

PRESERVATION NEW JERSEY CANDIDATE SURVEY | Chris Christie

Question #1 - Economic Stimulus - *Will you as Governor, endorse, support and encourage passage of the proposed Historic Preservation Restoration Act S- 468 . What economic or other incentives do you propose to capture the sustainable advantages of rehabilitating and reusing existing, historic development in our towns and cities? What specific efforts will you make to incorporate historic preservation into the goals and programs of EDA, State Plan and all related state agencies? What do you propose to encourage rehabilitation and reuse as a tool in promoting COAH goals?*

CHRISTIE: Focusing on the historic preservation and rehabilitation of existing structures is part of my effort to rebuild New Jersey's cities. It is absolutely critical that we recognize the value of the existing and historic infrastructure that already exists within our urban centers and focus our efforts on restoring these communities. As part of my plan to bring back New Jersey's cities, we will provide incentives for developers to restore existing buildings while at the same time providing immediate incentives for families to move back to our urban centers. We need to focus on both improving the existing infrastructure of our cities with the intent of making them an attractive place for people to live. These incentives are not structured in exactly the same manner as proposed in S-468, however I am certain that legislation to implement our plan could be achieved.

Clearly, one of the most critical failures of the past several years is the inability of the Corzine Administration to coordinate and focus the efforts of multiple departments. The lack of consistency between agencies has led to programs working at cross purposes while failing to achieve their missions. For example, COAH has forced sprawl, while at the same time, the DEP is attempting to preserve open space, while the State Plan has been cast aside. The lack of coordination and communication from one agency to the next is counterproductive, inefficient and shows a lack of leadership. We must have leadership from the top that brings organization and structure to this process.

Question # 2 – Sustainability – *What specific efforts will you make to incorporate historic preservation programs and mechanisms and new initiatives into the state's sustainability goals? What specific steps will you take to ensure that state and federal stimulus funds are used in appropriate ways to improve energy efficiency and sustainability while preserving historic buildings?*

CHRISTIE – Preservation and adaptive reuse of our urban centers is a critical component of my strategy to revitalize our cities and restore New Jersey's economy. At the same time, as part of my energy plan, I've outlined a series of steps to ensure that we are not only talking about renewable energy, but we're actually achieving our objectives. For the last four years, the Corzine Administration has talked a lot about clean energy and the importance of creating green jobs with very few results. As our communities rebuild to the highest "green" standards, we need to ensure we are positioned to use equipment and technology that is being developed here in New Jersey. Not only do I envision a New Jersey that is using renewable energy sources, I see New Jersey leading the country in the manufacturing of renewable energy. We need to focus on the industries of the future to create long-term, quality-paying jobs.

Our construction codes and redevelopment plans need to recognize the value of restoration and renewal, making allowances for the special circumstances and issues they present while taking advantage of their many benefits. I will ensure that New Jersey takes the lead in the nation to ease the path to preservation and restoration. I have charged my Lt. Governor with leading a "Red Tape" review over the first 90 days of

my administration, focusing on eliminating the rules and regulations that are preventing us from achieving our goals.

New Jersey is missing a historic opportunity to utilize the federal stimulus funds to advance the restoration of our cities and the preservation of historic facilities. While focusing on new development and the expansion of highways designed to foster continued sprawl, we are missing the opportunity to direct focused dollars on projects that would stop the deterioration of our urban centers and protect historic properties across New Jersey. The Corzine Administration has failed in this area, missing an important opportunity. Instead, due to Jon Corzine's lack of a long-term vision, federal funds that could have been used over a three-year period were all spent this year in an effort to balance the current budget. I have been very clear regarding my views on the misuse of the federal stimulus dollars – I would only use recurring revenue – not one-shot stimulus dollars – to balance our state's budget. This would allow us to use the stimulus monies for long-term planning uses, like preservation and restoration. Unfortunately, when our state government is living year to year (as it has been for the last four), important projects, like preservation and restoration, are cast aside because we lack a long-term vision and plan. This won't occur in a Christie Administration.

Question #3 – *Funding – Will you support and endorse the \$400million bond act, that extends the NJ Historic Trust grant funds? What sources of permanent and stable funding do you support?*

CHRISTIE – I do not support the issuance of additional debt for this purpose. We cannot continue to run the state using the existing piecemeal approach which has forced us to use one time funding gimmicks just to stay afloat. I support a constitutional dedication of up to \$200 million every year for the purpose of continuing our New Jersey Historic Trust programs, the Green Acres and the Farmland Preservation program. This funding amounts to less than 1% of the state budget and as a priority of the state it is possible to achieve. It is absurd to argue that the only way for the state to invest in these programs is for us to borrow more money. Quite simply, if this is to be a priority of our state, and I believe it should be, then it is time for us to stop borrowing and to put the funding in the budget.