

NEWS RELEASE



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NCADD-New Jersey releases Decision 2007; Candidate Addiction Issues Survey Results Online

TRENTON ... (October 15, 2007) – The National Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence-New Jersey has released Decision 2007, comprising the agency’s 2007 Election Guide and its Candidate Survey on state addiction and prevention issues. The Election Guide provides information on issues surrounding addiction and prevention as well as general information on the upcoming election for the New Jersey Senate and Assembly. The Candidate Survey provides individual candidate and cumulative candidate responses on a variety of points related to treatment and prevention. Decision 2007 may be accessed at www.ncaddnj.org/publicAffairs/eguide2007.asp

NCADD-NJ Director of Public Affairs and Policy John Hulick said, “We have provided this resource to the state’s voters for the past seven years and this year have had an extraordinary candidate response to the survey. Not only have a great number of those running for Legislature responded, in many cases they understand the importance of the issues, from the need to take steps to combat youth use of alcohol and to improve access to addiction treatment.”

Seventy-one percent of the responding candidates agreed with the statement that addiction is a preventable and treatable chronic disease akin to such physical disorders such as diabetes and asthma. There was near total agreement by the candidates, 94 percent, that the state should pursue strategies that favor a public health approach to addiction (as distinct from a criminal justice approach).

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In the area of underage drinking, 59 percent favored the enactment of a state-wide keg registration law. Most (86 percent) thought more of the revenue from the state's alcohol tax should be dedicated to education and awareness programs aimed at reducing youth drinking.

On the subject of expanding capacity for addiction treatment, 97 percent of the responding candidates thought more of alcohol tax should go to the Alcohol Education, Rehabilitation and Enforcement Fund (AEREF), which disburses treatment dollars to the state's 21 counties. The AEREF has not had an increase in the past 15 years.

Nine in ten candidates were in favor of state support of municipal drug courts to increase the opportunity for non-violent offenders to received treatment rather than be imprisoned.

The Candidate Survey was distributed to all major party candidates running for state Senate or Assembly.

NCADD-NJ is a non-profit organization that has dedicated itself for 25 years to educating New Jersey's citizens about alcohol and drug use issues, to advocating on state policies concerning individuals addicted to alcohol or other drugs, and to reducing the stigma that frustrates a public health approach to the disease of addiction. More information about the council is available at its website, www.ncaddnj.org.