



Responses from Candidates for NJ State Senate and Assembly

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Page

2	List of questions for the candidates
3	District 21: Senate Candidate Joseph Signorello (D)
5	District 25: Senator Anthony Bucco (R)
7	District 25: Senate Candidate Jeffrey Grayzel (D)
11	District 25: Assemblywoman Aura Dunn (R)
12	District 26: Senator Joseph Pennacchio (R)
13	District 27: Senator Richard J. Codey (D)
15	District 27: Senate Candidate Adam Kraemer (R)
16	District 27: Asm. John McKeon (D) and Asw. Mila Jasey (D)

We asked the candidates to answer the following questions:

1. In the past few months, we've seen a sharp rise in antisemitism in the United States. In May, in the aftermath of the 2021 Gaza War, antisemitic hate crimes more than doubled as compared to May of 2020. New Jersey has the second-largest population of Jews in the United States, and our state has experienced a fair share of antisemitic hate crimes in recent years. What will you do, if elected to the New Jersey Legislature, to protect your Jewish constituents – and all minority groups – from hate and violence? What additional efforts can the legislature take to combat antisemitism on our public university campuses?
2. One important issue for New Jerseyans, especially those living in North Jersey, is the Gateway Tunnel project. Many of us take NJ Transit on a regular basis in order to commute into New York City, and the creation of the Gateway Tunnel would be a substantial benefit. Top officials in the federal government have made a commitment to advancing this project, pending Congress's infrastructure bills. If elected to the legislature, how will you help work towards the creation of the Gateway Tunnel?
3. Although New Jersey has some of the highest vaccination rates in the country, only 56.6% of the population is vaccinated. As time has gone on, we've seen how effective the vaccine truly is, and how easy it is to get. If elected, how will you convey the importance of getting vaccinated to your constituents?
4. Being on the coast, New Jersey is even more susceptible to the effects of climate change. The New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection's 2020 report indicates that temperatures in our state will continue to rise, as will precipitation and sea levels. Our ocean is becoming more acidic, our air is becoming more polluted, and our crops are becoming harder to raise. How will you, if elected to the legislature, work towards slowing the effects of climate change? What sorts of policies do you think are necessary for protecting our environment from further decline?
5. Jewish Federations are committed to maintaining the vibrancy and continuity of our people worldwide, building meaningful bonds between our Jewish community and our partners in Israel and around the globe. Additionally, we strive to maintain a strong NJ-Israel relationship fostering cultural, economic, and educational ties with the State of Israel. Please describe how you will encourage and foster a spirit of cooperation between the State of Israel and the State of New Jersey.
6. Jewish Federations and their partner and beneficiary agencies provide programs and services for those living with the greatest economic vulnerability.
 - Please describe the efforts you will take to promote policies to reduce food insecurity and hunger.
 - What steps can the Legislature take to prevent, reduce, and end poverty throughout New Jersey?
 - Will you support efforts to safeguard and expand the Earned Income Tax Credit?

District 21: Senate Candidate Joseph Signorello (D)

1. First, we need to recognize and educate residents on the rise of antisemitism. Next, all cases of antisemitism, from students calling each other names, to physical violence, need to be addressed and handled swiftly. As Mayor, diversity, equity, and inclusion has been a priority of my administration. For the first time in the history of Roselle Park, we fully funded the diversity, equity, and inclusion committee in town.

If elected, I will work with the NJ Department of Education, NJ Department of Higher Education, and all other relevant agencies to include antisemitism education in classrooms. Finally, if there is any policy that needs changing, I will not hesitate to legislate any shortcomings. I look to be a partner with your organization and create a dialogue.

2. As Mayor of Roselle Park, there is no one more supportive of the Gateway Tunnel than me, as a matter of fact the frustration I had watching Chris Christie, and his allies pull out of the ARC Tunnel compelled me in many ways to seek this senate seat. From Roselle Park, my constituents currently need to switch trains in Newark to get to New York City. As a member of the Raritan Valley Rail Coalition, I have fought tirelessly for the last three years for the Gateway Tunnel, while my opponent Jon Bramnick stood by and watched Chris Christie kill the original project.

