

DECISION 2007 **NEW JERSEY GENERAL ELECTION GUIDE**

PROMOTING AWARENESS OF KEY ISSUES SURROUNDING ADDICTION
PREVENTION, TREATMENT, AND RECOVERY PROGRAMS

GUIDE HIGHLIGHTS:

- 📄 POINTS TO SHARE AND QUESTIONS TO ASK CANDIDATES
- 📄 CANDIDATES FOR THE NEW JERSEY SENATE AND ASSEMBLY
- 📄 ELECTION FAQ'S

ISSUE HIGHLIGHTS:

- 📄 ALCOHOL EXCISE TAX INCREASE
- 📄 YOUTH USE OF ALCOHOL AND DRUGS
- 📄 CLIENT-CENTERED/RECOVERY-ORIENTED CARE
- 📄 COMMISSION TO REVIEW CRIMINAL SENTENCING RECOMMENDATIONS

IMPORTANT GENERAL ELECTION DATES



OCTOBER 16, 2007

Last day to register to vote for the November general election.

OCTOBER 30, 2007

Last day to apply for an absentee ballot application by mail. (For information on how and where to obtain an absentee ballot, please refer to the Frequently Asked Questions section of this guide, page 11.)

NOVEMBER 5, 2007

3 p.m. deadline for obtaining an absentee ballot application in person at the County Clerk's Office for the general election.

NOVEMBER 6, 2007

General Election Day. Polls open 6 a.m. until 8 p.m.



You may also access this guide free of charge, along with candidate survey responses and other election related information, at NCADD – NJ's Website: <http://www.ncaddnj.org>.

2007 NEW JERSEY GENERAL ELECTION GUIDE

The 2007 New Jersey General Election Guide represents the non-partisan efforts of the National Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence – New Jersey (NCADD – NJ) to identify key issues affecting addiction prevention, treatment, and recovery programs and to educate the public about these issues. NCADD – NJ is a private, nonprofit public health agency that promotes the prevention and treatment of, and recovery from, alcoholism and drug dependence through advocacy and education.

NCADD-New Jersey works in partnership with and on behalf of individuals, families, and communities affected by alcoholism and drug dependence to promote recovery through excellence in prevention and treatment initiatives. Through the organization's leadership, laws and public policies will be established and enforced that promote recovery, eliminate discrimination, and remove systemic barriers that impede ready access to treatment.

The combined effort of NCADD – NJ and other advocates of addiction prevention, treatment, and recovery is often frustrated by the stigma that accompanies this illness. Mistaken beliefs about addiction being a moral failing or character flaw circulate throughout the community as well as through the government. These misconceptions have proven a formidable barrier to the implementation of programs to address addiction. Stigma also prevents addicted individuals from seeking and receiving the treatment they need.

As New Jersey's 2007 general election draws near, voters and candidates might want to contemplate how addicted individuals have been stigmatized and consider pursuing sound public policies that recognize addiction for what it is: a preventable and treatable disease. The 2007 New Jersey General Election Guide highlights some important issues pertaining to the prevention, treatment, and recovery from alcoholism and drug dependence. Please be aware of the issues brought forth in this guide and remember to vote on Election Day.

For additional information, please visit Decision 2007 on NCADD – NJ's Web site, www.ncaddnj.org.

COMMISSION TO REVIEW CRIMINAL SENTENCING

The Commission to Review Criminal Sentencing was created in January 2004 to promote sound sentencing policy founded on the basic principles of public safety, proportionality and fairness. The body comprises representatives from the criminal justice system, the judiciary, the legal profession, civil rights groups, law enforcement, prosecutors, public defenders office, and the legislature. It has made two primary recommendations:

(1) Decrease the 1,000-foot drug free school zone to 200 feet, eliminate the mandatory minimum but increase the penalty for a drug free school zone offense within those 200 feet to a second-degree crime.

(2) Amend the eligibility criteria so that defendants with two or more prior third degree convictions will be statutorily eligible for admission into special probation.

