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OFFICE OF THE COUNTY CLERK

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

2017

Gubernatorial Candidate

OFFICIAL 500 WORD STATEMENTS

Hard copy provided by the Middlesex County Clerk's Office in compliance with New Jersey Statute

Statements are also posted on our website at www.middlesexcountynj.gov, Search "Sample Ballots" for viewing, downloading, and printing.

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Dear Voter,

In compliance with New Jersey statute attached please find a hard copy of the official 2017 Gubernatorial Candidate 500 Word Statements submitted by six of the gubernatorial candidates.

These statements are provided to assist you in making your determination among the candidates for Governor in the November 7th General Election.

The statements are also available to view, download and print at www.middlesexcountynj.gov, Search “**Sample Ballots**” via our internet website.

Sincerely,

Elaine M. Flynn

Elaine M. Flynn
Middlesex County Clerk

The New Jersey Campaign Contributions and Expenditures Reporting Act, N.J.S.A. 19:44A-37, allows candidates for the office of Governor to provide a statement, not exceeding 500 words, to assist the voters of this State in making their determination among the candidates. Following are the statements submitted.

Kim Guadagno Republican

Before casting your ballot, ask yourself a few simple questions:

Are you or members of your family paying too much in property taxes, which are the highest in the country?

Is the government taking too much out of your paycheck without any noticeable difference in the services you receive, making living in New Jersey unaffordable?

Do you believe that state government should be audited to ensure that your tax dollars are being spent efficiently and wisely?

If you answered YES to any of these questions, I ask you to consider voting for me.

With the highest property taxes in the country, New Jersey has reached a breaking point. Too many of our friends, family and neighbors are struggling to put food on their table, losing their homes or even moving to other states. As a working mom who raised her three boys in New Jersey, I know we have to make our state more affordable for families, and I firmly believe the best way to do it is become more efficient and cut property taxes for the middle class.

My comprehensive property tax cut program will save middle class families and seniors up to \$3,000 a year on their property tax bills by capping school taxes at 5 percent of household income. This will give families certainty and ensure that no family has to move out-of-state because of high property taxes. If similar programs can work in states like Illinois and Massachusetts, it can work in New Jersey.

If elected governor, I will also root out waste and make government run more efficiently by conducting a detailed performance audit of all aspects of state government. This includes cancelling the unnecessary \$300 million renovation of the State House in Trenton. My priority will always be to put New Jersey families first.

As a former sheriff and prosecutor, I know we cannot make New Jersey a "Sanctuary State," which would only protect violent criminals and make our state less safe. As governor, I will always support law enforcement and first responders. This includes negotiating a fair deal to our state's pension crisis to secure the retirement of thousands of public workers.

Other candidates for governor like Phil Murphy, who spent his career on Wall Street, have proposed billions in additional state government spending and admitted he would increase taxes by at least \$1.3 billion to pay for it. New Jersey tried that kind of Wall Street approach once before under Jon Corzine, and it would only make our state less affordable and send more of our families and businesses fleeing New Jersey for other states.

This campaign is bigger than 'Republican' or 'Democrat.' It is about the future – not the past – and making our state better for all New Jerseyans. Instead of yelling and shouting at each other, it is time to put the hardworking taxpayers of New Jersey first so that we can once again make New Jersey an affordable place to live, work and raise a family.

Phil Murphy Democrat

If we get our economy right, we get New Jersey right. Yet for eight painful years Chris Christie and Kim Guadagno have gotten it wrong. I am running for governor because New Jersey needs a stronger, fairer economy and I have a plan to get us there.

Let's start with the facts. Today, families in New Jersey are paying more and getting less. That is not by accident, nor is the rest of America in the same shape. While median household incomes across the country grew from 2010 to 2015 New Jersey families saw their incomes fall. People are working harder yet making less money; that is simply unacceptable.

Parkway and Turnpike tolls increased 50%. NJ Transit fares are up 36% while service, safety, and reliability declined. College tuition at state schools is approximately 20% higher than eight years ago. And property taxes have risen 17%.

We need to be very clear about something — it wasn't a question of whether our state had the money, it was a choice about how that money was used, such as giving out \$8 billion in corporate tax breaks, underfunding public schools by nearly \$9 billion. It's no coincidence that property taxes have gone up for middle and working class families while millionaires got tax cuts.

We've seen 11 straight credit rating downgrades, and our fiscal condition is the worst in the country. None of our problems have been solved. They've only gotten worse.

But I am an optimist, and we can put things right.

It starts by reclaiming our dominance in the innovation economy and investing in infrastructure to create new jobs at good wages. It's making college more affordable, and standing up for the right things, like funding Planned Parenthood and women's health programs.

