

## **Gubernatorial Local Union Sample Education Sector Workers**

Please copy this letter onto your local union letterhead. The President or Business Manager is strongly encouraged to sign the letter and mail it to every active and retired member. **Please fax a copy to the NJ State AFL-CIO at (609) 989-8734.**

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Dear Union Member and Family,

There are a lot of reasons to vote in the governor's race this year, but we know what's really important. Our jobs, wages and benefits are being threatened. It's getting harder to provide for our families.

**We need a governor who will support working families. But Chris Christie has made it clear that he does not side with us on the issues.**

**Christie's plan promises to undercut public education.** Christie says, "We need to bring vouchers to those districts, longer school days, longer school year and accountability and merit pay for teachers." He wants to create more charter schools instead of public schools. He even wants to divert public education funds to private schools and give tax incentives to families to put their children in private and parochial schools.

**Christie threatens to cut our salaries and benefits.** In a letter to teachers, Christie said: "Taxpayers cannot continue to pay the rising costs of salary increases and benefits. The truth is...the next governor will need to make some tough decisions about public compensation and its soaring cost." Christie insists that education funding—including money for our salaries and benefits—should be on the table for cuts every time a new budget is created.

**Christie attacks teachers unions.** During an interview, Christie outlined his education plan, including "competition, more charter schools, vouchers, merit pay, longer school year, all of those things." When asked who opposed his proposal, Christie said "a lot of entrenched interests like teachers unions." The Star-Ledger's Auditor column also reported that Christie "feels a fight with the teachers union is a no-lose proposition with voters."

**Chris Christie even opposes federal assistance to help turn our economy around.** Christie sides with Gov. Sarah Palin and Gov. Bobby Jindal, saying "it makes sense" that other governors have tried to refuse federal recovery money—money which has been used in New Jersey to protect and create jobs, invest in education and ensure unemployment assistance. Instead, he says the money is "a gimmick."

**For more information about Chris Christie's record on key working family issues, please visit [www.therealchrischristie.com](http://www.therealchrischristie.com).**

How you vote is a personal decision, but on Nov. 3 think about which candidate will work to create the future you want for your family.

In Solidarity,