

## Gubernatorial Local Union Sample Letter # 1

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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# *“Yes We Can – Again! On November 3, 2009”*

July 2009

Dear Union Member and family,

In times like these, it's important for each of us to examine the records of the candidates for governor to make sure they share our values. We think you should know what Chris Christie and Governor Jon Corzine are saying about the issues affecting your ability to provide for yourself and your family.

Governor Jon Corzine has been a strong leader for New Jersey's working families. He championed paid family leave for workers, foreclosure relief for struggling homeowners, education funding reform, expansion of health care programs for children and achieved a reduction in crime. Corzine says his first priority now is "easing the pain of working families while building a foundation for future prosperity and growth." Corzine continues to work with the Obama administration to bring solutions to the economic crisis that will create good paying jobs and provide relief for working families.

Republican gubernatorial candidate Chris Christie has made attacks on working families the centerpiece of his campaign. He promises to lay off 10,000 public employees, end defined benefit pensions, eliminate project labor agreements as well as prevailing wages. Christie supports vouchers and merit pay which will weaken public education. He opposes requiring health insurance companies to cover basic healthcare procedures, including childhood check-ups, prostate cancer screenings and mammograms. Christie even opposes accepting our fair share of federal stimulus funds to help pay for new schools, retain and create good paying jobs, support Medicaid programs and provide unemployment insurance assistance to workers who have lost their jobs in this global recession.

In the next few months, you will receive information from our union about the two gubernatorial candidates in your mailbox and at your worksite. How you vote is a personal decision. Our union strongly encourages you to research the candidates' records before you decide how to vote on November 3<sup>rd</sup>.

In Solidarity,