CHRISTOPHER J. DAGGETT

Independent

If you watched the gubernatorial debates earlier this month, you know that we are the only candidates who have consistently told the truth about what needs to be done to fix New Jersey. The Republicans and the Democrats have thrown every obstacle at our campaign to stop us -- but they failed. They said that we would never raise the money for matching funds -- but we did, early on. They said that we would never gain visibility -- but we have. And now both parties are down to their last lie: A vote for Daggett-Esposito is a vote for the other party's candidates. But New Jersey residents know better: The only wasted vote in this election is for more of the same.

That is why New Jersey residents throughout the state support our campaign. We have the support of educators who put kids first. We have the support of people who know that a healthy environment is vital to a healthy economy. We have the support of editorial writers, columnists, and bloggers who understand that only an independent candidacy, not beholden to special interests, can make the changes to fix the state we love. We must rein in out-of-control spending and property taxes. We must reduce New Jersey's budget deficit, debt and fiscal obligations. We must make New Jersey's tax structure more competitive with other states.

As lifelong residents, we have a deep and abiding commitment to New Jersey. I have a doctorate in education and 20 years of experience in the private and non-profit sectors. I have served as Deputy Chief of Staff to the governor, Commissioner of the Department of Environment Protection and Regional Administrator of the United States Environmental Protection Agency. In short, I have devoted my career to improving New Jersey.

My running mate, Dr. Frank Esposito, is the well respected Distinguished Professor of History and Education at Kean University and a former interim president of the school. He has been active in K-12 education, particularly school choice legislation and the development of the charter school program in New Jersey. Together, we will put an end to politics as usual and put our state back on course.

Republican and Democratic politicians have taxed away your hard-earned money and tarnished the good reputation of our state. The only thing that they cannot take away from you is your vote. You do not have to live with the status quo. You do not have to throw away your vote to politics as usual. You can vote your conscience.

As governor and lieutenant governor, we promise to make the tough decisions needed to revive the economy and end this cycle of multi-billion dollar budget deficits. New Jersey has the opportunity to change, but that change will not come from within the two political parties. Only by casting aside partisan differences and working together can we, the voters of this great state, restore the prosperity New Jersey once enjoyed.

Please vote for Chris Daggett and Frank Esposito.