POINTS YOU CAN SHARE WITH CANDIDATES

- The current drug-free school zone law is ineffective. It does not protect our children, and inadvertently imprisons large numbers of urban African Americans and Hispanics - 96% of inmates whose most serious charge is a school zone drug offense are African American or Hispanic.
- The recommendations by the sentencing commission is a “refocusing, not softening,” of drug laws. Although it eliminates the mandatory minimum sentence, it subjects anyone arrested in the 200-foot zone to a second degree rather than third degree charge.
- New Jersey Drug Courts have been successful in engaging participants in treatment, reducing recidivism and saving money. 1,249 participants successfully commenced to the final stage or graduated; 93% were employed at the time of graduation, 95% of the drug tests were negative. Within three years of graduating from New Jersey Drug Court, only 14% of graduates were rearrested and only 7% were reconvicted for indictable offenses. 58.6% of offenders who imprisoned for drug offenses were rearrested within the second year of their release

QUESTIONS YOU MIGHT ASK CANDIDATES:



Do you support expanding the eligibility criteria for special probation to include defendants with two or more prior third degree convictions?

Do you support reducing the 1,000-foot school drug free zones to 200 feet, eliminating mandatory minimums but making offenses committed within the 200-foot drug-free zones a second-degree crime?

YOUTH USE OF ALCOHOL AND DRUGS

According to the 2005 New Jersey Student Health Survey of Middle School and High School students conducted by the New Jersey Department of Education, New Jersey's youth continue to use alcohol, marijuana, and other illicit drugs at rates that should alarm all concerned citizens in the Garden State. According to the survey, alcohol was the most frequently used substance by New Jersey middle school and high school students. Almost 39% of New Jersey's middle school

students have used alcohol in their lifetime and 79.3% of high school students reported drinking alcohol in their lifetime, with 46.5% having drunk one or more drinks of alcohol within the prior 30 days. The survey also showed that 19.9% of high school students reported recent marijuana use and 7% of middle school students reported marijuana use in their lifetime and 4% used it in the past 30 days.

POINTS YOU CAN SHARE WITH CANDIDATES

- ❑ Teen drinking is the primary source of adult alcoholism. Young people who begin drinking before age 15 are five times more likely to have a problem with alcohol later in life than those who begin drinking at age 21.
- ❑ Alcohol is implicated in the four top causes of teen deaths: Accidents, unintentional injuries, homicide, and suicide. More teens die from an alcohol overdose or drunk driving crashes than from all other causes combined. Nearly one in three 15-20-year-old drivers who were killed in crashes had been drinking.
- ❑ The front part of the brain does not stop developing until the age of 21 and underage drinking harms this development.
- ❑ In a recent study, the majority of youth not only drank (71.5%) but drank and drove (63%). During the prior 30 days, 20.1% of New Jersey high school students 18 years and older and 9.5% of 16-17 year olds reported they drove a vehicle after they had been drinking alcohol and more than one-fourth (27.5%) of the students rode at least once in a vehicle with someone who had been drinking and 3.9% of students did so on six or more occasions during this period.

QUESTIONS YOU MIGHT ASK CANDIDATES:



Do you agree that youth drinking and drug use are a major problem that must be aggressively addressed?

Do you support measures such as keg registration and allowing judges to delay the issuance of driver's licenses for minors found drinking?

Do you support drug testing in schools?

CLIENT-CENTERED/RECOVERY-ORIENTED CARE SYSTEM

A client-centered/recovery-oriented system of care is based on a model in which client choices are informed, their input is valued, multiple pathways to recovery are honored, addiction is treated as a chronic primary disease and recovery support services are available in treatment and following treatment.

One way New Jersey's Division of Addiction Services (DAS) has promoted such a system of care is through the New Jersey Access Initiative (NJAI). The goal of NJAI and other similar client centered/recovery oriented models is to increase the number of people in sustained recovery. The fundamental goal of this model is to facilitate client choice (allowing clients to choose the best path for them and the provider that best meets their needs), and expanding access to a broad

array of clinical treatment and recovery support services, including programs that are faith- or community-based.


The client-centered/recovery-oriented system of care provides clinical treatment and recovery support services with a key component being recovery mentors who work with the client and service providers while the client is in detoxification, treatment and after they complete treatment. Recovery mentors enhance the clients' care during treatment and facilitate their transition from treatment to long-term recovery. They assist the client in removing common barriers to recovery and accessing necessary services such as treatment, self-help programs, employment services, and spiritual counseling services.

