities.

Carmen Pio Costa (R) – No response received.

Aileen Vitale (R) – No response received.

District 37—Bergen (part) Counties

State Senate:

Loretta Weinberg* (D)

#1—I support the State funding higher education for our students, pending the State's ability to live up to this economic commitment.

#2—The Governor has initiated this process by signing the New Jersey Stem Cell Research Bond Act, which will provide research grants to researchers from Universities and non-profit institutions in the state. As stated in the previous question, the availability of the funds depends on the ability of the state to sustain this economic commitment.

#3—I support a degree of trustee autonomy. However, there should be governmental oversight to avoid abuses in the system as witnessed with UMDNJ.

Clara S. Nibot (R) – No response received.

State Assembly:

Gordon M. Johnson* (D)

#1—Yes, I believe it should. Higher education funding has become one of the worst casualties of the recent budget crisis in the State. Once we have solved this problem, I believe that higher education funding should be among the first priorities addressed.

#2—The short answer to this question is absolutely yes. Should the state budget be in reasonable shape this fiscal year (and that has yet to be seen), I would think the initial appropriation would be wise especially given its relative to the irrational benchmarks. The \$2 billion bond issue is another matter, I would support it but the two year time frame may be difficult. Needless to say, we must address this problem once and for all in the very near future.

#3—The recent calls for state regulation have been a result of the UMDNJ scandal, which was a special case. I think we should retain trustee autonomy while trying to strike a balance that will ensure that no abuses take place. I am inclined to err on the side of trustees being independent because this has worked well in the past.

Valerie Vainieri Huttle* (D) – No response received.

Frank J. Cifarelli (R) – No response received.

Wojciech J. Siemaszkiewicz (R) – No response received.

District 38—Bergen (part) County

State Senate:

Joseph Coniglio* (D) – No response received.

Robert Colletti (R) – No response received.

State Assembly:

Robert M. Gordon* (D)

#1—Higher education needs to be a higher budget priority. I have been greatly troubled by the cuts imposed on our state colleges and universities, and by the concomitant increase in the burden borne by students. One of the greatest challenges facing the state is the need to stem the job losses in the highest paying, high technology sectors. As the recent Brookings study of the state's competitiveness reveals, New Jersey leads the nation in job losses in such critical sectors as biopharma, telecommunications and financial services. And yet, we know that one of the most important drivers of growth in these "high thought content" industries is the proximity to first-class academic institutions and research facilities. If we are investing in stem cell research as an economic development strategy, we should be making comparable investments in the capital and operating budgets of the institutions that serve most of our students.

#2—In a recent op-ed in *The Record* ("New Jersey's Colleges Are Running Out of Room," Sept. 18, 2007), Susan Cole of Montclair State, made a compelling case for renewed investment in both capital and operating budgets. I agree with most of her points. I would support a \$25 million appropriation for repairs and additional bonding for higher education facilities. However, given our excessive state debt burden (third highest debt per capita in the nation), I think there are other options to consider as well. First, we ought to take a hard look at our current priorities within the higher education capital budget. Personally, I think we should invest in laboratories, dormitories and classrooms before we invest in major sports facilities. Second, we need to remove regulatory barriers to private/public partnerships for capital projects. Dr. Cole made an excellent point about the need to remove statutory barriers that currently prevent the nine colleges from partnering with private developers in the construction of housing. The Legislature should consider amending the State College Contracts Law to remove this obstacle.

#3—Yes. Trustee autonomy should be maintained in the interest of academic freedom and to shield these institutions from politics. The recent scandals at UMDNJ demonstrate the need to insulate academic institutions from state and local politics.

Joan M. Voss* (D) – No response received.

John J. Driscoll, Jr. (R) – No response received.

Renee Czarnecki (R) – No response received.

District 39—Bergen (part) County

State Senate:

S. Gerald Cardinale* (R)

#1—Yes - The next question is where do we get the money? This is complicated because unless government at every level is willing to cut back on spending there will never be enough money to fund our true priorities. Republicans should insist if we get control of at least one house, that \$2 billion in cuts be enacted and that money be reprioritized.

#2—N.J. has too much debt at present but if the public would vote for additional bonding I could accept that judgment. Before putting that to a public vote we need to address how we will repay the principal and interest. Bonding is easy - servicing the bonds is a problem.

#3—Yes- the individuality of the schools is healthy. It promises to provide more choices for potential students.

