Sep 16 - Ciattarelli speech Elizabeth, New Hope Church

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nOBorrP48CQ>

Pastor Miles, it's not too late for you to be in the governor's race. I'll step down if you want to get in. Thank you. And many thanks to all of you for welcoming and I and my team. Warm welcome. First day of the house. Thank you. Got to know them a little better today and not our first time together, but we got to know each other a little better. Met your grandchildren. Yes. And uh I've come to learn that his grandchildren do not call him grandpa. No, they do not call him Poppy. They call him Big Daddy. And I was thinking when we win this race, I kind of like that better than Governor Big Daddy. And we know we're going to win this race. And if I didn't believe that, I should be running for governor. Let me tell you why I think we're going to win. This campaign is marked by something I believe very strongly, and I felt it here today at your house of worship. Positive energy. Our message is about united, not divided. And our message about people, not power or politics. And this is the most diverse state in the country. And I believe there's power and beauty in that diversity if we embrace it. And we will under my governorhip. The music we've heard today is beautiful. And I'm not just talking about the voices. Talking about the actual musicians. You notice on sure the musicians are not all one race of color. They're diverse, but yet in working together, they've produced the most beautiful sound. The question I'm asked most often is, why are you running for governor? 100 years ago, my grandparents came to this country and uh settled in Rarington Burough in Somerset County. My grandfather started as a laborer in the ditch for the water company. Same as nickels and dimes at what was a very very difficult time for Italians uh here in this country and um became a very successful independent contractor. That was in the 30s, 40s and 50s. My parents, my dad did not have a high school diploma. My dad worked 38 years in the street department for public service gas distribution. My mother worked midnights on the line for J&amp;J. There were about 10 years in the 60s and 70s where they owned a restaurant in Somerset County. My mom worked midnights. She ran the restaurant bar by day. My dad worked by day. He ran the restaurant bar by night. And every dime they made went to their four children. The roof over our head. It was a pretty modest home. Four children. My parents and six of us. One bathroom. I have four kids and five bathrooms. And I heard arguments over the bathroom. We never argued in my house about the bathroom. But um every time my parents made with their four children, roof over our head, meal on the table, clothes on your back, and our public education, and you had me home at 5 for dinner. My parents remind us every day of our responsibilities to each other, our faith, our community, our state, our country, and told us never to expect anything in return other than fulfilling the American promise of opportunity. That it was up to us to take advantage of the American opportunity. My parents also told us in that house, our sport children, that we didn't have any rights. No rights. We had responsibilities. We all got one right at the age of 18. If we were no longer cooperating, it was the right to move out. They made that quite clear. I followed in my grandparents and parents' footsteps um after being at Satan Hall University for my undergraduate degree and my graduate degree. I'm an NBA CPA. Didn't even leave the state to go to college. and I'm a two-time successful business owner having created jobs right here in New Jersey. What am I getting at? The answer to the question I'm most often asked, why are you running for governor? Three generations of generally achieved their American dream right here in New Jersey. And I'm running for governor because I want to make sure today's New Jerseyians and future generations of generans rather can achieve the American dream right here in New Jersey. Unfortunately, today one out of two people feel the state is headed in the wrong direction. Two out of three are looking to leave. And people no longer have confidence whether or not this is a state in which they can get the education of their dreams, the job of their dreams, raise a family here, start a business here, retire here. These are things that people feel terribly insecure, if not fearful of today. I do not want to be the governor of a state where one out of two people think we're headed in the wrong direction. I don't want to be a governor of a state where two out of three people are looking to leave. I don't want to be a governor state where people live in fear. I believe leadership matters. I believe we can fix what's broken here in New Jersey. And if I didn't think it would be fixed, I would not be wasting your time or asking for the privilege to be your governor. When something I love is broken, I won't fix it. The state of New Jersey is broken in a number of different ways. And you know what they are. We're up against them every single day. And so, particularly in our urban areas, the day we have to fix on day one, and we will in my administration, is our educational system. When I say that one thing the two things that everybody wants are opportunity and security. The opportunity comes in the form of educational opportunity and economic opportunity. And then you gain security if you're able to take advantage of the equal educational opportunity and equal economic opportunity. Education. We know in many of our schools around the state, we have eighth graders that are not on grade level for reading, writing, math. I'm a data guy. The data is pretty clear. If you leave A3 not on grade level for reading, writing, math, you will be undermployed your entire life. New Jersey recently slipped from 2 to 12 on the national report card because we haven't recovered from all the learning loss during the pandemic. Louisiana moved from 48 to 32, putting in place something I've called for for a long time, a high impact curriculum. If your child is not on grade level for reading, writing, math, we're going to extend neck tire next period, next mark period, or the market period after that, the market period after that, getting them on grade level for those critical life skills. I also want to provide more vocational training opportunities for our students because not all kids want or need to go to college. This is very personal for me. Of my four children, one of which went into the trades, he does very, very well as a licensed diesel mechanic. But I will tell you, in our high