



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Ed. Note:** a list of endorsed candidates is attached

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### **American Federation of Teachers New Jersey Endorses State Legislators in Key Districts**

*Education worker federation of 30,000 endorses candidates who stood up for collective bargaining*

**EDISON**...Endorsing a fewer number of candidates in November's legislative elections translates into a focus on contributing to key wins and recognizing legislators who stood up for collective bargaining in the June pension and health insurance debate, according to American Federation of Teachers New Jersey (AFTNJ) political education co-chair Jon Erickson. "Our committee recommended a few challengers to threaten Republican incumbents since the GOP voted as a block to limit public workers' collective bargaining rights," said Erickson, a Kean University Public Administration Professor. "As per calls from our members, we did not endorse any candidate—Democrat or Republican—who voted in favor of the pension and health insurance benefits legislation euphemistically termed 'reform,'" he said. "We are asking our members to work with us in defending Democratic legislators in competitive districts in both the House and Senate who have consistently been advocates of workers' rights."

The union federation is mobilizing members to knock on doors, make phone calls and have workplace discussions about candidates who actually make a difference, said Erickson's political education co-chair, Elizabeth Gray, a high school teacher in Garfield. "There is an unfortunately high-level of cynicism among union members these days," said Gray, who is also an officer with the Bergen County Central Labor Council. "We need to have discussions about legislators who are trying to protect workers' rights and put people back to work so we can emphasize the importance of voting and getting involved," she said.

Gray will be leading up the effort to reelect State Senator Bob Gordon, a pro-labor Democrat, who is being challenged in a newly redrawn competitive 38<sup>th</sup> District in Bergen County. Meanwhile, Erickson will be on the ground in the always interesting 14<sup>th</sup> District, helping Linda Greenstein protect the formerly Republican seat she won in a special election when Governor Christie appointed former Republican Senator Bill Baroni to lead the Port Authority. The district, which includes portions of Middlesex and Mercer Counties, has all Democratic State representatives and is the home to many state public workers, but favored Governor Christie in the race for the Governorship.

Political director Seth Anderson-Oberman will be managing a small group of AFTNJ staffers and organizing volunteers to contact union members in coordination with state AFL-CIO labor efforts.

A significant number of the AFTNJ's active membership works at locals at Rutgers University, The College of New Jersey, Thomas Edison State College, Perth Amboy, Middlesex County Community College and Mercer County Community College and resides in the 14<sup>th</sup> District. Neighboring the 38<sup>th</sup> District, AFTNJ includes locals at William Paterson University, Ramapo College, Montclair State University, Passaic County Community College and the Garfield School District. With large locals in Newark and many members who commute to New York, AFT members could play a key role in the election, said Anderson-Oberman.

[END]



*The American Federation of Teachers New Jersey (AFTNJ) is a statewide federation of unions representing education workers from pre-kindergarten through graduate school. AFTNJ represents the largest group of higher education professionals in the state with full and part-time faculty, college and university staff, graduate assistants and post-doctoral workers. The union represents 10,000 pre-kindergarten through 12 teachers and support personnel in several schools districts as well as private, religious and charter schools.*



**American Federation of Teachers New Jersey, AFL-CIO, 2011 Endorsed Candidates**  
August 23, 2011

**DISTRICT 1**

**Senate**  
No Endorsement  
**Assembly**  
Nelson Albano\*+ (D)

**DISTRICT 2**

**Senate**  
No Endorsement  
**Assembly**  
Alisa Cooper+ (D)

**DISTRICT 3**

**Senate**  
No Endorsement  
**Assembly**  
No Endorsement

**DISTRICT 4**

**Senate**  
No Endorsement  
**Assembly**  
Gabriela Mosquera (D)

**DISTRICT 5**

**Senate**  
No Endorsement  
**Assembly**  
No Endorsement

**DISTRICT 6**

**Senate**  
No Endorsement  
**Assembly**  
No Endorsement

**DISTRICT 7**

**Senate**  
No Endorsement  
**Assembly**  
Troy Singleton+ (D)

**DISTRICT 8**

**Senate**  
Frederick Carlton “Carl” Lewis (D)  
**Assembly**  
Sharyn Pertnoy-Schmidt (D)  
Raymond J. Storck (D)

**DISTRICT 9**

**Senate**  
No Endorsement  
**Assembly**  
No Endorsement

**DISTRICT 10**

**Senate**  
No Endorsement  
**Assembly**  
No Endorsement

**DISTRICT 11**

**Senate**  
Raymond Santiago (D)  
**Assembly**  
Marilyn Schlossbach (D)  
Vin Gopal (D)\*

\* Incumbent

+ Labor Candidate



**American Federation of Teachers New Jersey, AFL-CIO, 2011 Endorsed Candidates**  
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**DISTRICT 12**

