

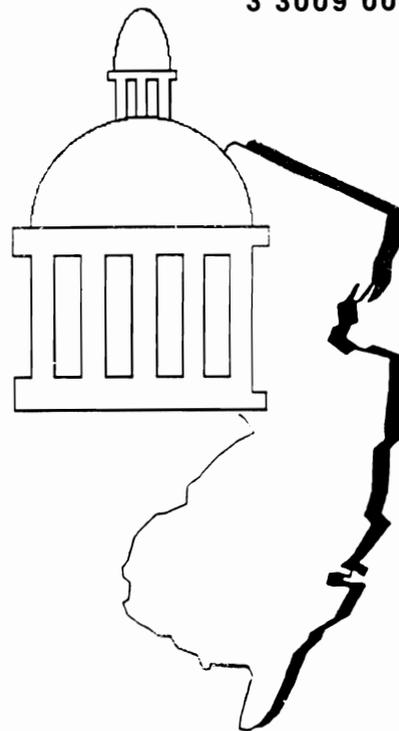
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Republican Majority '91:

Of the People, By the
People, For New Jersey



The 1991 Republican Party Platform

Building a Better New Jersey

Respectfully Submitted by
The 1991 New Jersey Republican State Platform Committee

Honorable Charlotte Vandervalk, Co-Chair
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NEW JERSEY STATE REPUBLICAN PARTY

1991 PLATFORM

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INTRODUCTION

An Open Letter to the Citizens of New Jersey

This Republican Party Platform represents a compilation of Republican positions, principles, ideas and alternatives.

It is the result of 39 public hearings held throughout our state and conducted by a Republican State Platform Committee which was comprised of more than 100 of our Party's best and brightest activists.

This first-ever exhaustive search truly embodies the "politics of inclusion" embraced by Republicans in our state under the leadership of Governor Tom Kean.

Men and women as diverse as our state itself were invited to participate in the formulation of this platform. These ideas and principles suggest bold and innovative proposals to bring New Jersey back to its competitive leading edge as well as long-held, common sense beliefs which are the underpinning of this Party of Lincoln.

Our message is unmistakable: We believe that New Jersey needs Republican stewardship in government once again.

Although Republicans have been leading the charge against the reckless policies of Governor Florio and the Democrats, our minority status in both houses of the Legislature has left us powerless to enact meaningful change.

In fact, with the Democrats in total control of both the Legislature and the Governor's seat, the past 20 months in New Jersey have been witness to dramatic and harmful changes in the policies which guide our state.

We believe that New Jersey is headed in the wrong direction. After 20 months of Governor Florio and Democrats, one thing is clear: This is the worst managed state government in the history of New Jersey.

Like most New Jerseyans, Republicans were shocked by the largest tax increase in our state's history enacted last year by the Democrats. And we are alarmed by recent statements made by Governor Florio that he is "not ruling out" even higher taxes for next year.

We are appalled by the total chaos of our system of public education. Never in our state's history has public confidence in our government's ability to effectively educate our children been at such low levels. The so-called "Quality Education Act" railroaded through the Legislature by Governor Florio has dealt a severe blow to the goal of excellence in education for all New Jersey students.

The election of Governor Florio left many New Jerseyans with high hopes for progress in protecting our precious environment. Instead, the Florio - Democrat legacy of the past 20 months has been one of neglect, broken promises and outright betrayal. From the dumping of sludge in the Pine Barrens to the failure to provide adequate funding for environmental infrastructure repair, the Florio environmental agenda has failed to live up to expectations.

Like many New Jerseyans, Republicans question the "fairness" of the Democrats' "Fair Automobile Insurance Reform (FAIR) Act" which has not only failed to fulfill the promise of a 20% reduction in rates, but now threatens to increase insurance costs for senior citizens, women and those who live in rural areas. And, a new system to replace the JUA is now accumulating a debt of nearly \$1 billion.

The list of failures and disappointments goes on and on. . . from an abandonment of the arts to the abject failure to provide affordable, quality health care.

But worst of all, Governor Florio and the Democrats have torn to shreds the already delicate nexus of faith between our citizens and the government elected to serve them.

People lose faith when a Governor imposes record tax increases within months after vowing not to raise any taxes. People lose faith when a record \$15 billion state budget laden with smoke and mirrors tricks is piously declared "gimmick free" by its patrons. And people's trust in government is damaged when Democrats tout "tax relief" while enacting \$3 billion in higher taxes.

It is clear that it's time for a change in Trenton. In 1993, voters will have a chance to rid this state of Jim Florio. Until then, it is vital to elect Republican legislative majorities to restore balance to state government.

Republicans believe that this platform represents the foundation upon which the future of our Party will be built. But we see this document not as the end of a long and inclusive process, but as a commencement as well . . . a new beginning for New Jersey.

As we prepare to meet the complex challenges of the 1990's, the Republican Party will be guided by two simple objectives: to Restore our people's faith in government and to restore our state as a first class place to raise a family and do business.

We invite all New Jerseyans, regardless of party affiliation, to join us in our journey to a brighter future for New Jersey.

Please take a few moments to read our ideas and proposals. But more importantly, let us know what you think. Give us the benefit of your thoughts and concern. We welcome your advice and counsel.

Please send your comments to:

Republican Majority '91
New Jersey Republican State Committee
310 West State Street
Trenton, New Jersey 08618

NATURAL RESOURCES AND AGRICULTURE

Although New Jersey's image in many eyes is that of the most heavily urbanized state in the nation, we still retain a rightful hold on our appellation as the Garden State. Despite our status as the most densely populated state, growth patterns have thus far spared much of the landscape, leaving New Jersey in the 1990's with a viable agricultural industry and some of the best and most productive wildlife habitat to be found anywhere.

However, the threats of encroaching development can no longer be ignored, and action to save what remains of our precious open spaces can no longer be postponed.

The Republican Party recognizes the need to preserve open space, support agriculture and maintain wildlife habitat as some of the most pressing priorities facing government today. After thorough economic impact studies, the Party is committed to proposals which will meet these priorities and achieve these goals.

The preservation of New Jersey's remaining open spaces, even in difficult economic times, is not a luxury, but a necessity. The benefits that accrue to the State and its people run from aesthetic to economic - from ecological to recreational.

The preservation of critical open spaces such as wetlands is fundamental to maintaining a supply of potable drinking water, providing a buffer against flooding, and maintaining fish and wildlife habitat.

The Republican Party supports the following initiatives and strategies intended to preserve and enhance our remaining open spaces:

A comprehensive, responsible and effective program to preserve open space cannot exist without a clear understanding of past practices and future needs. New Jersey currently lacks the ability to catalog our open space assets and to chart their loss. The Department of Environmental Protection and Energy (DEPE) should be required to create an inventory of open spaces and a system to closely chart their loss to development so that we may constantly monitor the status of our open spaces.

Similarly, open space preservation, in order to work effectively, must operate within an accurate economic framework. If open space and all the benefits associated with it are ever to compete on equal footing with the very real needs of housing, industry and other types of development, the economic benefits of open space must be more clearly and fully defined. DEPE and other state agencies should be directed to work together to devise a method of assessing the economic benefits of open space, so they may be accurately compared with competing and equally important needs.

Although open space preservation will require using a variety of techniques, including participation by county and local governments and the private sector, acquisition will always be a necessary element of preservation efforts.

A stable source of funding for natural resources is vital to any acquisition program. The Legislature must reach a consensus on a source, or combination of sources which will supply a constant source of funds for acquisition.

The New Jersey Green Acres program is one of the most popular and successful funding programs ever devised by the state.

The Legislature should request voter approval of a new Green Acres bond issue at the earliest possible time. Urban areas, such as the urban heritage park system, should be a part of any such bond issue. However, efforts such as the recent proposal by the Florio administration to mix Green Acres land acquisition programs with other construction-related programs must be avoided. Voter trust in Green Acres as a means of acquiring, developing and preserving recreational and other open spaces must not be violated by diluting the program with projects that should rightfully be paid for separately.

Any sale of Green Acres land should be conducted in a manner so that the public has the greatest opportunity for input and participation.

Local and county governments must be granted broader authority to participate directly in acquiring or otherwise

preserving open spaces. The Legislature should consider granting to counties and municipalities the right of first refusal on identified tracts of open space, creating new opportunities for the purchase, lease or exchange of locally valuable open spaces.

The pilot transfer of development rights program now authorized in Burlington County should be reviewed and if the analysis merits, the program should be authorized state wide.

Counties should be authorized and encouraged to establish programs of installment or incremental financing to fund acquisition programs. Such financing would maximize the impact of available county funds and would encourage lower acquisition prices by creating capital gains and income tax advantages for sellers.

Because open space acquisition is a perennial favorite with the public, local governments are often willing to participate in such programs, but are not always aware of the tools at their disposal. DEPE should be required to prepare and distribute to local planning boards and governing bodies information on the techniques available to preserve open space.

Local governments should be authorized by the Legislature to create public-private partnerships for the acquisition and maintenance of parks.

Local governments should be authorized to enter into agreements with non-profit organizations for the operation and maintenance of parks.

Local governments should be authorized to offer tax deductions to private landowners who agree to keep their land undeveloped.

The federal government should be encouraged to work with those states which have an economic interest in harvesting weakfish. In order to protect the existing fish stocks, bag limits and catch sizes should be considered.

The Florio administration's attempts to eviscerate the Freshwater Wetlands Law must be halted and reversed. The Legislature must adopt pending legislation which would clearly spell out the intent of that law and prevent further attempts to subvert it by the use of spurious legal opinions.

Republicans in New Jersey have concerns about Federal efforts to redefine the protections of wetlands. We urge the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to carefully consider its decision to redefine wetlands.

The Legislature should reverse the Florio administration's elimination of the Governor's Council on New Jersey Outdoors. This non-salaried group had a long history of providing significant support for open space preservation at no cost to taxpayers. It should be immediately reconstituted.

The DEPE should be required to adopt rules and regulations establishing buffer zones for watershed areas.