It's property tax relief that starts by fully funding our public schools. It's asking the wealthiest New Jerseyans to pay their fair share, and revamping ineffective tax breaks that have only benefitted big corporations. It's ending the practice of overpriced hedge funds managing state pensions.

It's reforming our criminal justice system, including the legalization and taxation of marijuana to bring in hundreds of millions in new revenues.

It's creating an innovative Public Bank to invest in New Jersey's small businesses, not Wall Street's profit centers. It's equal pay and a stronger minimum wage. It's building a Green Economy with good jobs.

New Jersey needs bolder and more visionary leadership. This state is blessed with an unmatched location, a talented work force, and great institutions of learning. We need to put those to work instead of neglecting them.

I don't come from Trenton's failed special interest politics. And I don't owe the special interests anything. I spent my career learning how economies grow and create jobs.

We need to make New Jersey's economy stronger and fairer, to make this a state that works for every family. We need to move beyond small politics dominated by the special interests. We need a governor who will have your back. I will.

Gina Genovese Independent

On November 7th you have an opportunity to cast a powerful vote for the future of New Jersey. My goal is to reduce property taxes across the state by at least 15% by 2022, which will return \$4 Billion to our economy and to the pockets of every New Jersey homeowner.

Should you take a risk and vote for an independent candidate? Perhaps a better question is, should you award your vote to either the Democrats or Republicans? Neither party has moved our state forward, particularly with regard to reducing our highest in the nation property taxes. A vote outside the two major parties is your chance to steer New Jersey in a new direction, turning our state away from insider politics and the fiscal disaster that big money, political machines and purchased elections have given us.

As the ONLY candidate who has served as a Mayor, I have seen Trenton's inaction and incompetence. As a result, I founded the non-partisan, non-profit Courage to Connect NJ. For ten years, as Executive Director, I have been a fierce and tireless advocate working with taxpayers, local and county officials, school boards and fire commissioners who have realized our current administration system is redundant, inefficient and far too costly. This inefficiency can only be addressed by consolidating municipalities and services. This is why I am running for Governor.

My work with Courage to Connect NJ has been challenging, largely because of the absence of any support from Trenton. I worked with a retired Scotch Plains resident who formed a commission to study the consolidation of Scotch Plains with Fanwood. His three years of intensive effort, and his dream of reducing property taxes for residents of both municipalities, screeched to a halt when the State refused to fund the study.

I also worked with the visionary leaders in Princeton who, after an arduous effort, consolidated Princeton Borough and Princeton Township into a single entity, one that now saves its residents approximately \$3 million annually. Our state leadership has never acknowledged this success, much less built on it.

In South Hunterdon, I worked with the school boards to combine its four school districts into a single unified district, one that would better serve the faculty, parents and students. South Hunterdon's taxpayers were disappointed by the lack of leadership and support from Trenton and funded the study themselves.

I now work with the residents of Mt. Arlington and Roxbury, who are making history by studying the merger of their municipalities and school districts. Our state government will not provide \$7,500 for a consolidation study. This is shameful!

I am running for Governor to provide the missing state leadership to finally reduce our unbearable property tax burden and improve the quality of life for all of us who love New Jersey. We can make our state a great place to live, work and retire.

Voting for Independent Gina Genovese on November 7th can lead us to a sustainable future for you and New Jersey.

Seth Kaper-Dale Green

Do you have a choice this November 7th? Yes!!

In New Jersey, the political bosses of both major parties eat from the same banquet table and only throw crumbs to the rest of us. We're left struggling to get by.

In sixteen years as a central Jersey pastor and social justice activist, I've launched and administered non-profit organizations running programs to improve lives. This work includes providing a) affordable housing for homeless veterans, young women aging out of foster homes and people exiting prison; b) mental health services; and c) after-school programs. Our work resettling refugees and defending immigrant rights gained notoriety in 2012, when my church provided sanctuary to nine Indonesians.

My running mate, Lisa Durden of Newark, is a film producer, social media presence and expert commentator. Essex County College fired her after she defended a Black Lives Matter event on national television. Lisa and I believe **our state is only as healthy as those with the least**. Everyone deserves the chance to thrive. **Our "Last Are First" platform creates a well-spring of opportunities surging up from below**, including:

- **Full funding for public education.** Related to that, children must know where they'll sleep at night. We'll support families by expanding the Rental Assistance Program and increasing childcare and after-school programs.
- Increased funding for **affordable housing while combatting apartheid neighborhoods** to promote school de-segregation.
- **Reforming our criminal justice system to eliminate racial disparity** in policing and sentencing, ending mandatory minimums and **starting prisoner re-entry on Day One of a prison term**. The imprisoned should keep their right to vote. And prison labor must be paid decent wages!
- **Protecting the environment** by halting fossil fuel pipeline expansion and eliminating carbon emissions by 5% annually. We will **confront polluters harming poor communities**. **We'll promote renewable energy that will drive new jobs**.
- **Defending undocumented immigrants** in our communities **against the Trump policies of ethnic cleansing**. We will promote Sanctuary and extend drivers licenses to immigrants.
- Supporting **union organizing, the right to collective bargaining, equal pay for women, prevailing wages and a minimum wage of \$15/hour**.
- **Enacting Single-payer Medicare for All**. Healthcare is a right from cradle to grave! Eliminating the profit motive from healthcare **saves money**. This will **decrease property and rental taxes, lower**

college costs and help save state pensions.

