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THE 1989
NEW JERSEY
REPUBLICAN PARTY PLATFORM

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REPUBLICAN STATE CONVENTION

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INTRODUCTION

In the past eight years, under Republican leadership, New Jersey has been transformed from a "State of Disrepair" into a "State of Renaissance."

Our environmental laws serve as models for the rest of the country. Other states strive to meet our educational standards. Business and industry are thriving and unemployment is at an all-time low.

We are clearly better off today than we were eight years ago.

As we look back with pride on the accomplishments of the past eight years, so too must we look ahead with enthusiasm for what we will achieve in the years to come.

Lower automobile insurance rates, the control of drug abuse and violent crime, preservation of open space and reduced property taxes are issues of concern to the residents of New Jersey and thus, must be a priority of our Party. We must renew efforts to protect our beaches, to enact true auto insurance reform, and to enact state mandate/state pay, measures which have previously been blocked by the Democrats.

Tom Kean's administration ended stagnation. Together Jim Courter as Governor and a Republican Majority in the Assembly will ensure that the revitalization of the Garden State is continued. The challenge ahead is to see to it that the Renaissance continues on course and that we find and adopt honest solutions for New Jersey's future.

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JOBS AND THE ECONOMY

A sound economy is the foundation of our efforts to preserve the quality of life in New Jersey and build a better future for all the state's residents.

Under Republican leadership, a true economic renaissance has occurred in New Jersey, characterized by surging employment, growing personal income, and increasing assistance for small business.

When Governor Kean became chief executive, businesses were leaving the state at an alarming rate, the unemployment rate stood at 9.3 percent (well-above the national average) and personal income in New Jersey had been growing at a slower rate than in most other states.

Today, the New Jersey economy outperforms the national economy by almost all major indicators. Business confidence has rebounded.

Unemployment recently hit a low of 3 percent, less than one third of the rate that existed at the beginning of the Republican administration, and the lowest of any industrialized state in the nation. A record 3.7 million people are now working in the state and over 750,000 jobs have been created.

New Jersey has become the Opportunity State. It has developed a diversified economy to replace its historic dependence on heavy manufacturing. Personal income in New Jersey is the second highest in the nation, growing in 1988 at a very strong 8.4 percent rate. An independent research group placed New Jersey among the top three states in investing in the "building blocks" of a strong economy.

Today, New Jersey has a strong, vital economy, but we must work to protect it. The Republican Party supports policies to attract jobs and continue a robust economy.

In recent years, the Republican administration has eliminated the onerous corporate net worth tax, encouraged the formation of new businesses by permitting corporations to carry losses forward for tax purposes, and converted the state's \$600 million unemployment insurance debt into a \$2 billion surplus. The Kean administration phased out the transfer inheritance tax that had forced senior citizens and other residents to leave the state.

The Republican Party endorses policies that help New Jersey create jobs and foster new businesses. New taxes are an added burden on New Jersey residents and on the state's economy. The Republican Party recognizes that state government must restrain growth in spending to maintain prosperity in the state. We support legislation which limits spending increases.

We support legislation to cap state spending and to keep the cost of government at a level our residents can afford. New taxes are not the solution to every governmental problem. We favor fuller consideration of private sector initiatives and improved public sector management as ways of responding to governmental fiscal problems.

The Republican Party applauds the creation of urban enterprise zones to extend opportunity to older cities, welcomes the evidence of the success of this initiative and urges its expansion into additional communities.

The internationalization of the American economy has had an important effect in New Jersey. Many traditional manufacturing jobs in the state have been destroyed by competition from low-wage countries. We must rely on knowledge-based industries to replace these jobs in the future.

Addressing the shortage of qualified job-seekers is among our greatest economic goals. We support public/private endeavors for skill enhancement programs and more rigorous skills testing to be sure that new employees have the skills to flourish in a changing economy. The Republican Party supports the work of the State Employment Commission and the Private Industry Councils.

The creation of advanced technology centers, supported by the Jobs, Science, and Technology Bond Act of 1984 and the Jobs, Education and Competitiveness Bond Act of 1988, has emphasized partnerships between business and universities in developing new technologies and formulating new manufacturing processes. With the assistance of the Commission on Science and Technology and Private sector funds, the Republican administration has created centers for Plastics Recycling, Computer Aids for Industrial Productivity, Ceramics Research, Hazardous Substance Management Research, Biotechnology, Fiber Optics, and for other state-of-the-art research areas.

Translating new technologies into new jobs can be a difficult task, however, especially for small business. Therefore, the Republican Party supports the creation of a Manufacturing Industries Study Commission to identify ways state-of-the-art technology can be adapted to improve the efficiency and productivity of the manufacturing sector.

The Republican Party is committed to keeping New Jersey, where Thomas Edison made his home, at the forefront of technology by continued support of research in emerging areas of opportunity.

The new world economy presents other challenges to New Jersey as well. Promoting the export of New Jersey products is certainly among them. The Department of Commerce and Economic Development's Division of International Trade has succeeded in helping small and middle-sized businesses expand their export markets, and it has opened New Jersey's first foreign trade

office in Tokyo. To accommodate the changes occurring in the state's economy, more effort is needed for training in foreign cultures and languages.

For too long, New Jersey had failed to promote its attractiveness as a tourist destination. With a small but vigorous campaign, New Jersey has boosted tourist revenues. Atlantic City remains the nation's most popular vacation destination, and newly-restored express rail service from Philadelphia should help the city retain its position. The new Office of Business Tourism has worked effectively with local business leaders to establish Convention Visitor Bureaus.

The Republican Party reaffirms its commitment to the development of New Jersey's waterfronts along the Hudson and Delaware Rivers and at the Raritan Bay. During the Republican years, the extraordinary opportunities in these areas have begun to be realized and eyesores have begun to be transformed into exciting places to live and work. Such efforts will continue under our leadership.

The Republican Party is committed to eliminating duplicative, unnecessary and unduly burdensome rules and regulations and supports the efforts of Governor Kean's Study Commission on Regulatory Efficiency to minimize government red tape. We will devise a more responsible regulatory system and develop rule-making procedures that ensure bureaucratic regulations accurately reflect legislative intent.

The Republican Party recognizes that an efficient transportation system, first-rate educational institutions, and an appealing quality of life are necessary for the preservation of a vibrant economy.

The Republican Party continues to believe that private enterprise is not a predatory beast to be shot, but rather, as Winston Churchill noted, "the sturdy horse that pulls the cart of democracy."

Creating jobs and maintaining a sound economy will continue to be fundamental operating principles of the Republican Party.

New challenges will arise, but the record of Republican success in the 1980s makes us confident in facing the 1990s.

CRIME

At the beginning of Governor Kean's first term, Republicans made a commitment to transform New Jersey into one of the safest states for law-abiding citizens and one of the most intolerant of criminals. We are well on our way to accomplishing our goal, but our efforts must not slacken.

Thanks to the outstanding efforts of our law enforcement officials and strong new sentencing laws, we have reduced crime by locking up more criminals than ever before. We have doubled our prison space and will continue to expand our capacity as needed.

No discussion of crime can be complete without addressing the drug menace which plagues our society, as it is estimated that nearly 60 percent of all reported crimes are drug-related.

Republicans have led the fight to enact some of the most comprehensive, stringent laws in the nation to combat drug abuse. Drug dealers have received a clear message -- they are not welcome in New Jersey.

