October 27, 2009

Dear Local 1032 Member,

There are a lot of reasons to vote in the governor’s race this year, but we know what’s really important. Our jobs, wages, and benefits are being threatened. We need a governor who will support working families – that’s why we are supporting Jon Corzine. Unlike Governor Corzine, who has demonstrated a commitment to our issues, Chris Christie has made it clear that he does not share our values or side with us on issues that matter to working families.

Christie promises to lay off thousands of public workers and eliminate holidays. Chris Christie has said: “One thousand is too few. But could it be 10,000, 20,000? It is too hard to say.” He says his first target for layoffs will be employees of the Department of Environmental Protection, but make no mistake all public employees are threatened by Christie’s desire to dismantle the public sector. He also promises to reduce the number of holidays that have been negotiated into employees’ contracts.

Christie seeks to break our current collective bargaining system and stifle our ability to secure better benefits. His plan calls for a single, unitary approach to collective bargaining that will “provide greater management flexibility” and leave workers’ interests behind. Christie also plans to ban labor unions from lobbying members of the State Legislature to secure better pay and benefits for our families. These actions are a blatant attempt to cut workers’ pay and benefits.

Christie wants to end pensions and cut benefits. Christie plans to eliminate the negotiated defined benefit pension plan and replace it with a 401(k) style contribution plan. 401(k) plans put workers’ retirement security at the mercy of the stock market, leaving us vulnerable during times of economic uncertainty. Christie will also require all state employee retirees and new state employees to contribute even more to their health insurance costs and he will advocate for the same at the local government level.

Christie even wants to ban public employees from running for office and prevent unions from supporting pro-worker candidates. Christie believes that public employees have a conflict of interest in holding elected office. He plans to ban anyone with a full-time government job from also holding an elected position. What’s more, Christie also wants to make it easier for anti-worker politicians to get elected by preventing our union from supporting pro-worker candidates.

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The choice for Governor in 2009 could not be clearer. Jon Corzine has stood with working families. He has passed legislation that created the second in the nation Paid Family Leave Program to assist workers in balancing the needs of work and family and he has supported workers’ rights to join a union. Chris Christie, on the other hand, opposes paid family leave, opposes federal stimulus money to turn our economy around, and he opposes workers’ freedom to choose a union. On Election Day, make your voice heard by rejecting Chris Christie and his anti-worker agenda.

For more information about Chris Christie’s record on key working family issues, please visit www.therealchrischristie.com.

How you vote is a personal decision, but on November 3rd think about which candidate will work to create the future you want for your family.

In Solidarity,

Patrick Kavanagh
President