As Senator, the Gateway Tunnel will be one of my top priorities. To advocate for the Gateway Tunnel, I have been in contact with Pete Buttigieg, the United States Secretary of Transportation. I am friendly with Pete and have advocated for the Federal government to step up and complete this project. I personally see this daily - the opportunities missed for better connections to NY have directly made this region's life more difficult both economically and emotionally.

3. As Mayor, we have held a monthly vaccine clinic in Roselle Park. Personally, and politically, I am a strong supporter of the vaccine. Simply put, it saves lives and allows us to return to previous activities safely.

If elected, I will put forth legislation requiring vaccines of all State employees. In my view the most effective way to drive vaccination rates is to copy what has worked effectively abroad - in France for example, vaccine requirements to enter restaurants drastically improved vaccination rates. We don't need to reinvent the wheel - we need to use what has worked elsewhere.

4. I believe Phil Murphy's plan of 100% clean energy by 2050 is the correct step to slow down the effects of climate change. In NJ, we are leading the efforts, but we need to call on other states to do more. Just across the border in Pennsylvania, 10% of the energy they use

is from coal. By 2050, NJ will be carbon neutral, but the actions of other states and other countries will be warming our oceans and causing our seas to rise.

Make no mistake though - climate change is already here. In NJ, we need to fix our sewers to stop sewage overflows following a heavy rain, we need to preserve more open space to protect our wildlife, and we need to reduce plastic pollution to keep our beaches clean. Again, having lived in Europe I think we need to understand what other countries do well. Our climate, land, and location are reminiscent of the Netherlands, a swampy region of Northern Europe that is under the sea level. We need to take cues from the work they've done in terms of resiliency: renaturalize our swamps where possible, refortify and restore our beaches, and potentially look into floodgates with NYC to protect our coasts.

5. The Northeast Region of the United States in particular has a special connection to Israel that we should cherish and protect. As someone who has traveled to Israel I would love to return again as a State Senator. The State of NJ has many similarities with Israel, and I think we should partner to ensure our state, and Israel grow together economically. There's nothing that forges a bond more than getting good work done together.

I believe we need to strengthen official ties between our top universities and Israel's - more concretely it's my desire to spur job growth in the region by creating more start-up incubators with state-support. I think a fantastic place to start would be to do one of these in conjunction with a prominent Israeli University.

6. As Mayor, I have personally donated thousands of dollars through my foundation to the Roselle Park food pantry since Covid. First, as a society, we need to recognize the amount of food insecurity in our state. As one of the wealthiest states in the country, many of our residents do not realize 1.2 million NJ residents are food insecure. As Senator, I will work with nonprofits, such as Feed NJ, to conquer food insecurity through government grants and initiatives. In our state, no one should go to bed hungry. There are bills right now that NEED to move that fund neighborhood food banks and pantries. Houses of worship have taken a leading role in helping fight this issue. As a state- as a legislature we need to do more and start by passing the existing bills.

To end poverty, we need to create more good-paying jobs that meet family needs. To do that, we need to attract corporations to NJ. As Senator, I will focus on attracting technology companies and large corporations to NJ. These companies come with jobs of all kinds. As we bring these corporations to our state, we need a Hire NJ program as well.

I was happy to see the Earned Income Tax Credit expanded in the American Rescue Plan and I am hopeful the Federal government will make the expansion permanent.

District 25: Senator Anthony M. Bucco (R)