The Legislature must make a full commitment that New Jersey's final state development and redevelopment plan will provide for adequate open space and farmland preservation, water supply protection and the preservation of environmentally significant and sensitive areas and plant and wildlife habitat.

Compensation for the economic loss of beneficial use of property used in agriculture must be considered within the framework of the state development and redevelopment plan.

At the same time, county and local governments should be encouraged to prepare park, recreation and open space subplans as part of their master plans.

Although many of the policies outlined above apply to farmland as well as other forms of open space, special notice must be taken of the specific needs of New Jersey's farmers. New Jersey's long agricultural tradition is an integral part of our history. The Republican Party is committed to the actions necessary to preserve a viable agricultural industry and to stem the drastic decline in farmland acreage.

The \$20 million authorized by the Open Space and Farmland Preservation Bond Act of 1989 is almost totally expended or committed. The Legislature must act to create a stable source of funding for farmland preservation. Consideration should be given to creating a fee which would be applied whenever land in farmland assessment is converted to non-agricultural uses, with those fees dedicated to a Farmland Preservation Trust Fund. Trust Fund monies would be used for the acquisition of easements, development rights and fee simple purchase.

Counties and municipalities should be authorized to raise funds by referendum for farmland preservation.

The Legislature should consider the creation of "Agricultural Enterprise Zones" analogous to existing Urban Enterprise Zones which would provide tax incentives to agriculture-related businesses.

The Department of Agriculture should be directed to promote and develop modernization techniques to make farming more productive and environmentally sound, and to establish and promote standards, techniques and incentives for sustainable agriculture and organically grown agricultural products.

The Jersey Fresh and New Jersey seafood promotions initiated by the Department of Agriculture added millions of dollars to New Jersey's agricultural economy. Deletion of those funds from the state budget by the Florio administration was a shortsighted move which the Legislature should reverse at the earliest opportunity.

For decades New Jersey sportsmen have benefitted from a progressive, scientifically based wildlife management program which takes advantage of the state's inventory of high quality and productive wildlife habitat.

The benefits of these policies to the state as a whole have been substantial. More than four million New Jerseyans - over half our total population - annually enjoy some form of wildlife-related recreation, be it fishing, hunting, trapping, or feeding, observing and photographing wildlife.

The use of New Jersey's wildlife resources generates in excess of \$2 billion annually in economic activity and generates an estimated \$90 million in sales tax revenues alone.

Further, many of our wildlife programs are user funded through licenses and other fees.

In developing and implementing the policies outlined for the preservation of open space and farmland, New Jersey must recognize as an integral part of that effort the need to preserve and enhance wildlife habitat. In addition to the above stated open space policies, specific attention must be given to the needs of the millions who use our wildlife resources.

The Legislature must resist all efforts by the Florio administration to alter the current status of the Division of Fish, Game and Wildlife as a non-political, scientifically based, council-directed and constituent-funded agency.

The Legislature must also continue to recognize sport hunting, fishing and trapping as legitimate uses of wildlife resources, as necessary for the maximization of wildlife resources for New Jersey citizens, and as providing the tools necessary for the proper management of the resource.

The Legislature should investigate the creation of a State Department of Natural Resources which would consolidate all the natural resource agencies - Fish and Game, Parks and Recreation, Forest Management and Coastal Resources - into a cohesive department able to concentrate on the values and needs of our natural resource programs.

The Legislature should also address the issue of increasing problems with maintaining public access to wildlife, which is by law a public resource. Public marinas and boat launching facilities and the acquisition of stream corridors and wildlife management areas are potential solutions to this problem that must be included in a comprehensive policy on open space preservation.

ENVIRONMENT

During the Administration of Governor Tom Kean, New Jersey made great strides in efforts to clean our environment. Under the leadership of Governor Kean, Republicans transformed the image of our State as a "rust bucket" and made recreational areas and our overall environmental quality the envy of the nation.

With the election of Governor Jim Florio in 1989, many felt that New Jersey's environment would receive top priority from a chief executive who prided himself on an environmental record in Congress. Twenty months later, however, it is clear that much work in this area needs to be done.

New Jersey is out of compliance with air quality standards for ozone and carbon monoxide. Republicans believe that all New Jerseyans enjoy a right to breathe clean, healthy air. A multi-faceted approach is needed to effectuate real change in this important area of environmental concern.

The Republican Party believes that New Jersey must expeditiously take steps to comply with the federal Clean Air Act. The Legislature must monitor the Department of Environmental Protection and Energy's progress in identifying and implementing strategies to bring New Jersey into compliance. Republicans support legislation mandating that New Jersey adopt the strict California emission standards, certainly a major component in a clean-up action agenda since motor vehicles are the source of most of our carbon monoxide problems. Unannounced spot checks by the Department of Motor Vehicles of inspection stations may be useful in ensuring that emission standards are being enforced.

Republicans think that incentives should be offered to promote the use of alternate fuel vehicles. This can be in the form of a sales tax exemption for buyers of vehicles operating on clean fuels (e.g. natural gas) and/or corporate tax breaks for businesses marketing/selling such vehicles. State and local governments must set an example by operating fuel efficient fleets and ultimately, alternate fuel vehicles.

Incentives should also be offered to promote ride-sharing and the use of public transportation, both important means of reducing pollutant output.

The entire realm of growth management greatly impacts on the traffic situation in New Jersey, and hence, air quality. Potential and anticipated air impacts should be taken into account when assessing the appropriateness of proposed roads or road widenings. Similarly, such review should be conducted for any significant project proposal which may cause air pollutant overload if constructed. We must foster a strong economy without compromising the health of New Jersey's citizens.

To insure the integrity of our waters, both point and nonpoint sources of pollution must be controlled. Laws are in place which regulate point source discharges; effective enforcement of these laws is critical. Much remains to be done

to control nonpoint sources which range from overuse of fertilizers and pesticides to pet waste and oil drippings on our roads. It is the cumulative effect of these activities that has had such a profound impact. A combination of public education initiatives and nonpoint source reduction is needed. Public agencies must set an example by modifying the manner in which they operate with regard to maintenance of their properties. Best Management Practices (BMP's) for avoidance of nonpoint problems need to be developed and implemented and would include, but need not be limited to, management of auto body shops, salvage yards and filling stations, car wash facilities, supermarkets, private lawns and gardens, road salt facilities, construction areas, and farm and animal waste. DEPE's progress in implementing a NPS control program should be closely monitored.

Major sources of water pollution, combined sewer overflows and storm sewers, must be controlled. The Democrats commitment to our environment was demonstrated clearly when the Florio Administration took monies from the Sewage Infrastructure Improvement Act, signed into law in 1988 as part of the Clean Ocean Package (CSO), to plug holes in the budget. This critical program is weak from lack of dollars and it lags severely behind the statutorily mandated work schedule. Similarly, the \$50 million in CSO correction bond monies approved by the voters in 1989 are not yet expended for this much needed work. Both of these programs must be accelerated.

Republicans want New Jersey to have an aggressive groundwater and watershed protection strategy if we are to assure citizens clean drinking water. Strong coastal protection measures are needed to protect and improve the integrity of our coastal waters. Not only must Coastal Area Facility Review Act (CAFRA) loopholes be closed, but a meaningful coastal management plan must be developed, adopted, and implemented.

The Republican Party endorses the idea that government agencies should take the lead in the use of recycled paper. The Republican Party supports legislation that would require all State agencies to use only recycled paper. Such a program could be phased in over a period of years.

The passage of a mandatory recycling program was a beginning for New Jersey in its goal to establish a solid waste

management strategy. With the cooperation of the citizenry, New Jersey is successfully nearing compliance with the state goal, currently set at 25%. The next step is to provide the proper incentives in order to achieve the next goal of 60%. Republicans now sponsor legislation which would codify this new goal.

To better implement recycling policies, current recycling laws should be reviewed in order to allow individual counties the opportunity to determine the best way to reach the goal of 60% recycling.

Paramount to ensuring the success of an ambitious recycling program is the creation of markets for recyclable materials. Incentives to facilitate these markets should be provided, such as giving tax breaks to newsprint de-inking facilities, so that newspapers can be recycled. Overseas markets for recyclable materials should also be sought. A concept deserving study is that of landfill mining, i.e., using material from old landfills by recycling it, and then ultimately properly closing the landfill.

Central to the success of a waste management strategy is the implementation of an aggressive source reduction program. The quantities of solid and hazardous wastes produced must be reduced so there is less to dispose. This preventative approach will save enormous amounts of dollars in the long run. The Pollution Prevention Act of 1991, along with enactment of packaging reduction and toxics in packaging reduction measures will result in better waste control than has ever been in place in the State of New Jersey. In conjunction with these strategies, the issue of proliferation of plastics must be addressed from many standpoints: Source reduction, reuse, and recycling. The use of mass burn incineration should be minimized to the greatest possible extent, employing the use of source reduction, reuse, composting, and recycling.

The State's Hazardous Discharge Cleanup Fund has been raided over the past 2 years by the current Administration to provide monies for balancing of the budget. Fund monies should be held sacred for one purpose only - cleaning up our State's hazardous discharge sites. The public rightfully expects that monies set aside for this important purpose be used properly. A constitutional amendment should be put before the voters of this State which would constitutionally dedicate these monies for the purpose originally intended. This would prohibit

elected officials from finding a loophole to tap into these funds when they need to balance their checkbook. Such legislation is currently pending before the Legislature under Republican sponsorship.

Other waste management measures deserving implementation include establishment of a household hazardous waste program and establishment of an environmental labeling program, at the federal level, which designates environmentally "friendly" products for consumers' consideration when making purchases.

Workers Right to Know, worker safety, and pesticide reduction are important components of pesticide management program. The use of "Least Hazardous Pesticide Control Techniques" and "Integrated Pest Management" are extremely important. Public agencies must set an example by altering the harmful practices they now employ.

The Republican Party supports federal legislative initiatives to exempt municipalities and thus local property taxpayers from financial responsibility arising from liability in Superfund litigation. The loopholes of the Superfund legislation should be immediately closed to preclude municipalities and local taxpayers from financial responsibility. The cost of Superfund site cleanup should not be transferred to local property taxpayers.