The Comprehensive Drug Reform Act of 1987 incorporated some of the toughest penalties ever enacted. Sentences for those who would produce or peddle the poison which has invaded our homes and our neighborhoods can range from a minimum of 10 years to life in prison.

Almost as important as incarceration is hitting the offender in the wallet. Each sentence includes a fine which is calculated as a multiple of the street value of the drug being sold or produced.

Republican leadership created the now familiar drug free school zones. The law provides for a minimum, mandatory prison sentence -- without parole or probation -- for those caught selling drugs within 1000 feet of a school.

The new laws are complemented by the Attorney General's Statewide Action Plan, which directs law enforcement agencies and officers to make the enforcement of drug laws their number one priority.

Despite the successes, we recognize that more must be done to wage an aggressive campaign against crime and drugs.

The Republican Party supports the repeal of laws which provide for a "presumption of non-incarceration" for low-level drug dealers. We believe that this sends the wrong message to criminals, implying that selling drugs is acceptable as long as they only do it once and as long as they don't sell too much. We believe that no one should be able to peddle drugs -- ever -- without fear of incarceration.

We also believe that judges should be given the option of denying bail to repeat offenders who are likely to continue to commit crimes while out on bail.

The cost of substance abuse to New Jersey taxpayers is approximately \$1.5 billion each year, which is why the Republican Party supports using criminals' assets to pay for the damage caused by crime. We believe that there should be one across-the-

board forfeiture statute to allow the proceeds from any crime to be taken by the state.

Republicans' "get tough" approach to all crime led to the passage and successful implementation of the toughest drunk driving laws in the nation. We are deeply committed to continued vigilant enforcement of these laws, because the record proves that these laws save lives.

Under Republican leadership, we've provided law enforcement officers with state-of-the-art, technologically superior tools to beef up their arsenal for the war on crime they wage daily.

And Governor Kean signed a law ensuring that anyone who commits a felony while armed will be subject to a mandatory prison sentence.

This Republican administration has also taken steps to address the issue of juvenile delinquency by strengthening the Juvenile Offenders programs. Young people who aspire to a life of crime must be sent a clear message that criminal behavior will not be tolerated, but must also be given the opportunity to change the direction of their lives. Republican leadership has demonstrated our commitment to reducing the number of adult offenders by helping juvenile offenders along the road to productive lives.

Our Party's nominee has pledged to nominate judges who will be jurists, not legislators -- judges who will interpret law, not rewrite it.

In 1982, Governor Tom Kean signed the re-enactment of New Jersey's death penalty law. We believe that the residents of New Jersey support capital punishment as a deterrent and share our contention that there are some crimes so heinous that death is a warranted and appropriate punishment.

However, despite public support for capital punishment, the state Supreme Court has reversed every death sentence a jury has imposed on a convicted murderer, citing technical and procedural reasons in each case.

Judicial activism has turned a well-thought-out statute, the passage of which was mandated by the public, into nothing more than a paper tiger.

We will seek a constitutional amendment to close a loophole in the capital punishment law to allow the death penalty to be imposed when the defendant demonstrates reckless disregard for life and causes death during the commission of another crime.

We also support further statutory revisions so that those accomplices who are deeply involved in a killing will also be eligible for the death penalty.

We will expand the list of so-called aggravating factors to include drug-related murders and a defendant's history of serious violent offenses, in determining sentencing.

The Republican Party believes that a single juror should not be permitted to prevent the imposition of the death penalty.

We will seek to revise the exclusionary rule. We believe that there should be an exception which allows evidence seized in good faith to be used in prosecuting an offender. There is no compelling reason to compromise the case of a prosecutor who is relying upon evidence seized by police who believed in good faith that the seizure was made in conformity with the provisions of the Constitution. Without a change in the exclusionary rule, we will continue to allow violent criminals to return to the streets because of technicalities.

The Republican Party pledges to be unyielding in our efforts to combat crime and drugs. The Republican Party has taken up arms in the war on crime and drugs. We believe that our party is best equipped to continue that fight.

ENVIRONMENT

There is probably no issue that is as important to New Jersey's future as the protection of its environment. We all have a stake in a clean, healthy environment. The quality of life for state residents, the future of the tourist and fishery industries, and the preservation of the natural ecology all depend on sound environmental policies.

The challenges of conserving and protecting the environment in New Jersey are great. Our seven and one half million residents inhabit the nation's fifth smallest state. We are also the country's most densely-populated state and a highly industrialized one.

The issues we face are numerous and complex. They cross state and even national boundaries. Thus, it is critical that we encourage sensible research, innovative technology, diligent administration, and the cultivation of the cooperative political will that is needed to move ahead.

Despite these challenges, the reasons for our pride in the accomplishments of the Kean years are clear. In the 1970s, New Jersey was portrayed in the media as an environmental nightmare. But, last year, a national newspaper wrote that New Jersey was "teaching the nation" how to move forward with environmental protection. Our environmental laws are widely recognized as being the toughest in the country.

We pledge to continue our tradition of aggressive approaches

to building a better environment.

The ocean, beaches, and coastal areas are among New Jersey's most valuable and most fragile natural resources. The Republican Party believes that they must be protected and nurtured.

The achievements under Republican leadership in protecting the shore are spectacular. In the 1970s more than 150 New Jersey communities dumped sewage sludge into the ocean. Today, no sludge is dumped at the "Dead Sea" site 12 miles off the coast. In July, 1988, Governor Kean signed the Ocean Dumping Ban Act that will end all sludge dumping by New Jersey sewerage authorities by March, 1991.

We oppose proposals to allow New York jurisdictions to violate the 1991 federal ban on sludge dumping. We will fight for enforcement of the 1987 consent order limiting use of the Fresh Kills Landfill on Staten Island.

During these years of Republican leadership, industrial dumping off the New Jersey shore has also come to an end, and all municipal wastewater treatment facilities along the coast have begun to operate at secondary treatment levels. The monitoring of treatment plants has been stepped up, and the state program for pre-treatment of industrial sewage has been accelerated.

In August, 1988, Governor Kean and Governor Cuomo signed emergency rules for tracking the medical waste that despoiled our shoreline, and these rules later became a model for the federal government's medical waste tracking program.

Programs to deal with street refuse, storm sewers, and beach litter have been put in place and the experimental Operation Clean Shores, using prison inmates to pick up shore debris, has been successful.

The Republican Party believes that illegal ocean polluters should receive criminal penalties. To catch midnight dumpers and other modern-day outlaws, funding for the state's marine police has been substantially increased, and the state has urged Congress to increase the surveillance activities of the Coast Guard.

In addition, the Republican Party favors strong action to deal with beach erosion and with contaminated dredge spoils.

Most beach closings in recent years have been caused by contaminants carried into our bays and ocean by stormwater. We will combat the damage done to the coast by combined sewage overflows and stormwater runoffs.

Overdevelopment along the shore endangers the features of the coast that residents and visitors find so attractive. We support the establishment of a coastal commission which would protect the quality of life along the shore and preserve a strong

The Republican Party also supports a program of fisheries development to enhance the potential of the billion-dollar recreational and commercial fishing industry. The Kean Administration has made excellent progress in laying the groundwork for such a plan, and the time has come to expand this effort.

The consequences of inaction on our coastal problems will be severe. Our beaches and shorefronts are too valuable a resource to be placed in jeopardy.

