

THE 2016 GARDEN STATE

PATHWAY TO PROSPERITY



AMERICANS FOR
PROSPERITY

NEW JERSEY

New Jersey has the potential to be a thriving economic engine again – to be attractive for young people, working families, and retirees. We have a rich history as a founding colony; a mecca for industry; and a premier real estate near the city, shore, and mountains – but it will take a new direction for our economy to recapture what makes us “Jersey Strong.”

Americans for Prosperity – New Jersey was founded ten years ago. We are a citizen-driven grassroots organization dedicated to recruiting, educating, and mobilizing activists to advance the ideals and policies that will allow every New Jerseyan to live out his or her version of the American Dream. Today, we have over 100,000 dedicated activists across the state.

THE 30,000 FOOT VIEW – WHAT WE SUPPORT

- ✓ Removing barriers to opportunity
- ✓ Preventing the bankrupting of our state
- ✓ Protecting taxpayers and their individual liberties
- ✓ Promoting policies that create the greatest well-being for all New Jerseyans

THE 10,000 FOOT VIEW – WHAT WE SUPPORT

✓ **PENSION & HEALTH BENEFITS REFORM:**

- We are working towards meaningful pension reform in the State of New Jersey.
- The pension and health benefits crisis is a \$200 billion liability for the state.
- We need to bring legislators, stakeholders, financial experts, and think tanks together to draft a realistic, sustainable plan for public workers’ pensions – which are currently out of line with the private sector.
- Without reform, both public employees and taxpayers will be left hanging out to dry; the state will not be able to afford the benefits it promised workers, and taxpayers will be faced with massive tax increases or spending cuts to other services to help close the gap on unfunded liabilities.

✓ **MAINTAINING HEALTHY INFRASTRUCTURE:**

- New Jersey spends far more per road mile than any other state in the country. The Department of Transportation needs to do more with less.
- We oppose a gas tax increase, which would hurt the working poor the most. New Jerseyans can’t afford to pay more in taxes or tolls while government refuses to tighten its belt.
- Transportation Trust Fund monies need to be fully dedicated to road and bridge repair – not expensive special interest wish-list items.

✓ **AFFORDABILITY FOR ALL NEW JERSEY RESIDENTS:**

- Reducing property taxes so that the dream of home ownership is realistically achievable for more people.
- Reducing New Jersey's overall tax burden, which is the worst in the entire country.
- Bringing New Jersey in line with other states by repealing our estate and inheritance taxes. Today, New Jersey is only one of two states to impose both of these "death taxes."
- Enacting school funding reform that protects taxpayers and allows every child the opportunity to receive the education that's right for him or her.

✓ **REDUCING MANDATES ON BUSINESS AND WORKERS:**

- Opposing a paid sick leave mandate.
- Opposing a proposal to raise the state's minimum wage to \$15 an hour.
- Reducing onerous mandates, which are crushing New Jersey small businesses and making it harder for them to grow and create more jobs.

✓ **FIGHTING CRONY CAPITALISM:**

- Closing the spigot on corporate welfare giveaways. This decade, more than \$6 billion has been pledged in corporate welfare to big business in New Jersey, yet New Jersey's business climate remains the worst state in the country.
- Reducing unnecessary occupational licensing which erects barriers to employment, especially for lower-income workers.
- Ending cronyism and promoting economic freedom. Cronyism – whether in the form of corporate welfare, burdensome licensing, or Big Labor carve-outs – costs taxpayers and unfairly tilts the playing field against small business and aspiring workers. Free-market policy, not special interests favors, will get our economy back on track.

ON THE GROUND – *WHAT WE SUPPORT*

- ✓ Building a long-term grassroots infrastructure that's bigger than any one year, candidate, or party.
- ✓ Holding our lawmakers and elected officials accountable at the state, county, and local level.
- ✓ Empowering New Jerseyans with the information, tools and skills to truly make a difference in their community and in the State Capitol.



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