

# New Jersey Governor 2025

## THE ISSUES

**JACK  
CIATTARELLI**  
REPUBLICAN



**MIKIE  
SHERRILL**  
DEMOCRAT

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

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

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