The release of lead into our environment can cause great damage to our health. We must make every effort to eradicate this substance where it presents a threat. Public education is extremely important, as is the availability of testing for children to determine any exposure problems.

Other toxic substances are also deserving of more attention, including cadmium and radon.

The recent merger of DEP and BPU into The Department of Environmental Protection and Energy is flawed. The Assembly was never given the opportunity to express its position regarding the Governor's Executive Order establishing the new department, after the Senate unanimously disapproved the merger. Since the BPU has rate making jurisdiction over \$12 billion per year in utility costs, improper or conflicting influences over the regulatory function could have serious negative consequences. The BPU assesses utilities for

financing its operations, but now that the agency has been absorbed into the DEP, how will these assessments be kept separately and applied for their intended purpose? Utility rate payers must be assured that they are not paying a hidden subsidy to State government. There is no evidence as yet that this merger will produce the savings anticipated by the current Administration. The implications of the new DEPE must be carefully examined and the problems corrected or the merger should be dissolved.

Energy, whether for fueling vehicles or for providing electricity, will be a major concern for years to come. The State energy master plan correctly calls for a reduction in our energy consumption. Republicans have introduced a comprehensive energy conservation legislative package which is comprised of incentives for both the public and business community to reduce energy use. Also included in the package are measures which require public agencies to set an example by reducing their energy consumption in terms of lighting, machinery, and vehicles. Utilities should be encouraged to provide incentives for energy conservation instead of rewarding increased consumption with lower rates.

The Republican Party reaffirms its commitment to an open and accountable decision making process which weighs environmental considerations and factors significantly. Republicans know that top quality government can only be achieved through a working relationship built on credibility and trust between citizens and their elected officials. The Republican Party salutes environmental activists who dedicate substantial volunteer time and personal sacrifice in order to ensure that every New Jerseyan and all future generations have equal access to a quality of life for which we can all be proud.

Republicans recognize two additional points of concern for a large number of New Jersey residents: the Edgeboro landfill in Middlesex County and the incomplete reporting procedures for cancer rates by the New Jersey Department of Health.

The Republican Party shares the concerns of Middlesex County residents and environmental activists that the Edgeboro Landfill presents potential health hazards to the citizens of that county. The positions of all local, state, and federal officials should be fully disclosed to the public.

The Republican Party believes that New Jerseyans have a right to know whether the water they drink or the land near their homes is toxic, and we believe New Jerseyans have the right to have public officials represent their best interests.

On the issue of cancer rates for New Jersey, the Republican Party believes the Department of Health should maintain up-to-date information, and review the data to determine if New Jersey counties have had increased incidence of cancers.

TAXES

New Jersey enjoys a permanent place in American history as the first state to ratify the Bill of Rights.

The people's right to be free from taxation without representation was forever enshrined in the Constitutional guarantees contained in our nation's charter.

Unfortunately, Governor Jim Florio's one-party Democrat control of state government bears an eerie resemblance to the tyranny New Jerseyans faced in the late 18th century from an English monarch.

Democratic Party control of state government has meant higher taxes for New Jersey residents.

After promising there was no need to raise new taxes, Governor Florio introduced \$2.8 billion in new and higher taxes shortly after taking the oath of office. Putting gas in your automobile cost more. Every time you make a telephone toll call, more money goes right out of your pocket and into the coffers of state government. Even basic household necessities like toilet paper and laundry detergent were taxed.

And there's more. Income taxes on hard-working New Jersey families were doubled. And the old property tax deduction on your income tax was wiped out by Governor Florio. So much for the Democrats' property tax relief.

Every region of the state, every sector of the economy and every family in New Jersey was hit. More sales tax, higher income tax, and increased levies on vital services and products

were the Democrats' answer to a minimal budget shortfall and an economic slowdown.

The results of the Florio Democrats' taxing frenzy have become painfully obvious to all New Jerseyans. If few were spared paying higher taxes, no one escaped the devastating results of the Democrats' fiscal "solution."

Unemployment is up. More importantly, employment is down. Business activity is down. Instead of fostering a climate that encourages economic growth, the Democrats instilled an environment of fear, uncertainty, and confusion for businessmen and women, and workers alike.

Parents worry about providing for their children. Employers find a tough time meeting payroll. And our image as a first-class state for commerce is seriously tarnished because of Governor Florio's harmful fiscal policies.

Governor Florio and the Democrats' suffer from a delusion that too often plagues Democrat elected officials: that government knows what's best.

Indeed, New Jersey Democrats have attempted to use the tax code to engineer their liberal agenda. The Democrats' rhetoric which attempts to pit classes of New Jerseyans against each other clearly demonstrates an Administration of liberal ideologues content to devise massive and expensive schemes behind closed doors. New Jerseyans are simply tired of this polarizing Governor and a Legislature that rubber stamps his every move.

Republicans believe state government does not possess the right to declare "open season" on the family budgets of the people of New Jersey.

Republicans believe that governing is a sacred trust. We believe elected officials have an obligation to prudently manage taxpayers' money and look to additional tax revenue only after exhausting every opportunity for savings in the operation of state government.

Republicans believe that government must be as aggressive at saving money as it is at spending money.

Republican majorities in the legislature will work to reduce the overall tax burden on New Jersey families. We will seek to restore our competitiveness within the region in order to spur economic growth and create new jobs.

Republicans are committed to a review of the entire \$2.8 billion tax package proposed by Governor Florio and rubber stamped by the Democrats in the Legislature. Republicans remain unconvinced that all of the taxes were necessary to meet state funding needs.

Republicans will immediately work to repeal the Florio - Democrat sales tax increase and reduce the tax from 7% to 6% effective July 1, 1992. Republicans will not support a budget which includes a 7% sales tax, if Governor Florio refuses to sign legislation repealing the sales tax increase.

Republicans believe that a repeal of the sales tax increase will help jump start New Jersey's economy by sending a clear and unmistakable message to consumers and business that our State is once again committed to maintaining the lowest tax base possible to support needed services. Republicans feel that a lower sales tax will enhance New Jersey's competitive advantage with our neighbors, particularly Delaware to the South and Pennsylvania to the West.

Furthermore, Republicans believe that the timing of a tax cut with an awakening regional and national economy will provide a real boost in consumer confidence and lead the way to dramatic increases in the sales of new cars, major appliances and other high ticket items.

Republicans believe that tax repeal can be accomplished through a reduction in State expenditures and through economic growth.

In order to effectuate meaningful and permanent reductions in state spending, Republicans support the following ideas: Imposition of a permanent cap on state spending by way of a constitutional amendment. The current cap proposed by Governor Florio and passed by the Democrats can be modified or even abolished by a single sentence in the budget.

* Adoption of a 'Gramm-Rudman' style constitutional amendment. This proposed amendment to the state constitution would create an automatic spending reduction mechanism whenever revenue shortfalls occur and a current year deficit is threatened. If revenues fall below the levels that were certified by the Governor, and a deficit is looming, New Jersey's 'Gramm-Rudman' amendment would automatically eliminate the threatened deficit by mandating across-the-board cuts in state departments and agencies in a proportion necessary to balance the budget. This would foster responsible budgeting and would penalize elected officials, not the taxpayers, if less than responsible budgeting occurs.

* Adoption of a new balanced budget amendment. State government must learn how to live within its financial means. Surplus revenue would be deposited in a contingency fund that could only be used in the event of an emergency. If the fund grows too large, money would have to be returned to the taxpayers in the form of tax credits.

* Approval of a state payment for state mandate act. In 1988, voters in sixteen counties approved a non-binding referendum overwhelmingly supporting this Republican concept. It would relieve the pressure on local governments and property taxes. If the state believes a new program should be implemented on the local level, then it should pick up the cost. If the state can't afford it, it shouldn't pass the buck.

* Establishment of an aggressive state employee attrition program supervised by a permanent Vacancy Review Board. No one would have to be fired or laid off under this program. The board would determine whether a specific position, when it becomes vacant, has outlived its usefulness or its costs cannot be justified. State services should not have to suffer. The program would be modeled after one implemented by former Pennsylvania Governor Dick Thornburgh, who eliminated 13,281 state jobs between 1979 and 1986 or roughly 2,000 per year. The key to Pennsylvania's success was relying more on computers, consolidating services, and reorganizing agencies, programs and facilities.

* Conducting a full, independent audit of state government. The so-called "audit" bally-hoed by Governor Florio has not

resulted in one penny in reduction of the Democrats \$2.8 billion tax increase.

Republicans believe that a true, independent audit of the operations of every department of state government is an essential component of true fiscal responsibility.

* Creating a Performance Review Committee. We should be concentrating on ways to save money, instead of spending it. This panel would evaluate the operations of state departments, agencies and state-supported programs to determine if they are still needed and are functioning efficiently. All departments would be evaluated on a staggered basis every 10 years. In effect, we would have a continuing permanent audit of state government operations.

* Privatization of state services. There is some evidence that privatization, in which the provision of public services is transferred to the private sector, can provide government services more efficiently and at a lower cost. Republicans would create a commission to examine ways to privatize appropriate state and local government programs.

* Placing a greater emphasis on regionalization of services. Eliminating wasteful and duplicative services at the county and municipal levels through voluntary sharing agreements can cut costs and ease the property tax burden.

* Cutting Red Tape. The proliferation of bureaucratic red tape stems, in great measure, from duplicative, overlapping and competing regulations and jurisdictions. It only serves to waste taxpayer money and discourage economic growth. Close scrutiny of the recommendations of the Study Commission on Regulatory Efficiency (SCORE) would offer additional ideas on cost savings.

* Consolidation of government functions. Republicans support efforts to reduce the size of state government. Republicans will institute a systematic review of the various agencies of state government with an eye on consolidation of duplicative programs and elimination of personnel. Departments and agencies can be combined and excess personnel eliminated. Republicans will give serious consideration to combining the Departments of Banking and Insurance into one regulatory

department, combining the Departments of Education and Higher Education and combining the Departments of Labor and Commerce.

