



2011 Candidate Questionnaire for State Senate & Assembly

Please Type or Print Clearly

Candidate Name	ALBERT COUTINHO
Office & District Sought	Assembly D-29
Party Affiliation	Democrat
Campaign Contact	David LaTano
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Name of Individual Filling Out Questionnaire	AL Coutinho

Circle appropriate answer

Election Reform:

(1) Do you Support/Oppose voluntary public financing (clean elections) for New Jersey's legislative races?

Support Oppose

(2) Do you Support/Oppose banning the practice of "wheeling," which would prohibit the transfer of political action committee (PAC) funds from one PAC to another?

Support Oppose

Work and Family:

(3) Did you Support/Oppose S2937/A4133, which made various changes to pension and health care benefits for public employees?

Support Oppose

(4) Do you Support/Oppose the collective bargaining rights of public employees, wherein contributions are negotiated rather than imposed by legislation?

Support Oppose

(5) Do you Support/Oppose legislation to guarantee a minimum number of earned paid sick days for all NJ workers?

Support Oppose

(6) Do you Support/Oppose upholding New Jersey's law on family leave insurance?

Support Oppose

(7) Do you Support/Oppose increasing the minimum wage for all NJ workers and indexing it to increases in the cost of living?

Support Oppose

Good Government:

(8) Do you Support/Oppose allowing towns and municipalities to opt-out of Civil Service (A2580)?

Support Oppose

Quality, Affordable Health Care:

(9) Do you Support/Oppose S2899, which would restore State funds for family planning services and would reinstate Medicaid coverage for such services?

Support Oppose

(10) Did you Support/Oppose A3636/S2443, which seeks to establish a Medicaid Accountable Care Organization (ACO) demonstration project within the Department of Human Services?

Support Oppose

(11) Do you Support/Oppose A1930/S2553 the "NJ Health Benefit Exchange Act," which seeks to establish a new consumer-friendly marketplace where individuals and small businesses can shop for health insurance?

Support Oppose

(12) Do you Support/Oppose Governor Christie's proposal to apply for a federal Medicaid Waiver that would allow the state to cut parent eligibility for NJ FamilyCare from 133% to 25% of the Federal Poverty Line?

Support Oppose

(13) In the FY2011 Budget Governor Chris Christie eliminated access to NJ FamilyCare for all legal immigrant parents who have not held legal resident status for at least 5 years. Do you Support/Oppose restoring access for all legal immigrant parents to NJ FamilyCare?

Support Oppose

Community Reinvestment, Fair Housing:

(14) Do you Support/Oppose the NJ Law Revision Commission's recent landlord/tenant project, which would rewrite all landlord/tenant law if enacted by the Legislature?

Support Oppose

Not familiar, but fully supportive of

(15) Do you Support/Oppose Linked Deposit legislation where a financial institution's eligibility for business involving State funds is tied to its lending practices and community reinvestment standards? This would incentivize lending institutions to better serve disadvantaged borrowers

Tenants rights

(including first time homebuyers, small business owners, women and minorities) in the form of the State's financial deposits.

Support

Oppose

(16) In the FY2011 Budget Governor Christie eliminated the Mortgage Assistance Program, which provides grants to qualified agencies to provide foreclosure prevention services including counseling, legal assistance, assistance with loan modification and other activities as well as to provide emergency loans to homeowners experiencing difficulty making mortgage payments as a result of temporary hardship. Do you Support/Oppose restoring funds to the Mortgage Assistance Fund?

Support

Oppose

(17) How do you propose to assist homeowners who have lost their homes due to foreclosure and are unable to rent an apartment or purchase a second home due to their damaged credit?

making more affordable financing options available

Budget and Fair Taxes:

(18) Do you Support/Oppose Governor Christie's FY2012 Budget?

Support

Oppose

(19) In the FY2011 Budget Governor Christie permanently reduced the State Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) to 20% from 25% of the federal level. Do you support reinstating the state EITC to 25% in FY2013 Budget?

