



JOBS AND THE ECONOMY

Stand up against politicians who put tax cuts for the rich and profitable corporations ahead of public services.

Across the Country



In Wisconsin, Gov. Scott Walker began his budgetary assault on key public services immediately upon taking office. Under Walker, Wisconsin residents have faced:

- A draconian budget that includes \$200 million in tax cuts—largely capital gains and tax breaks, which help the wealthy;
- Cost for pension and healthcare benefits to employees—amounting to a 16 percent pay cut for many workers—were increased. When workers pay is dramatically cut, spending decreases, further hindering economic growth and stifling job creation.



Elected in 2010, Michigan Gov. Rick Snyder pushed a privatization agenda that included:

- Establishing appointed positions with power to unilaterally void negotiated contracts with unions, take over local school districts and take away the power of elected officials; and
- Cutting corporate taxes by 86 percent (\$1.6 billion) while cutting school funding by more than \$400 per pupil and increasing state college tuition.

In New Jersey



Since Gov. Chris Christie swore his oath of office last year, state agencies and local governments in New Jersey have shed nearly 30,000 jobs—impacting education, health care, public safety, the environment and transportation.
(Star Ledger)

Like Governors Walker (WI) and Snyder (MI), Chris Christie is a member of the “Cut-Grow” cult, which suggests that spending cuts somehow produce jobs.

However, “Steep spending cuts are hampering economic recovery in some states, while other states that resisted cuts or increased spending are now seeing declining unemployment rates, faster private-sector job creation, and stronger economic growth.” *(Center for American Progress)*

Again in 2011, Governor Christie vetoed the “millionaires’ tax,” allowing the state’s wealthiest citizens to avoid paying their fair share.

What is the difference between these states and New Jersey?

Wisconsin and Michigan have Republican-controlled state legislatures. New Jersey has a maintained a slight Democratic majority in the Assembly and Senate so Governor Christie cannot fully enact his agenda.

How you vote is your decision. With all seats up for election on Nov. 8, 2011, AFTNJ urges members to help maintain a balance of power and a balanced approach to helping the economy recover.