school where we were raised, my son Anthony was treated like a secondass citizen because he wasn't going to college. That's not fair. That's not fair. And I tease high school principles at times when I say to them, just once I want to come to a high school graduation and there are two valid Victorians. The kid that's going to the league tomorrow and the kid that's starting tomorrow is a $50,000 electrician. Why don't we celebrate that student? So, we got to get back to the basics. I promise you that as we go around the state of New Jersey, okay, everyone will be included. Everyone will have a seat at the table. The pastor has my number. I will answer his call. And if I can't, I will return that call. I'm going to reinvigorate, because it's kind of gone dormant, the governor's interfaith council. The interfaith council is comprised of religious leaders from all the various states all throughout New Jersey to meet each month with the governor and by working together strengthen our communities. How can we work together to strengthen our communities? I think it's our communities of faith that need to lead the way in healing our communities and they do need to be healed. Those are just some of the things that we can do on day one. Improve our educational system, strengthen our communities by having a more open dialogue and a more inclusive state government. There was a study done recently sponsored by the African-American Chamber of Commerce that showed that there is a terrible disparity in our state government in terms of the number of state contracts that minority business entities get. They're not getting enough. And I follow very very closely what Mayor Adams has done in New York City. He has put in place a new process to ensure that minority owned businesses get their fair share of state contracts. This is critically important. For many minority owned businesses, public contracts at the municipal, county, and state level are the first entree to taking their business to a whole another level. We know even here in New Jersey, we are not adhering to the commercial lending act that says our community banks are supposed to loan out money to minority communities. These are all the things that have lapsed during the current last 8 years of the current administration. Those are things that will change on day one of my administration. Also, my administration, my cabinet will reflect New Jersey's diversity because I think that's the right thing to do. As governor, I will visit at least two houses of worship every month and through the power of social media show where it is that I'm sharing worship with all the various states of our state. It's another way to bring us together. But most importantly, I think my job as a candidate and my job as governor is to listen. I can't possibly be an expert in all things. I'm a CPA. I'm a two-time business owner. I think of myself as a CEO, not a politician. But know this. Yes, I've owned two of my own businesses in the state, but I've also had the privilege of serving in every level of government. When I came home from St. Paul University, the mayor at the time recruited me to run in my own hometown and I was a council president. Two terms. I've always determined myself. I served two terms and I moved on. 10 years later, I was asked to run for county commissioner in some county. I served two terms and then I moved on. And then they asked me to run for state legislature and I served three two-year terms. And after seeing Trenton from the inside out, I said to myself, I'm only coming back under one condition, and that's to be your governor and really effectuate the change we so desperately need here in New Jersey. And I came very, very close in 2021. I'm still in therapy. Just joking. I said that the other day and there was a woman said in the front, &quot;Ros sorry.&quot; The men never say, &quot;I'm sorry. It's just the women.&quot; No, you just got to do it. But I do believe we're going to win this time around. But the point I was trying to make about my public service, no candidate's ever come before you whose family has been here for 100 years, who has an NBA CPA, who's a two-time business owner, and has served at every level of government. But know this about my public service. Other than the fact that I turned myself and didn't take the pay or the benefits, I wanted a town, a county, and a legislative district where Democrats outnumbered Republicans sometimes very significantly. I'm proud of that. And I think the reason is because as a Republican, I've always gone places other Republicans don't or won't. If you're welcome. If you're welcome. And what I've always thought about is how to solve our problems. I'm not a hyperartisan. I'm not rigid in my ideology. And having raised four children, what I've kind of learned is at times the world is shades of gray. Rarely isn't black and white. It's shades of gray. And we have to adapt to get things done. Uh but I'm proud of the fact that I've won those seven races in districts in the county and town, Democrats, out Republicans going out talking about the issues and what my ideas are to solve those problems. And those seven victories always time and time again restored my faith in people that at the end of the day when people go into that voting booth they close the curtain behind them and they vote for the person not the party. They vote their conscience and that shows the goodness of people. Someone has said to me recently I can't think of a worse time to be governor with the various crisis we face across the state. Quite frankly, I couldn't think of a better time to be governor. The crisis reside provides an opportunity for us to hit the reset button. And I'm not going to do that on behalf of all 9.3 million New Jerseyians. Couple things I want you to know about me and the pastor if it's okay. We can open up the floor. People want to ask questions. Yeah, we have questions. Excellent. Know this about me. Unlike governors on both sides of the aisle over the last 40 years, I'm not using this as a stepping stone to get to Washington DC. I've been asked to run for Congress. The answer's been no. It will continue to be. I've been asked to run for Senate. The answer's been no. It continues to be. The pastor has not asked to run for president yet, but the answer is no. And I don't want to write a book. I just want to write the ship. So, you don't need to worry about me getting distracted because I've got ambitions to go to Washington DC. I don't. The Cheryl have all been very, very fortunate because of our hard work. And what I'm trying to say with the utmost humility is I don't need a job. And on your