POINT YOU CAN SHARE WITH CANDIDATES

□ Studies have found that the involvement of recovery mentors have significantly increased the rate at which clients referred from detoxification engaged and remained in outpatient treatment. The overall rate of enrollment of heroin clients referred from detoxification to outpatient treatment demonstrated a substantial increase of 96.4%. Mentored clients also exhibited significantly higher outpatient treatment completion rates of 45.2%, compared to a 16.1% baseline

rate. On an annualized basis, this would represent a 278% increase in the number of clients successfully completing outpatient treatment over the baseline rate. A study also found that cases involving mentors increased clients' participation in 12 step programs. Increasing enrollments with increasing successful program completion rates should have a profound impact on the efficacy of both the mentoring and the outpatient treatment programs.

QUESTION YOU MIGHT ASK CANDIDATES:



Do you support additional funding to transition the current system into a client-centered/recovery-oriented system of care that would help individuals more fully engage in recovery from alcohol or drug addiction?

ALCOHOL EXCISE TAX INCREASE

In New Jersey, a portion of the state's revenue generated from alcohol excise taxes is dedicated to the Alcohol Education, Rehabilitation and Enforcement Fund (AEREF). The monies from this fund are used to assist the state in its efforts to address alcohol-related problems, and to educate children and adults on the dangers of drinking. Funding to the AEREF has not been increased since 1991 while the collection of alcohol tax revenue has increased significantly over the same time period. Currently, funding to the AEREF remains fixed at \$11 million annually, while an estimated \$102 million was collected by the state from alcohol excise taxes last year alone.

New Jersey's alcohol excise taxes were last increased in 1992. Increasing the alcohol beverage excise tax and dedicating more money to the AEREF would not only provide additional revenue to address the issues surrounding alcohol abuse and its consequences, but it would greatly help to combat the widespread problem of underage drinking in the state of New Jersey.

**POINTS YOU CAN SHARE WITH CANDIDATES**

- An Eagleton survey commissioned by NCADD-NJ found that two thirds (65%) of state residents support an increase in the alcohol tax to fund more programs for alcohol and drug treatment and for prevention.
- One in two adults (71,000) and two in three teens (9,400 who sought addiction treatment were unable to access it due to limited capacity. Increasing the alcohol tax by just a nickel a gallon would add nearly \$10 million to addiction treatment in the state, providing 3,800 New Jerseyans with a drug or alcohol addiction an opportunity to access desperately needed care.
- An increase in the excise tax will help reduce the alcohol related tax burden to New Jersey residents. The taxpayers in New Jersey pay \$9.6 billion per year for alcohol related: traffic crashes/impaired driving, child abuse and neglect, youth problems, violent crimes, fetal alcohol syndrome, sickness, injury, absence, and health care.

QUESTIONS YOU MIGHT ASK CANDIDATES:

Do you support legislation that would increase the state's alcohol beverage excise tax, provided the revenue from the tax increase was used to fund addiction prevention, rehabilitation, and educational programs?

How do you propose to address the problem of inadequate funding for alcohol and other drug addiction treatment programs in the state?



MAJOR PARTY CANDIDATES FOR

The following is a listing of major party candidates for New Jersey Senate and General Assembly in the upcoming General Election. Candidates who filled out the addition issues survey by September 11 appear in **bold**. Candidates who replied with a letter but did not fill out the survey are in *italics*. Those who gave no reply are in plain text. Individual candidate responses can be accessed at www.ncaddnj.org. If candidates seeking your vote have not responded, you can request that they do so. Their contact information is available at <http://www.vote-smart.org> or www.njvoterinfor.org.

