# Oct 15 - Sherrill - Fox5NY

Jersey governor. Attacks and accusations intensifying on both sides. While the latest poll today shows Representative Mikey Cheryl as the front runner, her challenger Jack Chidarelli not too far behind. &gt;&gt; Representative Mikey Cheryl joins us now with the latest news from her campaign. Congresswoman, thank you so much for joining us. &gt;&gt; Thank you for having me. Less than three weeks to go and can we start by saying that this race has gotten so ugly and personal that it risks turning voters off when they say one of their top concerns is the price of utility bills. So, you've run on wanting to lower the prices. You're looking to replace a two-term Democratic governor. What went wrong under Governor Murphy with utility prices? &gt;&gt; Well, I think just about everyone kicked the can down the road. That's a favorite New Jersey pastime, unfortunately. and we're coming to the breaking point. So whether it's utility prices, housing, healthcare, long-term uh issues have not been addressed. And so here we have just about everyone, whether it's the grid operator, the utility companies, the administration um or the Bureau of Public Utilities, nobody has addressed this appropriately. And so at the end of the day when the rate hikes came from the grid operator which had totally mismanaged the grid PJM that cost was dumped on rateayers. So that's why I said look on day one I'm freezing rate hikes and forcing people to the table. I've already had an open letter from the public utilities to say they want to meet to discuss the rate hikes so we can come up with how we drive them down. And then there's other uh money coming into the Bureau of Public Utilities we can use to defay that cost as we drive in massive amounts of energy into our grid to defay the cost over time. &gt;&gt; All right, Congresswoman, your opponent narrowly lost four years ago, and it now appears New Jersey has really only gotten more purple in recent years. How do you appeal to independent voters in a race this tight? &gt;&gt; You know, I always run to appeal to all the voters. I find those issues that, as I say, are keeping people up at night. um if you're a mom or a dad or if you're trying to make it uh try to pay your bills, what is that thing that's really keeping you up that as governor I can do something about? And what I hear as I speak to thousands and thousands of New Jerseyians is that it's cost. It's utility cost, it's housing cost, it's health care costs at every single level. And so that's why I've taken an aggressive campaign to drive down cost. You heard about the utility costs. I'm going to really beef up the business action center, cutting through red tape and permitting. Just next door, we've seen Josh Shapiro cut through small business permitting times by 90%. That saves people time. It saves them money. It helps with the the lifeblood of our economy. But at the same time, I'm going to, you know, hold this administration accountable because the tariffs are raising costs on everybody. Everything from a cup of coffee in the morning to the grocery store prices you pay. And also the one big beautiful bill from a state like New Jersey which pays $70 billion more in federal taxes than we get returned. If the federal government is not going to run programs in education and healthcare, then they need to return that money to the state so that we can run those programs for people. &gt;&gt; You know, in the last debate, you gave the president an Fgrade when asked how he was doing so far. you know, how do you do that and still appeal to people who may have voted for President Trump but are open to a Democratic governor? &gt;&gt; Well, right now in New Jersey, even people who voted for President Trump or like President Trump are, I think, giving him an Fgrade on the economy &gt;&gt; because what I hear from from people across the state and including a lot of Republicans is this frustration with costs going up at every turn. I hear a lot of people, especially those independent voters, saying, "Look, I I voted for him because I thought my costs are going to go down." But at this point with the tariffs and now freezing the gateway tunnel funding, which is, you know, that would be responsible for about a 100,000 jobs in the area, about 200,000 New Jerseyians take that tunnel into New York every day for jobs. You know, it's just at at every turn really hampering our economy, which as you know, the Northeast is responsible for about 20% of the nation's GDP. This is a really cool area to invest in, and when you take away those investments, you really imperil the entire economy of the United States of America. &gt;&gt; Congresswoman, the last debate got very heated with you accusing your opponent of profiting off the opioid crisis. Do you still stand behind what you said? Have you heard anything from Jack Shidelli's camp about a potential lawsuit? &gt;&gt; My opponent 100% profited off the opioid crisis. He did so by printing misinformation from opioid companies that opioids were safe. Uh he did it by working in tandem with them to develop a a platform so that people could get access to opioids. In fact, this is as a company that ended up paying over $4 billion in settlement fees for their wrongdoing was rolling out yet another opioid product working with Jack Chidarelli to develop an app so more people could gain access to that product as people um for example where I worked at the US attorney's office as a federal press where we were working to end pill mills and to hold doctors accountable. Jack was trying to help opioid companies subvert doctors to get more opioids out to people. Um, so he definitely profited from this to the tune of millions and millions of dollars and the people he was working for, the opioid companies were making billions of dollars and yet tens of thousands of New Jerseyians were dying. &gt;&gt; So, Congresswoman, have you heard anything about his camp in a potential lawsuit? We we know that you're doubling down on the claims. Have you heard anything? and now he's trying to walk it back I think because uh it was quite frankly it was a you know after he's been a perennial candidate. So after running on this his small business credits for about three times now as a governor's in a governor's race when I called him out on that business you know he immediately tried to shut the conversation down by threatening a lawsuit but he has yet to actually file and now it sounds like he's going to try to walk that back but we'll see. &gt;&gt; All right. Very well. We're going to have to leave it there. Congresswoman Mikey Cheryl, we appreciate you joining us. &gt;&gt; Thank you.