# Oct 17 - Sherrill - ITVNews

[Music] Congresswoman Mikey Cheryl joined ITV Gold for an exclusive interview where she discussed her key priorities and agenda for the upcoming November New Jersey Governor's race. Cheryl shared insights on strengthening the state's economy, improving education and healthc care access, and fostering bipartisan collaboration to support working families. Let's watch some highlights from the conversation with the full interview to be aired later on ITV Gold. Welcome and I am Pand. You are watching face to face right here on ITV Gold. Tonight we are joined by Congresswoman Mikey Cheryl, the Democratic nominee for governor of New Jersey. Uh, Navy helicopter pilot, former federal prosecutor and now a US representative Mikey Cheryl has built her career around service and leadership. and she's running for governor on a promise to make New Jersey more affordable, strengthen education, support small businesses, and ensure every community, including the vibrant South Asian community, has a voice in shaping the state's future. And Congresswoman Cheryl, I would like to welcome you and thank you for joining us. &gt;&gt; Oh my gosh, thank you so much for having me. I really appreciate it. Okay, let's start with, you know, you said your top priority is making New Jersey more affordable for working families. So, what is the first major action you would take as governor to deliver real relief? &gt;&gt; Well, I'm going to get to work right away. So, on day one, I am declaring a state of emergency on utility costs and freezing rate hikes. I I really want people uh across the state to know that I have their back. That this is not something I'm going to focus on in 10 or five years. I'm doing it right away. I'm going to make sure that they are seeing the support that they need to see from government. So, I'll do that and then I'm going to go on to address cost in health care and housing as well. So taking on those landlords who are colluding to drive up prices, taking on PBMs or those middlemen um in pharmaceutical sales who are driving up costs for everyone sometimes up to 10 times and putting smallarmacies out of business. So in those ways in housing, healthcare, and utility costs, I'm going to get to work immediately driving down costs for people. &gt;&gt; All right. And you know, New Jersey's economy thrives on small uh businesses and many of them are run by immigrant families including South Asians. So my question to you is like how does your plan specifically support small business growth and innovation while keeping cost manageable? &gt;&gt; Well, as you know, um I'm going to both work to make it easier to own a small business. And uh I'll have um a more muscular business action center with a dashboard so you can see where your permitting is. You can have help with the permitting process. Right now it's very difficult to understand having a fasttrack team who can help walk you through the process, ensuring you can get better access to small business grants and loans. But at the same time the tariffs we are seeing coming from Washington have been devastating to so many businesses about a 50% tariff on goods from India and as we're coming up on Dvali to see um as people go out to try to buy the the food and the candles and the dresses and all the stuff that is only made in India to see these 50% cost increases is really hard on families. Uh the last time we saw each other was around Oakree Road as as we were talking to small businesses and the Patel Brothers grocery store was saying how it it was going to be a big hit to them these tariffs and we were all very worried because so many members of our Indian-American community were telling me that Patel brothers are just a staple of life for them um for you know the the food they go to to school with and their lunchbox. They were showing me some of the drinks that they had. Uh and then um the the different um produce and stuff that they work so hard to get. Well, they are telling me that now they're seeing the average cost of their goods go up by 40 to 50%. We're all seeing higher prices on groceries, but um especially when it comes to produce being imported um and all the tariffs being put on it. So you know since you're talking about tariffs which has really made like ripple effects on industries from manufacturing to retail. So tell me what different is your administration going to do about it? So, like I said, here in New Jersey, we're going to we're going to make sure that Trenton is doing everything it can to help small business owners to drive down the cost of opening up a small business, cut through red tape and permitting here in the state, drive down cost of electricity, which is so impactful on small businesses and their ability uh to meet their uh their costs. But I'm also going to I'm going to join the tariff lawsuit on day one. Right now, New Jersey is not a part of taking this administration to court on these tariffs. And really, I think many of them are put in place illegally, and we need to keep pushing to back this administration off of those tariffs. All right. So, you know, let's talk about education and opportunity. You have spoken about ensuring equal access to quality education regardless of zip code. What key changes do you believe can make New Jersey schools more equitable and better prepare students for the jobs of tomorrow? &gt;&gt; That's something I think about all of the time. I think a lot about our kids. I have four kids, uh, three teenagers and a 20-year-old. So, uh, our education system here in New Jersey, I I can see how important it is to our kids' ability to go on to get great opportunities to get a good job. So that's why I'm going to make sure first of all that we're addressing third grade reading. That is a real inflection point for students. If you can't read at grade level and third grade, you're going to have a really difficult time going on to further studies. Um so we're going to teach uh phonics education here. That's the best way you can teach uh reading. We're going to push in more uh highintensity tutoring. That's evidence-based tutoring that can help kids catch up. and we're seeing across the state that children have not caught up in the aftermath of COVID. So, we really want to address learning loss and third grade reading. I also um want to push in some county based school systems because some of our county-based high schools are our best performing schools. We can also create great opportunities there in things like occupational schools and STEM schools and create nimble