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**COMPLETE**

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PAGE 1

**Q1: Contact Information:**

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**Q2: Office sought:** State Assembly

**Q3: District:** Fourteen

**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?**

I would introduce legislation that would require the State and governor to restore full funding to the pension systems. If they failed I would establish penalties that they would have to pay into the system. I would also uphold Superior Court Judge Mary Jacobson's ruling and not allow Christie to challenge the ruling. Christie has no right to use funds that should go to the pension to balance the budget. The pension funds should be protected I feel an outside entity should be in charge of the funds so any governor can't use them for anything else.

**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?**

I would vote and support a law to require the State to make quarterly payments. End of the fiscal year payments are not being made for the State claims that it does not have the funds available, I would again make the State pay penalties if quarterly payments are not made on time. Christie can not continue to use pension funds to balance the budget.

**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 support legislation to raise additional revenue if necessary to make public employee pension payments. Corporations can pay their fair share of taxes and excess tax breaks should not be given to them. These extra taxes can be used to meet the employee pension payments. Tax breaks should be given to small business that are trying to establish themselves in our state.

**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?**

I would vote and support a constitutional amendment to our State Constitution to require the State to make its actuarially required contribution to public employee pensions. I do feel that newly hired public employees should contribute a larger share to the pension funds, however employees that were promised a certain pension by the State are entitled to that pension. Most state employees are middle class and rely on what the State promised them to be able to survive in retirement.

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

Many educators have studied Common Core State Standards. This does work for some students; however does not work for all students. I feel there should be standards developed for all kinds of students so that they all are provided the tools they need to get a good education. Students learn and progress at different levels and education should be made to meet all students needs.

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**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 feel our education system fails a lot of students. I feel teachers need to learn different methods of teaching and I would introduce new teaching methods for teachers. Students of other nations seem to be better educated than those in the US maybe we need to look at how other countries educate their children and why our students are failing.

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

I feel that standardized testing requirements can provide assessments for most students, however some students do not do well under this testing situations. I feel their should be tests developed that will help all students get a true assessment. I know federal funding is important to the schools so assessment tests need to be given, however new tests have to developed to help students. I also feel that students spend a lot of time on these tests that could be spent on learning what they really need to learn.

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**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 would support legislation that would allow parents to have their children not participate in federally-mandated annual tests for not all students do well on these test. Again I feel that if these tests are required they should be different kinds or methods of giving these tests so all students benefit from them. The parents that don't want their children to participate feel that they are not benefiting there learning. If there were tests that were more beneficial then maybe more parents would not object to their children participating in taking them.

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**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 do not feel that test results of students should be used in evaluating teachers. I feel then teachers will spend more time on teaching what is on these tests to get a good evaluation rather than giving their students a broader education. I teacher should not have to feel that they can lose their job over test scores.

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**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 feel again that students are loosing out on a broader learning experience when all the emphasize is on how good students do on tests. I feel there needs to be a new approach to teaching and learning in our students. We need to study and discover other teaching methods from other countries and find out why their children are more successful than our children .

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**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?**

I feel we need to address this to the insurance companies and find out why the cost of health care is more expensive in New Jersey than in other states and require them to charge rates here that are comparable to other states or we will not allow them to do business in our state. We also need to look into what hospitals are charging compared to other states and I would introduce legislation that would fine hospitals for over charging patients.

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**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 do agree that there is a growing funding problem in our schools and I know that we can not keep raising property taxes for we have some of the highest in the nation. I feel that again large corporations should pay their share rate of taxes. A portion of these taxes should be set aside to assist in school funding.

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**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?**

Unfortunately school safety and security has become an issue everywhere. I would support the establishment of a NJ School Safety Academy so that all teachers and students can feel safe in our schools. Having the right trained personnel can prevent a tragedy and loss of innocent life.

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**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?**

I do feel that there should be specially trained police offers in our schools and I would support the funding of these officers. All school personnel need to feel that they are safe in our schools

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**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 legislative efforts to eliminate the double cap on administrative costs within the school budget as long as the 2% tax levy cap is maintained. We can not keep raising real estate taxes for they are the highest in the country, however our schools need funds to run efficiently.

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**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?**

I would support a moratorium on additional mandates that all legislation impacting schools include a fiscal note detailing the expense to the state and localities of the mandate.

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

I feel we need to examine different teaching and learning methods so our students can get the best education possible. We may even find that new teaching methods not will only help our students learn better they also may cost less. We need to make sure that our teachers are trained in the latest and best ways to teach. We need to find out why students from other countries are better students than those in New Jersey. All children should have the opportunity for the best education possible.

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