The Republican Party has been in the forefront of the drive to preserve open space and natural resources from the time of President Theodore Roosevelt to the era of Governor Tom Kean.

Under Republican administrations in Trenton and Washington, New Jersey has been transformed from a declining "Rust Belt" state into a burgeoning "High-Tech" center. The benefits of the state's economic resurgence are plentiful but along with the benefits have come challenges, one of which is to preserve open space.

The demand for outdoor recreation to be supplied by existing open space has increased. Hiking, canoeing, camping, horseback riding, swimming, hunting, and fishing have placed burdens on available open space that are now difficult to meet.

The Republican Party strongly supports vigorous efforts to preserve our remaining natural areas. New Jersey's identity as the Garden State is a legacy that must be preserved for the future.

The Kean years saw the approval of open space bond issues in 1983 and 1987. The Green Trust Loan Fund has made open space more accessible to a full range of the state's communities and allowed the state government to stretch scarce dollars even further.

Thanks to Republican efforts, the state public parklands and open space holdings have increased by 87,000 acres. We must not stop now. There are still hundreds of thousands of acres that need to be protected.

We proudly support the Republican sponsored \$300 million Open Space Bond Issue. Some of these funds will be used to preserve precious farmland by purchasing easements and by creating a Transfer of Development Rights bank.

Republicans are committed to supporting and encouraging counties and municipalities in developing their own open space initiatives. To celebrate our unique urban heritage, our cities must also be supported in their efforts to create parks and recreation facilities.

We should complete an inventory of state land holdings so that government and the public can be sure that existing open spaces are managed most effectively. We will encourage creation and activities of community land trusts as well as the private groups of concerned citizens that have banded together throughout the state to save environmentally sensitive and historic sites.

The preservation of natural resources has been and will continue to be among Republicans' highest priorities. This task must be directed by the most talented people in government who will be given the status their mission deserves and should be afforded a stable and consistent source of funding so that they can engage in long term strategic planning.

We believe that this issue is of critical importance. Therefore, we support the establishment of a Natural Resources Trust Fund which will provide a stable source of funding environment preservation projects. The trust fund will be used for open space acquisition, shore protection projects, dredging, flood management, restoration and rehabilitation of state parks, forests, and historic sites, lake cleanup and maintenance, and dam restoration.

Half the population of New Jersey depends on ground water sources for its drinking water. New Jersey has adopted some of the toughest standards in the country for safe drinking water, but the demands on ground water aquifers are likely to grow.

In August 1988, Governor Kean signed legislation creating the Water Supply Replacement Trust Fund to help towns replace contaminated wells with safe, new systems. We call for vigorous action to implement the Wellhead Protection Program and to safeguard the purity of water supplies.

During the Kean years, the enactment of a Wastewater Trust and a Wastewater Treatment Bond Act and the construction of several major interconnections and improved pumping stations helped the state meet today's challenges and prepare for the future.

Last year the DEP entered into more than 120 agreements with towns and treatment authorities to bring their plants into compliance with tougher federal standards. As a result, construction will begin on \$1.4 billion of improvements over the next three years.

The Republican Party supports a continued program to construct the water supply and wastewater treatment facilities necessary to protect the state's future and calls for the full funding of the federal Construction Grants Program and the State Revolving Loan Fund Program to help finance these projects.

The Republican Party is deeply concerned about the problem of air pollution. New Jersey is a downwind state that is

adversely affected by pollutants that are transported from other states. We also call upon Congress to act to curb out-of-state emissions before the damage to New Jersey becomes irreversible.

We support the DEP decision to require refiners to meet stricter standards for the volatility of gasoline sold during summer months. Republican leadership implemented this change to reduce the amount of petroleum fumes which escape into the environment.

Republican leadership has also imposed stringent standards for toxic emissions from certain industries.

Republican leadership will continue to lead the fight against excessive aircraft noise to restore a peaceful quality of life to our communities.

Republican sponsored legislation created New Jersey's pioneering program to remove cancer causing natural radon pollution in private homes and public buildings. A national environmental group has called this program the best in the country.

We believe that the era of New Jersey's being permitted to discard its solid waste out of state will soon come to an end. Already counties have been required to develop long-term plans for disposing of their wastes.

Recycling has begun with a goal of reducing the waste stream by twenty-five percent. Plastics will be the next great recycling frontier and will be part of the state's program for dealing with solid wastes. Efforts should be undertaken to encourage new markets and new uses for recyclables. The state should lead efforts to use recyclable materials.

Further exploration of new technologies must be encouraged to help the state deal with the solid waste problem. Alternatives to incineration of solid wastes must be explored and innovations in the biodegradability of packaging materials should be examined.

We recognize that the mountains of trash, however, cannot wait for new technologies. Therefore, state government should encourage and support county initiatives for regional approaches to source reduction, waste minimization, recycling, resource recovery, and safe landfills to deal with the solid waste issue while new technologies are being developed. We support efforts to educate and inform citizens about the dimensions of waste disposal programs and the facts concerning disposal alternatives.

We have learned that hazardous waste disposal in the 1970s often amounted to storing materials in metal drums that later leaked, or outright dumping of wastes that seeped into the streams and aquifers that supply our drinking water.

Last year, under Republican leadership, New Jersey did more to clean up toxic wastes than ever before. The state took more major actions, executed more consent orders and records of decision, and committed more funds to the cleanup and removal of toxic waste than in all previous years combined.

Last year, New Jersey received 48 percent of the dollars in the Superfund budget for the entire United States. The Krysowaty Superfund site in Somerset County was the first site to be completely cleaned up in New Jersey under Congressman Jim Courter's leadership.

Nine of the top ten Superfund sites in the state will be in the cleanup or construction phase by the end of 1989, and, by that date, twenty-seven of the top fifty sites will be in the active cleanup stage. At all sites, imminent public hazards were taken care of immediately.

The pace of the cleanup should accelerate in the years ahead. Over five years, a total of \$1.6 billion in state and federal funds and fines from polluters should be available to clean up approximately 229 hazardous sites in the state.

While cleanup of old Superfund sites is important, it is even more critical that we prevent new hazardous waste sites from being created. New Jersey's ECRA law, that won the Council of State Governments Innovation Award, prevents companies from selling property before hazardous wastes are cleaned up. This law has already resulted in the cleanup of approximately eighty sites in New Jersey, with cleanups now under way at another 200 sites.

The Republican Party believes that toxic waste reduction at its source is a sensible approach to our hazardous waste crisis. Waste reduction programs can be a way for companies to improve profitability and competitiveness.

We pledge to work with responsible environmental and business groups to deepen understanding of waste minimization processes and to define areas where state action can help reduce the generation of hazardous wastes.

Waste reduction, no matter how successful, cannot eliminate all wastes. We support the work of the Hazardous Waste Siting Commission to find the most scientifically appropriate sites for the disposal of wastes and endorse strong local participation from affected communities to help assure that HWSC's decisions are sound.

We support the aggressive enforcement of our pollution laws. Parties that have flagrantly and repeatedly disregarded the public welfare by violating these laws should not be shielded from criminal prosecution. We support bills which impose stiff criminal and civil penalties on these offenders.

We also support the revitalization of citizen environmental commissions that have been created in cities and towns across the state. These groups can play a critical role in protecting the state's natural resources from further degradation and destruction, and they warrant further training and assistance.

The goal of the Republican Party is to make New Jersey the cleanest, safest state in the nation. We are proud of the progress made under Republican leadership to work toward this goal.