Senate

NAME	DISTRICT	PARTY
John H. Adler	6	Democratic
<i>Joseph A. Adolf</i>	6	Republican
Diane Allen *	7	Republican
Joseph Ariyan	39	Democratic
Nicholas Asselta *	1	Republican
Harvey Baron	23	Democratic
Bill Baroni	14	Republican
Christopher Bateman	16	Republican
Jennifer Beck	12	Republican
Hans Berg	5	Republican
Francis L. Bodine	8	Democratic
Daniel H. Brown	18	Republican
Anthony Bucco *	25	Republican
Barbara Buono *	18	Democratic
S. Gerald Cardinale *	39	Republican
Andrew R. Ciesla *	10	Republican
Mark Cimino	3	Republican
Marc Cinque	27	Republican
Richard J. Codey *	27	Democratic
Robert Colletti	38	Republican
Christopher J. Connors	9	Republican
Russell K. Corby	9	Democratic
John Costello	17	Republican
Sandra Cunningham	31	Democratic
Richard S. Dennison Jr.	7	Democratic
Al-Samar Douglas	29	Republican
Wayne G. Fox	16	Democratic
Linda Gaglione	20	Republican
Gina Genovese	21	Democratic
Nia H. Gill *	34	Democratic
John A. Girgenti *	35	Democratic
Herbert Glenn	28	Republican
Robert M. Gordon	38	Democratic
\Michael A. Guarino	36	Republican
Phil Haines	8	Republican
Frank Herbert	25	Democratic
Leonard L. Inzerillo	13	Democratic
John W. Jankowski	4	Republican
Ellen Karcher *	12	Democratic
Sean T. Kean	11	Republican
Thomas H. Kean, Jr. *	21	Republican
Wasim A. Khan	26	Democratic
<i>Joe Kyrrillos Jr. *</i>	13	Republican
Leonard Lance *	23	Republican
Raymond J. Lesniak *	20	Democratic

Senate

NAME	DISTRICT	PARTY
Fred Madden *	4	Democratic
Bob Martin *	15	Republican
Rose McConnell	22	Republican
James McCullough *	2	Republican
Steven Morlino	30	Democratic
Donald H. Nelsen Jr.	19	Republican
Clara S. Nibot	37	Republican
Steven V. Oroho	24	Republican
Kevin J. O'Toole	40	Republican
Joe Pennacchio	26	Republican
John Pluchino	32	Republican
Dana Redd	5	Democratic
Ronald L. Rice *	28	Democratic
M. Teresa Ruiz	29	Democratic
Nicholas J. Sacco *	32	Democratic
Paul A. Sarlo *	36	Democratic
Nicholas P. Scutari *	22	Democratic
Edwin C. Selby	24	Democratic
Robert W. Singer *	30	Republican
Seema Singh	14	Democratic
Bob Smith *	17	Democratic
Brian P. Stack	33	Democratic
Stephen M. Sweeney *	3	Democratic
Shirley K. Turner *	15	Democratic
Jeff Van Drew	1	Democratic
John A. Villapiano	11	Democratic
Joseph F. Vitale *	19	Democratic
Loretta Weinberg *	37	Democratic
Britta Forsberg Wenzel	10	Democratic
James Whelan	2	Democratic
John Zunic	40	Democratic

* denotes incumbent

Individual candidate responses can be accessed at www.ncaddnj.org.



Assembly

NAME	DISTRICT	PARTY
Dawn Marie Addiego	8	Republican
Nelson Albano *	1	Democratic
Norman Albert	21	Democratic
John F. Amodeo	2	Republican
Mary Pat Angelini	11	Republican
Carol Ann Armenti	10	Democratic
Sharon Atkinson	30	Democratic
Peter J. Barnes III *	18	Democratic
Bruce Bergen	21	Democratic
Robert C. Bianco	34	Republican
Pete Biondi *	16	Republican
Andrew M. Bloschak	28	Republican
Jon M. Bramnick	21	Republican
Robert "Bob" Brown	13	Democratic
Chauncey I. Brown III	35	Republican
Sylvester Bobby Bryant	15	Republican
John J. Burzichelli *	3	Democratic
Adam Bushman	14	Republican
Ralph R. Caputo	28	Democratic
Michael Patrick Carroll *	25	Republican
Caroline Casagrande	12	Republican
Anthony Chiappone	31	Democratic
Clenard H. Childress Jr.	34	Republican
Gary R. Chiusano	24	Republican
Upendra Chivukula	17	Democratic
Frank J. Cifarelli	37	Republican
R. Norris Clark, Jr.	1	Republican
Neil Cohen *	20	Democratic
Herb Conaway *	7	Democratic
Jack Conners *	7	Democratic
Carmen Pio Costa	36	Republican
William Coulter	9	Democratic
Alberto Coutinho	29	Democratic
Denise Coyle	16	Republican
Nilsa Cruz-Perez *	5	Democratic
Joseph Cryan *	20	Democratic
Renee Czarnecki	38	Republican
Ronald S. Dancer *	30	Republican
Paul Danielczyk	19	Republican
Wayne P. DeAngelo	14	Democratic
<i>Alex DeCroce *</i>	26	Republican
Bryan E. Des Rochers	22	Republican
Patrick J. Diegnan Jr. *	18	Democratic
Michael J. Doherty *	23	Republican
Norbert E. Donelly	15	Republican
Michael J. Donohue	1	Republican
Phil Donohue	3	Republican
John J. Driscoll Jr.	38	Republican
Joseph V. Egan *	17	Democratic
William England	18	Republican
Elise Evans	35	Democratic
Michael Fedun	16	Democratic
Christopher D. Fifis	8	Democratic
Douglas H. Fisher *	3	Democratic
Esther Fletcher	39	Democratic

