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## League of Women Voters of New Jersey Demands Firm Commitment to Clean Air

by League of Women Voters of New Jersey at 04:55PM on Wednesday, August 24 2011

The League of Women Voters of New Jersey kicked off the Clean Air Promise Campaign Tuesday in Newark. Alongside other environmental, public health, and advocacy organizations the League of Women Voters encouraged all citizens, community leaders, and elected officials to make the “Clean Air Promise”, a simple promise to safeguard the health of our children and our families through protection of the highly successful and popular Clean Air Act. The Clean Air Promise, a national campaign, aims to protect the health of children and families across the country from dangerous air pollution.

The campaign comes at a time that some public officials have attempted to undermine the Clean Air Act and strip the Environmental Protection Agency of its ability to limit air pollution and emission of toxics like mercury, arsenic and other dangerous substances which threaten public health.

“For too long, the debate about pollution has focused on “overregulation” and featured false assertions that environmental protections hurt our economy,” said Toni Zimmer, president of the League of Women Voters of New Jersey. “The fact is clean air saves lives and we must put the safety of our families and children first.”

According to a report released by the EPA, the Clean Air Act saved 160,000 lives in 2010 alone. “The EPA’s report outlines not only the health benefits of the Clean Air Act, but the economic benefits as well. In 2010 alone, the Clean Air Act prevented 13 million lost work days saving on health care costs and making for a healthier, and more productive work force,” added Zimmer.

“As the mother of three asthmatic children, I understand all too well the harmful effects of air pollution,” stated Kim Gaddy, Chair of the Newark Environmental Commission. “I understand staying up nights with a child that can’t breathe. We must, for the sake of our children, protect the clean air act.”

Air quality in Newark is especially poor and one in four children in the city suffers from asthma. Ana Baptista of the Ironbound Community Corporation added, “In the Ironbound we see daily reminders of the deleterious effects of toxic air pollution on our most vulnerable residents, children, and seniors. Our children grow up in an environment where they must come indoors for recess on days when there are ozone alerts and the air quality is poor. We must take a stand to protect Clean Air for the health and well being of our communities.”

However, there is still more work to be done. “Power plants are the leading source of toxic air pollution for children and families in New Jersey,” said Debbie Mans, New Jersey League of Conservation Voters Education Fund. “Air toxics from coal-fired power plants cause cancer, birth defects, and respiratory illness, including asthma. We urge every citizen, public official and community leader to sign the Clean Air Promise and protect the air we breathe.”

“I encourage all New Jerseyans, including our elected officials, community leaders, and business leaders, to join with the League of Women Voters of New Jersey in making a promise to keep us all safe from toxics and pollutants. Make the promise to show your support of clean air policies and other protections that scientists and public health experts have recommended to the EPA. Visit [www.peoplenotpolluters.org](http://www.peoplenotpolluters.org) today and let the country know New Jersey demands clean air” concluded Zimmer.

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**10-01-2008** Governor Jon S. Corzine signed the Public Employee Pension and Benefits Reform Act of 2008 on Monday. The legislation, S-1962/A-2818, will save an additional \$150 million through 2022 through new changes, including a higher retirement age and new income eligibility for enrollment in the major pe...



- [\*\*Kean and DeCroce Call on Corzine to Ask Turnpike Authority to Release Documents on Toll Hike\*\*](#)

**10-05-2008** Senate Republican Leader Tom Kean (R-21) and Assembly Republican Leader Alex DeCroce sent a letter to Governor Jon Corzine on Thursday asking him to help them obtain information that the Turnpike Authority has refused to provide in response to an Open Public Records Act (OPRA) request made two w...



- [\*\*Dr. Randal Pinkett, winner of The Apprentice, Sits Down with TheAlternativePress.com\*\*](#)

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- [\*\*DEP Recognizes Students and Local Tree Care Programs at State Arbor Day Celebration in Tewksbury\*\*](#)

**04-25-2009** The New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection's Community Forestry Program, the New Jersey Community Forestry Council and the New Jersey Tree Foundation celebrated Arbor Day by planting 187 large shade trees, evergreens and a variety of shrubs at four local parks in Tewksbury Township, Hu...

- **Governor Signs Native American Executive Order**

**10-01-2008** Governor Jon S. Corzine signed an Executive Order on Wednesday that adopts twenty-seven recommendations of a report issued by the New Jersey Committee on Native American Community Affairs. "Native Americans are a part of New Jersey's history and cultural fabric," said Governor Corzine. "To honor ...



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- **Governor Corzine Creates Task Force on Suicides by Police Officers**

**10-05-2008** Governor Jon S. Corzine announced on Sunday the creation of a task force on suicides by police officers in the wake of a spike in law enforcement personnel taking their own lives. "The job-related stress experienced by law enforcement professionals is incredible, and this alarming increase in sui...



- **Governor attends Governor's Fishing Tournament**

**10-05-2008** Governor Jon Corzine attended the Governor's Fishing Tournament at Island Beach State Park in Seaside Heights, New Jersey on Sunday, October 5, 2008.

- **Assemblyman Bramnick to Speak at Caldwell Elementary in Springfield**

**10-06-2008** On Tuesday, October 7th at 10:00 a.m., Assemblyman Jon Bramnick, winner of the inspirational professor award at Rutgers University and former professor at Rider University, will bring his comedy and enthusiasm to the classroom to motivate local students about state government. The

assemblyman ha...



- **[New Jersey Girls Run to Be in the Top 5 at Warinanco Park](#)**

**11-08-2009** ELIZABETH, NJ - Warinanco Park in Elizabeth was buzzing with energy and school spirit on Saturday as New Jersey high schools competed to be in the New Jersey Sectional Cross Country Championships in hopes of ranking in the top five. The NJSIAAA, in partnership with a long list of organizatio...