INSURANCE

The Republican Party recognizes that minor adjustments in New Jersey's auto insurance system are not sufficient to lower rates for drivers. Therefore, we pledge to completely overhaul the system.

Our party will restore competition to the auto insurance market, for we believe that without competition, the free market stagnates and consumers are the victims. New Jersey's insurance system offers clear and compelling evidence of that fact.

We advocate an insurance system that prohibits legalized price fixing. And we will create an atmosphere conducive to aggressive competition.

We believe that competition is the most effective regulator of prices. But the absence of competition combined with state's legal obligation to set rates has led to exorbitant premiums.

In effect, this arrangement has guaranteed profits for insurance companies -- many of which are guilty of inefficient and sloppy business practices at the consumer's expense.

The system also has eliminated consumers' ability to choose among competing proposals from different insurance companies. Our plan will enable consumers to choose the coverage they need to satisfy their individual situation. It will give them the opportunity to limit their costs while maximizing their coverage.

And in those cases in which the state must take action, such action will be done carefully and in the interest of consumer protection.

The Republican Party also pledges to eliminate the exemption from state anti-trust laws now enjoyed by insurance companies.

We will continue to work for the adoption of a strong verbal-threshold in New Jersey. While Assembly Republicans have voted on four separate occasions to buck the special interests and have passed strong Michigan-style, mandatory verbal threshold, the Democrats who are in control of the Senate have

caved in to the trial lawyers lobby and have refused to pass such reform.

Under our plan, an accident victim will be fully compensated, in a timely fashion, for medical bills, loss of income and other costs. At the same time, the right to sue for pain and suffering will be preserved when there is serious physical injury or a death occurs. It is a plan that has worked in other states. We believe it can work for New Jersey, as well.

The Joint Underwriting Association (JUA) has failed us. It was never intended to insure half of the state's drivers. The JUA has a deficit of \$3 billion and there is no end in sight. We pledge to eliminate the JUA and to replace it with a financially self-sustaining facility for the residual market.

We will end the practice of forcing good drivers to subsidize the transgressions of bad drivers. We will eliminate the surcharges called the Residual Market Equalization Charges (RMEC's) which last year averaged \$152 per driver. We will eliminate the \$70 policy constant which is paid by all drivers, including senior citizens, in addition to the RMEC. And we will recoup every cent which was wrongfully collected from the JUA by insurance companies because of slipshod execution of their JUA contracts.

We pledge to crack down on the growing problem of uninsured drivers. We pledge to implement a program to confiscate the car of any person who flouts the law by failure to carry the necessary insurance.

New Jersey drivers are tired of having their wallets raided each time they receive an insurance bill. The Republican Party will continue its efforts to lower insurance rates by forcing insurance companies to compete for New Jersey's business in the true spirit of the free market.

EDUCATION

The Republican Party affirms its historic belief that education is one of the most important investments the state can make.

Our systems of education and higher education must help all our citizens reach their potential. Our sense of social equity, our commitment to enriching the lives of individuals and communities, and the future of the state's economy demand it.

No governor in the state's history, and few governors in the nation's history, have demonstrated as much concern for improving education as Governor Tom Kean.

When this Republican administration began, the state's

education system was demoralized and on a downward spiral. Our state was at risk.

Today, educators from other states and other countries look to New Jersey for answers to their education problems. The United States Secretary of Education has said that New Jersey has "one of the most impressive and comprehensive education reform programs in the country."

We have soundly defeated the philosophy that if you raise educational standards, you will only increase the number of student failures. We have demonstrated that when you raise the standard rationally and deliberately, and provide appropriate instruction effectively, student achievement will improve.

By setting higher standards, we have turned the corner from educational decay to educational progress.

While scores on standardized tests have fallen or remained constant in some other states in recent years, Scholastic Aptitude Test scores in New Jersey have risen 25 points. The decade of decline has come to an end.

The state's inadequate Minimum Basic Skills test from the Democratic years has been replaced by a more challenging evaluation that demands analytic reasoning and writing ability. A more rigorous version of the test will soon be instituted in the eleventh grade. It will provide a more appropriate measure of the skills students need to graduate.

Dropout programs and initiatives to reduce student disruption will continue to have our backing. We also support school programs on substance abuse and recognize the need to emphasize common values in education.

No program for improving education can succeed without excellent teachers. Under Governor Tom Kean, the honor, integrity and excellence of the teaching profession have been given more recognition in New Jersey.

One study concluded that in 1982 half of New Jersey's teachers were planning to leave the classroom. A recent Carnegie Foundation Study reported that only 6 percent of New Jersey teachers were planning to leave the profession. Furthermore, 56 percent of New Jersey teachers now believe that they receive "strong support" from their state government, compared to only 37 percent nationally.

Teacher training programs in the state have been refocused on substantive matters. Through the establishment of the Alternate Route to teacher certification, the profession has been opened to qualified persons with a variety of backgrounds and experiences who cannot pursue teacher certification by the traditional curriculum. The practice of emergency certification that allowed thousands of persons without appropriate

qualifications to teach in our schools has been essentially ended.

Standards for new teachers have been raised, and all new teachers are now required to take the National Teacher Examinations. In 1988, New Jersey teachers had scores above the national average on all test categories. The Governor's Teaching Scholars Program has attracted outstanding high school seniors from all over the state to the profession through a loan forgiveness program.

Under the Republican Administration, the Department of Education has improved the services it provides school districts.

It has replaced a mindlessly-bureaucratic monitoring program based on an annual review of more than 300 items with a university-like five year cycle of monitoring that emphasizes 43 indicators that are relevant to educational success.

During the Republican years, funding for compensatory education, special education, and bilingual programs have all increased at more than twice the rate of inflation. The Republican Party continues to support programs to provide maximum opportunity for all students.

Some evidence of improvement in urban schools is appearing. The proportion of urban children passing state tests has increased 30 percent since 1986. In 1989, 94 percent of urban ninth graders passed the reading test, 75 percent passed the math test and 85 percent passed the writing test.

Still, too many of New Jersey's children are threatened every day by the environment in which they live, an environment of drug abuse, violence in the streets and in the home. We believe that Governor Kean's initiative to encourage voluntary instruction of values, morals and ethics in schools will enable many of our children to learn to distinguish right from wrong and to find the self-esteem, independence, and respect for others so necessary for a healthy, optimistic, and self-reliant adulthood.

Home rule in education is an important principle. Its absence can undermine the effectiveness of community schools.

On extraordinary occasions, however, school districts may fail to meet their constitutional obligations to children. The Republican Party supports the School Intervention Program and backs the state takeover of a local school district when all other measures have failed to provide adequate education. Patronage and mismanagement must not be allowed to destroy educational opportunity for students.

We are proud that public schools in New Jersey have improved during difficult times. We still have a long distance to travel, however. Programs to expand choice in education come in various forms. The Republican Party supports the Kean Administration in

[You are Viewing an Archived Copy from the New Jersey State Library](#) of the expanding choice and endorses a careful evaluation of the consequences of the initial steps.

Republican leadership has challenged New Jersey colleges and universities to strive for excellence. The approval of the 1988 Jobs, Education, and Competitiveness Bond Act by a resounding margin symbolizes the advances that state institutions of higher education have made during the Republican years. A panel of national experts has recently reported that higher education in New Jersey today is stronger than ever before.