* Professionalizing the state budget process. New Jersey's budget and fiscal operations exceed those of many private corporations. Yet we require less in the way of background and credentials to hold the office of state treasurer than boards of directors do of their chief financial officers. It makes no sense . . . and has gotten us into trouble. 1990 will be remembered as the year New Jersey got the largest tax increase in its history -- and still faced a budget deficit. Mismanagement is among the principle reasons. Taxpayers have a right to expect the guardian of the public treasury to be among the best and the brightest candidates available. It is vital to set minimum professional job standards for the office of state treasurer. The treasurer should be well-versed in the fields of budget preparation and analysis, revenue projection, fiscal management, and cost control.

* Getting a handle on revenue projections. Our ability to fulfill our constitutional mandate to keep the budget in balance can easily be undermined by inaccurate economic data. A permanent state revenue forecasting advisory commission can be an important vehicle to achieve more accurate information on economic trends and activity. It would continuously monitor tax and revenue collections to forecast anticipated directions for the current and coming fiscal years. Members would be chosen on the basis of expertise and professional credentials.

In an era in which economic realities have forced families and businesses to find ways to increase earnings and creatively provide for a secure future, so too should government not be afraid to closely examine new ways to allocate its revenues to more efficiently perform its legitimate functions.

For example, it has been suggested that State Aid and Grants in Aid money be distributed directly to schools, municipalities and counties through "Block Grants" based on need and population, eliminating administrative costs and maximizing property tax reduction. The State Aid part of the budget could also be adopted by March 31st each year to assure schools, municipalities and counties of the state aid coming to them.

Two other ideas that could lessen the local property tax burden and make New Jersey a more attractive location for business include the establishment of a local "Infrastructure Bank" which will make no interest loans to schools, counties and municipalities, and the use of an "Umbrella Policy" to provide self insurance for liability, fire and theft coverage for local governments.

Republicans are committed to examining every concept and strategy that holds the promise for leading to a more efficient government while reducing the tax burden of our citizens.

New Jersey simply cannot afford Governor Florio's "government as usual."

JOBS AND ECONOMY

During the Kean years, New Jersey enjoyed robust economic growth. Business expanded. Tens of thousands of new jobs were created. New Jersey went from a butt of jokes to a first class state, whose people were confident in the future.

Virtually overnight, pro-jobs, pro-growth Republican policies were replaced by disastrous Democrat fiscal programs whose effect has been a "Florio Recession" for New Jersey.

The image that once engendered respect and envy from states that wished they could compete with New Jersey in attracting investment and jobs has been tarnished by the Democrats disastrous economic policies.

The record speaks for itself. All economic indicators point downward. Expected revenues from the Florio tax increase have not reached their estimated levels. New Jersey retail sales are sluggish. Businesses coping with the poor State economy have reduced personnel and increased employee contributions to pension and health care programs. Firms are relocating.

The services sector contributes a great deal to the New Jersey economy. The 7% sales tax on telecommunications has

been harmful for such business enterprises as brokerage house back offices and other key employers.

The manufacturing sector is further declining. In May 1988, there were 665,000 manufacturing jobs. Since then, the State has lost over 100,000 manufacturing jobs. In fact, between January 1990 and January 1991, the State lost 42,300 jobs.

Overall statewide job growth is in a significant decline. Over the past 27 months, 125,000 jobs have been lost and firms are relocating from the State. The State unemployment rate, which fell below the national rate during the 1980's, has even topped the national rate during the Florio Administration.

Clearly, Governor Florio and the Democrats have not been kind to New Jersey's economy.

Republicans believe that reducing taxes will revitalize the State economy. Republicans will work to enact policies that will stimulate the economy and increase consumer spending, business sales, capital investment, and create more jobs.

The Republican Party will look to ways to improve the ability of the manufacturing sector of the economy to compete and be productive. With New Jersey's ideal transportation facilities, location, and economic base, it is vital to search for ways to assist this important sector.

In addition, Republicans know that a major impediment to economic growth is the stranglehold caused by overburdensome, wasteful, and duplicative government regulations. The Republican Party is committed to redoubling efforts to eliminate over-regulation of our State's business and industry.

Equally important, Republican majorities will call for special attention be devoted toward promoting the backbone of New Jersey's economy, small and medium size businesses. In the tradition of Governor Tom Kean's "Politics of Inclusion", Republicans will pay particular attention to those ethnic entrepreneurs and women owned businesses that are providing New Jersey with even a greater economic base.

Specifically, Republican majorities in the legislature will give full consideration to examine ways to reform ECRA, to clarify its impact, and resolve its many ambiguities.

Republicans will work to develop an aggressive export and foreign trade strategy to assist New Jersey companies as they compete in the global marketplace. The Republican Party believes that in addition to providing special incentives for foreign investment here in New Jersey, export promotion through technical assistance, financing, and partnerships with lending institutions can help New Jersey take advantage of the many free trade opportunities resulting from newly expanded international trade agreements.

A State trade strategy, which aims at promoting new business opportunities in targeted overseas markets for Europe in 1992 and its integration of the European monetary market, is important for New Jersey if we are to play a significant role in capitalizing on foreseen trade opportunities.

No less than our State's survival depends on revitalizing our economy. The people of New Jersey can look to the Republican Party with confidence to restore our State's lost competitive edge in the region and in the nation.

EDUCATION

Governor Florio and the Democrats have failed the children of New Jersey.

In no other area have the Democrats performed more abysmally than in the area of education. The education policy of the administration coupled with the blatantly political machinations of the Democrats in the Legislature, particularly Senator John Lynch, have produced a litany of education failures which may have very well set back the goal of "excellence in education" years.

The Florio Administration has systematically dismantled a productive, non-political State Department of Education whose employees were committed to excellence under the leadership of Governor Tom Kean and Commissioner Saul Cooperman. In its place is a department of political patronage appointees and career professionals whose morale is at all time low.

Under the leadership of Governor Tom Kean, educational initiatives such as core proficiency testing, statewide report

cards for school districts, the strengthening of county offices for monitoring school district performance, regional computer training and demonstration centers, and pilot programs for intra district school choice had a great impact toward the goal of excellence in education. In a short sighted decision, Governor Florio either eliminated these progrms, or watered them down to the point of almost non existence.

Republicans deplore the blatant "vote buying" which occurred in the Legislature to secure votes for the Quality Education Act from reluctant Democrat Senators. Thirty-three million dollars of taxpayer funds were designated for so-called "densely populated municipalities" for no other reason than to appease a handful of Democrat Senators.

Republicans will continue to demand that discretionary funds distributed by the Commissioner of Education be appropriated on the basis of sound educational and fiscal standards and not by political judgment of one Florio appointee.

Republicans believe that there must be greater accountability of state tax dollars going to schools. We were disappointed that while Governor Florio was proposing millions of new dollars for local schools, his Department of Education was eliminating the school monitoring teams.

Republicans believe that expert testimony and citizen input on major changes in state policy should be received prior to legislation being introduced, and not after a bill is signed into law. We condemn the process which produced the Quality Education Act.

Republicans deplore and denounce the politicization of education as an issue by Senate President John Lynch. The bashing of teachers, school board members and other educators is both hypocritical and only serves to lower the level of debate.

Declining SAT scores and universal disenchantment with the education policies of Governor Florio and the Democrats demand a revisitation by the Legislature of the Quality Education Act.

All of New Jersey's children deserve a quality education. A quality education is addressed by stressing excellence and

accountability, not be mandating mediocrity as the present Democratic administration has done in the form of the Quality Education Act. Republicans acknowledge the State Supreme Court's mandate in the Abbott v. Burke case. The court required substantially equivalent expenditures between the very poorest districts and the more wealthy districts. The court also required the elimination of minimum aid. We acknowledge these mandates and agree to meet them. We strongly disagree, however, with the QEA as the response to these mandates. Republicans will re-examine the school finance issue during the upcoming legislative session.

First and foremost, we will be examining whether the QEA should be replaced by a law that is more limited to the court's decision in Abbott v. Burke. If further examination reveals that a foundation system, like the QEA, is advisable, we would examine the following specific parts of QEA:

- * How the foundation level was established and why.
- * If we need regional cost differences included in the ..foundation level.
- * If expenditure standards should be established and if so, what they should be.
- * If personal income should be included in the formula for local district wealth.

Republicans unequivocally support the restoration of the state's responsibility of school district social security and pension costs on a permanent basis.

We support the elimination of aid to at-risk pupils and the restoration of compensatory education.

We support the concept of budget caps on school districts. The QEA attempts to address school finance by "leveling down" the strong New Jersey districts rather than "raising up" the weak ones. The Abbott mandate makes it impossible for the state to meet its obligations to the special needs districts over time, unless there is some restraint on the ability of districts to spend additional dollars.

Republicans reaffirm our commitment to preschool education particularly in the present climate of fiscal realities.

We reaffirm our support for a state bond issue, submitted to the voters for approval, which would address the public school facilities needs statewide.

The Republican Party is committed to excellence in higher education. We believe that higher education is critical to the social, economic, and cultural advancement of New Jersey. Without a trained and educated workforce, our state will be unable to compete in the ever-changing global economy.

Republicans endorse the funding of the County Community College System at the level required by law. Spending reductions made by the Democrats have only served to increase costs for students and municipalities. A strong community college system is important to the overall 'educational infrastructure' that will provide a firm foundation for New Jersey's future

The Republican agenda for better education looks first to home and family. Parents have the primary right and responsibility for the education of their children. We encourage parents and teachers to join forces to motivate and encourage self-esteem in our children. We strongly support and encourage parental involvement and volunteerism in the schools.

We support incentives to get school districts to voluntarily come together in order to reduce administrative costs and increase curricular and extra-curricular offerings for students.

Our children are our future and we are deeply concerned by the decline in the performance of our schools and of public confidence in them. We support President Bush in his efforts to "reinvent American education" by joining forces with American businesses and encourage reform and innovation for New Jersey schools by forming partnerships between business and education.