1. There is simply zero tolerance for any anti-Semitic actions, here in the State of New Jersey, or anywhere across the U.S. Any criminal actions specifically targeting people of the Jewish faith should be prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law. I've been honored to participate in numerous events within the Jewish community, including at the Rabbinical College and various synagogues in my district, to foster stronger relationships as well as speak out against these acts. In addition, I was Co-Sponsor of S1923 Aa (1R) which prohibits investment of pension and annuity funds by the State in companies that boycott Israel or Israeli businesses. Furthermore, I am the Primary Sponsor of AR160 Aca (1R) affirming the historical connection of Jewish people to Jerusalem and condemning efforts by the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization to deny Jews' historical, religious, and cultural ties to Jerusalem. I was also Co-Sponsor of SJR56 which recognized the 70th anniversary of the establishment of the State of Israel.
2. I support Gateway and understand the vital economic engine it provides for our region. Just as important is ensuring commuters are likely to have trains that run on time to get home for things like picking up children, or simply being on time for family dinner. I pledge to be a bipartisan supporter in working with New Jersey's congressional delegation to see it funded and constructed.
3. As a cancer survivor, a caregiver for my elderly mother, as well as a father and grandfather - it was an easy choice for me to get vaccinated against COVID-19. While I respect individual choices on vaccination, I do urge others to get vaccinated. Stability in our schools leads to stability in the workplace and stability for businesses that have struggled throughout the last 18 months.
4. Our climate challenges are obviously bigger than just New Jersey. With that being said, New Jersey already has one of the lowest per capita carbon emission rates of any state, driven by our electric generation sector fueled by natural gas and carbon free nuclear power. While renewable sources are good, they still only produce less than 5% of the state's electricity. They also cannot, on their own, reliably or affordably meet our 24/7 energy needs despite the massive cost borne by families and businesses to build out new generation sources and transmission infrastructure. Natural gas continues to be and should be a low carbon solution. Additionally, with nearly 60% of our state's carbon emissions coming from cars and trucks, the best way to drive down emissions in a meaningful way is through cleaner cars or electric vehicles
5. I was proud to visit Israel in 2018 with the NJ State Association of Jewish Federations and will continue to be an ardent supporter of our special relationship with the only democracy in the Middle East.

6. I will continue to advocate for the most vulnerable among us. Poverty is best reduced by providing meaningful opportunities of employment to those in need. I will continue to safeguard the Earned Income Tax Credit for low to moderate-income workers. I was Co-Sponsor of A5405 Sca (1R), which appropriated \$10 million in federal funds to the Department of Agriculture to support food bank organizations. I am also Co-Sponsor of S2908, which increases childcare provider payments and revises hourly limits on childcare for school-aged children under subsidized childcare assistance program during 2020-2021 school year.

District 25: Senate Candidate Jeffrey Grayzel (D)

1. There is NO PLACE for hatred or intolerance of any group in New Jersey – except for absolute intolerance of groups that themselves espouse and spread hate and intolerance. As one of the most diverse states in the nation, we have become proud and acutely aware of the role that diversity has played in making the state a desirable in which to locate and live. I am a big believer that we all have more in common than we do have differences, and that we have to not only respect those differences but appreciate them as well.

Whenever and however antisemitism or any other such hatred is found, it should not and cannot be tolerated. Of course, the elected leaders in the state must make it clear immediately and forcefully that hate will not be tolerated in NJ. Beyond this I believe that we must build stronger and broader coalitions that will collectively speak out against hate. This has traditionally been spoken to the broader community, but I believe the coalition members need to take it back to their individual communities to also deliver a more targeted message.

As a Jewish parent with one child in college and another in high school, I understand what our kids are up against. As for antisemitism on college campuses, we must first take action at our public universities, and in particular at Rutgers. Ignorance about others was a catalyst in NJ becoming the first state in the nation to mandate Holocaust and Genocide education in 1994. However, I think we need to reinvigorate our teaching efforts in this area. It is wonderful that diversity education is now taking hold, but I believe we need to go beyond just teaching about diversity in people but also speak of the diversity of issues facing people across the world – so that they understand the context of one situation (e.g., the plight of Palestinians) as compared to many worse situations around the world. We must also teach students (and others) that BDS is not the path to resolve Middle East issues and that BDS is a wedge that drives people apart when we should all try to come together to find a solution. I believe that teaching our college students civil discourse should be mandated.

