

The New Jersey Campaign Contributions and Expenditures Reporting Act, N.J.S.A. 19:44A-37, allows candidates for the office of Governor to provide a statement, not exceeding 500 words, to assist the voters of this State in making their determination among the candidates. Following are the statements submitted.

## **Gina Genovese Independent**

On November 7<sup>th</sup> you have an opportunity to cast a powerful vote for the future of New Jersey. My goal is to reduce property taxes across the state by at least 15% by 2022, which will return \$4 Billion to our economy and to the pockets of every New Jersey homeowner.

Should you take a risk and vote for an independent candidate? Perhaps a better question is, should you award your vote to either the Democrats or Republicans? Neither party has moved our state forward, particularly with regard to reducing our highest in the nation property taxes. A vote outside the two major parties is your chance to steer New Jersey in a new direction, turning our state away from insider politics and the fiscal disaster that big money, political machines and purchased elections have given us.

As the ONLY candidate who has served as a Mayor, I have seen Trenton's inaction and incompetence. As a result, I founded the non-partisan, non-profit Courage to Connect NJ. For ten years, as Executive Director, I have been a fierce and tireless advocate working with taxpayers, local and county officials, school boards and fire commissioners who have realized our current administration system is redundant, inefficient and far too costly. This inefficiency can only be addressed by consolidating municipalities and services. This is why I am running for Governor.

My work with Courage to Connect NJ has been challenging, largely because of the absence of any support from Trenton. I worked with a retired Scotch Plains resident who formed a commission to study the consolidation of Scotch Plains with Fanwood. His three years of intensive effort, and his dream of reducing property taxes for residents of both municipalities, screeched to a halt when the State refused to fund the study.

I also worked with the visionary leaders in Princeton who, after an arduous effort, consolidated Princeton Borough and Princeton Township into a single entity, one that now saves its residents approximately \$3 million annually. Our state leadership has never acknowledged this success, much less built on it.

In South Hunterdon, I worked with the school boards to combine its four school districts into a single unified district, one that would better serve the faculty, parents and students. South Hunterdon's taxpayers were disappointed by the lack of leadership and support from Trenton and funded the study themselves.

I now work with the residents of Mt. Arlington and Roxbury, who are making history by studying the merger of their municipalities and school districts. Our state government will not provide \$7,500 for a consolidation study. This is shameful!

I am running for Governor to provide the missing state leadership to finally reduce our unbearable property tax burden and improve the quality of life for all of us who love New Jersey. We can make our state a great place to live, work and retire.

Voting for Independent Gina Genovese on November 7<sup>th</sup> can lead us to a sustainable future for you and New Jersey.