

MATTHEW J. THIEKE
The Green Party

Fellow New Jerseyans:

I know you're cynical about politics. Many of you who receive this ballot will choose not to vote at all. I share your cynicism about our current two-party system, but I refuse to believe that we can't do better.

That's why I'm in the Green party. The Greens are a party based on values like social justice, grassroots democracy, environmental protection, and peace.

We know there are many problems facing New Jersey: an unfair tax system, sprawl, pollution, waste and corruption in government, failing schools, lack of affordable healthcare, rising college tuitions, etc. We Greens believe the cause of many of these problems is the corrupt power of money that controls politics at every level in our state. Campaign contributions from short-sighted corporations and wealthy, well-connected individuals are nothing more than legalized bribery, buying our elected officials. These corporate interests have little to no conscience, with their first concern being their own enrichment at the taxpayers' expense.

Lately, we've seen a dramatic increase in the number of elected officials being sent to prison for corruption, while others put relatives on the state payroll, and pad their own pensions with multiple part-time government jobs. When will we, the people, say "ENOUGH!"?

The only way to break this downward spiral is to stop voting for the same two parties that got us in this mess, and vote for new alternatives like the Green party. The Green party does not accept corporate or PAC contributions. We cannot be bought!

What would we do differently?

Property taxes: Both Jon Corzine and Doug Forrester are still talking about using rebates within the current system. This is minor tinkering. I say we should eliminate the school property tax and have schools funded from a progressive state income tax. Public education should be the state's responsibility, and the state should give adequate and fair funding for all districts, giving all students equal access to quality education. We'd lower costs by merging many of the smaller school districts into regional K-12 districts, eliminating excess administration.

Government reform: Let's ban all forms of "pay to play" contributions at every level of government, and have a workable "Clean Elections" system of public campaign financing. We'd ban politicians from holding multiple government jobs. We support Initiative and Referendum. We'd conduct an independent audit of the state budget to cut waste.

The environment: We'd repeal the "Fast Track" development law, stop the loss of open space to sprawl, shut down our nuclear power plants and replace them with clean renewable energy sources, encourage more "clean" alternative fueled vehicles and mass transit, and ban the use of eminent domain for private development projects.

To see more of our platform, please visit the Green party at www.gpnj.org, and my website at www.MattThieke.com.

If you want real change, please join us, and thanks for voting!