2. There is no question that the Gateway Tunnel is needed. As a trained engineer who believes in addressing problems before they become urgent, I think it was a huge mistake to allow the ARC tunnel to be shelved by politics ten years ago. The current 100+ year old infrastructure services some 200,000 daily commuters and both personal and commercial vehicles utilize and rely upon. Not only does this infrastructure project benefit commuters from Morris and Essex counties, but these tunnels are responsible for billions of dollars in the U.S. economy.

I understand that the failure or collapse of one of the existing tunnels would be catastrophic to not only the region but to our country as our national economy would suffer a major blow, as it is estimated that 20% of the U.S. GNP comes through these “Gateway” tunnels. The current tunnels are considered the Achilles heel of the entire Northeast Rail Corridor,

Communities in my District, 25 are among those that comprise a major number of the line's users, as NJ Transit's Morris & Essex rail line provides commuter service to every town in the district, whether with rail and train stations in or adjacent to every municipality. And while the number of commuters was severely down as a result of the Covid pandemic and people working from home, I have no doubt that rail service demand will get back to, if not eventually exceed, pre-pandemic levels. If elected, I will actively engage with our State, Congressional and Senate representatives to form a coalition to ensure this infrastructure project's momentum stays on track.

3. I find it inconceivable that anyone in New Jersey without a legitimate medical reason for not being vaccinated would resist being inoculated against Covid. Just think about how many diseases have been averted and lives saved because of various vaccinations, many of which we grew up receiving without question, many of them universally required.

In Morris Township where I am Mayor, we have an extremely high vaccination rate of 85% among our 12+ population. This is in part due to the messaging they get from their elected officials and other leaders in the community. As Mayor I constantly preach to get vaccinated and to wear masks in crowded public places.

As with so many issues we face, I believe in coalition-building so that messaging can be consistent across a broader swath of those delivering the message. In the case of those resisting the COVID vaccinations I believe that we need messaging coming from a broader group to help overcome the fear or the misinformation about receiving a COVID vaccination.

4. Combatting climate change will take a worldwide effort. But the United States can be a leader in that movement, and within the US I would like NJ to be a leader. Our state has already set forth clean-energy goals, but taking actual action is what will show true leadership.

As stated previously, as an engineer I believe in solving problems before they become urgent. So as mayor of Morris Township we have been a leader in NJ in the installation of EV charging stations. Although demand is low today, we are laying the infrastructure foundation now for the demand forecasted for the future. Having the infrastructure already in place in their community will make the decision easier for my residents to buy their first electronic vehicle and move us towards that clean energy future.

As mayor I have also promoted efforts to get people out of their cars and onto their feet and bicycles, which will help reduce cars on the roads and the resultant emissions. We have installed a lot of sidewalks in our town with a focus on connecting our residents to our parks and recreation facilities. We are now planning on installing multi-use paths on certain streets to encourage more bikers.

Additionally, Morris Township invests in its infrastructure, which importantly includes constantly assessing the need for additional storm drains and installing additional drains every year to capture runoff. As a state we need to also work to offset the effects of the heavy rainfalls we have seen that causes disastrous flooding. We need to actively work to get more rainwater back into the ground for recharge versus letting it simply flow downstream. Requiring pervious asphalt to be used in certain areas and installing more rain gardens and seepage pits would help to combat this problem.

5. New Jersey has had a history of “missions” to Israel – not just Federation missions, but business development missions organized by the State’s Economic Development Authority, ChoiceNJ and the Biotechnology Council of NJ, for example, in collaboration with Israel. As a result of these collaborations, many companies, notably ones in the technology sector, have established operational sites in New Jersey.

I believe there is an opportunity to extend collaborations beyond the technology area that many are focused on. Fostering dialogues between peer groups in Israel and NJ has the opportunity of opening up so many more areas where we can help each other. These peer-to-peer connections could be groups such as educators talking to educators or law enforcement speaking to law-enforcement to name a couple.

As an engineer who believes in “best practices”, I would love for NJ infrastructure providers (e.g., energy grid utilities) to learn best practices from Israel, and vice-versa; or how about NJ Transit speaking to the operations of the extensive Israeli bus network? This exchange of ideas and best practices can benefit both Israel and New Jersey in many ways, as it would also help create broader connections between non-Jews in NJ who would get to see the sophistication of the State of Israel.