- Creating a **public bank** which will empower NJ to extend credit to **re-build our failing water and transportation infrastructure, halt residential foreclosures** and provide low-interest **student loans**.
- Ending corporate welfare and adding **new income tax brackets, so that those making millions significantly increase their contributions** for the common good.
- Legalizing **marijuana with a focus on job creation for communities confronting discrimination** including people with disabilities, transgender persons and urban youth.
- **Combatting violence against women and children** and defending a woman's **right to control her own body**.

The Green Party's Seth Kaper-Dale and Lisa Durden are the **Only Progressives Running** for the statehouse. Make us **your choice** November 7; we will be **your voice** in Trenton.

Visit our campaign website: www.KaperDaleForGovernor.com

Peter J. Rohrman Libertarian

LIBERTARIAN PHILOSOPHY: Freedom, Limited Government, Peace, Tolerance, and Free Markets

YOU

Excited for a virtual 3rd term of Corzine or Christie? How about 4 more years of failed policy? Clearly, there will be no change if you elect a Democrat or Republican. It's time for a real change. I'm here to give you the Libertarian choice.

ME

Born in Passaic. Raised in Carlstadt/E. Rutherford. Single father raising 2 boys in Bergen County. I'm struggling to make ends meet raising my family in NJ. I've spent a lifetime in service to you – U.S. Marine Corps Rifleman, Volunteer Firefighter, Youth Athletic Coach, and working with the youth of Newark implementing outreach educational programs. I ask you to allow me to serve you further by electing me, Peter J. Rohrman, as Governor.

FISCAL DEMOCRACY

The average NJ family is forced to pay approximately 30% of their income to the state, county, and municipal governments. My "Fiscal Democracy" plan will limit this to 10% and allow you, the individual, to choose which government programs your tax payments will fund. This moves the power of appropriations out of irresponsible legislators' hands, and places that power directly into yours. YOU WILL CHOOSE WHAT TO FUND OR DE-FUND. "Fiscal Democracy" will eliminate property tax, gas tax, sales tax, and even vehicle registration fees. "Fiscal Democracy" creates massive incentive for companies to re-locate to NJ and will eliminate unemployment. More info: www.Pete4NJ.com/tax-plan

SCHOOL CHOICE

Your child's education shouldn't be dictated by your zipcode. I am advocating for voucher programs that will allow municipalities to cut their educational costs in half, improve their education, and give parents a choice of where their child attends school. We'll give local school boards the power to hand parents a check for their child's education. This could be as much as \$18,000 per child for tuition to attend a school that best meets your child's needs.

WEAPONS

The right to defend your person, property, and home is non-existent in NJ. A restraining order will do nothing to protect you from harm. Police are minutes away when seconds count in an assault or carjacking. On Inauguration Day, I will sign a mass pardon from most of NJ's draconian gun laws. We'll follow Vermont's lead, and revert to federal gun law only.

MARIJUANA

I oppose the “War on Drugs” as it prosecutes people with medical problems and endangers our police officers at the benefit of blustering politicians. As a first step in ending this war, I intend to legalize marijuana and refuse to inhibit its accessibility with government permits or additional taxes that would force it back underground.

AGE OF MAJORITY

I will also use executive power to reduce drinking, smoking, and gambling age in NJ to 18. If you are old enough to die for your country, you should be able to have a drink or play cards in Atlantic City.

Semper Fi,

PETER J. ROHRMAN

Libertarian for Governor

www.Pete4NJ.com www.NJLP.org

www.facebook.com/RohrmanForGovernor

Vincent Ross Independent

We The People of New Jersey need to be represented. As far as memory serve's The working People of New Jersey has not been represented by no Governor to Date. Our dollar value has gotten smaller, but our taxes and Fines AKA (which is another form of raising Taxe's) has gone up to the point of working poor: it's driving people to leave our wonderful state in droves and by the dozen's: I'm Looking to stop the bleeding and do what our constitution says; and represent the working Person of our state it's time we can not wait any longer. Vote Vincent Ross for Governor of the State of New Jersey and be apart of the representation This is Vincent Ross and I approve this message