Governor Kean has also signed legislation strengthening New Jersey colleges by making them more autonomous. Private support for higher education in New Jersey has also played an indispensable role in helping build a bright future for students and the state.

The Republican Party believes that efforts to improve education must be expanded.

Our commitment to further improvements in educational quality is matched by our continuing concerns about access and equity. As we strive to improve education for all New Jersey students, we pledge that the process of reform will never be permitted to damage our public education systems. More than anything, they will provide our path to the future.

CITIES

The Republican Party believes that New Jersey's cities harbor a remarkable creative energy which, if properly channeled, will lead to the revitalization of all of our urban areas.

Governor Tom Kean has launched a series of innovative new programs to set our cities on the course toward economic rebirth. We fully support the unique efforts of the Economic Development Agency, Local Development Finance Fund and Urban Redevelopment Corporation and we are committed to their expansion.

The Urban Enterprise Zones project alone has spurred remarkable growth. The ten different areas which have been earmarked for redevelopment have generated 16,000 jobs and \$1.5 billion in private investment.

A Republican administration will seek to expand the number of enterprise zone cities and we will explore additional tax incentives to attract jobs and development to blighted areas.

Republican leadership launched successful pilot programs to train public housing tenants to manage their own housing projects. It is a plan which has made public housing livable and safe. We will expand these programs to other parts of the state.

Under the auspices of the Urban Development Corporation, special energy has been devoted to creating several for-profit Neighborhood Development Corporations, as well as, numerous small business incubators, where new small businesses are nurtured. These programs encourage local participation in neighborhood revitalization.

We join Governor Kean in celebrating the success of these innovative programs and vow that we will continue to search for new, exciting solutions to these old problems which have cost New Jerseyans so much, not only in monetary terms, but also in morale and self-esteem.

Therefore, in addition to the continuation of these enormously successful programs, we propose to extend the lessons and concepts of the Urban Enterprise Zones to the problem of housing -- to create Urban Housing Zones.

Republicans will seek to enact tax incentives and regulatory relief to expand the supply of affordable housing in our urban communities. We believe that an abundant supply of residential units will inevitably lead to a proliferation of stable, thriving neighborhoods.

Republicans will also establish storefront centers where urban residents can go to learn about starting and running a business in their own communities.

We will work to place the power for urban rejuvenation into the hands of those with the most at stake in the success of such projects -- the very people who live, work and play in our cities.

We believe that those who call our cities "home" possess unique ability to improve their communities, if we give them the tools to do so. We pledge to build upon the Kean administration's outstanding record of urban revitalization.

HOUSING AND DEVELOPMENT

The success of New Jersey's job creation policies has produced both opportunities and challenges for state residents. Republicans believe that all state residents deserve decent housing and sensible growth policies. Republicans have proposed several initiatives aimed at fostering public/private partnerships and providing incentives for the construction of more affordable housing.

In 1986, Governor Kean signed the State Planning Act. Towns sometimes make development decisions that affect adjacent communities. The State Planning Commission is to devise a plan for New Jersey's future that will help towns make rational

choices about their own patterns of development within a regional context.

The preliminary state plan is now undergoing a process of cross-acceptance with the counties and municipalities that will enable them to identify their own growth areas and propose changes in the State Planning Commission draft.

Republicans believe that all communities in the state should have a full and effective opportunity to participate in the process of cross-acceptance. Necessary support from the state should be available to local governments to help meet the costs of preparing meaningful comments on the preliminary state plan.

The Republican Party also believes that the economic implications of the state plan must be intelligently reviewed before adoption by the State Planning Commission. It supports efforts to guarantee that the necessary economic analyses are undertaken.

The Fair Housing Act was signed by Governor Kean in 1985 and is a step on the path of providing affordable housing for all state residents. It ends the intrusive involvement of the courts in local housing and zoning decisions.

The Fair Housing Act permits communities to work together in meeting housing goals, and allows for adjustments in the number of affordable housing units in each municipality based on the development pattern in the community.

Republicans will continue to work toward the goal of providing decent housing while maintaining the character of our communities.

We will strive to increase the availability of affordable housing through sound planning that acknowledges both the long-and short-term effects of growth on municipal services and the environment. We must cut the unnecessary costs of red tape and reduce the inefficient regulation that add to the high cost of construction.

Republicans welcome the efforts of nonprofit organizations which have entered the housing field to provide housing for senior citizens, the disabled, and low-income groups. We support the ambitious actions of Department of Community Affairs (DCA) to provide technical and financial assistance to these groups and the programs of the Housing and Mortgage Finance Agency (HMFA) which have enabled many New Jersey citizens to purchase homes at low interest rates.

The Republican Party shares the dream of making home ownership possible for every citizen of the state who wants it.

Nowhere are the problems of housing more apparent than among the homeless. The Republican Party is proud of the record of the

Kean Administration in developing a state plan for the shelter and non-shelter needs of the homeless. We endorse the plan to do away with squalid welfare hotels and shift to transitional housing for the homeless. We urge greater coordination among government agencies in responding to the problems of homelessness and in developing initiatives to allow the homeless to regain their independence.

Republicans support innovative and balanced programs to respond to the complex issues of housing and development. Without such programs, we will endanger the quality of life that has allowed us to develop pride in New Jersey during the last eight years.

HUMAN SERVICES

The Republican Party knows that the state has an obligation to help those who are in need. We believe that the best way to do that is to help people to help themselves.

Republicans initiated numerous programs that demonstrate our commitment to the most vulnerable members of our society, for we believe in policies that foster prosperity for all. But we believe that prosperity alone is not enough. We must have compassion, as well. We will continue the Republican ethic of compassion and prosperity.

During the eight short years Republicans held the reins here in New Jersey the welfare rolls were halved. But Republican leadership achieved more than just a decrease in sheer numbers. Where earlier Democratic "solutions" to the problem of welfare dependency were simply to throw more money, time, bureaucrats and bad regulation into a broken down system, Governor Kean set about revamping the welfare system with Realizing Economic Achievement (REACH). REACH breaks the poverty cycle by permitting those on welfare to become self sufficient, taxpaying members of society -- to take their futures into their own hands.

Another group of individuals who deserve our care and concern are the mentally ill and developmentally disabled. We support Governor Kean's bond act for capital improvements to New Jersey's mental health facilities and encourage New Jersey's voters to pass this measure which is crucial to the maintenance of state mental health facilities. We also endorse the Kean administration's efforts toward emphasizing community-based mental health care as an alternative to institutionalization where possible.

With Republicans in the driver's seat, services for the physically and mentally disabled have been enhanced. We support increased emphasis on home care and are especially pleased to offer our continued support for the Personal Attendant Services program which allows the disabled access to aides who can offer

help with day-to-day necessities. In concert with that effort, the Republican Party pledges to encourage both public and private entities to ensure that the disabled have access to public and quasi-public buildings.

This year, Republican efforts led to the formation of a commission to implement a state-wide 9-1-1 emergency response system, so that people anywhere in New Jersey will soon be able simply dial three numbers and get the help they need. Emergency ambulance and fire response will be made that much more effective.

Republicans believe that the key to caring for our most vulnerable citizens is by ensuring that funding actually reaches its targeted destination. Administratively top-heavy departments and bureaucracies consume too much of the resources intended for the needy.

We, therefore, pledge to streamline all departments, bureaus and agencies to ensure that services do not suffer because of bloated Trenton payrolls. In addition, we believe that there is a need to review the planning and policies of the myriad divisions, bureaus and agencies to do away with duplication of efforts in administration.

