

NEW JERSEY REPUBLICAN STATE COMMITTEE

Tuesday, June 11, 2019

Dear Governor Reynolds,

My name is Doug Steinhardt and I am the elected Chairman of the New Jersey Republican State Committee. On behalf of New Jersey's more than 1.2 million Republicans, greetings.

Congratulations on the wonderful work you are doing in Iowa, setting a plan to invest in your State's future, and delivering on your promises to lower taxes, create jobs and provide better resources for the education of Iowa's children. Your successes give us hope that meaningful change is possible, with good leadership.

Unfortunately, our Governor didn't come to his office with the same, dynamic playbook. While our statehouse is, like yours, dominated by single party rule, New Jersey Democrats are embroiled in an intra-party battle for power that has ground state government to a halt. Our infrastructure is crumbling, debt mounting, and businesses and families fleeing. Worse yet, we are three weeks away from a government shutdown, not because of legitimate, philosophical differences, but because of petty, political infighting. Despite those failures, our Governor, Phil Murphy, is leaving New Jersey to join our Senator, Cory Booker, to audition on the Iowa State stage.

On Tuesday, June 11, the duo will take a campaign swing through Iowa, culminating in a Cooney's Inn stump stop with Polk County Iowa Democrats. While Murphy could tout his string of investigations, billion-dollar budget increases, litany of tax hikes and failed political promises, Booker, can point to New Jersey's dead last status in receiving from Washington, DC its share of the tax dollars it pays in, but they won't. Instead, they'll peddle their progressive platitudes, hoping to make Iowans swoon. Don't be fooled.

After nearly 20 years of dishonest, Democratic control of our legislature, here's a list of New Jersey's other top 10 worsts. 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
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.

150 WEST STATE STREET ■ SUITE 230 ■ TRENTON, NEW JERSEY 08608

PHONE: 609-989-7300 ■ Fax: 609-989-8685 ■ www.njgop.org

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New Jersey's 9 million residents are strong and proud, and struggling. While states like Iowa thrive, New Jersey flounders, and Murphy and Booker's progressive playbook won't help Iowa families find jobs, pay mortgages or cut taxes.

Our Governor and Senator lost their way a long time ago. Today, their ambition leads them to Iowa, but leaves New Jersey behind. Should your paths cross while they pander to Iowa's people, please, give Phil Murphy and Cory Booker a road map; not one that will help them find their way home, but one that lets us afford to keep our homes.

On behalf of the NJGOP, I am,

Respectfully,

Doug Steinhardt
Chairman, New Jersey Republican Party

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