

## **Kean Is Striving For a Conservative Look**

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**Byline:** By JOSH BENSON

### **Body**

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Although Tom **Kean** Jr. was in the news for his opposition to the Bush administration's port deal, he has directed much of his political energy in recent days toward establishing his credentials with **conservative** voters, whose support will be crucial in his bid for the United States Senate.

He came out in support of the nomination of Samuel A. Alito Jr. as a Supreme Court justice and then aggressively criticized his senatorial opponent, Robert Menendez, for opposing it.

And in an interview with Roll Call, a Capitol Hill newspaper, he advocated making the president's tax cuts permanent and declared his support for the war in Iraq.

Still, unfortunately for Mr. **Kean**, a personable and generally moderate state senator from Westfield, some New Jersey **conservatives** are still firmly on the fence about him. "Illegal immigration, abortion and gun rights," said Steve Lonegan, the proudly right-wing Republican mayor of Bogota who ran for governor last year. "How he does on those issues will be the real test. Those other things were the easy lifts." JOSH BENSON

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