

Thank you everyone, it's an honor to be here. First, I want to thank you for the incredible support and encouragement I've gotten to throw my hat in the ring for the LD-13 Assembly seat. I must say, it was a very difficult decision in that I love being a freeholder and love my fellow freeholders, but this was an opportunity that was too important to turn down. Folks, we as Republicans are the only hope to turn this state around. For far too long, we have been relegated to minority status in the legislature – watching helplessly as liberal Democrats turn our beloved New Jersey into an unaffordable, overtaxed, over regulated State where the fastest growing industry is Allied Van Lines with a fleet of trucks pointed toward North Carolina.

We may be in the minority but in no way, shape or form, do we have to remain silent. Frankly, I feel that we Republicans can do a much better job of selling our brand to the voters than we have in the past. In fact, can anyone tell me what Republicans stand for in New Jersey outside of “we're better than the other guys?” If we are ever going to grow our numbers in the legislature and move towards gaining a majority, we have to have solid, understandable solutions to issues that voters care about, and can relate to. We should be speaking to every chamber, veterans group, advocacy group, senior center, environmental group, business association and on to raise our profile and gain support among the voters. The timing could not be better for us to make these kinds of inroads. I cannot remember a time when there has been a starker contrast between Republicans and Democrats. Let's face it, between the horrendous, bizarre legislation being passed, not only in New Jersey, but by state legislatures across the country, and the buffoonish antics of Chuck Schumer, Nancy Pelosi and everyone's favorite socialist, Alexandria Ocasio Cortez – the Democrats are giving us a ton of ideological ammunition with which to steamroll the opposition in coming elections.

Instead of the legislature dwelling on silly issues like changing the title freeholder to commissioner, or naming a state dirt, or my all time favorite - requiring license plates for tricycles, how about looking for alternatives to our arcane, oppressive property tax system that places most of the burden for

funding education and essential services squarely on the backs of the suburban property taxpayer?

How about trying to *attract* wealth to New Jersey, rather than looking for ways to drive it to more hospitable states? Most importantly, how about stopping the war on business in this state so future generations will not have to flee to states more conducive to job creation and wage growth? These are just some of the issues we Republicans should own. And that's where I come in. During my 23 years of public service, I've lost count how many times I've been confronted with a problem or impasse only to be told "it needs a legislative fix."

Another advantage I have is that my varied background has allowed me to work with and get to know many legislators both past and present. I can honestly say that everyone believes what they are doing is for the good of the State – the differences come as to how we get there. For example – Republicans believe that the best way to raise wages is to create more jobs and increase competition for labor. Democrats, on the other hand, believe government should impose artificially high wage floors on private industry. Our job as Republicans then becomes to convince others that our ideas are the most effective and realistic for New Jersey.

In closing, I want to thank everyone once again and acknowledge our tremendous Monmouth County leadership – Chairman Shaun Golden, Vice Chairs Tony Fiore, Sue Cohen, John Cantolupo and Rob NiCastro, County Clerk Christine Hanlon, and my fellow freeholders Tom Arnone, Pat Impreveduto, Lillian Burry and Sue Kiley. I also want to thank Middletown Chairman Peter Carton, Vice Chair Chantal Bouw and Mayor Tony Perry and the entire township committee for the tremendous job they are doing in my hometown of Middletown. I promise you all that I will work harder than ever to ensure victory for our entire Republican ticket. This year will be a low turnout year, so we all need to work extra hard to get our friends, relatives and neighbors out to vote. Most importantly, we have to stay united. If we stand together – no one beats us. So thank you, God bless you, God bless Monmouth County and God bless the USA.

