

NEW JERSEY REPUBLICAN STATE COMMITTEE

Tuesday, June 11, 2019

Dear Governor Murphy,

I write in my capacity as Chairman of the NJGOP and one of New Jersey's 9 million, frustrated residents. Where are you?

Us? We're here, in New Jersey. Well, at least those of us who hope NJ's best days are still ahead of us are here, some by choice, and others, because we can't afford to leave. So, we stay.

We stay, despite the glut of investigations, controversies, and rain, parking, internet, ride-sharing, drug, shore rental, gun, income and property taxes that define your Administration and fuel your budgets. We stay, because we won't let bad government force us out of our homes. We stay, because we'd rather force bad government out of Trenton. We stay, but you left.

Multiple news outlets report that you are spending Tuesday, June 11 in Des Moines, IA, meeting with local and labor leaders. You'll end the day with Hollywood's Senator Cory Booker, at a Happy Hour, at Cooney's Tavern, with Polk County Iowa Democrats. I ask you, why?

If you haven't read, New Jersey is in crisis. Our infrastructure is crumbling, debt mounting, and businesses and families leaving. Our public pension system is almost bankrupt. Meanwhile, the failure of our elected, Democratic leaders to put good policy ahead of their personal pursuits for power threatens to shut down state government in three weeks. And you're not here.

While you and Senator Booker flit around Iowa pursuing your national ambitions, we are dead last in the benefits we get back from Washington, D.C. for the tax dollars we pay in. One in four New Jersey families goes hungry. Those who want to work are left worrying whether NJ Transit will get them there safely, on time, or at all, and that's just the beginning.

After nearly 20 years of Democratic, legislative control, here's a list of New Jersey's top 10 worsts. Here, we suffer the:

1. Highest property and income tax rates in the United States;
2. Highest foreclosure rate in the Country;
3. Worst tax and business climates in the nation;
4. Largest out-migration of retirees, businesses and residents of any state;
5. Largest state shortfall of revenues versus expenses;
6. Worst employment rate in the region;
7. Second worst prepared for economic recession;
8. Second highest corporate business tax in the Country;
9. Fifth worst underfunded pension liability in the nation; and

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10. At 97% for NJ's platinum level health care plan, the highest percentage of tax payer funded public health care costs in the United States.

New Jersey has great potential. It has great people and businesses. Our history is America's history. From the Kittatinny Mountains to the Jersey Shore, from High Point State Park to Cape May Lighthouse, New Jerseyans are strong and proud, and struggling.

Single party rule is failing New Jersey. You are failing New Jersey. You don't need to audition on a national stage; New Jersey voters gave you a job. Come back from Iowa, Governor, but come back with a plan, not just progressive platitudes that only you can afford.

We want honest answers. We deserve them. We deserve better. We can do better, and when our candidates are elected in 2019, 2020 and 2021, we'll do just that.

Until then, I remain,

Respectfully,

Doug Steinhardt
Chairman, New Jersey Republican Party

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