

NJPSA Questionnaire for NJ Legislature - 2021 General Election

User: Armato, John / Email: info@district2democrats.com

Survey answered on: 10/9/2021 11:39 PM

1. Legislative District #: (answer type: Number)

2

2. Office You Are Seeking: (answer type: Short Text)

State Assembly

3. Party: (answer type: Short Text)

Democrat

4. Campaign Phone Number: (answer type: Short Text)

609-435-4310

5. Campaign Mailing Address: (answer type: Long Text)

PO Box 362 Northfield NJ 08225

6. Staff Contact Name and Phone Number (if preferred): (answer type: Long Text)

Paul Weborg 715-771-9497

7. State investment in a state level school facilities strategic plan to address long-ignored school infrastructure needs across all school districts in need in New Jersey (answer type: Multiple Options With Single Answer)

Support

8. Supporting school employees' (including NJPSA members') rights to collective bargaining (answer type: Multiple Options With Single Answer)

Support

9. An ongoing commitment to the scheduled phase-up of funding of public employee pensions according to the schedule set forth in the law (answer type: Multiple Options With Single Answer)

Support

10. Private school vouchers in any form (tuition tax credits, opportunity scholarships, etc.) (answer type: Multiple Options With Single Answer)

Oppose

11. No new unfunded state mandates for public schools (answer type: Multiple Options With Single Answer)

Support

12. What health care policy approaches and priorities do you support for our public schools with the goal of maintaining in-person learning? In your mind, since educators are not health professionals, when do you believe a statewide approach is needed and when is a local approach more appropriate in deciding pandemic-related school health policies? (answer type: Long Text)

NJPSA Questionnaire for NJ Legislature - 2021 General Election

User: Armato, John / Email: info@district2democrats.com

Survey answered on: 10/9/2021 11:39 PM

I believe that there needs to be coordination between state and local approaches to deciding pandemic related school policies. Ultimately, I think the state needs to set the baseline standards and the local school leadership needs to be able to have the ability to react when their area is experiencing COVID-19 surges.

13. What issues do you see in this area and how can you assist local districts in addressing school infrastructure needs in both SDA (Schools Development Authority) districts and regular operating districts? (answer type: Long Text)

In April of this year, many of our schools in Atlantic County were returning to in-person classes, except the schools in Pleasantville. All six of the schools were closed to repair HVAC issues, roof issues, and for mold remediation. We must work with our local school districts to learn what repairs and improvements are needed, the most effective solutions, and then as your Assemblyman I will fight for the funding to make these repairs and improvements.

14. As a legislator, will you support professional educators in their work with their students and avoid the temptation to mandate specific programs for every school district as we work to meet the individual needs of each student, school and district? How will you support the work of educators and principals in your district? (answer type: Long Text)

As an Assemblyman, I pride myself on learning as much as possible about an issue before making a decision. This includes any legislation related to education. While I do believe we must have a way to assess proficiency in a variety of subjects to make certain that everyone is receiving the same education, I also believe that teachers understand the needs of their students and should have the ability to teach to those needs.

15. Do you believe New Jersey students should pass a state graduation test or demonstrate proficiency in math and language arts standards as described above to earn a high school diploma? (answer type: Long Text)

I believe that we need more than simply administering a standardized test to gauge proficiency in our students. I am open to meeting with education leadership to learn more about how best we can measure competency levels.

16. As a legislator, what will you do to promote education as a positive career path to our youth and what types of initiatives will you consider to enhance the educational career pipeline for the future? How will you promote diversity within our future workforce? (answer type: Long Text)

In addition to fully funding teacher pensions and our school systems, we must be proactive in incentivizing students to enter the teaching profession. We can do this through loan forgiveness, grants, and scholarships - such as the Mary Gruccio scholarship award, which is named for the outgoing superintendent of Vineland High School, that goes to a graduating senior who is majoring in education and active in the community. I think we need to go beyond simply incentivizing entering the profession, but we must also incentivize potential teachers to remain in the state after graduation.

17. Will you vote for legislation (S-3284 (Greenstein)/ A-5011 (Wimberly)) that provides the same accidental death benefit to school employees who lost their lives in the service of their school community while performing such essential services? (answer type: Yes/No)

NJPSA Questionnaire for NJ Legislature - 2021 General Election

User: Armato, John / Email: info@district2democrats.com

Survey answered on: 10/9/2021 11:39 PM

Yes

18. Thinking about the future, what are your goals for our public education system and what actions will you take as a state legislator to support our educators, our students and our schools? (answer type: Long Text)

I am proud that we made a full payment to the teachers pension system, which we must continue to do every year in the future. In the Assembly, I will work with my colleagues and organizations that represent education professionals to find the best ways to incentivize more people to not only enter the education profession, but also to encourage these new teachers to stay in New Jersey.