We propose to ensure greater communication and cooperation among and between all state departments related to social services whose jurisdictions overlap. We also will explore initiatives to involve recipients and direct providers of services in policy planning, for it is they who can best articulate the particular needs of each constituency.

The health and welfare of New Jerseyans, especially those most dependent on the sensitivity of others, has been a top priority for the Kean Administration and our Republican legislators. They will continue to be our priority in the years to come.

TRANSPORTATION

Governor Kean inherited a transportation system that was in shambles. Many roads were riddled with potholes or were left unfinished. Our mass transportation system was grossly inefficient. In addition, available funds from the federal government to make repairs and improvements were not properly obtained by the previous administration.

In only eight short years, thanks to Republican leadership, the Transportation Trust Fund has been established, missing highway links have been constructed, freeways have been extended, the state mass transit network has been rebuilt and the number of construction-related jobs is at an all time high.

Monies derived through the Transportation Trust Fund must not only be measured in terms of transit improvements using New Jersey monies, but also in terms of the amount of federal transportation dollars they generate. Since 1981, our share of federal funds targeted for New Jersey highway improvements has more than doubled.

With the 1988 renewal of the Transportation Trust Fund, Republican leadership has guaranteed that \$5.7 billion in state and federal funds will be available for use in improving New Jersey's roads over the next few years. We call on the Senate Democratic leadership to join with Assembly Republicans in passing legislation to constitutionally dedicate the existing tax revenue which supports the Trust Fund, thereby ensuring that none of that revenue is siphoned off for use in other areas.

The Republican Party applauds the transportation improvements made by the Kean administration, and recognizes that we must continue to expand on those achievements.

We believe that the private sector can benefit by playing a major role in easing the commute for its workers. We propose to provide inducements for commuters and private industry to encourage programs that coordinate car pooling and ride sharing among local businesses.

Staggered work hours and company sponsored Park and Ride facilities are two examples of ways the private sector can help ease the burden on New Jersey's roadways. We pledge to work with corporations to implement these types of innovative programs.

Because of Republican leadership, New Jersey's mass transportation system improved dramatically. Rail ridership alone has increased by 40 percent since 1981.

A Republican administration will expand on that record by encouraging the use of mass transit by all New Jerseyans. Advertisements for major public and private events should include information about mass transit. We will expand and rework our mass transit system while improving upon the existing system. The Republican Party believes that improving intrastate transit between and amongst our new corporate centers is imperative.

We expect to further streamline outdated or duplicative NJ Transit procedures. We will be sure that taxpayers' money and commuters' fares are wisely spent on trains and buses.

A Republican administration will work with NJ Transit to better accommodate the travel patterns of our state's commuters.

Republicans are confident, too, that alternative Trans-Hudson and Trans-Delaware modes of transportation can and should be developed. Light rail and ferries should be used so that traffic congestion and its ensuing environmental hazards can be reduced.

The Republican Party believes that a sound transportation system is critical to sustaining New Jersey's economic prosperity. We are committed to making that system a reality for New Jersey.

AGRICULTURE

Agriculture is New Jersey's fourth-largest industry. The Republican Party recognizes the importance of the farmer to New Jersey and will strengthen programs to preserve farmland and enhance agriculture.

The "Jersey Fresh" advertising campaign, initiated under Republican leadership, has brought the message of the quality of New Jersey products to millions of households. It has done wonders for New Jersey agriculture and left other states envious of its success.

Early in his administration, Governor Kean and Republican legislators recognized the need to reduce regulations and protect the rights of farmers to operate without unreasonable intrusion. The result was the Right to Farm Act.

New Jersey now has approximately 800,000 acres under cultivation. Two decades ago, the state had more than twice as much farmland.

Increasing real estate prices are increasing the pressures on the state's farms. Unless we act to protect and save our farmland soon, we will lose the farms that provide our food, recharge our aquifers, and preserve open space.

The Republican Party vigorously supports the farmland preservation and farmland assessment programs.

Under Republican sponsorship, the Agricultural Retention and Development Act set the framework for farmland preservation in New Jersey. More recently, Republicans sponsored legislation to make the farmland preservation program more effective. Workable programs have also been devised for the purchase of easements and the transfer of development rights.

The Republican Party endorses farmland preservation programs and the \$300 million Open Space-Farmland Preservation-Green Acres Bond issue which will help support them.

Under Governor Kean, the state has also worked aggressively to prevent soil erosion and control animal disease with innovative programs. Cook College and the Agricultural Experiment Station continue to be valuable resources for the state's farmers by supplying information on the latest farming technologies.

An aggressive marketing program, innovative farmland programs and support for farmers through the Department of Agriculture are hallmarks of a Republican agricultural policy. We pledge to work to make the future of the New Jersey farmer one of prosperity and plenty.

We are committed to ensuring that all farmland preservation programs are be designed to preserve the equity of the farmer's land.

Farming is part of New Jersey's heritage. It must be preserved and enriched in the future.

HEALTH

The Republican Party believes that one of the state's most important priorities is in protecting and ensuring the health of the people of New Jersey. Republican leadership has made New Jersey a leader in national health policy. We are committed to the continuation of that leadership.

An area of overriding significance is substance abuse prevention and treatment. We believe that information is the key to breaking down the "demand side" of the drug market. The Republican Party is committed to outreach to all who are vulnerable to the drug epidemic, especially children.

We will send two messages to those who would seek to use drugs. The first is that drugs are illegal and those who use them will be punished. The second is to inform them of the personal and health consequences of drugs.

The Republican Party recognizes as well that substance abuse is not limited to illegal drugs. Because of alcohol's availability, its abuse can be as destructive. We will send a clear message to children and others who may seek to escape from life's ills via alcohol abuse that this behavior is self-destructive and counter-productive.

We are committed to continuing effective programs to assist those who may become trapped in a cycle of dependency.

One of the most serious consequences of drug abuse has been the spread of AIDS, a growing health menace whose consequences are devastating. New Jersey ranks fourth in the nation in AIDS cases and the strain on our health care system in the coming years promises to be enormous, as AIDS patients are almost always reliant on government assistance at some point in their illness.

Republicans created the Division of AIDS Prevention and Control. The Division has worked on special programs to educate inner-city residents who may be at greater risk, has taken steps to protect our blood supply, and developed an AIDS education

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curriculum. Republican leadership has also led to the creation
of special homes and programs for children with AIDS.

The Republican Party believes that we must make every effort to control the spread of AIDS. Refraining from the behavior which makes one vulnerable to AIDS is the most obvious solution. We believe, too, that the supply of information to at-risk communities must be increased and we must emphasize outreach to intravenous drug users -- who account for the majority of New Jersey's AIDS cases.

In the interest of the good health of New Jersey's people, Republicans crafted the Healthy Mothers/Healthy Babies program, commonly known as Health Start, which was designed to reduce New Jersey's high infant mortality rate. These efforts have been successful, and we will continue the program.

We are greatly concerned about the nursing shortage which is becoming increasingly critical. The Republican Party believes that we need to begin by increasing the enrollment of nursing students at our colleges and universities through an incentives program. The Republican Party believes that we need to encourage hospitals to embark on innovative programs to improve working conditions, so that we can retain nurses and maintain quality health care for all New Jerseyans.

We are committed to protecting New Jersey's collective health. And we will continue our efforts to make health care accessible and affordable for all New Jerseyans.

