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New Jersey Voter Information :: Legislative Races 2003

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Assembly Candidate for District 21:



Campaign Information:

Name: Ryan Reyes

Party: Green Party

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Gillette, New Jersey 07933

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Biography:

Ryan P. Reyes was born in Manila, Philippines and is a naturalized U.S. Citizen. He finished his Bachelor of Arts degree at Excelsior College in 2001. He has a Civil Union with George DeCarlo. Currently, he is employed as a barista in a coffee house and is also a Notary Public of the State of New Jersey.

Ryan started to become active in the Green Party during the Nader 2000 election. Prior to this, he considers himself a gay activist seeking equal rights and an alumni of the University of the Philippines Babaylan – the first gay and lesbian student support group in the Philippines.

He is a supporter of environmental and animal causes donating to groups such as the Adopt-A-Zoo program. Additionally, Ryan believes in continuing funding for the arts and has volunteered his time to projects such as the Philippine Centennial Commission and the World Theater Project.

As a Green Party candidate, he places the needs of the residents of the 21st Legislative District first believing that corporations should not be involved in the policy-making of New Jersey.

As an Assemblyman, Ryan plans on giving special attention to social justice by supporting full and complete rights for all New Jersey residents.

Issue Positions:

Single-Payer Universal Health

New Jersey must be a leader in development and full implementation of a Single-Payer Universal Health Insurance plan with the right for Freedom of Medical Choice. Currently, an individual must either have health insurance as a benefit from employment, dependent, civil-marriage spouse or as a same- or opposite-sex partner through a domestic partnership benefits program which is taxed. Others are only given limited benefits based on age or income from various government agencies or charitable organizations.

Clean Money Campaigns

Clean Money legislation would permit campaigns to raise small amounts of money from individuals while agreeing not to accept political action committee (PAC) or corporate cash or contributions from personal wealth thereby ending unethical influence. Matching funds from the state would allow for their message to be read and heard by the voters at a reasonable level of spending. Freedom of speech is preserved by giving candidates choice in how they may conduct their campaigns for public office.

Property Funding Schools

School funding is currently provided for by property taxes making it a regressive tax and discriminatory as a system for children in poorly funded districts due to unequal values in property. This regressive tax places a burden on homes that continue to grow in value with a property tax rising with each new budget set to the unrealized value. As an Assemblyman the responsibility to propose a progressive state income tax designated for school use only and not leaving such action for a convention enabling greater money and power to flow to political parties instead of students would be my duty.