

JON CORZINE

*Democrat*

For nine years, it has been my highest honor to serve you in the United States Senate, and as Governor of our great state.

Much has happened since my first campaign for public office. Our nation endured the tragic attacks of September 11, fought – and continues to fight – two foreign wars, and is now weathering the longest, deepest economic recession since the 1930s.

But while we live in an era of stark challenges, I'm proud of the great strides that we've taken in making New Jersey a more progressive and prosperous state.

Because of our achievements, New Jersey is still the best state in the nation to work, live, and raise a family.

Our household income leads the nation. Our unemployment rate remains lower than the national average. Our home foreclosure rates are roughly 40 percent below the national average.

We've fought climate change by installing more solar panels than any state other than California, and we're leading the way in off-shore wind production.

Homicides, crime and traffic deaths are down.

Under my leadership, New Jersey was the first state in the nation to pass an economic recovery act. Because we got ahead of the problem, New Jersey is poised to recover from this global recession sooner, and stronger, than other states.

We've also proven that government can do more with less. I am the only governor in over six decades to shrink the size of government. I reduced the state workforce by 7,000 positions and cut the size of the budget by almost \$2 billion. But even as we've made government leaner and more efficient, we have stayed true to our core values.

Here in New Jersey, we believe that every child has a right to quality health care and education. That's why my administration added 80,000 more children to the Family Care program and made New Jersey the second state in the nation to offer universal coverage for children. I also increased spending for education by \$1.8 billion and committed \$3.9 billion to school construction, because I share your belief that every child has a right to learn in schools that are the best in the world. Just look at the results. Achievement gaps between minority and white students are rapidly closing, and New Jersey students lead the nation in math and reading scores.

We also believe in the importance of honoring our seniors. That's why my administration increased eligibility for the senior freeze, preserved homestead rebates for all seniors, and expanded home energy and nutrition assistance for the elderly.

Though we have cut the overall size of the state budget, I have committed more money to property tax relief – over \$7 billion – than any other governor in New Jersey's history.

This election is about values. It's about nurturing our children, honoring our seniors, protecting the most vulnerable, and creating a better world for your grandkids, and mine.

Let's continue the important work we began nine years ago. Working together, no dream is beyond our grasp.