behalf, our behalf, make no mistake, I want the job. This is home. Always has been, always will be. And if you decide to send me home in four or eight years, I'm going to the beach in S City. I'll still be right here in Jersey, but I'm not going anywhere else. And the other thing is, I'm not owned by any special interests. Once your governor is owned by the special interests, they're compromised. And once they're compromised, they cannot get the job done. It's no different than a compromised soul. Once you're compromised, it's over. I'm not owned by any special interest mess. And I promise you that we'll do right by all the people of New Jersey. So, Pastor Dad, I'm happy to answer questions. [Applause] [Music] Two things Jack and I have in common. I did not uh get a high school diploma either like I was kicked out of every school in the winter and get my GED from college. Uh and then I also used to work for Johnson Johnson 10 years. Uh and so mom and dad those are good parents. Uh I've had an opportunity those of you that are members of my church be involved with several governors. you know, uh, Phil Murphy, Governor Murphy first, uh, looked at the, uh, opportunity to run for governor, uh, they reached out to me. I took him to meet our leader in Al Shark, National Action Network, uh, Corsa, uh, Christy, I can go all the way back to Christy Todd Whitney, uh, who gave me my first startup money for a nonprofit organization. So, this is not my first rodeo. Uh, I've been involved with this uh since God gave me another chance. Uh, I've been in prison more times than my age. Uh, and I took everything that I did and turned it around. Uh, the same people that uh, used to lock me up now they call me for advice. And so I know it can work because I made a decision, Pastor Mouse, to do better. Uh, and I think all of us really really need to think about how we can do better. Uh, I'm honored that he's here today. Uh, I did, for for the record, I did uh receive a call from Mikey Sher. She did reach out to me after uh I had posted that Jack was coming to my church. Uh, but those of you that know Reverend Al Sharpton, the National Action Network know that we do not endorse candidates, but we do grade them. And I have already started the grading process uh and the report after I talked to Rachel Noringer to get her grade and Re Sharpton, we will be giving out a grade regarding who we think uh that we ought to be looking for to be our next governor. I think Jack is on the right road honesty. We have a million group over there. my daughters and them, they are really uh concerned. I know Pastor um Jeffrey Powell raised some concerns about uh pregnancy, chick daycare centers. Uh I also have a daycare center. Uh I also have a technology center, 30,000 square ft. uh in the city of North Atlantic City, Jersey City where I partner with one of the biggest developers uh move former baseball player from Boston Red Sox of America. Uh we do after school programs throughout the state of New Jersey and in Brooklyn, New York. I came up with something, Jack, that was really dear to me. I remember when I was coming up, they used to have the book mobile. Uh but we have a technology mobile. Uh but we go into all underprivileged areas where kids that don't have access to internet take up and get on the bus uh and do their after school homework and things of that nature. I've also been given an opportunity to work with former governor, Lieutenant Governor Sher Oliver, nephew. Can we give Charles Oliver a hand? [Applause] Sister Karen and Ray have questions. Uh, I want to ask Karen and Ray to stand if we have questions for Jack. I didn't want everybody to stand up and ask a whole bunch of questions, but just wanted some decency and order. So, she's going to come. I want y'all to come. Want to come. Come on. Calm. and then want to ask uh some of the questions that some of you wrote down uh to uh yeah all right well welcome to great to be here we're very glad I know it is my first time but it's not being my last you're always welcome I made that sense so we have a few questions for you many residents say New Jersey is becoming unaffordable between property taxes, housing, utilities, and healthcare. What specific policies will you enact to make everyday life more affordable for middle and low income? So, the word I like most in that question is specific because one of my great liabilities is I'm going to give you specifics and we do have affordability crisis across the state. No matter where I go right now, the one aspect of our affordability crisis that everyone asks me about first and foremost is their electric bill. And so what we're going to do on day one is pull out of the regional greenhouse gas initiative, which is carbon tax. Our air is no cleaner after being in this plan for 8 years. Our electricity is only more expensive and rateayer dollars going to other states. By pulling out the regional greenhouse gas initiative, we can save about half a billion dollars a year for rateayers. So I can lower your electricity bill on day one and uh so that's something we can do. Uh number two, um we hear that uh the affordability crisis is most acute for our seniors. So one thing I want to do across the state of New Jersey is freeze property taxes for everyone once they hit age 70. Property taxes frozen for life once you hit age 70. Number two, make number three make all retirement income taxree in Pennsylvania. All retirement income is tax-free. Not in New Jersey. This would be something else to give our seniors some degree of certainty that they can afford their expenses as they move through the latter stages of their life. We also hear that this is most acute for our young people. And so two of the things in my platform is your first two years out of high school or your first two years out of college will be taxfree. Knowing the tax in the first two years start and next thing that I have my platform is for firsttime home buyers. And I hope that we'll get to the issue of housing cuz it's a critical critical critically important issue. But the first 5 years of home ownership for first-time home buyers, your property tax will be capped at 1% of the assessed value of the home. Let me give you an example to make my point. My daughter recently got married. She's 30 and uh her husband just bought their first home and um it's $600,000. What's some dumb debt? I understand. I I know you understand. We have another thing in common. Um the property taxes will be capped under my plan at $6,000 for the first five years instead of the $17,000 they have to pay to help them get going. Yeah. Help them get going. Right. These are some of the things