

NEWS RELEASE



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NCADD-New Jersey issues Decision 2006

TRENTON ... (October 24, 2006) – The National Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence-New Jersey, has released Decision 2006, comprising the agency’s 2006 Election Guide and its Candidate Survey. The Election Guide provides information on issues surrounding addiction and prevention as well as general information on the upcoming election for U.S. Senate and the House of Representatives. The Candidate Survey provides individual candidate and cumulative candidate responses on a variety of issues concerning treatment and prevention. Decision 2006 may be accessed at www.ncaddnj.org/publicAffairs/eguide2006.asp.

NCADD-NJ Director of Public Affairs and Policy John Hulick said, “We are pleased to offer the state’s votes this resource, as we have done for the past five years. What happens at the federal level on issues such as insurance parity and access to treatment has a clear effect on what happens at the state level. The many voters who whose lives have been affected by addiction well understand the importance of the issues examined in Decision 2006.”

In addition to parity and expanding treatment, the Election Guide examines funding for Recovery Community Support Services and for the Safe and Drug-Free Schools and Communities Program. It also has a complete list of the major party candidates and other voter resources.

The Candidate Survey was distributed to all major party candidates running to represent New Jersey in the Senate or the House of Representatives. They were questioned on pressing addiction issues such as treatment capacity, health insurance parity and youth use of alcohol.

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On the subject of expanding capacity for addiction treatment, 86 percent of the responding candidates said they favored increasing federal substance abuse block grant funding to provide more care. All the respondents agreed that drug forfeiture funds should be dedicated to providing more treatment.

On the issue of providing parity for alcohol and drug addiction treatment to have health insurers cover inpatient and outpatient care to the same degree as other medical conditions, 86 percent were in favor. Fifty-one percent thought health providers should be required to use a neutral assessment instrument such as the American Society of Addiction Medicine's placement criteria for determining the appropriate course of treatment.

NCADD-NJ is a non-profit organization that has dedicated itself for more than 20 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.