schools because as you sort of alluded to &gt;&gt; the workforce of the future and the jobs of the future are going to be very very different especially with AI and quantum computing and um and making sure that our students are ready for that is going to be incredibly important. &gt;&gt; All right. So now the question that comes to my mind, you know, living in the state of New Jersey, property taxes, they remain one of the biggest burdens for New Jersey homeowners. So what specific reforms or partnerships would you pursue to bring real sustainable relief to families? So we're see you property taxes have gone up every single year and right now as the cost of everything has gone up. It's been particularly impactful on people on a fixed income. So certainly stabilizing property taxes for seniors is something I'm in favor of. Myo my opponent opposes that. Um giving property tax relief to seniors. I also want to uh have shared services part of this idea to do some of these county-based high schools can also take some of the financial burden off of towns. Um we also need to share things like municipal court systems and we have to address the state health benefits plan. That is the other way that um that t property taxes have gone up significantly because it's in a death spiral. So, I'm going to make sure that we address that to drive cost down. But my opponent, on the other hand, has voted at every level of government he serves to raise cost. He's voted against a billion dollar of property tax relief already. And he's supporting Trump in $30 billion of hits on property tax relief. So, he is definitely not focused on, I think, addressing one of the key costs that people face here, and that's property taxes. &gt;&gt; All right. So let's uh even talk about energy and utility costs. You know you have proposed declaring a state of emergency to freeze utility rate hikes. So how soon do you think you know families will feel the impact of that move you know once you are elected as the governor? &gt;&gt; Well the um rates are set to go up next year. So I'm going to freeze it so they don't do that. at the same time drive in a bunch of new power, solar, battery storage, making our gas power generation more efficient to generate more um and then at the same time look on a long-term path to nuclear because right now we are in an energy market uh in the region, the PJM region it's called. And some of the states in this region have very high power needs right now. Virginia has really invest in huge data centers. They're they're utilizing tons of power. So, it's made all of our rates go up. So, the energy we produce in state can make all of our rates go down, which is why I'm so focused on it. &gt;&gt; Okay. All right. So you know let's talk about the New Jersey is you know has lot of immigrant communities here and including of course a large South Asian population and I feel you know and I'm sure you also know that they face lot of uh you know hate crimes and bias incidents. So how will your administration build like trust, strength, safety and promote inclusion statewide? You know, that's something when I first um got at into the US attorney's office, I started work working with a lot of our local communities because it's really important that local communities know they can trust our police officers and law enforcement. But that takes a lot of community building. It takes a lot of outreach. It takes meetings so that people are culturally competent and aware of the different needs of the community. So certainly as governor, I'll make sure that we are working on that so that people know they can trust law enforcement. But other areas that I'm really focused on are things like the kids online safety act. We are seeing horrible hate going on online in in just about every single community and it's really creating horrible mental health outcomes on our children. We need age appropriate design code. I'm going to have a center of excellence to study this because right now big tech has so much access to information that we need. I'll also push in more um effort into schools and their mental health resources to help our children navigate this better. Um and help to stop the increase in bullying that we've seen because the stories I hear from my friends and what's happening to children online is is really unacceptable and creating I I think real fear among the community. I mean, it of course doesn't end in schools, which is why ensuring that we have state resources to protect houses of worship and communities, community centers, etc. to make sure they're more resilient because we're also seeing a lot of political attacks going on right now. And that is something um that as governor I'm going to work very hard to keep everyone safe. &gt;&gt; All right. And so my last question to you of course is South Asian voter engagement you know and the South Asian community is one of the most active and fastest growing voting blocks in New Jersey. So tell me how important is this community to your campaign and to the kind of administration you plan to lead? &gt;&gt; The South Asian community is incredibly important and incredibly vibrant. Um there are you know we have a lot of elected officials here in New Jersey. uh in fact the last time I was on um Indian TV it was with Raj Mccuri and so we know that they're they're such an influential important group so many of the small businesses a lot of the lifeblood of our economy the South Asians are at the heart of and the Indian-American community is at the heart of um so it's really important to me to ensure people have a seat at the table that I am reaching out to people throughout our state throughout the South Asian community to understand the needs needs of the community so I can better drive down costs, continue to help expand businesses. Some of the stories that I hear whenever whenever I'm with the South Asian community are really heartwarming because they sort of um emblem they're emblematic of the American dream. I hear stories of people coming here with three, four, five dollars in their part pocket and getting themselves through school and starting a business that helps thousands. Um, so making sure that we continue this innovative culture here so that everyone has access to opportunity is really important to me. &gt;&gt; You know, Congresswoman Cheryl, thank you so much for joining us and sharing your vision for New Jersey and we really appreciate your time and wish you all the best. &gt;&gt; Well, thank you so much. I really appreciate it. &gt;&gt; Thank you. [Music]