

# NJPSA Questionnaire for NJ Legislature - 2021 General Election

User: Mazzeo, Vince / Email: info@district2democrats.com

Survey answered on: 10/9/2021 11:36 PM

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

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

State Senate

3. Party: (answer type: Short Text)

Democrat

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

609-435-4310

5. Campaign Mailing Address:&nbsp; (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 &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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Educators had an incredibly challenging time providing the best possible education for students during the pandemic. While most of us agree that in-person is preferred to virtual learning, we must take all necessary precautions to ensure that it is safe for students, teachers, and all staff in the schools. I believe in a statewide approach for the initial COVID-19 guidelines, but there also needs to be a consideration for local standards to react to COVID-19 transmission 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? &nbsp;&nbsp;  (answer type: Long Text)**

In Atlantic County, we saw first hand how the pandemic exposed infrastructure related issues. It is important that we ensure allocation of funding for infrastructure repairs and improvements, and we must involve all stakeholders to understand the needs of our school districts.

**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 believe that educators need to have a seat at the table when we discuss any education legislation. Educators understand the needs of their students better than anyone, and I support their ability to adapt to those needs in the classroom. I do believe that there needs to be a way to measure competency across subjects to ensure that students across New Jersey are receiving the same quality of education.

**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)**

We must have a way to understand a student's competence on important subjects, but I think it has to be more than just standardized testing, which can be highly impacted by conditions outside of the control of the school or student. I would like to learn more about the methods that could be employed to give a more comprehensive understanding of a student's competency in core subjects.

**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)**

First, I believe that we need to showcase the incredible work that teachers do each day. I also believe that fully funding the schools and pensions is evidence of the legislature's commitment to our education system, those currently employed within it, and those considering entering it professionally. I also think there are opportunities to incentivize entering the teaching profession through grants and scholarships.

**17. Will you vote for legislation (S-3284 (Greenstein)/ &nbsp;&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;&nbsp;  (answer type: Yes/No)**

Yes

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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)

I believe that in order for us to maintain the first-in-the-nation quality of education, we must continue to fully fund the school formula and our teacher's pensions. We must continue to invest in our students which means finding the resources necessary to complete infrastructure repairs and improvements.