we also need. More affordable housing or what's sometimes referred to as workforce housing. And I see that particularly in our urban centers. And so as governor, I'm going to do everything in my power to work in partnership with developers, faith-based organizations to provide more affordable housing. But I want to be clear about something. All the affordable housing has been built in the last 5 8 years. Everyone's renting in this country. We build equity through home ownership. We build wealth through business ownership. And so I don't want to see affordable housing strictly be rental agreements. I'd rather see them be ownership outright or lease to own lease to own so people can own their unit and start to build that equity. But I will say we're going to have a very candid discussion what concerns me very greatly particularly in the black community. If this is a country in which you build equity through home ownership and wealth through business ownership, I'm seeing other first generation Americans, whether it's in the Latino community or the Asian community, pass the black community by when it comes to home ownership and business ownership. And we have to fix that. And I'm convinced in working in partnership that we can fix that. We can put programs in place, commercial, the commercial lending act. Banks are not fulfilling their obligation to make loans in our minority communities. And I promise you, under my administration, my commissioner bank insurance will ensure that banks are adhering to the commercial lending act. I'm a I'm a real estate broker and a developer in this community. So, I'm listening very carefully and I'm going to be reaching out to you to uh follow up on some of these policies. I'm going to be selfish for a second since you're real. We're getting rid of mansion tax on day one of administration. That makes real estate more expensive. And by the way, mansion is a misleading term. We know homes have gotten very expensive. I mean, my daughter's first know that cost. Um, second, I don't think you should ever reassess a home if somebody does a home improvement. Amen. Why are we reassessing your home when you've done a home improvement? Okay. Now, you know, in Chennerelli's in Hillsboro house recently, uh we had a 25-year-old bathroom and we generated revenue for the town by paying for the permits. We we spurred the economy with a $25,000 investment redoing on bathroom. And the day after I got the CO, the front doorbell rings and uh in walked the uh tax assessor. And uh she said to me, &quot;You know what I have to do?&quot; I said, &quot;Yes.&quot; I said, &quot;Let me ask you something. Over the course of 25 years, we were beating the hell out of the bathroom. Did the assessment go down?&quot; She said, &quot;Oh, no, no, no. It doesn't work that way.&quot; I said, &quot;I know it doesn't work that way.&quot; They reassess the home. That's right. Okay. That's not right. So, the governor said, &quot;We're not going to reassess the home just because you have a home approved.&quot; Amen. [Applause] Okay. Mr. This is question is in two parts. New Jersey's curriculum is hypersexualized starting in kindergarten. What can you what can you do to protect parents rights? Uh what can you do to protect par parental rights to opt their children out of those lessons? That's number one. And number two is is it true that schools can refer parents to DIY if the parents do not affirm their child's desire to be part of an LGBT plus community? So, um, I was not in approval of what is a fairly new public school curriculum. Uh, I believe that we're teaching sex education at too young of age. I want to be clear, it's not that I'm opposed to sex education. Uh, but I think it's starting at too early in age. Okay? We need an age appropriate curriculum. And I've never been in favor of the LGBTQ curriculum in our public schools. I think there are things being taught in our home schools that belong at home at the kitchen table between parent and child when the parent decides it's time because each child progresses at a different so what I can do on day one is replace everyone on the state board of education and you'll get a new public school curriculum on day one that emphasizes critical life skills vocational training with an age appropriate curriculum that respects parental rights. I don't feel based on what you pay in taxes, there's little enough school time today that you should have to worry about opting your kids out of classes. That's lost school time. Now, I was raised at a time when my parents didn't have to worry about me walking to school and they didn't have to worry about what I was learning in school. And we need to get back to that day. So, my attorney general on day one, specific to this, will also get rid of policy 5756. For those of you that are not familiar with follow policy 5756, this was not codified by the legislature, this is an executive order put in place by the governor and attorney general. I do not believe that school districts should be keeping secrets from parents. In my mind, this is immoral, it's indecent, it's wrong, and it's dangerous. Our children are best served on school districts and parents work in partnership, not in secret. [Music] [Applause] Mental health and addiction are nonpartisan crisis. How do you ensure that treatment is accessible, affordable, and equitable, especially for vulnerable populations. First, let me say that health care is a right, not a privilege. And what concerns me greatly, uh, particularly in our urban centers, um, in minority communities, you do not see the health care systems expanding with primary care clinics in these areas. Um, more times than not, they may be expanding in areas where everyone is covered, has health insurance, and there's an economic reason for that. But I believe that everyone in this state should have convenient access to high quality care. and I'll work in partnership with our health care systems to ensure that there is. With regard to the mental health crisis, when I was a Sy County Commissioner, we did something no other county did in the state. We created the first community mental health center cuz what we were hearing from the community was that if they had a family member in crisis, you couldn't get an appointment for 2 or 3 months down the road, that's going to be too late. And what was happening is people had ending up in the emergency room and that could be too late. So, we opened up a 24/7 community mental health center. The psychiatrist, the psychologist, the licensed clinical social workers were county employees and everyone had access no matter what their insurance coverage. Where