

Here's how we'd turn the tide:

CIVIL RIGHTS

- Oppose the USA PATRIOT Act.
- Guarantee the right of habeas corpus and the right to counsel for everyone.
- Oppose racial and ethnic profiling.
- Support full and complete equal rights for GLBT couples.
- Support an individual's right to make reproductive choices.
- Abolish the death penalty.

THE ECONOMY

- Oppose public money being spent on corporate welfare, instead of public welfare. No taxpayer bailout of failing industries, such as garbage incinerators and nuclear power plants.
- Support measures to provide decent and affordable housing.
- Advocate single-payer health care.
- Reduce dependency on property taxes through progressive income tax reform. Those who can pay more should do so, and those who are struggling should pay less.

WORKERS' RIGHTS

- Protect and promote workers' rights to join a union.
- Support a just transition for all workers displaced when an industry shuts down.
- Oppose privatization of vital community services such as schools, hospitals and prisons.
- Support full funding for job creation.
- Advocate the right to a living wage.

Green Party of New Jersey

Matt Thieke for Governor:

I believe our state is in dire straits. After years of wasteful mismanagement, corruption, and tax cuts for the rich, our state government is now billions of dollars in debt! While state aid to cities and schools is stagnant, and property taxes rise, our government spends money on “corporate welfare” like the Xanadu project in the Meadowlands, and a new hockey arena in Newark.

The issue of how to reform our property tax system has been discussed for years, yet nothing has been done. In the latest act of cowardice, many politicians in Trenton are now saying they can't reform the system, and that we need to elect a special Constitutional Convention. What utter dereliction of duty! When the going gets tough, these Democrats and Republicans look to pass the buck.

It's clear to me that something is terribly wrong with this picture, and that our elected officials are failing us, at every level of government. Why is this?

It is the power of money that influences politics at every level in our state. Money from corporations and wealthy, well-connected individuals that is controlling our government. These corporate interests have little to no conscience, with their sole interest being their own enrichment and the public's expense.

New Jersey has a long history of political corruption, but the last few years has seen a dramatic increase in the number of elected officials, from mayors to Freeholders to state legislators, being sent off to prison. Meanwhile, others put family members on the state payroll, and pad their own pensions with multiple part-time government jobs. When will we, the people say “Enough!”?

We must be bold. The only way to break this downward spiral is to STOP voting for the same two parties that got us here, and vote for alternative party candidates. The playing field must be leveled and opened to those who are willing to speak to the needs of the people and not for the greedy.

Here's how we'd turn the tide:

THE ENVIRONMENT

- Clean up the nation's largest number of Superfund sites. Make polluters pay.
- Reduce air pollution.
- Shut down nuclear power plants, decommission them safely and replace them with renewable energy sources.
- Shut down failing garbage incinerators and implement the "3R's plus C"—Reduction, Reuse, Recycling and Composting.
- Address environmental justice problems.

CLEAN UP CAMPAIGN FINANCE

- Take big money out of politics, allowing voters to have more choices. Support “pay-to-play” reform at all levels of government.
- Bring “Clean Elections” public financing system to New Jersey.
- Support Instant Runoff Voting to expand choices and strengthen democracy.
- Support Proportional Representation, so minority voices are heard.
- Support the people's right to Initiative & Referendum.

THE STATE PLAN

- Stop the loss of farmlands and forests and prevent inappropriate development.
- Improve access to quality mass transit.

EDUCATION

- Provide all of New Jersey's students with equal access to quality education at all levels.
- Support adequate and fair funding for all school districts and public colleges and universities. Public schools should be funded through the state income tax.

MATT THIEKE

Matt has been involved in progressive politics for the last 25 years, and joined the Green Party in 2000 to work on Ralph Nader's campaign for President. Since then, he has worked on various Green campaigns and has served as Chair of the Burlington county Greens.

A New Jerseyan since childhood, Matt graduated from Rutgers University with a degree in Political Science. He has worked as a fundraiser for NJ PIRG, an intern with the State Planning Commission, and for the last 15 years as a computer software analyst, specializing in healthcare applications.

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Eventually everybody will vote Green in some way. Why not work for a party that represents the future? As Woody Guthrie sang, "This land is your land, this land is my land...this land was made for you and me."

—PETE SEEGER



Build The Movement For
Social Justice and
Protection Of The
Environment
In The Garden State!