We believe that New Jersey should adopt the education goals of President George Bush as stated in the 1990 State of the Union message. They are as follows:

By the year 2000:

* All children in America will start school ready to learn.

- * We will increase the percentage of students graduating from high school to at least 90 percent.
- * Students will leave grades 4, 8 and 12 having demonstrated competency in challenging subject matter, including English, mathematics, science, history, and geography; and every school in America will ensure that all students learn to use their minds well, so they may be prepared for responsible citizenship, further learning and productive employment in our modern economy.
- * U.S. students will be first in the world in science and mathematics achievement.
- * Every adult American will be literate and possess the knowledge and skills necessary to compete in a global economy and exercise the rights and responsibilities of citizenship and
- * Every school in America will be free of drugs and violence and offer a disciplined environment conducive to learning.

AUTO INSURANCE

For the past 25 years, the auto insurance system in New Jersey has been subjected to a tremendous amount of change and instability. The regulatory agency charged with providing stability to the auto insurance system is the New Jersey Department of Insurance. The Republican Party pledges an intensive, thorough review of the Department of Insurance to ensure that drivers enjoy an efficient and effective insurance industry.

Governor Jim Florio and his Democratic Legislative majority promised a full 20% reduction in auto insurance rates. Their efforts to fulfill that promise have produced the latest effort at auto insurance reform, known as the FAIR ACT. It must be emphasized that the Republican Party believes this act is anything but fair.

In his State of the State address in January, 1991, Governor Florio stated that all New Jerseyans would save \$220 per car on their auto insurance. This is simply not true. The Governor stated that this savings will result from the elimination of the Residual Market Equalization Charge.

However, senior citizens were exempt from the RMEC, and therefor, will not see that savings. Additionally, the RMEC was based on amount of coverage. Those who did not carry full coverage will not see the full \$220 reduction.

The Republican Party is also concerned about the changes in the premium rating system that result from the FAIR ACT. The intent of the act is to reduce emphasis on age and territory. The result is that more experienced drivers in rural or suburban areas will be forced to subsidize younger, urban drivers.

The shifting to health carriers of medical costs from auto accidents remains a concern for the Republican Party. Although current trends show that most insured are not yet electing to shift these costs to their health insurance, the potential remains for an additional burden to be placed on the health insurance industry at a time when the industry can least afford new burdens.

The Republican Party was firmly opposed to the increased motor vehicle fees in Governor Florio's auto insurance proposal. The cost to register a car has gone up wither \$15 or \$40, depending on the age of the vehicle. We believe that this increased fee amounts to yet another increased tax by the Governor and the Democratic Legislature.

Republicans also have serious reservations concerning the new surcharge system that was implemented as a result of the Governor's plan. Under this new system, one ticket or at fault accident can cost a driver hundreds, if not thousands, of dollars over a three year period.

The Republican Party is well aware of the problems that are associated with the amassed \$3 billion debt of the now-dissolved Joint Underwriting Association. However, we believe that the mechanism implemented by the FAIR ACT to address this debt is seriously flawed.

The Governor and the Democrats have assessed one half of the JUA debt on the insurance companies. There is a great possibility that the industry will be permitted to pass these

assessments on to their policyholders in the form of increased rates. In the end, it will be the drivers who again will pay for this debt.

Finally, although the JUA was dissolved, it was replaced by an entity known as the Market Transition Facility. The Republican Party has expressed concern that the MTF is merely the "Son of the JUA," operating in much the same fashion, and, after approximately one year in operation, amassing a debt in the area of \$1 billion.

We feel it is obvious that our system remains flawed, and the FAIR ACT is anything but fair.

Further, we are committed to a complete review of the Division of Auto Insurance in the Department of Insurance. A system that has been reformed, adjusted and overhauled as many times as our auto insurance system must have a first-rate division in the Department dedicated to overseeing it exclusively.

Auto insurance fraud has consistently been a major factor in driving auto insurance rates higher and higher. Often, insurance companies are faced with a dilemma: it would be less costly to pay a fraudulent claim rather than investigate it, and possibly fight it in court.

All too often, the assumption is that despite the relatively low numbers of people actually submitting fraudulent claims, the entire motoring public must be penalized. The Republican Party recognizes that most drivers are honest individuals who want and deserve a fairly administered and reasonably priced policy. Dealing strongly and swiftly with fraud will reduce the necessity of sweeping, market-wide measures that place an additional burden on all the drivers of our state.

The Republican Party advocates the establishment of an aggressive anti-fraud unit, within the Department of Insurance, devoted to investigating chronic areas of false claims throughout the state. This unit would work in conjunction with the industry, and its members would be given all necessary police enforcement powers in an effort to break organized insurance fraud operations. We realize that attempts have been

made at fraud investigation; however, these attempts have not been strong enough. The Republican Party is committed to a meaningful fraud reduction program.

The Republican Party recognizes that a significant problem plaguing the auto insurance system in the state is the number of uninsured motorists in New Jersey. Estimates have ranged from 200,000 to as many as 800,000 uninsured motorists statewide. This represents a tremendous amount of premium dollars that are lost to the industry. The result is that all motorists who obey the law and obtain insurance are forced to subsidize those who do not. The Republican Party is committed to implementing an enforcement program to assist in this area.

However, Republicans also understand that first and foremost, auto insurance must be affordable. Many New Jersey citizens drive without insurance at the present time for one reason - they cannot afford the "Cadillac" coverage that is presently mandated. The Republican Party believes that it is essential to provide drivers with the option for basic coverage that is within their means to obtain.

In 1990, our auto insurance system was completely overhauled in 45 days. The final version of the legislation that was passed was presented to the Legislature less than one hour before it was voted upon. The Republican Party strongly believes that legislation that is so expansive must be considered far more carefully. We are fully committed to obtaining as much input as possible from the general public and private industry before considering any such legislation.

Further, the Republican Party encourages support, cooperation, and input from all members of the Legislature when considering insurance reform proposals. We believe that bipartisan input often produces ideas that are better for the entire State of New Jersey and we will work aggressively to see that accomplished.

Because the unilateral decisions of the Insurance Commissioner affect the budgets of every New Jersey family, the Republican Party recognizes the need to establish a greater level of accountability on the part of the Commissioner to the members of the Legislature.

Our Party realizes that New Jersey Drivers can't afford to have partisan politics dictating insurance reform. Solutions must be accomplished with the full and ongoing input from both political parties. Auto insurance problems are not exclusively Republican or Democratic; the problems affect all of the more than five million New Jersey drivers, representing all political affiliations.

We also recognize that the Department of Insurance often produces regulations that have no statutory justification. Unfortunately, the Department is currently authorized to implement insurance laws without legislative oversight. Our Party believes that the Legislature should carefully review the rulemaking process as it relates to the Department of Insurance and restrict the Department's authority to issue rules and regulations only upon explicit authorization from the legislature.

The time has come for all the providers and consumers in our state to stop blaming each other, and begin working with each other on meaningful solutions. If the many groups involved with our auto insurance system work together, we will develop a truly fair auto insurance system. The public deserves this and it must be done.

While realizing insurers and providers have a right to pursue a reasonable profit for furnishing their services, policyholders must not be required to subsidize inefficiencies in the industry. The Republican party is determined to help establish and maintain a healthy and successful auto insurance system.

Therefore, to accomplish the goal of private sector and public input, bipartisan support, and regulatory review, the Republican Party is committed to the creation of a New Jersey Motorists Advocacy Commission (NJMAC). NJMAC would be composed of members of the auto insurance industry, representatives of providers to the industry such as doctors, lawyers, and auto body repair shops. NJMAC would also have members of the driving public and the State Legislature.

NJMAC would be responsible for reviewing and making recommendations on all legislation that would effect our auto insurance system. The Commission would also have the power to

review and make recommendations about regulations that have been implemented by the Department of Insurance.

The Republican Party believes that through the NJMAC, our state may finally move away from short-term, politically expedient solutions to the complex problems of our auto insurance system, and begin to achieve long-term, meaningful solutions.

OPEN GOVERNMENT

Governor Florio and the Democrats have stopped at nothing to reverse the healthy trend toward more open government that began in the 1970's and continued through the 1980's.

New Jerseyans witnessed early the tone set by the Democrats when Governor Florio forced the resignations of the non-partisan Council of Economic Advisors, a board of respected professionals who provided sound advice for a quarter of a century. Governor Florio's refusal to permit his Cabinet Commissioners to testify at the FY'91 legislative budget hearings was an important sign of an Administration that preferred policy-making within the confines of smoke-filled rooms.

The so-called "Quality Education Act" was rammed through the legislature with virtually no public input and precious little legislative debate. In fact, the Democrat legislative sponsor in the Senate admits he didn't even read the bill!

What's worse, the Democrats learned nothing a year later. They tightened the budget process even further in adopting the FY'92 budget by severely limiting the number of hearings and public input.

It is abundantly clear that the Administration's policy-making is controlled solely by a clique of Camden county cronies whose greatest asset is fealty to Governor Florio and the Democrat Party.

The Republican Party recognizes that in a democracy, all power is derived from the people. A clear majority of Republicans in the Legislature supported recent efforts to

place Initiative and Referendum on the November ballot, only a handful of Democrat legislators did likewise. The Republican Party continues to support a carefully structured system of I&R.

Indeed, I&R's most recent passage in the legislature came in a Republican-controlled chamber when the Assembly passed it in 1987.

Republicans believe I&R should be scrupulously tailored to protect the interests of every region and ensure that items placed on the ballot have the broadest possible geographic base of support. Stringently high signature thresholds and county-based minimums are important to ensure that only those questions which enjoy widespread popular interest are put before the voters.

The Republican Party also believes that the people of the state should have the same right that citizens in fifteen states currently enjoy: the right to recall elected officials by popular election. Specifically, citizens in Alaska, California, Colorado, Georgia, Idaho, Kansas, Louisiana, Michigan, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, North Dakota, Oregon, Washington, and Wisconsin now enjoy the right to recall their Governor and individual state legislators. Republicans feel that New Jerseyans should have the same Constitutional right to remove those elected officials on the state level who they feel are no longer representing their best interest.