am I getting at? As governor, I'm going to work in partnership with our 21 counties to ensure that in each and every community there are mental health clinics that people can get quick, convenient access to high quality care from professionally trained mental health professionals. I also think we need to take the same approach with regard to homelessness. We should not address the homelessness issue in New Jersey 564 towns at a time. As someone who served as a county commissioner, I will tell you that county government in this state is an underappreciated and underleveraged governmental entity. It's a regional service provider. And so, as governor, I'll be working in partnership with our county governments to ensure that there's access to mental health services because we do have mental health crisis in the community. But we'll do the same thing when it comes to homelessness. Our next question is, what is your position on the impact of the Big Beautiful Bill on New Jersey Medicaid recipients? So, let's talk about a few things the Big Beautiful bill does. Number one, it allows us now to deduct up to $40,000 of our property taxes on our federal tax return. It was 10,000, now it's 40,000. It also doubles the child care tax credit for those families with young children. It doesn't tax tips, social security, or overtime. Okay? And the only it does is provides a magnificent tax credit for those who may send your children to private school. On the Medicaid front, you now, if you're on Medicaid, will have to verify your eligibility twice a year, not once a year. Do you know who it was that originally put that policy, please? President Barack Obama. President Trump kept it his first term. President Biden put it back to once a year. I don't think it's unfair, and some may disagree, and I respect that. I don't think it's unfair for you to have to verify your eligibility for Medicaid twice a year. The other thing this bill does, it says if you're on Medicaid and you're ablebodied and your children are 15 or older, in order to continue to qualify for Medicaid, you have to provide 20 hours a week of either work, volunteerism, or education. We may disagree, but I believe that's fair. And what some are doing who may be running for governor is trying to scare people that they're going to lose their Medicaid. You're not going to lose Medicaid. But I do believe that those two reforms are fair. I do believe those two reforms are fair. Not because every person that's on Medicaid is gained from the system, but there is fraud in the system and all of us should be concerned about any type of fraud. Although I realize that you have a vast platform, if you have to make a choice, which item from your platform are you the most passionate about? Property Texas. And let me tell you why. Because it doesn't matter if you're a homeowner, a tenant, or a business owner. Property taxes affects you. When the landlord gets increases in the property tax, it has to be passed through the tenant. So tenants are now exempt from this property tax crisis all across New Jersey. And so we need to find a way to lower our property taxes. I do believe we need a more equitable distribution of state aid to our school districts. Uh because the school budget is usually the largest portion of the property tax bill. There's a missile tax, there's a county tax, there's a school tax. Um, and you've heard what it is I want to do for seniors for reason once you're at age 70 and for firsttime home buyers. Okay? But we need to encourage our towns and most specifically our school districts to share resources to try to get the most out of every single buck to address this crisis. The property tax crisis touches everybody. And so we're going to be very, very aggressive and doing everything we can to lower the property taxes. Uh the next question that I have and I think pastor really addressed that when he was speaking up here is on Charlie Kirk. The question is what are your thoughts on Charlie Kirk's kill? It was Charlie Kirk that said that when the public discourse ends the violence begins. How ironic. Uh this is heartbreaking news. The pastor mentioned the fact that this is a father of two small children and now we have a wife without a husband and two parents without a son. What troubles me most, and we were talking about this before, what troubles me most about this um hysterical is there was a time when someone had enacted this kind of violence, it was someone maybe middle-aged, who was destitute, who had lost their job, who had lost their family, who had had terrible things happen in their own personal life, and their heart was filled with faith, hate, and they lost their faith. This was a 22y old man who had his whole life ahead of him. Not too dissimilar from the young man who executed the healthc care CEO on the streets of Manhattan. It's this is a great concern with regard to what's happening to that generation. And um let me say this. I will try as best I can to solve all of our greatest problems. I will try. I can't promise you. What I can promise you is I will try. But know this, there are things that only the family can solve that your government, despite its best attempts, is never going to be able to solve as well as the family. And I think that we have to leverage our people of faith all throughout New Jersey to get back to the basics in taking care of family, ensuring that family members don't suffer from isolation whose hearts are not filled with hate. And so it's heartbreaking news and I think we're all grappling. You know, one thing I always say as governor, my first job is to listen. I'm all ears because I really dove best ideas are out there in the community as to how to address our greatest problems. But I'm very very worried about that generation. Why would a 22-year-old be filled with such hate to do such a thing? So this gets back to education a bit. What I really would like to see in our public schools and I will work to make happen is that even at the youngest ages, a course that speaks to New Jersey's diversity as the most diverse state in the country and the need to develop tolerance as a personal attribute. We are not teaching that to our children. And I think that's something we need to do in our schools. I'm a big believer in the golden rule. Do unto others as you would have others do unto you. I'm a big believer in teaching children and teach children of any age will understand this lesson. You're to show respect for everyone no matter how different they may be from you. Now, you would hope that lessons being taught at home. But if we're going to get away from the three Rs for a second, I think it ought