Further, I look forward to continuing the work that Senator Loretta Weinberg spearheaded by co-sponsoring S-1923, signed into law in 2016, that prohibits New Jersey pension and annuity fund investments in companies that boycott Israel or Israeli businesses. That law resulted in the State recently notifying Unilever that it will divest itself of state investments in the company. With Senator Weinberg retiring we need to ensure that there is a strong voice in the statehouse to continue her advocacy for the Jewish community and Israel.

3. (a) Efforts to promote policies to reduce food insecurity and hunger:

I believe we should identify food deserts and then collaborate with established grocery stores/chains to incentivize them to establish stores in those areas. One area that is currently getting ZERO attention in NJ is the placement of affordable housing in our communities. There are currently NO rules whatsoever and where affordable housing should be situated, and often suburban communities choose to put it at their edges or in undesirable locations that frequently have no access to food sources and public transportation. If I were elected, I would take a leading role in creating a state agency to

oversee the building of affordable housing across NJ to ensure that those in need of affordable housing also have access to the other things that sustain their lives like food, transportation, and recreation options.

(b) Prevent, reduce, and end poverty throughout NJ

This is a complicated issue that would take pages, not just sentences to explore. As I understand it, the number one reason for people going into poverty is that they lose their means of transportation (usually their car) and cannot get to work so they lose their job. Thus, investing in public transit to get people to their jobs is one way to get at this problem. Secondly, the number of children living in poverty is shocking. Many school-age kids have the opportunity to get breakfast and lunch at school, and we need to ensure that these programs get expanded more broadly and that it includes the new pre-K programs being rolled out in NJ. Additionally, we should consider adding a “grab-and-go” meal for needy kids at the end of the school day for them to take home for dinner.

(c) Efforts to safeguard and expand the Earned Income Tax Credit

The Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) and Child Tax Credit (CTC) both provide tremendous benefits. The income from these tax credits leads to benefits at virtually every stage of life from better maternal health and infant nutrition to better educational performance because of the additional income that households can invest into their families. Research also shows that children in families receiving the tax credits do better in school, are likelier to attend college, and can be expected to earn more as adults. Research indicates that these credits play a big role in sustaining single-parent households (usually single mothers) that don't have the possibility of dual-incomes to sustain the family. I believe that investing in these types of benefits pay themselves back with both reduced government-support costs later in life and increased tax revenues from the resulting entrants into our work force that will then pay income taxes.

District 25: Assemblywoman Aura Dunn (R)

1. There is simply zero tolerance for any anti-Semitic actions in the State of New Jersey. Any criminal actions specifically targeting people of the Jewish faith should be prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law.
2. I will work with the state's congressional delegation towards ensuring the creation of the Gateway Tunnel.
3. As both a resident and representative of Morris County, I am proud of the vaccination rates we have achieved, among the highest in the state. More work can always be done. As such, I will continue to promote vaccination efforts across the state. As a sitting member of the Assembly Women and Children Committee, I am pleased to work on the very policies that place public health paramount to our state's recovery and resilience to the COVID-19 global pandemic.
4. I will continue to promote the consideration of alternative energy sources such as wind, solar, and electric in the State of New Jersey.
5. I will continue to be an ardent supporter of deepening ties between the State of Israel and the State of New Jersey.
6. I will continue to advocate for the most vulnerable among us. Poverty is best reduced by providing meaningful education and employment opportunities to those in need. I will continue to safeguard the Earned Income Tax Credit for low to moderate-income workers. I am a Co-Sponsor of A4149, which directs Dept. of Agriculture to purchase agricultural food products from NJ farmers impacted by coronavirus pandemic, and distribute products to school breakfast and lunch programs and food banks; appropriate \$1 million. I was Primary Sponsor of A3840, which requires school districts to provide school meals or meal vouchers to students eligible for free and reduced-price school meals during school closures due to COVID-19 epidemic. Finally, I am also Primary Sponsor of A4746, which requires that certain provider subsidy payments for childcare services be based on enrollment, not attendance.

