



**VOTE SMART**  
**Facts for All**

## Political Courage Test: 2023 New Jersey Edition

Candidates are strongly encouraged to complete the Political Courage Test online at:  
**[secure.votesmart.org](https://secure.votesmart.org)**

Please indicate your thoughts on the following fifteen issues. Vote Smart has identified these ten issues as top on voters' minds. Your responses will be posted on [our website](#) where millions of voters will be able to access them and you can link to your posted responses for your own campaign materials.

If you would like to provide a more detailed response, please do so in the "Other or expanded principles" section (all responses must be under 500 words). **Should you choose not to respond, Vote Smart may research your public record to determine your likely positions on these issues.**

The Political Courage Test must be signed and returned to our office by 11:59 pm CT the day of the deadline. We can be reached at 515-989-6359 or by email at **[politicalcourage@votesmart.org](mailto:politicalcourage@votesmart.org)**.

I, \_\_\_\_\_, am willing to tell citizens where I stand on the issues I may face if elected. I have demonstrated my Political Courage by indicating my position on the following issues.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

State: \_\_\_\_\_ District: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

### Abortion and Reproductive Health:

- a) Do you generally support pro-choice or pro-life legislation? Pro-choice \_\_\_\_ Pro-life \_\_\_\_
- b) Do you support legalizing abortion when the pregnancy resulted from incest or rapes? Yes \_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_
- c) Do you support the prohibition of public funds (e.g. Medicaid) for organizations that perform abortions? Yes \_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_

Other or expanded principles:

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### Budget, Spending, & Taxes:

- a) In order to balance the budget, do you support reducing state employee salaries AND/OR pensions? Yes \_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_
- b) Do you support a decrease in income taxes in order to balance the budget in your state? Yes \_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_
- c) Do you support a wealth tax in order to pay for public programs in your state? Yes \_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_
- d) Do you support the legalization and regulation of wagering on collegiate sporting events involving New Jersey-based teams? Yes \_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_
- e) Do you support a reduction in the State and Local Tax Deduction, otherwise known as SALT? Yes \_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_

Other or expanded principles:

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### Crime & Public Safety:

- a) Do you support capital punishment for violent crimes? Yes \_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_
- b) Should an individual under 18 accused of a violent crime be prosecuted as an adult? Yes \_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_
- c) Do you support the enforcement of federal immigration laws by state and local police? Yes \_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_
- d) Do you support the use of private prisons? Yes \_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_
- e) Do you support mandatory minimum sentences for nonviolent drug offenders? Yes \_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_

Other or expanded principles:

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### Economy:

- a) Do you support state government spending as a means of promoting economic growth (e.g. grants, tax incentives)? Yes \_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_
- b) Do you support reducing state government regulations on the private sector? Yes \_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_
- c) Do you support an increase of the minimum wage of New Jersey? Yes \_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_
- d) Do you support government spending on affordable housing projects in New Jersey? Yes \_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_

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Other or expanded principles:

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### Education:

- a) Do you support adopting federal education standards (e.g. Common Core) in New Jersey? Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_
- b) Do you support state funding for charter schools? Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_
- c) Do you support increasing teacher salaries AND/OR benefits in New Jersey? Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_
- d) Should immigrants in the United States who graduate from New Jersey high schools be eligible for in-state tuition at public universities, regardless of immigration status? Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_

Other or expanded principles:

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### Energy & Environment:

- a) Do you support state funding for the development of renewable energy (e.g. solar, wind, geo-thermal)? Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_
- b) Do you support state governments allowing permits for drilling on public lands? Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_
- c) Do you support increasing state funding for clean drinking water initiatives? Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_

Other or expanded principles:

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### Government Reform:

- a) Do you support the regulation of campaign contributions from corporations, unions, and individuals? Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_
- b) Do you support the use of an independent or bipartisan commission for redistricting? Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_
- c) Do you support requiring a government-issued photo identification in order to vote at the polls? Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_
- d) Do you support automatic voter registration? Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_
- e) Do you support the implementation of ranked choice voting in New Jersey? Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_

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Other or expanded principles:

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### Guns:

- a) Do you generally support gun-control legislation (e.g. red flag laws, boyfriend loophole)? Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_
- b) Should background checks be required on gun sales between private citizens at gun shows? Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_
- c) Do you support the right to concealed carry in New Jersey? Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_

Other or expanded principles:

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### Health Care:

- a) Should the state government increase funding for treatment facilities to combat opioid abuse? Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_
- b) Do you support a government-run (e.g. single-payer) healthcare program such as Medicare-for-All? Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_
- c) Should an individual have the right to choose to die (e.g. those with a terminal illness) through euthanasia? Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_
- d) Do you support eliminating religious exemptions for vaccinations? Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_
- e) Do you support expanding paid family AND/OR medical leave benefits (e.g. maternity leave)? Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_
- f) Should the government be able to regulate the cost of prescription drugs? Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_
- g) Do you support the state legislature expanding the jurisdiction of the New Jersey Smoke Free Air Act to include outdoor public spaces such as Atlantic City casinos that have traditionally allowed it? Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_

Other or expanded principles:

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