**Senate**

Robert “Bob” Brown (D)

**Assembly**

No Endorsement

**DISTRICT 13**

**Senate**

No Endorsement

**Assembly**

Kevin M. Lavan (D)

Patrick Short (D)

**DISTRICT 14**

**Senate**

Linda R. Greenstein\* (D)

**Assembly**

Wayne P. DeAngelo\*+ (D)

Daniel R. Benson\* (D)

**DISTRICT 15**

**Senate**

Shirley K. Turner\* (D)

**Assembly**

Reed Gusciora\* (D)

Bonnie Watson Coleman\* (D)

**DISTRICT 16**

**Senate**

Maureen Vella (D)

**Assembly**

Marie Corfield (D)

Joe Camarota (D)

**DISTRICT 17**

**Senate**

Bob Smith\* (D)

**Assembly**

Joseph V. Egan\*+ (D)

Upendra Chivukula\* (D)

**DISTRICT 18**

**Senate**

Barbara Buono\* (D)

**Assembly**

Patrick J. Diegnan, Jr.\* (D)

Peter J. Barnes, III\* (D)

**DISTRICT 19**

**Senate**

Joseph F. Vitale\* (D)

**Assembly**

John S. Wisniewski\* (D)

Craig J. Coughlin\* (D)

**DISTRICT 20**

**Senate**

No Endorsement

**Assembly**

Joseph Cryan\* (D)

Annette Quijano\* (D)

**DISTRICT 21**

**Senate**

Paul Swanicke (D)

**Assembly**

Bruce H. Bergen (D)

Norman W. Albert (D)

\* Incumbent

+ Labor Candidate



**American Federation of Teachers New Jersey, AFL-CIO, 2011 Endorsed Candidates**  
**August 23, 2011**

**DISTRICT 22**

**Senate**

Nicholas Scutari\* (D)

**Assembly**

Jerry Green\* (D)

Linda Stender\* (D)

**DISTRICT 23**

**Senate**

John Graf, Jr. (D)

**Assembly**

Scott McDonald (D)

Karen Carroll (D)

**DISTRICT 24**

**Senate**

No Endorsement

**Assembly**

No Endorsement

**DISTRICT 25**

**Senate**

Rick Thoeni (D)

**Assembly**

George Stafford (D)

Gale Heiss Colucci (D)

**DISTRICT 26**

**Senate**

No Endorsement

**Assembly** No Endorsement

**DISTRICT 27**

**Senate**

Richard J. Codey\* (D)

**Assembly**

John F. McKeon\* (D)

Mila M. Jasey\* (D)

**DISTRICT 28**

**Senate**

Ronald L. Rice\* (D)

**Assembly**

Cleopatra G. Tucker\* (D)

Ralph R. Caputo\* (D)

**DISTRICT 29**

**Senate**

No Endorsement

**Assembly**

No Endorsement

**DISTRICT 30**

**Senate**

No Endorsement

**Assembly**

No Endorsement

**DISTRICT 31**

**Senate**

Sandra Bolden Cunningham\* (D)

**Assembly**

Charles Mainor\* (D)

Jason O'Donnell\* (D)

\* Incumbent

+ Labor Candidate





**American Federation of Teachers New Jersey, AFL-CIO, 2011 Endorsed Candidates**  
 August 23, 2011

**DISTRICT 32**

**Senate**

Nicholas J. Sacco\* (D)

**Assembly**

Vincent Prieto\* (D)

Angelica M. Jimenez (D)

**DISTRICT 33**

**Senate**

No Endorsement

**Assembly**

Ruben J. Ramos, Jr.\* (D)

Sean Connors (D)

**DISTRICT 34**

**Senate**

Nia H. Gill\* (D)

**Assembly**

Thomas P. Giblin\*+ (D)

**DISTRICT 35**

**Senate**

Nellie Pou (D)

**Assembly**

Shavonda E. Sumter (D)

Benjie E. Wimberly (D)

**DISTRICT 36**

**Senate**

Paul A. Sarlo\* (D)

**Assembly**

Gary Schaer\* (D)

**DISTRICT 37**

**Senate**

Loretta Weinberg\* (D)

**Assembly**

Gordon M. Johnson\* (D)

Valerie Vainieri Huttler\* (D)

**DISTRICT 38**

**Senate**

Robert M. Gordon\* (D)

**Assembly**

Connie Terranova Wagner\* (D)

Timothy J. Eustace (D)

**DISTRICT 39**

**Senate**

No Endorsement

**Assembly**

No Endorsement

**DISTRICT 40**

**Senate**

No Endorsement

**Assembly**

William J. Brennan (D)

Cassandra Lazzara (D)

**OTHER RACES**

**Essex County Freeholder**

Len Luciano (D)

Brendan Gill (D)

\* Incumbent

+ Labor Candidate