to be on things like that. That's a lesson a kindergarten could understand. And we're not to tolerate hate and bigotry and racism and prejudice. There's only one thing I know can about physics. We're all related. Similar topic. What is your position on DEI? Are you in support of DEI initiatives and provide examples if so? What I'm in support of is ensuring as governor that there's equal opportunity, equal opportunity for a great education, equal opportunity to advance yourself economically and achieve that thing that I believe everybody wants in the end, which is security. I do believe in a meritocracy, but I also know there's people in our community who've been marginalized and disadvantaged, and I gave you an example of the commercial lending act not being adhered to. So I really believe that my job is to ensure that everyone has equal opportunity. And what I will put in place in my administration on day one is a chief business opportunity officer to ensure that and I gave an example before that for example minority owned businesses are getting their fair share of state contracts, their fair share of municipal contracts, their fair share of county contracts. This is something I will model after Mayor Adams, who has been very, very successful in his first four years in ensuring that minority owned business get their fair share of state contracts. Okay, next question. This is good questions. Why is it that in some New Jersey townships, parents have to pay a fee in order for their children to attend school? uh in order for their children to attend school for the whole day. Anytime beyond 12 p.m. the parents are required to pay fee per week. Uh I was not aware of that unless what we're talking about is an afterchool program. Okay. After school care. Uh we now have a program in New Jersey that's providing free prek which decreases obviously child care costs for families that have four-year-olds. Um, but if there's a school district has decided that, I'm going to leave that up to a community. But let me say something else about education. The party to which I do not belong will always portray themselves as the one that takes better care of the marginalized and the disadvantaged and minority communities. And in we have a failing school system. 80% of children are not on grade level for reading, writing math. And Dave Kelly is here today as a member of my team who courageously ran for school board last year, came real close. I'm hoping he'll come back. Who is it that has school choice? People with money. People with the financial wherewithal to afford private school tuition. In the last seven almost eight years now, the Murphy administration has not approved one charter school or vouchers for the North school system. So they're so supportive of the marginalized and disadvantaged minority communities with school system failing. Why is they won't give you school choice? I have my differences with Chris Christie, but he approved eight chart schools in New York and I visited one the other day. And I got to tell you, not only are the test scores phenomenal, but what I saw, what I witnessed was phenomenal. I will provide families whose school system is failing them a choice. Voucher program, charter schools. What's going on today? We are disadvantaging an entire generation of children if the school system is failing. And I believe parents need a choice. Okay? and not just fighting for your traction. Parents and supporters from New Jersey parental rights have been praying for you. The question is, are you committed to to defend our first amendment rights as Christians relig religious liberty in New Jersey public schools? Can we be more specific by what type of religious Christian religious liberty? Are we saying that we want to have the ten commandments in our public schools or that we want to open the day with prayer? That is not in the question. Separation of church and state is one of the principles upon which this country was founded. One of the principles. I have senior citizens that'll say to me all the time, &quot;Why do I need to continue to pay the school portion, my property tax bill since I haven't had kids in the school system for 20 years, 30 years?&quot; And what I tell them each time is because it is an American ideal for all of us to invest in the future. And that investment comes in the form of public education. So I'm not a proponent of telling senior citizens, pay the tax, pay the county tax, but you won't have to worry about paying the public education tax. What I will do is try to make the pain less acute by freezing the property taxes, making all retirement taxfree, and as a senior citizen allowing you to deduct 100% of your property taxes on your New Jersey tax return. This question is pretty simple. Women's rights, pro-choice. What's your position? Uh, I have a very very strong libertarian streak and I want to apologize in advance to anyone who's offended by my position, but libertarians don't like government involved in deep and personal decisions. I'm kind of a live and let live guy and so I've always respected a woman's right to choose with some restrictions. So for example um the proposal in my platform says that at the 20 week mark you can't choose abortion as an elective surgery. I do believe there's a point in time in pregnancy where it's in my opinion wrong to have an abortion. Um but let me tell you what we're not going to do under Governor General. Number one, we're not going to celebrate abortion. Uh, number two, we're not going to make New Jersey the abortion capital of the country. We have politicians in this state that will say to you, if you cannot get your abortion state X, come to New Jersey. You can have performed here. I don't believe we should do that. Um, and let me say something else I feel very strongly about. I will appoint judges that agree with me. I feel very, very strongly about parental notification. Now, in this state, your child cannot get their ears pierced without parents permission if they're under the age of 18. I'm a father of one daughter. If she was 15 or 16 or 17, she was going to get an abortion. I'd want to be notified. The opposition party doesn't believe that. I think that's wrong. And so I think that's a very very extreme if not radical position to celebrate abortion to invite people to the state to have an abortion performed or for us to not have permanent notification. But as a libertarian I do support a woman's right to choose. I think that decision between her, her partner, her faith and her healthcare professionals in the earliest stages of pregnancy. Don't judge this book by its public. [Applause] That's what I saw