Assembly

NAME	DISTRICT	PARTY
Patricia Fratticcioli	4	Republican
Marshall L. Gates	25	Democratic
Robert Gatto	22	Republican
Thomas P. Giblin *	34	Democratic
Thomas Goodwin	14	Republican
Gerald "Jerry" Green *	22	Democratic
Linda R. Greenstein *	14	Democratic
<i>Louis D. Greenwald *</i>	6	Democratic
Nancy Griffin	7	Republican
Elaine L. Guarino	29	Republican
<i>JoAnn R. Gurenlian</i>	6	Republican
Reed Gusciora *	15	Democratic
Jacob Hahn	32	Republican
Amy H. Handlin *	13	Republican
James Holzapfel *	10	Republican
Matthew House	17	Republican
Valerie Vainieri Huttle	37	Democratic
Mila Jasey	27	Democratic
Gordon M. Johnson *	37	Democratic
John Kaklamanis	10	Democratic
Marcia A. Karrow *	23	Republican
William Kole	16	Democratic
Pamela R. Lampitt *	6	Democratic
Zonie LeSane	40	Democratic
Michael V. Lewis	28	Republican
Alison Littell McHose	24	Republican
Sandra Love	4	Democratic
Shelley Lovett	4	Republican
Amy Mallet	12	Democratic
Joseph R. Malone III *	30	Republican
Jonathan Mangel	5	Republican
Carl J. Manna	39	Democratic
Wayne Marek	26	Democratic
<i>Bradley L. Mattson</i>	6	Republican
Peter G. Maurer	23	Democratic
John F. McKeon *	27	Democratic
Richard Merkt *	25	Republican
Leonard J. Messineo	17	Republican
Mark Meyerowitz	27	Republican
Matthew Milam	1	Democratic
David Modrak	26	Democratic
Paul D. Moriarty *	4	Democratic
Eric Munoz *	21	Republican
John P. Napolitani Sr.	11	Democratic
Sheila Y. Oliver *	34	Democratic
Edward T. O'Neill	32	Republican
Reyes Ortega	19	Republican
Declan O'Scanlon Jr.	12	Republican
Michael Panter *	12	Democratic
John J. Pirnat	11	Democratic
Vince Polistina	2	Republican
Nellie Pou *	35	Democratic
Vincent Prieto *	32	Democratic
Brian Propp	7	Republican
<i>Joan M. Quigley *</i>	32	Democratic

* denotes incumbent

(Continued on next page)

MAJOR PARTY ASSEMBLY CANDIDATES

NAME	Assembly DISTRICT	PARTY
Ruben J. Ramos Jr.	33	Democratic
David P. Ribble	11	Republican
Tracy L. Riley	8	Democratic
Joe Roberts *	5	Democratic
Caridad Rodriguez	33	Democratic
John E. Rooney *	39	Republican
Michele F. Rosen	9	Democratic
Scott Rudder	8	Republican
Scott T. Rumana	40	Republican
Brian E. Rumpf *	9	Republican
David C. Russo	40	Republican
Miguel A. Sanabria	29	Republican
Dominick C. Santini Jr.	23	Democratic
Frederick Scalera *	36	Democratic
Gary Schaer *	36	Democratic
Lisa Sciancalepore	40	Democratic
Wojciech Siemaszkiewicz	37	Republican
Joseph Sinagra	18	Republican
L. Harvey Smith	31	Democratic
Blondell K. Spellman	2	Democratic
L. Grace Spencer	29	Democratic
Linda D. Stender *	22	Democratic

