

# NJPSA Questionnaire for NJ Legislature - 2021 General Election

User: Richard Codey/ Email: erinriceNJ@gmail.com

Survey answered on: 10/8/2021 07:53 PM

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

27

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

Senate

3. Party: (answer type: Short Text)

D

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

973-202-5444

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

347 Mt. Pleasant Avenue, Suite 200

West Orange, NJ 07052

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

Erin Rice

973-202-5444

erinriceNJ@gmail.com

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 &nbsp;New Jersey&nbsp; (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&nbsp; (answer type: Multiple Options With Single Answer)

Support

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

Oppose

11. No new unfunded state mandates for public schools&nbsp; (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

# NJPSA Questionnaire for NJ Legislature - 2021 General Election

User: Rice, Erin / Email: erinriceNJ@gmail.com

Survey answered on: 10/8/2021 07:53 PM

**you believe a statewide approach is needed and when is a local approach more appropriate in deciding pandemic-related school health policies?&nbsp;&nbsp;  (answer type: Long Text)**

We need to follow the recommendations of the CDC and the NJ State Department of Health. The pandemic is not over and we need these experts to guide us as we follow navigate getting back towards normal. Local input is important, but these agencies have the resources to make science-based recommendations and should provide the framework for guidelines. There should be ongoing collaboration and local districts should be able to establish additional policies to keep their school communities safe.

**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? &nbsp;&nbsp;  (answer type: Long Text)**

Ageing infrastructure is an issue that we face in many districts across that state. Some of these districts can meet these needs through bonding, but we need to have funded state programs for addressing the direst needs. The state and districts must collaborate on accessing available Federal monies for improvements and repairs that are covered as relating to the pandemic and are needed anyway to provide a safer healthier environment for students and educators.

**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? &nbsp; How will you support the work of educators and principals in your district?&nbsp;&nbsp;  (answer type: Long Text)**

I will continue to support Principals, Supervisors, teachers and ESPs whose expertise in education has helped our state's schools top in the nation. I do believe in requiring certain standards and the inclusion of our rich and diverse history in our curriculum. Districts and educators are able to make decisions on how best to teach students about these issues within their school communities.

**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? &nbsp;&nbsp;  (answer type: Long Text)**

The best way to assess a students readiness to graduate is made by teachers in the classroom. I support the use of some assessments as tools to help determine proficiency, but the ultimate decision must be based on a multifaceted review process.

**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? &nbsp; How will you promote diversity within our future workforce?&nbsp;   (answer type: Long Text)**

In order to help promote education careers, we must as a state keep up our end of agreed-upon pensions and benefits. Increasing College Affordability will also help students to be able to enter the field with less student loan debt holding them back.

As we work to encourage a new generation of young educators, we have an opportunity to encourage a more diverse workforce that more closely reflects our student populations. One way to help is to eliminate the Core-Praxis requirements that create a barrier to prospective teachers, especially students from underserved districts. Another is to create a one-on-one mentoring program to help new teachers with the knowledge and practical classroom skills that will help them succeed

# NJPSA Questionnaire for NJ Legislature - 2021 General Election

User: Rice, Erin / Email: erinriceNJ@gmail.com

Survey answered on: 10/8/2021 07:53 PM

and provide peer support.

**17. Will you vote for legislation (S-3284 (Greenstein)/ &nbsp;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? &nbsp;(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?&nbsp;(answer type: Long Text)**

We must get to a place where our schools are fully funded to SFRA levels. We also must make sure that our schools are safe environments that help our students grow academically, socially and emotionally. Many initiatives I have focused on lately address student mental health, and this is an issue we need to continue to work on.