Joseph Ariyan (D)

#1—I fully support the premise that State institutions of higher education must be substantially subsidized by the government as opposed to having the students bear the majority of the cost. The opportunity for higher education of New Jersey residents who qualify academically must not be lost. Often times college-age students are not financially able to meet the rising cost of even in- state tuition. Therefore, I would support, in principle, a predictable, dedicated appropriation of funding to reduce the student's share of the cost of education. As with all other financial matters in New Jersey today, however, this necessity must be considered with the ever-present situation of the State's overall financial crisis.

#2—Again, while I believe that regular, dedicated funding is necessary to support the system of higher education in New Jersey, I note that from 2000 to 2004, almost \$600 million dollars were issued through the Capital Improvement Plan authorized by the New Jersey Educational Facilities Authority. Prior to committing to support initiatives which call for increased debt, I am compelled to specifically analyze the intended appropriations of such financing.

#3—I would appreciate the opportunity to examine the progress and success of each individual institution, pursuant to The State College Autonomy Laws of 1986. In fact, I would welcome studies in this regard. While I appreciate the autonomy of individual institutions, unchecked progress simply is not prudent. A balance must be found to ensure adequate funding while reducing or eliminating waste, maintaining top-quality education and increasing out-of-state enrollment.

State Assembly:

John E. Rooney* (R)

#1—Yes.

#2—Yes.

#3—Yes.

Charlotte Vandervalk* (R) – No response received.

Esther Fletcher (D)

#1—As a teacher, I fully support increased funding for all successful educational programs, including higher education. Promoting educational programs is essential to the successful future of the State and will yield a positive return on the financial investment. Unfortunately, the reduced student contribution from 50% to 30% cannot be corrected in one budget cycle. To that end, I am glad to see the current increase of 4.5% in effect and am committed to increasing the funding contribution from the State in future budgets. Our State Universities and Colleges provide an opportunity for almost 100,000 young students to reach a level of higher education. Ninety percent of our undergraduates are New Jersey residents. By creating progressive educational programs we can ensure that our students can achieve a successful career path and establish our future and local and state communities. To that end, I hope to see an increase in environmental courses and degrees. New legislation, coupled with an increased public need for "greener" projects has the potential to attract environmentally progressive industries, thus creating a need for an environmentally oriented work force. Just as New Jersey leads the country in environmentally progressive legislation, we have the opportunity to lead the nation in environmentally progressive educational paths and careers.

#2—"The foundation of every state is the education of its youth" (quoted from an interior wall in the Library of Congress). Our State Universities and Colleges are a direct indication of our economic growth and our opportunities for increased research and development. It is essential to the future of New Jersey to improve the facilities at our State Universities and Colleges and I will advocate for voter- approved capital bonds. Currently, New Jersey ranks high in the number of students who attend out-of-state institutions for higher education. Our facilities do not and cannot meet the needs of our growing student population. Higher education and facility improvement must be a priority.

#3—The success of a board, commission or committee is contingent upon providing a member base that is qualified and knowledgeable on the subject matter. These members should be free to make decisions without political influence. It is equally important, however to ensure that the goals and objectives of the board of trustees are in line with the objectives, standards and expectations of the legislative body. The State has a responsibility in providing for the public good in higher education, and has committed to that responsibility in significant funding. The State also has an obligation to provide accountability to the taxpayer and to demonstrate a successful program. Constant, collaborative cooperation ensures that the State's obligations to the public and the Board of Trustees' obligation to higher learning continue to promote a positive educational direction, complete with standards, accountability and vision.

Carl J. Manna (D)

#1—It is in the best interest of the State of New Jersey to provide and maintain the quality and affordability of higher education. We need to keep our best and brightest students in state and be able to attract students from out of state. I believe that a dedicated and predictable funding plan would help the institutions as well as help level the cost to the students. However the force driving the issue of funding higher education as well as other programs is the ongoing situation of the state's financial crisis.

#2—Once again the state's financial crisis would most likely dictate and over shadow the decision making process in the near future. I am not opposed to using bonding for capital improvements. I believe that before taking on increased debt a target for appropriations should be identified and analyzed to assure we spend wisely.

#3—I believe that the autonomy of the institutions should be maintained. However, we live in a time of limited resources. The responsibility of the Trustees is not to duplicate efforts in growing the institutions and programs offered by the institutions. They should also be looking at the "value added" to the plans for expansion of both the institution and programs.

District 40—Bergen (part) - Essex (part) - Passaic (part) Counties

State Senate:

Kevin J. O'Toole (R) – No response received.

John Zunic (D) – No response received.

State Assembly:

David C. Russo* (R) – No response received.

Scott T. Rumana (R) – No response received.

Lisa Sciancalepore (D) – No response received.

Zonnie LeSane (D) – No response received.

Derek DeMarco (Libertarian) – No response received.

Paul Tahan (Libertarian) – No response received.