Republican legislators in both houses have introduced recall legislation and pushed for its passage during the 1990 - 1991 legislative session. However, those attempts were ignored by the Democrats.

While controlling both houses of the Legislature over the past two years, the Democrat Party has shown no leadership in the Legislature and allowed themselves to be dominated and controlled by the Governor. All too often, critical legislation, such as the QEA and the \$3 billion Florio tax hikes, were railroaded through the legislative process at the "eleventh hour". The citizens of the state rightfully expect better from their government.

Republicans will work to bring back "openness" and trust in government by ensuring that the general public is notified of pending activity in Trenton before it occurs, not after the

fact. Republicans are committed to ensuring that legislation follows an orderly process through an appropriate committee, complete with public hearings and committee meetings that are made known to the public in advance. Legislation will not be railroaded through the legislative process in a Republican majority.

Republicans pledge 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 also supports the creation of a bipartisan commission similar to that which worked on creating legislative districts, for Congressional redistricting. We believe that the Legislature must enact a rational and just plan for drawing boundaries for the House of Representatives. It is vital to create districts which are equal in population, compact, respect county and municipal boundaries, reflect important communities of interest, and assure minority representation.

In light of recent Democratic efforts to change the system of choosing Presidential electors to the Congressional district level, it has never been more important to move the map-drawing process out of the back room and into the full light of public scrutiny. A bi-partisan commission can be enormously helpful in this regard.

Recent polls have indicated that the people of this state view state government with cynicism and distrust. No wonder. With a Governor who earned his stripes by manipulating Camden county government and surrounding himself with top aides who earned millions of dollars through government connections, it is not surprising that voters should be particularly cynical about the incumbent Administration.

The Republican Party believes that the only way to begin to win back the people's trust is to have open, honest, and efficient government in Trenton. Therefore, Republicans support legislation on the state level similar to the ethics legislation for local officials enacted last year. Until state officials are under the same strict ethical guidelines that they impose on local officials, voters will continue to look with skepticism at state government.

CRIME

The Republican Party believes that keeping our communities safe is one of government's highest priorities. New Jersey is fortunate to have a resourceful and committed law enforcement community which believes the same.

The greatest contributor to criminal activity in New Jersey and, indeed the Nation, is drug use. This menace destroys lives and burdens society with incredible economic costs.

New Jersey's law enforcement community has been a national leader in fighting the war on drugs. Republicans have led the fight to enact some of the most comprehensive and stringent laws in the nation to combat drug abuse. Drug dealers have received a clear message -- they are not welcome in New Jersey.

Starting with the Comprehensive Drug Reform Act of 1987, New Jersey led the way in establishing tough and creative penalties for those who use and sell this poison on our streets.

Almost as important as tough prison terms 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 zone. The law imposes mandatory minimum sentences on those who peddle drugs within 1,000 feet of school property. The law targets the most despicable of criminals -- those who prey on our children.

These laws are complemented by the Attorney General's Statewide Action Plan, which directs law enforcement agencies and officers to make enforcement of drug laws their number one priority. The recently released Uniform Crime Report, however, shows a near 20% reduction in drug arrests from 1989 to 1990 -- this following several years of unprecedented increases in drug arrests. The Republican Party is fearful that this as yet unexplained reduction may reflect the current Administration's lack of leadership on crime issues.

While New Jersey has taken strides in addressing the supply side of the drug problem, Republicans understand that the demand for drugs must also be addressed. Our greatest opportunity for reducing demand lies in the education of our children. Through programs such as DARE (Drug Abuse Resistance Education) our kids learn about the destructive force of drugs. In addition, local Drug Alliances are being formed throughout the State, funded by penalties collected from drug offenders. The Alliances focus their efforts on education and stopping drug use before it starts. The Republican Party endorses and will concentrate on promoting the expansion of these types of programs.

The Republican Party endorses the crime prevention community which is beginning to return to community based policing such as returning the "beat cop" to the streets.

Substance abusers who wish to kick their habit should be given an opportunity to do so. We should seek to expand our substance abuse treatment capacity with "treatment on demand" as the goal.

In 1982, Governor Tom Kean signed the reenactment 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, with one exception, overturned every death sentence imposed by a jury.

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.

Republicans support a constitutional amendment to close a loophole in the capital punishment law created by the Court in State v. Gerald. Almost a quarter of the death sentences which the Supreme Court has overturned can be attributed, in whole or part, to the loophole created in Gerald.

In addition, we will seek to control the Court's activism by supporting the passage of legislation which limits the Court's discretion while undertaking proportionality review in death penalty cases.

We also support further statutory revisions in the death penalty statute which will expand the list of so-called aggravating factors to include murders committed by drug kingpins.

Too often, the needs of crime victims are overlooked in the criminal justice system. While we in New Jersey have recognized this by adopting a statutory Crime Victims' Bill of Rights and created in each county an Office of Victim-Witness Advocacy, more needs to be done. People of the State of New Jersey will have an opportunity this November to adopt a Victims' Rights Amendment to the New Jersey Constitution. If adopted, we will become one of only several states to constitutionally recognize the rights of crime victims. The Republican Party strongly urges the people of New Jersey to adopt this amendment.

One of the most potentially explosive issues facing the criminal justice system today is prison overcrowding. While the Republican Party and the people of New Jersey have always supported the expansion of prison facilities, it is time to explore creative and less expensive punishment and criminal control techniques. We support the establishment of boot-camps for young non-violent offenders and the expansion of programs such as ISP (Intensive Supervision Program). In addition, we urge the adoption of new techniques which will provide safety for our communities in a more efficient and effective manner.

Republicans are dismayed by Governor Florio's attempt to turn law abiding citizens into criminals. Hiding behind the facade of being tough on crime, Governor Florio has once again missed the mark. The Republican Party supports vigorously enforced laws which keep dangerous weapons out of the hands of criminals. Republicans know that real crime prevention does not mean turning law abiding citizens into criminals. We believe crime control means turning criminals into prison inmates.

Republicans' "get tough" approach to all crime led to the passage and successful implementation during the 1980's of the

toughest drunk driving laws in the nation. We are deeply committed to continue vigilant enforcement of these laws, because the record proves that these laws save lives.

We continue to support the strongest possible enforcement of the law signed by Governor Kean which ensures that anyone that commits a felony while armed will be subject to a mandatory prison sentence.

The Republican Party supports legislation which will prohibit furlough policies as it applies to violent crimes.

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 Republican Party pledges to be unyielding in our efforts to combat crime and drugs. With the current Administration's lack of any real crime policy it becomes more apparent every day that tough new leadership is needed in Trenton.

HOUSING

During the decade of the 1980s, New Jersey experienced an unparalleled wave of economic prosperity. This growth was due in no small part to a surge in construction activity, particularly residential construction.

With 1990 came a sharp decline in construction spending and predictably an economic downturn for New Jersey.

For New Jersey to once again prosper, State housing policies must be adopted that will encourage thoughtful residential building, both for purchase and rental housing, to especially meet the needs of middle and lower income New Jerseyans.

Republicans affirm our conviction that the provision of housing is a vital community priority.

Unfortunately, the economic prosperity of the 1980s masked burgeoning problems in the delivery of housing, all of which adversely affected housing production and cost.

Both state and national studies have identified unnecessary, duplicative government regulation as responsible for adding up to 30 percent to the cost of new housing. Necessary reforms include creating a one-stop land use permitting procedure in state government, a uniform site plan model for local governments, and a better coordination of ultimate permitting/approval responsibility between the many layers of local and regional development.

The present situation where the land use permitting/approval process can take up to three years to complete exacts too great a cost for New Jersey to bear. It must be reduced.

The backbone of New Jersey's housing stock is its rental housing. For single persons, young families, the poor, seniors and the transient, rental housing represents in many instances the only affordable housing option available. Yet, today New Jersey's rental housing stock is at its lowest level since World War II with no sign of growth. Worse, New Jersey is losing more and more rental units to disrepair, particularly in urban areas. Finally, the reduction of federal rental subsidies and federal tax incentives for rental housing investment have severely impacted on production.

Mt. Laurel, while well intended in its purpose, has not promoted the kind of municipal-private sector partnership in providing for "affordable housing" opportunities. In many cases, the Fair Housing Act has pitted municipalities and builders against each other in both the judicial arena and the COAH mediation process. Also, the Fair Housing Act has caused undue environmental and fiscal hardships on some municipalities.

The Republican Party believes that greater emphasis should be placed on creating voluntary incentives to promote local - private sector efforts to spur the construction of affordable housing. In addition, new strategies to remove additional barriers to "affordability" must be pursued.

State housing policy must make the preservation and production of rental housing through the private sector its top

priority. Limited state resources such as balanced housing grants and loans and state tax exempt bonding authority should be targeted to the preservation and production of rental units particularly in urban areas. Developers should be encouraged through these incentives to build mixed income rental developments, for both families and seniors. Further, the Council on Affordable Housing should increase bonus credits given to municipalities for production of rental housing and remove the cap on these credits 6 percent. Also, the Council should remove the 25 percent limit on senior citizen housing.

The credit crunch of the 1990s has led many banks to stop lending for housing, but particularly for construction of low, moderate and middle income housing. State government can't possibly provide the construction lending necessary to build these essential units.

The New Jersey Housing and Mortgage Finance Agency has an important role to play in spurring private construction lending. The Agency could offer to guarantee a limited portion of private construction loans used to finance projects with at least 20 percent affordable units. No taxpayer money would be used to fund the guarantee. Instead, banks would purchase Agency notes and bonds to capitalize the guarantee fund.

The failure of many urban governments to comprehensively and annually update property assessments for tax purposes has forced residents of some neighborhoods to pay more than their fair share in property taxes while subsidizing other neighborhoods. Worse, residents in gentrifying neighborhoods face inflated assessments that don't mirror true socio-economic conditions.

Municipalities which have failed to comprehensively revalue property as required under the New Jersey State Constitution should immediately conform to the law and annually adjust assessments to maintain taxpayer equity.

