

New Jersey's 2025 Governor's Race: Key Issues for the Jewish Community

As New Jersey voters prepare to choose their next governor, questions of antisemitism, community safety, and the state's relationship with Israel are drawing close attention. The election will help shape how New Jersey addresses these priorities in the years ahead. This overview provides key points to consider when casting your vote for Governor of New Jersey.

Rising Antisemitism and Political Climate

Antisemitism has increased sharply in New Jersey and across the United States, according to state and national watchdog reports. Communities are facing growing harassment, vandalism, and rhetoric that targets Jews or questions Israel's legitimacy.

At the same time, political movements such as the Democratic Socialists of America have gained visibility in the region. Their platform and some of their members have expressed positions or used language that is antisemitic and hostile to the Jewish community and Israel's existence. These developments underscore the need for leadership rooted in respect, civility, and inclusion.

The Economic and Civic Case for Partnership with Israel

Beyond shared democratic values, Israel is a key economic and innovation partner for New Jersey. Trade, technology, and research collaborations between Israel and New Jersey businesses and universities generate billions of dollars in investment and job creation.

- **Economic Impact:** Israel–New Jersey partnerships have produced \$1.7 billion a year in trade and hundreds of millions in investment for New Jersey plus thousands of jobs across sectors such as technology, life sciences, and higher education.
 - **Educational Collaboration:** Joint research programs between Israeli and New Jersey universities support innovation and global competitiveness.
 - **Shared Values:** Support for Israel reinforces democratic principles and fosters cross-cultural understanding.
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Where the Candidates Stand

Jack Ciattarelli

Former Assemblyman Ciattarelli has made combating antisemitism and deepening New Jersey's partnership with Israel central to his campaign.

Key actions and commitments:

- Pledged to formally adopt the *IHRA working definition of antisemitism* at the state level and establish stronger protections against antisemitic discrimination.
 - Proposed reviving the *New Jersey–Israel Commission* to expand economic, cultural, and innovation ties.
 - Traveled to Israel during the campaign to highlight trade, technology, and research partnerships.
 - Responsive and available, meeting with Jewish community leaders in New Jersey to discuss his positions and reaffirm his commitment to combating antisemitism.
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Mikie Sherrill

Congresswoman Sherrill has taken steps addressing antisemitism and campus climate issues, though some community leaders have raised questions about consistency and engagement.

Key actions:

- Voted for the *Antisemitism Awareness Act (H.R. 6090)*, requiring the U.S. Department of Education to use the IHRA working definition of antisemitism when enforcing civil-rights laws on campuses.
- Publicly urged New Jersey colleges and universities to take stronger action against antisemitism.

Community concerns:

- Voted “present” rather than “yes” (*House Resolution 894*) to condemn antisemitism and equate anti-Zionism with antisemitism.
- Has not given interviews to Jewish media outlets during the general election campaign, leading to questions about outreach and communication with the community.

An Informed Choice

For many, this election is less about partisanship and more about principle—about which candidate will best uphold respect, safety, and partnership in confronting antisemitism and strengthening New Jersey’s future. Make sure to vote!