

New Jersey Governor 2025

NAACP

THE ISSUES

**JACK
CIATTARELLI**

REPUBLICAN


**MIKIE
SHERRILL**

DEMOCRAT


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ABORTION Ban or legal?	Mostly ban. Supports a 20-week ban unless the mother's health is at risk or " there's something terribly wrong with the baby. " Voted six times in the General Assembly against funding Planned Parenthood family planning services.	Legal. "I have always fought for access to abortion and comprehensive reproductive health care." Would enshrine abortion rights into the New Jersey Constitution. " Will stockpile the abortion pill, mifepristone," and strengthen NJ shield laws for reproductive health care providers.
CLIMATE CHANGE Should climate change be a top priority?	Mixed. " Will ban offshore wind farms" and "withdraw New Jersey from the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative." " Climate change is real." Wants an "all-of-the-above energy policy," including natural gas and nuclear.	Yes. " The climate crisis is real,... addressing it isn't a partisan issue." Would streamline clean energy project approvals and use state land properties for solar. Supports offshore wind. Voted for \$369 billion in clean energy investments.
CRIMINAL JUSTICE How to ensure effectiveness and fairness in law enforcement?	Supports expanding community policing and protecting qualified immunity for police, which protects officers against lawsuits. Opposes civilian review boards. Would "recruit more women and persons of color."	Would fund "smart policing strategies" and develop "trust between law enforcement and the communities that they serve." Wants "support and resources" for police officers and funding "reentry services" for people in the criminal justice system.
ECONOMY Decrease or increase government investment in the economy?	Mostly decrease. Would "reduce state spending by 30%" and "create the NJ Department of Government Efficiency (NJDOGE)." In 2021 wanted to secure "federal and state investment" and "upgrade infrastructure," and supported funding the Gateway Project.	Increase. Would invest in "New Jersey's aging roads and bridges." Has "been" a staunch advocate for the Gateway Project to build new rail tunnels under the Hudson River." Will " adopt a whole-of-government strategy to support entrepreneurs, develop our startup community." Voted for infrastructure funding .
EDUCATION Limit teaching about racism and gender identity?	Yes. Students need to be taught that "that slavery was central to the Civil War." But "we are not going to teach that white people perpetuate systemic racism." Will " reform requirements for sexual and social education to make content age-appropriate." "Will implement a true Parents' Bill of Rights." "We're going to roll back the LGBTQ curriculum. It goes too far."	Likely no. Voted against the Parents Bill of Rights Act. Suggested that while "parents have a right to opt out of a lot of things" they shouldn't opt out of teaching their children about historical contributions of LGBTQ people. In 2021 said, "Racism permeates everyday life in the United States. School segregation is at the same levels as the 1960s."
EDUCATION Priorities for pre-K and K-12 education?	Would " expand charter schools" and loosen restrictions on school choice, with a school voucher program. Would " set a statewide standard on per-pupil spending and then allow that money to follow the student." Would " coordinate the expansion of pre-K utilizing existing private day care providers."	Would offer more apprenticeships and expand job training programs. "Will work to protect funding for our public schools and students." Supports funding of "high-impact tutoring programs in K-12 schools." Would make "early childhood education, pre-K, and kindergarten affordable and available everywhere in New Jersey."