face. Don't judge the book right. What plan do you have for migrants in New Jersey? And followup is what do you know about Trump's mass deportation plan in ice? **I believe the primary reason why President Biden lost the race, President Trump is Trump said he would secure the border. I think an overwhelming number of Americans when they saw what was going on each day along the border were very very concerned and I do think that was the dividing issue. I think it's what carried Trump to win all seven swing states and he actually improved in New Jersey by 10 points. His loss in 2020 was 16 points. This time around was six points. And** **I will tell you that people across the state overwhelming do not want sanctuary cities and that's not be a sanctuary state. And I feel that way. He secured the border. He's trying to make the country safe. I'm trying to make New Jersey safe. So I'm always very transparent about my positions. Will not have sanctuary cities, nor will we be a sanctuary state. That restricts our police in certain ways and I believe encourages illegal immigration.** Um, do I believe that someone should be able to just cross the border, give birth, and have that baby be an American citizen? I don't. That's not what the intent was of the 14th Amendment. The 14th Amendment was specific to the slaves who had just been freed that confirmed that they were American citizens. All were American citizens. And so I support the president in him detaining and deporting anybody who came here illegally who comes from a history of criminality in their country of origin. Let's go back. I support the president in detaining and deporting anybody who came here illegally and committed a crime once they arrived. Unless we're deporting them to a country that is not an ally, doesn't observe the rule of law, and doesn't incarcerate you upon return. If someone here illegally had violated you, justice needs to be served. And if we deport them to a country where they're set free, justice wasn't served. So, we'll do the incarceration. The president was recently asked, &quot;What about everyone else? What about people who've been here 5, 10, 15, 20 years? What about the children of undocumented immigrants that were brought in under no power of their own? His answer was that's difficult. It is. And I do not believe the president is going to deport the 14, 15, or 16 million people who are here in an undocumented way. I don't. And so I believe that people have been here for 5 10 15 20 years have not been at all dependent on our social safety net which means your tax dollars or hasn't committed a crime. I think that we should find a pathway to recognition. Well, the next question is actually it always it always worries me when somebody starts that question. Well, actually this here and now is going to be the most difficult question I can tell you already. How do your proposed policies align with Trump's agenda?

47:07 **I'm always going to do right by the 9.3 million people I represent. And if the president is doing something that I think goes against the grain of what it is we here need to do here in New Jersey, I'm going to pick up the phone. And let me say this, if it's Governor Chedelli versus Governor Cheryl, he's picking up the phone. It's Governor Chedelli. Relationships are important. Relationships are important.** Let me say something else about relationships. I'm the nominee for the Republican party. This is a competition. If Jake Paul Wolf and I go play golf tomorrow, it's $5 gold. I win. I want my money and tell you when you say I want to do my money. I'm taking him out of dinner and it's on me. I've got relationships with people in the legislature. You ask Democrats about Jack Chedro in the state legislature and they'll tell you not hyperartisan, not rigid in his ideology. He's a policy guy. Cuz I want idealistic to think that I still believe the best policy makes the best politic. But I'm always going to do right by New Jersey. Now, do I thank the president for putting a temporary halt on the wind farms off the Jersey Shore? I think that's bad energy policy. And I will tell you, nobody Jersey Shore wants those wind farms. Young, old, male, female, liberal, conservative, for different reasons, but nobody wants those wind farms. And they're not the energy to our not the answer to our energy crisis. I appreciate the fact that he's beating up on the New York Democrats over the congestion crisis plan. Shame on them for fixing their subway system on the backs of New Jerseyians. They go ahead in that plan. Let me tell you what I'm going to do. Any New York plate that comes through the tunnels or over the bridge in the morning to New Jersey, I'm going to hit them on congestion pricing plans to make transit. We are not pushing. I thank the president for his budget bill, what it did for child care, what it did for those that depend on social security tips and overtime. what it does for those that send their kids to private school, what it does on our federal tax, our property taxes. Where do I disagree with the president? I don't like the fact that his department of defense is talking about downsizing the Pikatini arsenal in Mars County. That's a thousand jobs. That's a thousand jobs. I'm not so comfortable with the president having approved for the Empire wind farm off of Long Island. I'm hoping that doesn't end up making its way down the Jersey Shore because I'm telling you, we don't want those wind farms. But I will stand up and know this. I was the only Republican across the country to call for the resignation of Iowa Congressman Steve King for his offensive rhetoric toward minorities. I was the only Republican of the state of New Jersey to call on Chris Christie to resign after he canled his presidential campaign. And the moment he came home, he went back out on the campaign show. We didn't have a governor for like two years because he was touring the country campaign for president. So I've not been afraid to stand up to my point. [Applause] The next question is voter registration. Uh President Donald Trump just announced blocking nonprofits from voter registration. And this looked like a symbol to me. It says federal massization surveys. **Uh I was not aware that he did that, but I would disagree with that. I think any and all organization should strive to register as many people as possible, particularly nonprofits, particularly faith-based organizations. We want more people to participate in the election process. So I have to study that. That's what his reasoning was. We want more people participating in the election process.