District 26: Senator Joseph Pennacchio (R)

1. I grew up in an era when the thought of anti-Semitic rhetoric on campuses was unheard of. In fact, just the opposite. The most effective use of the Legislature, aside from anti-bias statutes already on the books, is to use our positions in leadership to condemn any and all hate speech and actions.

2. I am supportive of the Gateway Tunnel Project which is desperately needed. Aside from funding, the years of environmental studies and red tape required no doubt add to the burden of the completion of the tunnel. I believe the Administration's Department of Environmental Protection should be encouraged to work quickly to address a speedy, thorough environmental examination and solutions to the concerns of building that project. The Legislature can be used as a catalyst to oversee those concerns.

3. As an adult at age 66, I have taken the vaccine. I would and do suggest people over 60 and those who have co-morbid issues get vaccinated. However, no medicine, especially a new one, comes without risks. As a retired dentist, my training has taught me that the reward of a drug has to be weighed against its risks. Israel's recent study showed that natural immunity acquired from a previous Covid infection is superior and more potent than two doses of the Pfizer vaccine. Certainly, this is reflective of historical immunology, yet government officials seem to discount this latest study. Finally, it is my view that ultimately a parent, not the government has the right to determine what is in the best interest of their child.

4. As a retired dentist trained in the sciences, we are taught that generally speaking it is not healthy to be exposed to "greenhouse gases" and their hydrocarbon bi-products. As a Legislator, I have championed the study of fusion energy and making New Jersey the country's leading state in its study and development. Fusion energy, unlike fission energy, is plentiful, safe and does not have radioactive issues associated with it. It is an issue we can all support regardless of party affiliation.

5. I was honored to have made the trip sponsored by MetroWest to Israel. I saw first-hand the challenges that Israel, a tiny country the size of New Jersey, faces each day. That trip coalesced my feelings and support for Israel. I am proud of my record and support of Israel.

6. We are all our brothers' and sisters' keepers. Jobs and a vibrant economy offer the best chance to evade poverty. Equally if not more important are the social issues such as a lack of education and the breakdown of the family unit. It has been said you cannot legislate on Monday what should be taught in churches and synagogues over the weekend. Finally, I have been supportive of the Earned Income Credit but not expanding it to single able-bodied men and women who can take care of themselves. The resources that are required for all these worthwhile programs are not open-ended and require our vigilance to make sure they are spent correctly and judiciously.

District 27: Senator Richard J. Codey (D)

1. I have supported legislation to combat hate crimes throughout my career and I will continue to do so. The diversity of New Jersey, and especially the 27th District, is one of our greatest strengths. One important step to stopping antisemitism as well as hate crimes targeted at other groups is to address issues of diversity and inclusion with students long before they reach college. This is one reason I sponsored legislation this session to require school districts to provide instruction on diversity and inclusion as part of the New Jersey Student Learning Standards in Comprehensive Health and Physical Education. I also recently sponsored a resolution condemning bias and hate crimes. We must have zero tolerance for these kinds of offenses.
2. I have supported this important infrastructure project since its earliest stages, and the ARC project before it, and will continue to do all I can to urge the Federal government to get it done. I will advocate for any state cooperation that is needed to accomplish this goal.
3. The vaccine is our best tool in the fight against COVID. We must urge everyone to trust the science and listen to the experts. The CDC and the NJ Department of Health are providing the guidance that we need to stay safe and protect ourselves and our communities. It is everyone's responsibility to protect each other and in doing so we will help economy rebound and get back to enjoying the things we have missed out on since the start of the pandemic.
4. I sit on the Senate Environment and Energy Committee where I get to work closely on fighting climate change and defending our environment. I'm proud to have recently supported the single-use plastics ban and environmental justice legislation, as well as supporting the work of the NJ Infrastructure Bank and park development projects. The impact of climate change is no longer a future threat, but a reality we are faced with now, and we need to act faster.
5. The 27th District has a large population representing many different denominations and movements. I have worked to build relationships and keep an open dialogue, and this has helped me to be able to better understand the concerns of these communities. I welcome future opportunities to contribute to strengthen the NJ-Israel relationship. I have traveled to Israel, and during my time as Governor, New Jersey invested in Israel bonds.

