

NJPSA Questionnaire for NJ Legislature - 2021 General Election

User: Arnold, Michelle / Email: michellesellshomes@comcast.net / Phone: (609) 346-7865

Survey answered on: 10/8/2021 07:33 PM

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

7

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

Senate

3. Party: (answer type: Short Text)

Republican

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

6092673432

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

617 Stokes Rd #8 Medford, NJ 08055

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

Jesse Estlow

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)

Support

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: Arnold, Michelle / Email: michellesellshomes@comcast.net / Phone: (609) 346-7865

Survey answered on: 10/8/2021 07:33 PM

I believe the local school officials should make the decisions that best suit their school district and their unique situations. The State should be available for guidance, support and collaboration.

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)

The health, well being and quality education for our children is a top priority. Many of our school buildings are aging and no longer provide the environment that will keep our children safe. State funding should be made available in partnership with the local schools. Safety items need to be identified on a local basis and addressed accordingly. State funds need to be earmarked for the reinforcement of the schools.

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)

I think decisions should be made on a more local level. The State can not possibly know what each individual school district needs and we can not afford to continuously force a one size meets all mentality.

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 it is necessary to be sure the students are getting a quality education. I also realize and strongly support the fact that all children are different and not all are college material. All of our students need to be considered in making overall decisions. More emphasis has to be placed on the individual student enhancing their talents and strong points while encouraging and introducing them to a wider variety of possibilities.

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)

I think there should be incentives for students to embark on a career as an educator and to return to their home to share their knowledge and talent in their hometown. This can be accomplished through offering college tuition credits for serving in a particular community. This will benefit everyone and encourage students to become teachers.

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)

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)

NJPSA Questionnaire for NJ Legislature - 2021 General Election

User: Arnold, Michelle / **Email:** michellesellshomes@comcast.net / **Phone:** (609) 346-7865

Survey answered on: 10/8/2021 07:33 PM

I think the pandemic made it clear to me that educating our children is a responsibility that we all should share. A more community approach will bring depth to the local education system. I am not a proponent of someone in Trenton who is disconnected from the local details from making broad stroke decisions for all. Certainly the basics have to be addressed but the implementation of such should be up to the local districts. If we take the time to individualize the plan the results will benefit everyone.