

NJPSA Questionnaire for NJ Legislature - 2021 General Election

User: Downey, Joann / Email: gopalhoughtalingdowneyforld11@gmail.com

Survey answered on: 10/12/2021 02:02 AM

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

11

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)

8488634303

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

810 Deal Rd

Ocean Twp

NJ 07712

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

Coby Eiss

845-659-6697

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

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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)

In order for our children to safely attend in-person learning for this school year, it's crucial for them to follow proper guidelines to ensure that COVID is not spread. This includes frequent testing, masking, social distancing, proper sanitation, and ensuring that facilities are properly ventilated. In the unfortunate event that there are potential COVID cases among students and faculty, it's up to the school to ensure that all people who may have been exposed are properly tested and quarantined to ensure that spread is mitigated. Until a vaccine is available and deemed safe for our children to use, it is crucial we follow guidelines set by the CDC and health professionals, and for the school to take any additional precautions required to limit potential spread.

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 pandemic has shined a light on existing issues facing our schools in addition to the challenges that it has created. As we receive additional funding, I am looking forward to working with my colleagues in the Legislature and the Governor's office to make sure that these funds are being properly used to make improvements to our 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 am proud to work with and listen to the educators in our state as we examine and address the challenges they and our students face. Education professionals have my utmost support, and they understand the needs of our students best as they are working with them every day. Teachers, support staff, and administration all play a critical role when considering any legislation pertaining to our education system. I look forward to continuing to work with and strengthen these relationships as we address the issues and challenges within our education system.

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 it is crucial that we have a baseline set to ensure that all of our students are leaving school with the skills and knowledge needed to be successful in their chosen career paths. This baseline should not only be measured through the employment of standardized testing as other issues can be a factor in determining how the student performs in these assessments. I am open to examining additional methods that could be used to determine whether students are capable of graduating and are properly prepared to move into the next phase of their lives.

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)

A career in education is one that is rewarding, with massive opportunities to have a positive impact on our children's lives. One step to incentivize a career in this field is to ensure that our schools and

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pension system are consistently properly funded. Legislatively, I am in favor of grants, scholarships and loan forgiveness for those who choose to become educators. Making sure that college becomes more affordable will help people from economically diverse backgrounds choose a career in education, something I look forward to working with my colleagues on in the future.

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)

As a mother of two young girls who are in our public education system, I am committed to ensuring that our schools remain the best in the nation. I am proud to have sponsored legislation that will establish a School Funding Formula Evaluation Task Force and look forward to continuing to ensure Monmouth County schools receive the funding they deserve. My other priorities include ensuring that the technology gap is closed, infrastructure is top of the line and up to date, and making sure that proper guidance counseling and mental health resources are available for our students as we return from this pandemic.