6. This session, the Legislature passed several bills that were signed into law to help fight hunger in our state, and I supported all of these. The legislature has an important role to play in fighting poverty by ensuring a living wage and providing a safety net for our most vulnerable citizens. I will continue to support Medicaid expansions, affordable housing, affordable childcare. The Earned Income Tax Credit is vital to low wage workers, and I fully support its protection and expansion.

District 27: Senate Candidate Adam Kraemer (R)

1. Any school or institution that decides to divest of Israel economically, will cause me (if elected) to run to the state senate floor to legislatively end funding of that institution by the state. Any state University that fails to protect Jews from hate will cause me to sponsor bill to end funding of that school or university by the state.
2. I think we should suspend the prevailing wage in public construction laws of New York and New Jersey and the Davis Bacon act at the national level so the Hudson rail line and other infrastructure projects can be built timely and on budget and would vote accordingly as a state senator
3. I would strongly encourage vaccinations and make vaccines widely available but don't think government should mandate what people do with regard to their own health. I would vote in the legislature accordingly.
4. I would strongly support zero greenhouse gas nuclear power and legislate accordingly
5. I would work with the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey to make sure we have as much ocean and air traffic between Northern New Jersey and Israel as is possible. I would legislatively encourage joint degree programs and study abroad with Israel and our schools in New Jersey and legislate accordingly.
6. I will legislate in a fiscally responsible way so the people and business have less tax and regulatory burdens so they will be empowered take care of themselves and feed themselves. I would use legislative powers to encourage charities that feed the needy. As for the earned income tax credit I would go for zero. If we shrink the size and scope of government, we will less need to tax so the poor will have less need for an earned income tax credit as they would pay no income tax. Any state income tax would not start on the first \$25,000 for singles and \$40,000 under legislation that would sponsor if elected.

District 27: Assemblyman John McKeon (D) and Assemblywoman Mila Jasey (D)

1. We will continue to support legislation such as A863 which requires the AG to report bias intimidation offenses to the Federal Bureau of Investigation for inclusion in annual reports on hate crime statistics. Building on the progress the clubs on campus such as Hillel groups have made will help in reducing antisemitism on campus. Student support services, particularly in the areas of mental health, should be tailored to the specific needs of students dealing with antisemitism.
2. We will continue to advocate for and communicate the importance of the Gateway Tunnel to our federal partners, especially those in the New Jersey congressional delegation. We support AR223 which urges the Biden Administration to prioritize funding for the Gateway Program.
3. We will echo the vaccine messaging from the CDC and NJ DOH. It is imperative that our constituents are aware that the vaccine protects them and those around them, along with allowing our economy to return to normal and allowing the public to eventually return to pre-pandemic ways of life.
4. We need to incentivize the production and use of green materials, electric vehicles, wind, and solar forms of energy. We also passed the single use plastic ban and enacted the Environmental Justice Law, which is the strongest in the nation. New Jersey is the most densely populated state in the nation. We have seen the ravages of climate change from Sandy to the catastrophic flooding of Ida, all of which demonstrates that climate change is an existential threat to our way of life.
5. Our legislative district has a substantial Jewish community with which we have maintained a strong relationship with over the years. This will continue to inform and guide how we approach NJ-Israel relations. It has given us unique insight into how our state should combat antisemitism, stopping misinformation, protecting Jews through modifying hate crime legislation, and preserving Jewish identity by reminding the public of the history of atrocities committed against Jews. We will also continue to embrace the strong relationship we enjoy with the CRC at MetroWest.
6. We will increase awareness about food insecurity, inform the public about food pantries, and fight the stigma associated with food assistance. We will work with organizations such as the HOPE Center to identify and reduce hunger on campus through legislation. We will not stop fighting for Medicaid expansion, increased homelessness supports and affordable housing, subsidized child care, and improved TANF aid. Yes, we will protect the EITC.