The problem of homelessness has been compounded by government's continued reliance on welfare motels to house homeless individuals and families. This reliance wastes millions of dollars annually on motel space that is priced up to 500 percent higher than comparable rental housing with none of the necessities (kitchens) and amenities found in decent housing.

State government needs to again return to the Kean Administration's initiative of building decent transitional housing for the homeless. Such housing, while far less costly than welfare motels, provides not only an apartment but also child care, job training and placement and a structured social environment for families to nurture and grow. The goal of transitional housing is transition out of the apartments, out of welfare and onto independent living.

MILITARY AND VETERANS AFFAIRS

The Republican Party commends and thanks the brave members of the U.S. Armed Forces who participated in the Persian Gulf War. We hope that their courageous efforts - which in some cases included the ultimate sacrifice - will bring about greater security, stability, and freedom in the troubled Middle East.

The Patriotism and exceptional skill demonstrated by these fine men and women in answering our Country's call to duty has caused all Americans to renew our appreciation for those in military service, and particularly for those have served during times of armed conflict.

Accordingly, the Republican Party renews its commitment to appropriately honor our veterans, and to fairly compensate them for their sacrifices. When military reservists were first mobilized for the Persian Gulf War, New Jersey Republicans were the first to propose legislation providing financial protection and other assistance by modernizing the outdated Soldiers' and Sailors' Civil Relief Act. But to the great discredit of the Democrats, who control the reins of government in New Jersey, not a single piece of relief legislation was signed into law before or during the war - at time when it was needed most. Republicans will continue working to assure that such protections are put into place, in the unfortunate event that they are again needed.

Republicans are also committed to providing services to veterans of all conflicts who suffer the lingering effects of the strain of battle. We renew our support for the State's

counseling program for those suffering form post-traumatic stress disorder, and we will work to assure that these services are made available to all those who may need them.

We know that many veterans have difficulty in finding transportation to the facilities where veteran's health care services are provided. To assure that veterans are able to receive the health care to which they are entitled, we support the veterans' transportation program and will examine ways to improve and expand this important service.

The Republican Party is also concerned about the long waiting lists for acceptance into each of the three State run veterans' nursing homes. We will promote the full utilization of all existing beds in these facilities which remain vacant, and will explore humane and beneficial alternatives to institutionalization wherever possible. The most promising of these is home health care, which would permit the veteran to stay in familiar surroundings, close to family and friends, while still receiving necessary medical attention.

Our most vulnerable veterans must receive the particular level of care and protection that they need. The State veterans' homes must be properly equipped and staffed to address the special needs of those stricken with Alzheimer's Disease. Veterans who are suffering from diminished use of their faculties must have available for them a special program to provide expedited designation of a legal guardian so that vital medical care can be provided without unnecessary and dangerous legal delays. Republicans will continue to push for these much needed protective services.

In the ongoing federal military base closure and realignment process, New Jersey Republicans will continue to effectively represent our State's commitment to maintaining a strong but cost efficient national defense. New Jersey's military facilities will continue their fine tradition of delivering exceptional service in support of America's defense needs.

FAMILY ISSUES

The Republican Party affirms that there is no institution more important to the survival and success of our society than the family. Understanding the economic hardships brought on by

Governor Florio's failed economic policies, and the fact the family make up in 1991 is radically different from years gone by, the Republican Party is committed to those policies which strengthen the family.

The Republican Party understands that there are emergency situations that demand that a family member must take a leave of absence from their place of employment. The Republican Party feels that New Jerseyans should not have to decide between job security and taking care of family responsibilities. The Republican Party encourages private industry to continue implementing policy to address this very real and important problem.

The Republican Party fully endorses legislation which prevents families from having to make the decision between caring for a family member or job security. The Republican Party also endorses federal efforts to pass federal family leave legislation.

The Republican Party is fully aware that the workplace is ever changing. Working with business leaders, the Republican Party is committed to providing New Jersey workers with the option of taking unpaid leave in order to care for family members without fearing the loss of ones job.

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.

Recognizing that government has a responsibility to lend a "helping hand" to those under economic distress, the Republican Party is committed to a welfare system which promotes the family and works to elevate beneficiaries out from a state of dependence on public assistance.

The Republican Party also feels parents should be their child's first teacher, protector, and nurturer. Recognizing

that government must play a role in helping families meet their responsibilities to their children, the Party firmly believes that any governmental action must be confined to the arena of promoting, protecting, and defending the family.

In an era where both parents work to make ends meet, the Republican Party is committed toward working with business and private organizations to help provide better day time child care.

The Republican Party supports tax incentives for businesses that open day care facilities for employees. The Republican Party also supports tax credits for low-income families to help defray the costs of childcare. And finally, the Republican Party endorses those efforts of New Jerseyans who have started businesses to provide day care for today's children.

Knowing full well that our very future demands that children receive proper guidance and nurturing, the Republican Party is committed to those efforts which strengthen the family and allow parents to best perform their parental duties.

QUALITY OF LIFE

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

It has long been a fundamental conviction of the Republican Party in New Jersey that government should foster in our society a climate that promotes maximum individual liberty. We treasure the ethnic, cultural, religious, and regional diversity of our people.

Republicans believe that bigotry and intolerance have no place in the life of our State. Our Party repudiates the activities of people, organizations, publications and entities which promulgate the practice of any form of bigotry, racism, anti-semitism, religious intolerance, or discrimination of any kind.

We support tough enforcement of laws to punish those in our society who prey on the fears of citizens by committing crimes of hate. Such actions have no place in New Jersey.

The Republican Party is the party of equal rights. From our founding in 1854, we have promoted equality of opportunity. We believe that there must be vigorous enforcement of laws to assure equal treatment in job recruitment, hiring, promotion, pay, credit, mortgage access and housing.

The promise of our future lies in preserving the greatness of our past. New Jersey's historic landmarks are among this country's finest. Understanding the current fiscal realities experienced by all states, but severely hampered by the fiscal follies of Governor Florio, the Republican Party is committed to assuring adequate funds so that our cultural heritage is preserved for all future generations.

Under the Kean Administration, historic preservation received a huge boost with the 1987 Green Acres, Cultural Centers and Historic Preservation Bond Act. But more important, the Republican Party still understands that the purpose of having historic preservation goes beyond cultural amenities. Historic preservation should be a part of good planning so that the economic benefits through tourism and the movie industry are achieved. Simply put, the Republican Party is committed to historic preservation knowing full well that historic preservation benefits all New Jerseyans both culturally and economically.

Republicans know that an appreciation for the arts brings an enrichment to the lives of all New Jerseyans.

The Republican Party is fully committed to nurturing the ability of our State's wondrously talented arts community to continue to enhance the quality of life in our State.

Republicans support efforts to instill in young people a deeper appreciation for diverse styles, interpretations, and forms of art. Recognition of our cultural heritage and an appreciation for the gifts of other cultures will make all of

us better citizens - - and better human beings. The Republican Party strongly supports efforts to encourage private/public partnerships to accomplish this.

Republicans deplore the record of the Florio Administration, which has proved abysmal in its commitment to the success of the arts. The Republican Party is also concerned as to whether the distribution of funds for the arts is being conducted in the most equitable fashion. Republicans believe it's time to do better.

In a densely populated state with a major international airport located within our most populous areas, aircraft noise has become a serious problem affecting the quality of life for many New Jerseyans. The Republican Party is committed to finding ways to alleviate the problems associated with aircraft noise.

The Republican Party is deeply concerned that many families acutely plagued by this problem regard the FAA and the New Jersey/New York Port Authority as unresponsive and irresponsible. There is a clear perception among many that the Port Authority has been unwilling to listen or act on behalf of those people suffering because of aircraft re-routing at Newark Airport.

It is the goal of the Republican Party to concentrate in those areas which will seek to alleviate the suffering of those people affected by aircraft noise. The Republican Party supports legislation which accelerates the phasing out of noisy stage 2 jets at Newark Airport. Responding to the public outcry over aircraft noise, the Republican Party will redouble its efforts to secure the rollback of the Expanded East Coast Plan in order to provide alternate air routes which environmentally and economically sound.

HEALTH CARE

The Republican Party reaffirms its commitment to ensuring the ability of every New Jerseyan, regardless of financial means, to have access to quality health care.

The Florio Administration's efforts in the health care field have been particularly disastrous. Rather than utilizing the opportunity to provide meaningful reform, the Democrats have instead passed legislation which will have the net effect of punishing patients, doctors, and hospitals, placing the health of New Jersey residents in jeopardy, and expanding an already swollen health care bureaucracy.

The Governor's imposition of a one year moratorium on all certificates of need for new health services merely pushes off the problem and does not attempt to solve the situation. The Republican Party is concerned regarding Governor Florio's lack of leadership on this issue of certificate of needs and is committed to developing a policy which will not merely just put off the issue until another day.

In a highly competitive market for physicians, nurses, and other health professionals New Jersey should be building bridges to attract health care professionals, by providing such things as tuition incentives and expanded health care educational programs at the state colleges and universities, rather than discouraging top professionals from locating here.

Recent legislation also imposed a tax on the gross receipts of hospitals. This tax, which of course will be paid by everyone paying a hospital bill in New Jersey, will be used to fund among other things, a health planning bureaucracy. Thus, the taxpayers of New Jersey are being asked to subsidize, via their hospitals, an additional state bureaucracy. This new tax is also in addition to the 19.7% add-on paid on each and every hospital bill to fund the State's uncompensated care, which covers hospital payments for the poor and past bad debt. The increased role of "planning" in the proposed Democrat solution to the problems confronting the health care delivery system leads us to believe that the rationing of a decreasing availability of quality health care is the best Governor Florio will offer the citizens of New Jersey. The Republican Party of New Jersey believes the citizens of our State should receive more from their government.