ARTS

The Republican Party has long recognized that great civilizations are often measured and remembered by their contribution to the Arts. We know the importance of improving New Jersey's cultural atmosphere and throughout the last eight years we have demonstrated our commitment to quality arts programs and opportunities.

The work of Republican legislators enabled the State Council on the Arts to come into its own as a catalyst for growth and improvement in New Jersey's arts program. Thanks to Republican efforts in this regard, the New Jersey Opera, the New Jersey Symphony and other performing groups will continue to receive public support to continue their record of excellence.

In 1987, voters approved a \$40 million bond issue for capital improvements to cultural facilities. This Republican initiative allowed the state to provide grant monies to 16 regional theaters which were able to secure matching funds from the private sector.

We know that, nationwide, many cities have been revitalized

by a serious arts presence. Therefore, we commend Governor Kean on his efforts to establish a first class cultural center in the City of Newark and we stand ready to see his dream come to fruition.

We pledge to continue Governor Kean's outstanding record of support for the arts in New Jersey. With Republicans in the lead, New Jersey will be assured that its burgeoning reputation as a hub of cultural activity will be maintained. We will ensure that the potential of the arts in New Jersey is realized.

VETERANS

The Republican Party stands on its record on behalf of the more than 900,000 men and women who have performed military service for our country. We, as a nation, owe our veterans an enormous debt of gratitude. Republicans have long been leading the way in repaying that debt.

Last year, Governor Tom Kean took a significant step in streamlining programs for veterans so that the men and women of New Jersey who are eligible for those programs are able to receive their benefits without delay or confusion. He signed legislation merging the Division of Veterans' Programs and Special Services and the Department of Defense to form the new State Department of Military and Veterans Affairs, giving veterans a single voice in Trenton and paying appropriate tribute to those brave men and women.

In like fashion, upon taking control of the Assembly, Republican leadership moved quickly to establish a Select Committee on Veterans Affairs, to guarantee veterans a greater voice in the Legislature. Two years later, the committee was reconstituted as the Assembly Veterans Affairs and Defense Committee, now a standing committee.

The last eight years, under Republican leadership, were marked by numerous successes on behalf of our veterans. Under the 1986 Civil Service Reform Act, Republicans stood firm to ensure that veterans were still entitled to preference for civil service positions. The law allowing older veterans to claim both the senior citizen and veterans' property tax deduction was passed. And the state's third veteran's nursing home was begun and completed during the Kean administration -- the first new home constructed in 85 years.

The terrible effects of Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) were finally addressed through the establishment of the PTSD Readjustment Program. The Department of Military and Veterans Affairs estimates that 7,800 New Jersey Viet Nam veterans suffer from this disorder caused by their traumatic experiences while serving their country in that bloody conflict. The program offers group and individual counseling to these

June of 1986, saw the opening of the newly renamed Brigadier General William C. Doyle Veterans' Memorial Cemetery in Arneytown, Burlington County. Since that time, veterans who wish to be interred in a military burial site may be buried in their home state.

The Republican commitment to veterans is a testimony of our appreciation for the outstanding, courageous service performed by the citizens of New Jersey in defense of our country. That commitment runs strong and true as the record of the Kean Administration demonstrates.

Another service to veterans that will be actively supported by the Republican Party is the transportation programs now available to veterans. This program provides transportation for veterans to get medical care, counseling services and to apply for their federal and State entitlements.

Republicans support increased job and educational opportunities for veterans. We also support the expansion of home health care services for older veterans as an alternative to institutionalization.

We will guarantee that New Jersey veterans will continue to receive the recognition and benefits they so richly deserve.

ABORTION

The Republican Party recognizes that the New Jersey Constitution has been interpreted by the New Jersey Supreme Court to guarantee a woman's right to unrestricted access to abortion.

The Republican Party also understands the diversity and intensity of the views of the people of New Jersey on this important issue. Therefore, as a broadly representative party that does not impose political litmus tests on our members or candidates, we reflect within our own ranks the wide range of sincerely held beliefs on this question.

SENIOR CITIZENS

In recent years, New Jersey has experienced an enormous boom in our senior citizen population. We now have the second oldest population in the nation, with more than 12 percent of our residents over the age of 65. That figure is expected to grow to 15 percent by next year.

The Republican Party is committed to ensuring that our older citizens are able to enjoy their later years free from economic turmoil, fear, and victimization.

The Kean Administration has taken numerous steps to strengthen and expand the Division on Aging. Since 1982, the Pharmaceutical Assistance for the Aged and Disabled (PAAD) program has tripled. In 1988, the Meals-on-Wheels programs was expanded to include weekends and holidays. The administration established a Senior Health Insurance Program to train volunteers to visit the elderly and offer assistance with handling the intricacies of health care coverage.

With a Republican at the helm, the State began a program to toughen licensing standards for nursing homes. And for those who do not wish to be in a nursing home, the Kean administration expanded the congregate housing program, to help with the daily obstacles of life faced by the especially frail or at-risk elderly.

The Republican Party pledges to continue the work begun by the Kean Administration on behalf of seniors.

We recognize the particular problems seniors face when rising property tax bills collide with their fixed incomes. Too often, seniors are forced to leave their homes and move out. We are committed to ensuring that seniors are able to continue living in the communities in which they have spent their lives. We, therefore, support a program which will enable seniors to defer increases in their property tax bills which occur after they reach the age of sixty-five.

Under the plan the state will create a revolving loan fund within the Casino Revenue fund to reimburse municipalities for 100 percent of the senior citizen tax deferrals. When the property changes hands, the deferral would become due and be repaid to the state loan fund.

Republicans support alternatives to institutionalization for the elderly who become unable to care for themselves. The Governor signed legislation to establish a State-Wide Respite Care Program, so that those with elderly parents and grandparents at home can take a break from the day-to-day pressures of providing the physically and emotionally taxing care so vital for the comfort of their loved ones.

Home health care enables a senior citizen or disabled person to be cared for in their home. Without home health care, many elderly and disabled New Jerseyans would be placed in a nursing home because they would be unable to perform all the functions of daily living.

In 1983, Republican leadership established the state's first home health care program -- the Community Care Program for the Elderly and Disabled (CCPED). The "Home Care Expansion Act," which made home health care services available to seniors and disabled persons with higher income levels than those in CCPED.

We continue to support programs like the State-Wide Respite Care Program. We will continue to fight for expanded community based home health care programs and will work to form public/private partnerships to aid in funding these important programs, so that seniors may remain with their loved ones.

The Republican Party knows that increases in the senior citizen population will necessitate innovative, cost-effective, programs to address the needs of our older residents. We are confident that we can meet those increased demands.

MINORITIES

The Republican Party is fervently committed to justice and liberty for all people.

The party of Abraham Lincoln firmly believes that all New Jerseyans regardless of race, nationality, religion, gender or physical handicap, should fully participate in New Jersey's prosperity and should play an active role in charting the future of our state. We are committed to this goal and to protecting civil rights for all.

This Republican Administration has compiled a record of achievement in civil rights unmatched in New Jersey history. We support Governor Kean's efforts and wholeheartedly endorse the continuation and extension of his philosophy of the "politics of inclusion."

Republican leadership welcomed minority voices into government and provided true opportunity for leadership by appointing minority citizens to the highest ranks of government. In addition, Governor Kean appointed more African American judges than all past governors combined.

