Dear Local 1032 Member,

For working families, this year’s gubernatorial election is one of the most important in recent memory – since another “Christie” was on the ballot 16 years ago. At that time, we had our differences with Governor Florio, and many public employees in New Jersey voted (or didn’t) from that place of anger. The consequences of that election are still being felt. Whitman’s tax cuts for the wealthy, pension bond schemes and privatization initiatives were the absolute wrong choices for New Jersey and for public employees. Chris Christie is promising more of the same and worse. This time, we simply cannot allow that to happen.

Make no mistake; this was a difficult year in which we had a contentious fight with Governor Corzine. As a result of the global economic crisis, the state was confronted with an unprecedented budget shortfall. At the end of the day, Governor Corzine came to the table and negotiated in good faith with the union. We reached an agreement for our state workers that, while painful, included no layoffs—the best such agreement anywhere in the country.

There is no question that such an agreement would not have been possible if Chris Christie were Governor. Instead of negotiating, he would have laid off thousands of workers and imposed unilateral changes in terms and conditions of employment. This isn’t speculation; this Christie continually promises such attacks on public workers as part of his campaign. Chris Christie isn’t shy about his contempt for collective bargaining and civil service protections for public employees. His plan to undermine workers pay and benefits calls for a single, unitary approach to collective bargaining that will “provide greater flexibility for management.” But that’s not all Christie promises if he were elected Governor. Chris Christie wants to eliminate our defined benefit pension plans and replace them with 401(k) style plans that would put all public employees retirement security at risk. He wants to end paid family leave and rescind majority sign-up for public sector workers in New Jersey. And in order to cut taxes for corporations and wealthy individuals, Christie will cut services that citizens of New Jersey rely upon. He even wants to return Federal stimulus money received by New Jersey, calling it a “gimmick.”

The choice could not be clearer. Governor Corzine has been a strong advocate and

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supporter of collective bargaining and his policies have benefited working families and the labor movement in this state. Unlike Chris Christie who promises to abandon core labor policies and principles, Governor Corzine advocated for paid family leave and majority sign-up for public employees, and he put more money into our pension system in the last 3 years than any Governor in the last decade combined. Jon Corzine may not be our best friend, but Chris Christie is our worst enemy.

With recent changes in New Jersey’s voting laws, it’s even easier to make your voice heard early. Enclosed you will find an application to Vote By Mail. Any registered voter in New Jersey can vote through the mail – without a reason. If you plan on voting by mail, the County Clerks office must receive your completed ballot by Election Day (November 3, 2009). If you choose to vote by mail, please send your ballot in as soon as you receive it after filing your application.

How you vote on Election Day is a personal decision, but on November 3, think about which candidate has a record of putting working families first. One Christie Was Enough!

In Solidarity,

[Signature]

Patrick Kavanagh
President

p.s. To find out more about Chris Christie’s anti-labor agenda, please visit: www.therealchrischristie.com.