

# NJPSA Questionnaire for NJ Legislature - 2021 General Election

User: Kaufman, Hope / Email: Hope.a.kaufman@gmail.com

Survey answered on: 9/4/2021 12:22 AM

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

23

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

Assemblyperson

3. Party: (answer type: Short Text)

Democratic

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

2017443708

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

5 Pruner Farm Road Lebanon, NJ 08833

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

Kelly McKinny-Brakewood

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 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)

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I support whatever is going to keep our kids in school and our teachers and administration safe. I don't believe there is a one size fits all approach and thus specific measures should be governed on a local level. With the exception of a statewide mask mandate which I do agree with (unless unique situations exist). This is the low hanging fruit, data demonstrates proper masking works, the fact that it is even up for debate is ridiculous. I have an 8 year old daughter. We are fortunate to live in Tewksbury where the average class size is 14 kids.

She went back to school today, running out the door to jump on the bus, she shouted, "I hate wearing a mask." Coming home she didn't even mention it.

**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)**

I attend my local School Board meetings, I listen to discussions on facilities management and infrastructure issues. My background is in large scale remediation projects within government purview. I believe there is a professional vacuum in addressing the basic infrastructure needs of most school districts. Our Board of Education relies on professionals whose interests lie with their bottom line. This vacuum needs to be addressed through regional construction authorities that allow for greater purchasing power and availability of construction professionals who are equipped to maximize district spending and advise on priorities.

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

I will support them by not getting in their way. The pandemic taught me one important lesson. I am not an educator or an administrator. Let the professionals do their jobs.

**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)**

Yes, no one should "graduate" high school without being able to perform at a level, in math and language arts, as agreed upon by education experts.

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

I am not sure, though I do believe it is not only a career path for our youth. The entire education field is a solid choice as a second career path and think that perhaps a greater push in that capacity would yield more nuanced, expert and creative educational pathways. I also, don't think the problem is in diversity within the teaching profession but within the places that educators are placed. I will again refer to Tewksbury that does not have one person of color or international origin as a teacher or administrator on staff. The only person who would not be considered "White" is a gentleman on the custodial staff. This is the systemic problem.

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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)

My priority is making our schools incubators of global climate citizens. NJ is warming faster than any other state in the Country. As mentioned above basic infrastructure needs became more apparent during the pandemic, but in the face of climate change (Tropical Storm Ida being just one example), we need to make investments in green infrastructure and resiliency in our schools, our school transportation and our school technological capabilities. I would advocate for additional funding for schools to play a greater role in communities in holistically educating residents and serving as environmental hubs of the community.