** This is the last question I have for this afternoon. Are there that's almost as bad as well. Are there going to be any adjustments for the minimum wage? And the second part of the question is what's going to happen with Medicare? They said 30 thou 300,000 people are going to be removed. So they said that 300,000 people on Medicaid are going to be removed and we talked about that yesterday. And the reason why they're saying that is because of new verification processes. you now have to verify your eligibility twice a year, not once a year. And um if you're again ablebodied and your children are 15 or older, you need to provide 20 hours a week of work, education, or volunteerism in order to continue continue. And so what I believe my opposition party is doing is what we call fear-mongering, scaring you that you're going to lose your Medicaid coverage because of those two things. I think those two things are reasonable. And as I said before, one of the two President Barack Obama put in place induced terms in office. First part question had to deal with the minimum wage. Minimum wage. So listen, people need a living wage here in the state. And by constitution, it readjusts every January. So this is no longer something that the legislature votes on or the governor signs into action. When it was put on the ballot back when, when it went to $15 an hour, it now adjusts automatically according to the rate of inflation, it reached to help keep pace with inflation and provide a livable wage. Right. uh what is your position on re-entry individuals coming home from prison uh and and providing re-entry service and how do you feel about addiction being viewed as treatment and treatment as a as a medical disease? So earlier today, I promised the passion that one thing I never do is come into particularly the minority community and talk about a re-entry program cuz that's what most politicians do and I find that offensive. But since you asked the question, Bren, I feel very very strongly that whenever someone is serving time, the last 6 to 12 months of time has to be dedicated to learning a trade in a vocational educational setting so that the moment they are free, they have a job. So, not only are we providing someone with a skill, we also have a placement service that has them start on day one after having served their time in a job that hopefully that something they really want to do or they wouldn't have chosen that uh that training uh while they're serving their time. And we've seen re-entry programs that are very very successful across the state. We've seen this with Governor Jim McGrevy whose program that I visited frequently a couple of times very very successful. I believe in those type of programs. I think they're critically important. uh anyone who has an addiction in my mind should not be incarcerated. They need to be treated and so we need to make sure there's proper treatment uh opportunities for people to cure themselves of their addiction. Thank you. That's it. Let's give both of our questions a hand. This is I want to get her back up before we leave. She's going to bless us for uh I I want to really thank all of you uh for participating in this session and the way you conducted yourselves. You really deserve an applause. I'm not surprised. You're a leader. I wonder that you all would have done this in such a way to make Jack feel so at home. They really be himself. And so, as I said earlier, we do not endorse candidates. You do great. You do great. And I think Jack deserves a grade for what he said to us today. So, I want those of you that are registered voters, if you know someone that is not, please get them to register and let's vote because that makes us do better as Pastor Miles puts to us today. And I'm just honored that you all are what you're trying to do to change the way we live, the way we communicate. You know, I live in Milstone and so, you know, my children, they brought up uh when they gave out the computers, you know, in North and other places, it was one to every 20 students. My children were all given iPads uh which they really didn't need. Parents could have afforded uh to pay for them themselves. And so we really need to just change the leveling field, you know, but we all included uh so that we can make New Jersey what it should be today. I want to ask Jack to give us some final remarks, statement, uh, and then I want you to come up and bless us one more time and then we're going to get out of here. You did not have to stay this long. Uh, you did not have to stay this long. Uh, and we're just so grateful uh, that you came. Uh, Pastor Burgers, so glad to see you and other pastors and leaders, whether you're down or up. Uh I know that Zachariah will be post posting that on his uh Facebook Bass News YouTube right news. Uh but thank you Jacob. Thank you. Thank you. Thank you for your team. Thank you for sharing with me. Let's give her a hand [Applause] statement. Rachel, anything you want to say? Thank you. Uh, just really just thank you all for the security police department. Thank you so much and our security team. I wanted to make sure that we were safe. I wanted to make sure that we were safe and I hope that I conducted myself in a way uh that was respectful to let you know uh that I have made a choice in my life and that is to do better. Amen. Thank you so much. Thank you so much, Jack. Great to be with you all today. Thank you so much for the warm welcome. Thank you for listening. Thank you for the questions which were very thoughtful and spot on. Uh whether or not you decide to vote for me, know this. The day after election, we lay down arms. I think one of the great challenges we face today is that um you know, my parents said, they voted for what they voted for, but the day after the election, whoever it was that won, they wanted to be successful. I think it's unamerican not to want our leadership to be successful once the competition is over. That's right. Right. So, let's come together. Let's make it happen in New Jersey. The theme for this campaign is it's time. It's time. Now, I did I said that yesterday. I was at an event. Guy started yelling at me saying, &quot;It's past time. It's basketball.&quot; I get it. I get it. But I do think it's time. We need to change here in New Jersey. And I'll provide you the change that we can all benefit from. So, I look forward after we win to working in partnership with you to make our communities better, make our state better, make our country better, and uh get us back to where we need to be. But faithbased organizations are going to lead the way. Faith-based organizations [Applause] to make that happen. Thank you very very much. She got a beautiful [Music] outstanding job.