NAME	Assembly DISTRICT	PARTY
Jeffrey Stepler	3	Republican
Samuel Thompson *	13	Republican
Edward Torres	5	Republican
Cleopatra G. Tucker	28	Democratic
Daniel M. Van Pelt	9	Republican
Charlotte Vandervalk *	39	Republican
Joseph Vas *	19	Democratic
Aileen Vitale	36	Republican
Joan M. Voss *	38	Democratic
Connie Wagner	38	Democratic
Pat Walsh	24	Democratic
Patricia Walsh	13	Democratic
Bonnie Watson Coleman *	15	Democratic
Jay Webber	26	Republican
Dana Wefer	25	Democratic
Joe Wilkins	2	Democratic
Jeffrey Williamson	30	Democratic
<i>John S. Wisniewski *</i>	19	Democratic
David W. Wolfe *	10	Republican
Toni Zimmer	24	Democratic

* denotes incumbent

Individual candidate responses can be accessed at www.ncaddnj.org.



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

❑ WHO IS ELIGIBLE TO VOTE?

If you are a United States citizen of the age of 18 or older, a resident of New Jersey for at least 30 days prior to the election, and a registered voter, then you are able to vote.

❑ HOW AND WHEN DO I REGISTER?

In order to be able to vote in a New Jersey election, you must register at least 29 days prior to the specified election date. You can register in person through your Municipal Clerk or County Commissioner of Registration. Registration can also be completed by mail, by obtaining an application from the Municipal Clerk, the County Commissioner of Registration, public libraries, public assistance offices, or the motor vehicle agency, and returning the specified form 29 days prior to the next election.

Note: You *must* re-register to vote if you have had a change of address or name since the previous election.

❑ WHERE DO I VOTE?

The locations for polling places are printed on the sample ballot mailed to all registered voters one week prior to the general election.

❑ WHAT TYPE OF IDENTIFICATION IS NEEDED AT THE POLLING PLACE?

New Jersey does not require voter identification in order for registered voters to vote. A voter's signature, however, is required before a vote can be cast.

❑ HOW DO I JOIN A POLITICAL PARTY?

You can join a political party by voting in the primary election or by obtaining and completing a party affiliation card from the Commissioner of Registration.

❑ HOW AND WHERE DO I APPLY FOR AN ABSENTEE BALLOT?

In New Jersey, any voter can now vote by Absentee Ballot for any election - you do not need a reason to vote by Absentee Ballot. A voter may obtain an Absentee Ballot application by calling (609) 292-3760 or by visiting www.state.nj.us/lps/elections/absentee_doe.html and mailing the application to their County Clerk up to 7 days prior to the election. A voter may also apply in person to the County Clerk until 3:00 p.m. the day before the election. The County Clerk cannot accept faxed copies of an Absentee Ballot Application since an original signature is required.

❑ CAN I CHANGE PARTY AFFILIATIONS?

Yes, you can change party affiliations by obtaining a party affiliation card from the Commissioner of Registration and returning it at least 50 days prior to the primary election.

❑ DO I GET TIME OFF TO VOTE?

Private businesses are not required to give time off for employees to vote on Election Day. State employees in New Jersey are given the day off to cast their ballot. Registered voters who are unable to vote due to the nature and hours of their employment can apply for absentee ballots.





If you would like to receive additional copies of this election guide please contact us at:

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E-mail: policy@ncaddnj.org Tel.: 609/689-0121
www.ncaddnj.org



THINK ADVOCACY

Together There's Nothing We Can't Change

For more information on becoming a Think Advocacy Member visit us online at:
www.ncaddnj.org/publicaffairs/ThinkAdvocacy.asp