

Legislative Dispatch



Southern New Jersey Development Council

November 2007

Page One

Marlene Z. Asselta, President

CAMPAIGN RESULTS!

SOUTHERN NEW JERSEY LEGISLATIVE DISTRICTS 1 through 10 & DISTRICT 30

District-1

Senator Jeffrey Van Drew (D)
Assemblyman Nelson Albano* (D)
Assemblyman Matthew Milam (D)

District-5

Senator Dana Redd (D)
Assemblyman Joseph Roberts* (D)
Assemblywoman Nilsa Cruz-Perez* (D)

District-9

Senator Christopher Connors (R)
Assemblyman Brian Rumpf* (R)
Assemblyman Daniel Van Pelt (R)

District-2

Senator James Whelan (D)
Assemblyman Vince Polistina (R)
Assemblyman John Amadeo (R)

District-6

Senator John Adler* (D)
Assemblyman Louis Greenwald* (D)
Assemblywoman Pamela R. Lampitt* (D)

District-10

Senator Andrew Ciesla* (R)
Assemblyman James W. Holzapfel* (R)
Assemblyman David W. Wolf* (R)

District-3

Senator Stephen Sweeney* (D)
Assemblyman John J. Burzichelli* (D)
Assemblyman Douglas Fisher* (D)

District-7

Senator Diane B. Allen* (R)
Assemblyman Herbert Conaway* (D)
Assemblyman Jack Connors* (D)

District 30

Senator Robert W. Singer* (R)
Assemblyman Ronald Dancer* (R)
Assemblyman Joseph Malone* (R)

District-4

Senator Fred Madden* (D)
Assemblyman Paul Moriarty* (D)
Assemblywoman Sandra Love (D)

District-8

Senator Phil Haines (R)
Assemblyman Scott Rudder (R)
Assemblyman Dawn Addiego (R)

Ballot Questions:

1: Dedicate .5% of sales tax increase to property tax relief - **Failed**

3: \$200M Open Space Funding - **Approved**

2: Provide \$450M to stem cell research - **Failed**

4: Change in Constitution language: **Approved**

New!

Energy Master Plan - Beginning in 2006, the Board of Public Utilities in conjunction with several other agencies along with stakeholders began drafting a new version of the Energy Master Plan. The last update to the plan occurred in 1992, with an amendment in 1995. The process was expected to last for approximately one year, ending in Fall of 2007. **SNJDC** expects a draft of the plan to be released soon. Recently, several points of the plan have been released to the media, including a proposed New Jersey Power Authority and possibly including nuclear energy as a means of increasing New Jersey's energy capacity. **SNJDC** is currently amending its energy position and will draft comments on the Energy Master Plan after its release. The current **SNJDC** energy position is available on our website, www.snjdc.org.

Update!

S2249 Paid Family Leave - The State Legislature is currently considering S2249 which will implement a paid family leave program in New Jersey. The amended version of the bill will permit employees in companies as small as 2 employees to take up to 10 weeks of paid leave for situations such as the birth of a child, illness of a family member, and personal illness. The program will be funded through the NJ Temporary Disability Fund and employees are expected to pay approximately \$50 per year to fund the program. Recently 5 business owners, organized by NJ Policy Perspective, spoke at a news conference to support this measure - one of the owners is a board member of NJ Policy Perspective. A spokesman for Governor Corzine said that the governor would like to see the legislation passed by the end of this year. Senate President Codey and Speaker Roberts announced that the bill needs to be "scaled back" if it were to be passed by the end of 2007. The **Development Council** opposes this legislation, as it is detrimental to the already ailing reputation faced by New Jersey regarding business.

Legislative Dispatch



Southern New Jersey Development Council

November 2007

Page Two

In the News!

Governor Tackles Crime - Governor Corzine released a plan in mid October aimed at curtailing crime in the Garden State. The \$48 million plan includes provisions designed to minimize gang violence, reduce the number of nonviolent offenders in prison, and attempt to steer youths away from gangs. Furthermore, the plan calls for the implementation of new technology and data to help police coordinate efforts and arrest violent offenders before their offenses escalate to murder.

Acting Atlantic City Mayor - City Council President William Marsh has been sworn in as acting Mayor of Atlantic City after former Mayor Robert Levy resigned in mid October. A lawsuit was filed by the New Jersey Democratic State Committee asking a judge to declare that Atlantic City Democrats violated their own rules by hastily nominating only a limited number of contenders. The hearing was scheduled for November 7. No results have yet been posted.

NJ Power Authority? - The Corzine administration announced its desire to create a state-run power authority, similar to the authority operating in New York, through a leaked portion of the Energy Master Plan. Arguments have been made that a power authority will help to develop additional power plants in the state, safeguarding and augmenting New Jersey's energy supply. The authority would have the power to purchase development sites, including defunct power plants and work with the private sector to create large generating stations, as well as renewable and alternative sources. The draft Energy Master Plan is expected to be released this fall.

Deficient State Bridges Could Cost Big \$\$ - According to a report by the NJ Department of Transportation, New Jersey must spend \$1.7 billion for Parkway and Turnpike bridge repairs. This is in addition to \$2 billion to widen the Turnpike between exits 6 and 8A. When added together, these two projects would amount to a 45% increase in Turnpike and Parkway tolls. Furthermore, the DOT found that NJ must spend \$13.6 billion to make bridge repairs statewide. Corzine asked for the report following the Minnesota bridge collapse in early September. In making his report, Commissioner Kolluri of NJ Department of Transportation recommended that New Jersey increase the NJDOT budget from \$509 million to \$800 million annually.

New Jersey Going Nuclear? - Angie McGuire, Deputy Chief of the NJ Office of Economic Growth said that the state is ruling nothing out in its quest to develop environmentally friendly methods to meet the state's energy needs when asked whether the administration would consider utilizing nuclear energy to accomplish its goals. McGuire's comments came at the 2007 New Jersey Clean Energy Conference, presented by the BPU (Board of Public Utilities).

Corzine Discusses Climate Change - Governor Corzine, as part of the International Carbon Action Partnership traveled to Lisbon, Portugal. The partnership is comprised of several European countries, New Zealand, Canadian provinces, and California, New York, and New Jersey. Participants discussed methods for reducing emissions and programs that have been instituted in other parts of the world.

For more information on these issues or to join the Government Affairs committee:
call the office at (856) 228-7500 or visit our website at www.snjdc.org.