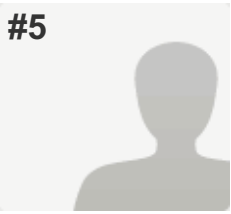


#5



COMPLETE

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Q1: Contact Information:

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Q2: Office sought: General Assembly

Q3: District: 30

Q4: A. With this situation in mind, what would you do to support and financially prioritize the public employee pension systems to restore full funding to the pension systems?

It is essential that union officials and state legislators work together to develop a plan that adequately funds the pension system moving forward. I am committed to this process and fully aware of the consequences should the parties fail to cooperate toward this end. In an effort to show my commitment to fully funding the pension systems, in June of this year, I voted in support of A4605/S3100, which would require the State to pay its pension contributions on a quarterly basis, and A4606/3107, which would contribute an additional \$300 million to the pension fund for Fiscal Year 2016.

Q5: B. Would you vote to support a law (or an amendment to the New Jersey State Constitution) to require the State to make quarterly pension payments, not end-of-fiscal year payments, to facilitate the State's practice of making pension payments?

Yes, in fact, on June 25, 2015, I voted in support of A4605/S3100 which would require the State to pay its pension contributions on a quarterly basis by August 1, November 1, February 1 and May 1 of each year.

Q6: C. Would you support legislation to raise additional revenue, if necessary, to make public employee pension payments? Would you vote to override the Governor if he vetoes such legislation?

I would vote to appropriate surplus revenue to public employee pension payments; however, I would not vote to increase taxes and fees to do so.

Q7: D. Would you vote in support of a constitutional amendment to our State Constitution to require the State to make its actuarially required contributions to public employee pensions?

Because the fiscal health of any institution is never guaranteed and situations requiring emergency funding occasionally arise, I understand that a full payment may not be possible in only the rarest of circumstances. However, I would vote in support of a constitutional amendment that would require the State to contribute a partial amount or certain percentage of a pension payment and/or designate a certain percentage of excess revenue to be dedicated to the pension fund if a surplus exists.

Q8: A. What is your position on New Jersey's commitment to the Common Core State Standards?

I have concerns about how the Common Core State Standards (CCSS) model will impact students' ability to learn, and by extension, how they will affect the productivity of educators.

Q9: B. In what areas, if any, do you see a need for change and how would you address those issues in the Legislature?

I am a co-sponsor of A3081/990/2901, which would establish the Common Core State Standards Evaluation Task Force to evaluate the implementation of the CCSS. This bill would also delay the use of assessments developed by the Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC) until the task force submits its final report. I voted in support of this bill on June 16, 2014.

Q10: A. What is your view on the role of standardized testing requirements, like the PARCC assessment, in student achievement?

I believe standardized tests play a role in determining student achievement, but that they should be used in conjunction with several other benchmarks.

Q11: B. Would you support or oppose legislation such as A-4165, which creates a state level opt out policy for parents to choose to have their children not participate in federally-mandated annual tests?

I am a co-sponsor of A4165 and I voted in support of this legislation on March 26, 2015.

Q12: C. What is your view of using annual test scores, such as PARCC test results evaluated over time to show student growth, as one possible measure in teacher and/or principal evaluation as set forth in the TEACH NJ Act?

I support using annual test scores as one of several tools that gauge student growth to determine an educator's evaluation; however, single standardized test scores should neither be a heavily weighted factor nor the only item used to assess educator performance.

Q13: D. What will you do as a state leader to provide leadership and stability to the school community on this issue this school year?

I voted in support of several pieces of legislation that address high-stakes testing and the concerns of parents and educators. A4165 would allow a parent or guardian to exclude their child from administration of certain assessments; A4190 would impose a three-year moratorium on use of assessments developed by PARCC for certain purposes; A3079 would prohibit the administration of standardized assessments in kindergarten through second grade; A3077 would require school districts and charter schools to annually provide to parents or guardians of enrolled students information on certain tests to be administered during the school year.

Q14: A. With this law scheduled to sunset in the next legislative session and as the cost of health care as a percentage of income continues to grow, what are your thoughts on the issue cost containment and health care reform?

We should continue to offer users of medical services more ways to choose health care options, which should have the effect of driving down medical costs across the board.

Q15: A. How would you address this growing funding problem in our schools and how would you prioritize school funding in the context of other budgetary challenges?

I believe in revising the school funding formula to bring greater equity to our education system. Of New Jersey's 577 school districts, 31 receive the majority of state education funds. For Fiscal Year 2016, 546 districts will split \$3.503 billion (44% of total state aid) while \$4.456 billion (56% of total state aid) is distributed among the 31 Abbott districts. The Abbott districts have enhanced inequities within the education system and demonstrate that positive results cannot be achieved solely by maintaining a school funding formula that unfairly funnels disproportionate amounts of money to under-performing school districts. By revising a fair school funding formula, non-Abbott districts would benefit by receiving precious dollars which would enable those districts to upgrade facilities and provide additional opportunities for these students.

Q16: A. Would you support the establishment and funding of a permanent New Jersey School Safety Specialist Academy under the aegis of the DOE, as a central repository for best practices, training standards, and compliance oversight in all matters regarding school safety and security?

Yes

Q17: B. Would you support and fund the designation of school safety personnel - including the placement of specially trained police officers, more commonly known as School Resource Officers, in all buildings as the report recommends?

Yes

Q18: A. Due to our current low levels of administrative spending and the real need for flexibility within the school budget, particularly in light of new evaluation requirements at every school, would you support legislative efforts to eliminate the double cap on administrative costs within the school budget while maintaining the 2% tax levy cap in the law?

I would support increasing the cap on administrative costs, but not lifting it completely; New Jersey residents and the state's economy are still recovering from the recession and cannot afford unrestricted spending habits.

Q19: A. Would you support a moratorium on the imposition of additional mandates through a requirement that all legislation impacting schools include a fiscal note detailing the expense to the state and localities of the mandate?

Yes

Q20: 9. YOUR INITIATIVE If elected, what would be your most compelling initiative in the field of public education?

I would advocate for more parity regarding the school funding formula.