ISSUES	CIATTARELLI (R)	SHERILL (D)
ENVIRONMENT Loosen or tighten environmental regulations?	Mixed. Sponsored a bill in the General Assembly to restrict use of lawn care pesticides at child care centers and playgrounds. Voted against increased funding for hazardous waste cleanup. Would streamline hunting and fishing regulations. Would end restrictions on plastic grocery bags.	Tighten. Voted to restrict the use of toxic forever chemicals. Voted to protect and maintain public lands. Introduced a bill to incentivize brownfields cleanup and redevelopment. Voted against a 20 percent cut in EPA funding. Co-chairs the Congressional Delaware River Watershed Caucus.
GUN LAWS Loosen or tighten gun regulation?	Loosen. Supports "Second Amendment rights." Would grandfather in legally purchased guns that are later outlawed. Would "speed up" gun permitting for anyone facing "imminent danger." Voted in the General Assembly against requiring background checks. Voted to establish a statewide firearm buyback program.	Tighten. Would expand law enforcement efforts to "take illegal guns off of our streets." Would prevent legal gun purchases by "violent criminals" and enhance requirements for safe gun storage. Voted to enhance background checks. Voted to broaden federal firearm restrictions.
HEALTHCARE Increase government investment/role in healthcare?	Unclear. Would "crack down on insurers to lower costs" and "encourage new free-market health systems." Would better invest Medicaid dollars and oppose Medicare cuts. For public employees, local mayors should "get out" of the state healthcare plan and "go to a private insurer."	Likely yes. Voted against Medicaid cuts. Voted to cap the cost of insulin for seniors and cap senior drug costs. Supports " cracking down on Pharmacy Benefit Managers (PBMs) — the middlemen who inflate prescription drug prices."
HOUSING How to address New Jersey's housing shortage?	Supports a regional approach, "driving population growth to transit hubs and urban centers," with no "mandated housing construction in every municipality." Says , "the current model...is gobbling up open space" and increasing pollution.	Would convert "underutilized infrastructure and commercial buildings into housing units." Would " strengthen first-time homebuyer assistance programs." Would " crack down " on negligent and price-fixing landlords.
IMMIGRATION How to handle immigration?	Would repeal the New Jersey Sanctuary State policy and ban sanctuary cities. " Will work with the Trump administration to fix our broken immigration system." Supports a "pathway to citizenship for those who stay out of trouble, pay taxes, and learn English and American civics."	Supports "stronger border security, prosecuting those who are convicted of violent offenses and comprehensive federal reform that brings security and solutions to our broken immigration system." Voted to provide immigrants with a pathway to permanent residency, including DACA Dreamers.
LABOR Make it easier or harder for unions to organize?	Likely harder. "I am not antiunion ." Says it should be illegal for train engineers to walk off the job. Would not break promises to police unions. In 2015 voted against a prevailing wage bill and in 2014 against the "Unfair Wage Recovery Act."	Easier. " Unions played a vital role in my family reaching the middle class." "Stands up for workers' organizing and collective bargaining rights." Voted for the Protecting the Right to Organize Act, expanding labor protections.
LGBTQ RIGHTS Limit or expand LGBTQ rights?	Likely limit. Criticized a bank's announcement of a new LGBTQ bank card as reminding "us about how different we all are from each other." "I oppose discrimination in all its forms. But I also oppose extreme measures... like allowing males to play women's sports." Voted in 2012 against legalizing same-sex marriage in New Jersey.	Expand. Voted for the Equality Act, prohibiting discrimination based on sex, sexual orientation, and gender identity. Voted to put protection for same-sex and interracial marriages into federal law. Will work to protect "the LGBTQ community" in New Jersey. " Pride is a celebration of love, identity, and the ongoing fight for equality."
TAXES How to handle state taxation?	Cap property taxes to a percentage of assessed home value. Reduce the Corporation Business Tax by one percent per year for five years. Reduce income taxes for all taxpayers. Expand the senior property tax freeze. Make student loan interest tax deductible.	Expand the state-level Child Tax Credit and Earned Income Tax Credit to lower state income taxes. Have municipalities and school districts pool shared services to lower costs and property taxes. " Crack down on ultra-wealthy and corporate tax cheats...pass those savings on to working families."
VOTING RULES Make voting harder or easier?	Mostly harder. Would require all voters to show a photo ID at the polls. All vote-by-mail voters must certify their citizenship to election officials. All mail ballots must be received by Election Day. Expand number of early in-person voting sites.	Easier. Voted to increase voting access and election integrity. Voted for the John R. Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act . "The right to vote is part of the very fabric of this country." Opposed "a sweeping voter suppression law."

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