

**Gubernatorial Local Union Sample  
Public Sector Employees**

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 promises to lay off thousands of public workers and eliminate holidays.** Christie has promised to lay off thousands of state employees, saying: "One thousand is too few. But could it be 10,000, 20,000? It is too hard to say." He says his first target for layoffs will be the employees of the state Department of Environmental Protection. He also promises to reduce the number of holidays that have been negotiated into employees' contracts.

**Christie seeks to break our current collective bargaining system and stifle our ability to secure better benefits.** Christie wants to destroy our current system of collective bargaining in an attempt to cut workers' pay and benefits. His plan calls for a single, unitary approach to collective bargaining that will "provide greater management flexibility" and leave workers' interests behind. Christie also plans to ban labor unions from lobbying members of the state legislature to secure better pay and benefits for our families.

**Christie wants to end pensions and cut benefits.** Christie plans to eliminate the negotiated defined-benefit pension plan and replace it with a 401(k)-style contribution plan. 401(k) plans put workers' retirement security at the mercy of the stock market, leaving us vulnerable during times of economic uncertainty. Christie will also require all state employee retirees and new state employees to contribute even more to their health insurance costs.

**Christie even wants to ban public employees from running for office and prevent unions from supporting pro-worker candidates.** Christie believes that public employees have a conflict of interests in holding an elected office. He plans to ban anyone with a full-time government job—including state employees, teachers, police officers and firefighters—from also holding an elected position. What's more, Christie also wants to make it easier for anti-worker politicians to get elected by preventing our union from supporting pro-worker candidates.

**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,