Support

Oppose

(20) Do you Support/Oppose restoring the FY2010 state income tax rate, which increased the tax rate from 6.37% to 8% for those making between \$400,000-\$500,000; from 8.97% to 10.25% for those making between \$500,000 and \$1 million; from 8.97% to 10.75% for those making \$1million and above?

Support

Oppose

(21) Do you Support/Oppose adjusting New Jersey's income tax to more closely reflect ability to pay?

Support

Oppose

Fair and Affordable Utility Rates:

(22) Do you Support/Oppose the deregulation of telecommunications and cable industries as outlined in S2664/A3766?

Support

Oppose

(23) Do you Support/Oppose full funding for New Jersey's Universal Service Fund, which sets electricity and gas rates for NJ's low income families based on income and energy usage?

Support

Oppose

(24) Do you Support/ Oppose Governor Christie's decision to take \$158 million of ratepayer money from NJ's Clean Energy Fund, which is designated to finance energy efficiency

improvements in businesses, homes and creating jobs, to plug nonrelated shortfalls in the FY2011 budget?

Support

Oppose

(25) Do you Support/Oppose S2032/A1188, which would ban formula based utility rates for all utilities including electric companies and water and sewerage authorities?

Support

Oppose

Quality Public Education:

(26) Do you Support/Oppose private school vouchers?

Support

Oppose

(27) Do you Support/Oppose giving local communities the ability to decide if a new charter school should be able to open and draw students and resources from their district?

Support

Oppose

(28) Do you Support/Oppose increasing the financial and educational transparency and accountability of all charter schools?

Support

Oppose

(29) Do you Support/Oppose allowing for-profit entities to manage public schools?

Support

Oppose

(30) Do you Support/Oppose the Opportunity Scholarship Act (S1872/A2810), which would establish a pilot program in the Department of the Treasury to provide tax credits for contributions to entities that provide tuition scholarships to children in certain urban enterprise zone municipalities?

Support

Oppose

(31) Do you Support/Oppose providing in-state tuition to students having graduated from New Jersey high schools but who do not have Social Security numbers?

Support

Oppose

(32) Do you Support/Oppose providing access to universal early childhood education and adequately funding the program?

Support

Oppose

(33) Do you Support/Oppose the School Funding Reform Act of 2008, which distributes state aid to schools based on enrollment, with extra resources going to districts with higher concentrations of children in poverty, special needs or limited English proficiency?

Support

Oppose

(34) Do you Support/Oppose fully funding the School Funding Reform Act's formula for education aid?

Support

Oppose

Auto Insurance:

(35) Do you Support/Oppose S170/A1747, which would ban the use of occupation and education

as rating and underwriting factors in New Jersey's auto insurance market?

Support

Oppose

Civil Rights:

(36) Do you Support/Oppose legislation that establishes marriage equality, granting same-sex relationships equal status under New Jersey law?

Support

Oppose

Consumer Protections:

(37) Do you Support/Oppose the rights of people injured by medical negligence to be treated fairly by the court system?

Support

Oppose

(38) Do you Support/Oppose preserving the right of New Jersey auto accident victims to receive medical care from doctors and medical professionals of their choosing?

Support

Oppose

(39) Do you believe that a strong civil justice system is important for injured consumers?

Yes

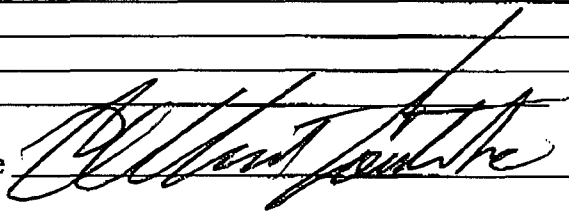
(40) Do you Support/Oppose any weakening of New Jersey's Consumer Fraud Act?

Support

Oppose

Please Provide Any Additional Information or Comments:

Candidate Signature



Date:

9-4-11

Please feel free to add any additional comments on reverse side or separate sheet.

~Thank you for your response~

Please fax completed questionnaire to Jackie Cornell-Bechelli, NJ Citizen Action Legislative/Political Director at 732.214.8385 or jackiec@njcitizenaction.org by Friday, September 16, 2011.