Republican leadership has opened the door to opportunity for minorities in New Jersey. As Republicans we believe that economic empowerment is the most meaningful and enduring basis for enabling all citizens to realize the full benefits of our society.

We will continue efforts to guarantee that minority students have the opportunity to pursue higher education here in New Jersey if they so choose.

In addition, the Republican Party maintain our resolve that both children and adults who need to learn English as a second language will be given the opportunity to do so.

Republican leadership has guaranteed that a certain percentage of state contracts are set aside for minority owned businesses. We will support efforts to ensure that New Jersey's set-aside programs are in conformity with the recent U.S. Supreme

Court decision, so that we can continue our highly successful program unimpeded by threat of litigation.

Republicans support the predominant principle of affirmative action which is to bring to the starting line, those who had been previously disadvantaged. We support the continuation of affirmative action programs here in New Jersey and a greater emphasis on job-training as a key component of Affirmative Action.

We support the Republican sponsored legislation to increase penalties for certain crimes motivated by racial, ethnic or religious bias.

The Republican Party recognizes that every issue has an impact and relevance to all of the state's minority communities. We recognize and understand the value of the diversity our state holds. We pledge to incorporate the richness of that diversity into all that government touches.

The Republican Party will ensure that the philosophy of the "politics of inclusion" remains a fundamental credo here in New Jersey.

CHILDREN

Parents are a child's first protectors, teachers and nurturers. The Republican Party believes that the state has an obligation to promote, protect and defend the family. But government must stand ready to help families in carrying out their responsibilities to children.

However, we also recognize that sometimes parents neglect or abdicate their responsibility to their children.

In the last two decades, the once familiar face of the American family has undergone tremendous change. The Republican Party pledges to ensure that all parents have the opportunity to raise their children as they choose. We understand the importance of offering equal opportunities to traditional families, to dual-income households and to single-parent families.

As of the late 1980s, well over half of all adult women work outside the home and approximately 52 percent of married women with infants are in the paid labor force. Those facts alone have created unique problems for parents and businesses, as both try to balance the needs of the family and the workplace.

The Kean administration has become a leader in the development of varied child care alternatives, having taken an active role in educating business leaders about the advantages and alternatives in offering child care as a benefit to

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employees. We support tax incentives for businesses that open day care facilities for employees or provide financial assistance to employees to cover child care costs.

In addition, we support tax breaks for low-income families to help defray the cost of child care. This will allow families greater flexibility in choosing what type of day care is best for their children -- whether that is government, corporate, religious, neighborhood, or at home -- without discriminating against those who choose to remain at home with their children.

We will also support efforts to enable individuals to begin day care centers either in their homes or at their place of worship. The Republican Party is confident that the best day care is provided by the private sector.

Republicans have strengthened child support enforcement laws to make it more difficult for absent parents to abdicate their responsibility to their children.

The Kean administration witnessed the opening of the first child abuse diagnostic center at the Jersey Shore Medical Center in Neptune. Republican leadership has made New Jersey a national leader in creating and implementing innovative programs to combat, publicize, and prevent child abuse. We will work to keep New Jersey at the forefront in this area -- our children are depending on us.

We are prepared to continue to build upon the achievements of this Republican administration. Our very future depends upon it.

WOMEN

Nearly one hundred years ago, the Republican Party embraced the concept of women's equality, and in 1916, ours was the first major party to endorse women's suffrage at the federal level. That tradition has continued to the era of Governor Tom Kean whose administration has made major strides in opening doors for women throughout New Jersey.

The Republican Party wholeheartedly supports Governor Kean's efforts and endorses the expansion of the "politics of inclusion." That includes our support for an Equal Rights Amendment to the Constitution.

The Kean administration saw the greatest number of women appointed to cabinet positions in New Jersey history. In 1989, six women served simultaneously as cabinet members -- again, more than ever before.

Tom Kean also has the distinction of having nominated the first woman for appointment to the State Supreme Court. The

Governor has appointed more women to serve as judges than all his predecessors combined.

Republicans are committed to electing more women statewide. Today, more Republican than Democrat women serve in the Legislature. Moreover, the Assembly Republican Majority has elected women to serve in leadership roles vital to the Republican caucus and continues to ensure that women are active leaders in the committee process, in contrast to the Assembly Democrats who do not have a single woman in a leadership role in their caucus.

Our Party has demonstrated its unwavering commitment to the Republican tradition of women in party leadership roles with this year's election of the first woman to head the state Republican Party.

The Division on Women has created and implemented numerous programs to assist women in attaining economic security.

Through the Division's efforts, the state has been able to reach out to displaced homemakers, Hispanic women, inner-city women, and women in the military. Because of Republican willingness to address the specific needs of women, the Division has been able to help these women become more employable and independent through job training and education.

We have worked hard to open the doors of opportunity for all New Jerseyans. We believe in fairness and equality and know that this has been and always will be fundamental to our government ethic.

GOOD GOVERNMENT

Before Republicans brought their leadership to the Assembly, the Legislature, all too often, railroaded critical legislation through at the "eleventh hour" and was dominated by special interests. Republican leadership has ensured that bills follow an orderly process through an appropriate committee, complete with hearings where amendments are made before bills are released to the full Assembly for consideration.

With a Republican majority in the Assembly, the people of New Jersey will be assured that their voice will continue to be heard above the din of the special interests. We pledge to listen to hard-working, ordinary New Jerseyans and to shape our policies according to their needs, not to the pressures of special interest groups.

We are pledged to continue our efforts to guarantee that the Legislature is more responsive to the interests of the people by giving them easy access to the legislative process.

The Republican Party trusts the people and we know that they have the intelligence and ability to make decisions on complicated issues that concern the future of their families, their communities and, in fact, the entire state. That's why we support a carefully designed method of initiative and referendum. I & R would give the people the power they deserve -- the power to enact laws or to amend the State Constitution if the Legislature does not act. Republicans recognize that in a democracy, all power is derived from the people.

The Republican Party believes in the old maxim that that government governs best which governs least. Therefore, we pledge to continue our efforts to eliminate burdensome and duplicative rules and regulations. Republicans pledge to continue to make every effort to give the residents of New Jersey more results for their tax dollars.

We believe the state should not be allowed to mandate that local governments undertake new programs unless they are paid for by the state.

The Republican Party supports the creation of a bipartisan commission, similar to that which will design legislative districts, for Congressional redistricting. We believe that the Legislature must enact a rational and just redistricting plan for Congressional districts, a plan that would create districts that are equal in population, are compact, maintain county boundaries, and assure minority representation. Republicans will continue to oppose the usual gerrymandering schemes of the Democrats which create bizarrely shaped districts with no community of interest.

President Bush has said that "those who take on the people's trust must hold themselves to an exacting code of conduct. We can expect and indeed, tolerate nothing less from the people who work for the government."

The Republican Party is committed to upholding the standard the President has set. Public service is an admirable and unselfish career. It must be protected from those who would defraud the system for private gain.

Honesty, integrity, and service are the life blood of democracy. We pledge a thorough review of the laws and standards of conduct for state and local government officials and employees. The laws and standards must be clearly thought out, skillfully drafted, and vigorously applied.

The Republican Party reaffirms the ideals of public service and seeks to attract to government those who share those ideals. Only by protecting the integrity of public institutions will we be able to achieve the quality of life for New Jersey residents that is our goal.

We will guarantee a government that serves all the people and works to build an even better New Jersey.

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