The Republican Party believes that the best way to solve the problem of providing quality affordable health care to New Jersey's citizens is a partnership, forged by the State government. Rather than seeking solutions by punishing physicians, nurses, hospitals, and other health care providers,

State government should be the catalyst for the expansion of affordable health care and encourage physicians, nurses, and other health care professionals to locate in New Jersey, particularly in areas where there is a shortage of health care professionals. The Republican Party supports scholarships and other financial aid to students who agree to practice in areas of health care shortage. These incentives will cause an expansion of service into areas of greatest need.

One of the largest portions of the State's health care bill is the amount paid in malpractice insurance, and the cost of practicing "defensive medicare" to reduce the chances of a malpractice award are growing tremendously each year. It is estimated that New Jersey citizens spend one billion dollars a year in unnecessary tests and procedures performed by physicians in order to forestall malpractice awards. The Republican Party while feeling that the victim of malpractice by a physician deserves full and total justice, realizes that the time is now for a reform of the State's malpractice insurance structure. Such reforms as structured payments should be fully considered by the Department of Insurance and if found to be a viable way in reducing health care costs, while insuring protection of the rights of the citizens of New Jersey, should be implemented.

The Republican Party in New Jersey has always strongly supported programs of pre-natal care. Money spent of pre-natal care is an investment, both in the reduction of future health care costs due to many potential health problems being detected early and in the future productivity that these people add to society. It was under a Republican Governor and a Republican Assembly the Healthy Mothers - Healthy Babies program was established. Thanks to this program a dramatic drop in infant mortality rate took place. The Republican Party pledges to continue its efforts in the area of pre-natal and post-natal care until it is insured that each and every child born in New Jersey has received the necessary attention to afford them the greatest chance to lead a successful life.

The Republican Party believes that the time is long past for the establishment of a permanent funding mechanism for funding uncompensated care. While there are several methods of funding which the Legislature might enact to fund uncompensated care, the Republican Party insists that any future funding mechanism be structured in such a way as to deny the Florio

Administration, or any future administration, the possibility of raiding the Trust Fund for purposes other than paying the hospital bills of indigent patients. The recently enacted extension of the Trust Fund, which changed the name of the Uncompensated Care Trust Fund to the New Jersey Health Care Trust Fund, seems to suggest that payments from the Trust Fund for purposes other than paying indigent patient hospital bills is being contemplated.

Republicans believe that those who suffer from AIDS, their families, and the health care profession, who care for the afflicted, deserve our compassion and help.

Prevention mechanisms dedicated to combat the spread of AIDS must be a key component in the overall strategy to fighting AIDS.

Republicans in New Jersey call on Congress and the Federal Administration to meet the medical research challenge which AIDS presents with renewed commitment and increased funding.

We call on Governor Florio and his Commissioner of Health to develop and implement a clear and consistent AIDS policy for the state of New Jersey. The lack of leadership on this issue has been on the many glaring inadequacies of this Administration in the health care field.

Republicans are extremely concerned that the lack of clear and consistent policy on physician disclosure has created turmoil in the medical community.

In conclusion, the Republican Party sees government's role as being a partner with business, labor, and the health care industry in insuring that every New Jersey resident receives adequate health care. The Republican Party asserts that on one in New Jersey should be denied access to health care due to their inability to pay. Finally, the Republican Party firmly states that the answer to the dramatic rise in the cost of health care can best be addressed by the market utilizing supply and demand and not by utilizing the Florio Administration's dogma of rationing, planning, and centralized control. Events in the world have apparently convinced everyone but Jim Florio that the politics of scarcity and bureaucracy are the politics of failure.

TRANSPORTATION

Transportation is vital to New Jersey's economic health and well being. To remain an attractive place for businesses to locate and do business, as well as maintain the State's quality of life, transportation is a high priority.

New Jersey's vast road, rail and air infrastructure, and central location between New York City and Philadelphia, makes it an important corridor state supporting both national and international commerce. A quality transportation system is necessary if New Jersey is to maintain a healthy business climate. Affordable transportation must also be available to all of New Jersey's citizens; including the disabled, the elderly, students and the work force.

Independent authorities are unique and useful agencies of the State. As such, Republicans believe that authorities should be responsible and accountable to the State in all matters, should adhere as closely as possible to the same operating procedures which are in place for other state agencies and departments, and should retain bipartisan participation.

The Republican Party believes that the integrity of the Transportation Trust Fund (TTF) is the cornerstone of New Jersey's transportation policy. This integrity must be restored. The TTF was created for funding transportation capital programs, not transportation salaries and administration. Republicans will stop the Florio Administration's raiding of this vital pool of revenue.

Republicans believe that to slow the annual increases in transportation operating budgets, the administrations of the New Jersey Transit Authority (NJT) and the Department of Transportation (DOT) should be merged where possible. This would avoid duplication and provide accountability. The irresponsible practice of \$200 million infusions from the TTF to mask the operational deficits that occurred in the previous two Democratic budgets must end.

The Republican Party will give serious consideration to every other consolidations, where present. The merger of NJT

and AMTRAK operations on the Atlantic City Line is an example of savings which can be achieved by consolidating operational functions. Prioritization of bus and rail routes running parallel to other NJT transit routes are areas that might be right for consolidation.

Privatization is an important strategy which can be used to keep transportation affordable. Republicans want an independent audit of both DOT and NJT to study their operations to determine which functions and services can be privatized.

Implementation of new technologies and enhancement of our mass transit system to reduce congestion will help New Jersey meet the provisions of the revised Federal Clean Air Act which is vital for maintaining federal transportation funding. New Jersey does not meet the current federal clean air standards and is rated as "severe" throughout most of the State. New Jersey is currently rated as the second worst region in the country for air quality, behind only Los Angeles.

Republicans believe that Transportation Management Associations (TMAs) should play a leading role in developing policies for meeting the federal clean air standards. TMAs have the knowledge and expertise to assist the state in reaching the mandated air quality levels through transportation mitigation strategies.

In addition, Republicans believe that the State should start moving towards a full dedication of the gas tax revenues for transportation. Once prioritizations, consolidations and spending limits are in place, a portion of the currently non-dedicated gas revenues could be made available as a dedicated source for mass transit operations. The importance of an expanded, enhanced mass transit system is paramount. Bus and rail services must be improved, and ridership increased, through creative marketing, expanded services, and provision of clean and attractive equipment.

To maintain its transportation infrastructure, New Jersey must be a leader in new transportation technologies. As one of the most urbanized states in the nation, New Jersey is the perfect location for the testing of new technologies. These technologies should enhance the life cycle of our infrastructure and reduce congestion. Possible strategies include: Developing strategies for encouraging and promoting

the use of existing mass transit parking facilities, development of new park and ride lots, promoting ride sharing, exploring flex-time, devising tax incentives to get people out of Single Occupant Vehicles (SOVs), and the introduction of smart technologies.

Tax incentives which would provide employees with an exclusion from State income tax for employer - provided transportation benefits will be examined closely by Republican majorities.

Republicans believe that independent authorities, such as the Port Authority and the toll road authorities, should not be used as revenue sources for non transportation projects. Tolls are user fees that should be used to maintain the toll roads and other transportation facilities, not for funding State operations. The Republican Party strongly condemns the grossly irresponsible sale of Interstate 95 to the Turnpike Authority. This action injured the integrity of the independent toll road authorities and it caused New Jersey to lose its Triple A bond rating.

Republicans believe that a strong transportation system is necessary for a strong economy and for enhancing our quality of life.

SENIORS

Senior citizens are the fastest growing segment of New Jersey's population - growing at a rate of five times faster than the population as a whole. Currently the most important growth is in the number of elderly over 75 years of age - those most likely to be in need of health and social services.

The senior citizen population has reached approximately 1.6 million in New Jersey, providing New Jersey with one of the largest senior populations in the country.

The Republican Party is dedicated to protecting and improving the quality of life for our senior citizens. Our goal is to enable our senior citizens to live with dignity and maintain their independence.

The failings of the Florio Administration have severely impacted New Jersey seniors.

The Florio sales tax increase has had its most negative effect on senior citizens. The regressive nature of sales taxes results in many senior citizens, who live on fixed incomes, paying a higher percentage of their income in sales taxes. The Republican Party's pledge to reduce the Florio sales tax increase will go a long way towards easing this tax burden.

Governor Florio's property tax relief program has been a cruel hoax on seniors. Seniors are being forced out their own homes, many of which they own outright, because they cannot afford the property taxes.

Like all New Jerseyans, senior citizen homeowners not only saw their 1990 homestead rebate check reduced by Governor Florio, they also are paying higher taxes throughout the year, as a result of Governor Florio's \$2.8 billion tax increase. Seniors need and deserve the serious long term property tax relief to which the Republican Party is committed.

When Governor Florio and the Democrats failed to deliver on their 1989 campaign promise to reduce auto insurance rates by 20 percent for all drivers, their failure was magnified 100 times over when it came to reducing auto premiums for senior drivers. This is true because the so-called auto insurance reform legislation had little to no effect on seniors. Part of the surcharges eliminated were not being paid by seniors, so their overall savings was paltry at best.

To make matters worse, Florio and the Democrat legislature eliminated age as factor when structuring insurance rates. This change likely will cause rates for seniors to increase because they will have to subsidize the rates of younger, less experienced drivers. Republicans will work to ensure that any savings which may be realized by New Jersey drivers through substantive auto insurance reform, will be extended to all drivers, including senior drivers.

The Casino Revenue Fund is an important source of funding for Senior programs, including the energy lifeline program and the Pharmaceutical Assistance to the Aged and Disabled (PAAD)

program. The Fund's growth, however, has been exceeded by expenditures. In spite of this well recognized problem, the Florio Administration has not acted to solve this problem.

The Republican Party supports the concept of creating a permanent, independent Casino Revenue Fund Oversight Commission which will preserve the integrity and solvency of the Fund.

While nursing home care has long been considered a valuable resource in the care of the elderly population, the expense of such care and the loss of daily family contact requires an alternative.

Adult day care, which allows for older family members to remain with the family, but to also receive supervised social and medical care during hours when family members may not be available can be that alternative. The Republican Party supports legislative initiatives to encourage and enhance the private sector development of adult day care.