



Asian Pacific American
 Lawyers Association of New Jersey, Inc.
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MEDIA ADVISORY

**Press Conference Scheduled to discuss Voter Rights
 during the 2008 Election Process**



WHO: Governor Jon S. Corzine (invited)
 Secretary of State Nina Mitchell Wells
 Public Advocate Ronald K. Chen
 Asian Pacific American Lawyers Association
 Association of Black Women Lawyers of New Jersey
 Garden State Bar Association
 Hispanic Bar Association
 New Jersey Women Lawyers Association
 Reginald T. Jackson, Black Ministers Council of New Jersey

WHAT: Press Conference to discuss Voter Rights during the 2008 Election Process

WHEN: Monday October 27, 2008 – 10 A.M.

WHERE: Steps of the Old Mercer County Courthouse
 209 South Broad Street
 Trenton

WHY: Voting is the foundation of our democracy and a fundamental right of every citizen of this state and nation. With voter registration burgeoning this year, record numbers of New Jerseyans are expected to turn out at the polls. Now more than ever, it is imperative to ensure that the process of voting is accessible, inclusive and protected from unnecessary impediments. Speakers will discuss actions being taken to protect the rights of New Jersey voters this election season.



TERISIA BOST, ESQ.
ABWL Public Relations Contact
908-656-1439

ABWL PRESS STATEMENT

The Association of Black Women Lawyers of New Jersey, the State's oldest women's legal organization, truly understands the power of the vote and New Jersey's citizen's rights and civic duty to vote. We stand shoulder to shoulder with the Governor, Public Advocate and with our members and leaders of the New Jersey Specialty Bar Associations to urge everyone to vote.

The Constitution of the United States clearly states in the 15th Amendment that "The right of citizens of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on account of race, color, or previous condition of servitude". New Jersey's Constitution in Article II provides that every citizen of the United States, of the age of 18 years, who shall have been a resident of this State and of the county in which he claims his vote 30 days before the election, shall be entitled to vote for all officers that now are or hereafter may be chosen by a vote by the people, and upon all questions which may be submitted to a vote of the people.

Further, in New Jersey, anyone who wants to vote may vote either in person or by absentee ballot. Pursuant to P.L. 2008, ch. 97 (N.J.S.A. 19:57-1 et seq.), commonly known as the **Absentee Voting Law**, "any qualified and registered voter of the State who wants to vote by absentee ballot" may do so. In addition, any person registered as a voter in any election district of this State who has moved to another state or to another county within this State and is not to qualify to vote by reason of an insufficient period of residence in such state or county, shall, as a citizen of the United States, have the right to vote for electors for President and Vice President of the United States, *only*, by Presidential Elector Absentee Ballot, in the county from which he has moved. Also, in time of war no elector in the military service of the State or in the armed forces of the United States shall be deprived of his vote by reason of absence from his election district.

The right to vote is precious and born of the struggles of our forefathers and foremothers who wanted to have a say in their government. There is no excuse not to vote. No jobs, childcare responsibilities, illnesses, military deployment or vacation should stop you from exercising your right—your civic duty – to vote. Any voter, *regardless of reason*, can easily vote by Absentee Voting in New Jersey. It is as simple as 1, 2, 3.

1. Get a ballot by November 3, 2008
2. Fill it out
3. Take the sealed ballot to your county clerk's office before the polls close on Election Day, November 4th.

Everything you need for absentee voting can be found at www.NJElections.org or you may go to your County Clerk's Office.



C. REGAN ALMONOR, ESQ.
GSBA Representative
732-529-8238
almonor@rci.rutgers.edu

**PUBLIC STATEMENT
VOTING AND NEW I.D. REQUIREMENTS
GARDEN STATE BAR ASSOCIATION**

Since its inception in the 1960's, the members of the Garden State Bar Association have demanded and, then, vigorously defended the right to vote. Over the past 40 years, New Jersey's African-American lawyers and the Garden State Bar Association have ensured that the right to vote remains inviolate. It is, as President Lyndon Baines Johnson declared, "the most powerful instrument ever devised by [humans] for breaking down injustice and destroying the terrible walls which imprison [some people] because they are different from others..."

Today, we stand with our colleagues from New Jersey's other Specialty Bar Associations and the Black Ministers Council to ensure, once again, that every registered voter in New Jersey understands and exercises their right to vote. In 1957, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. decried the tactics being used to deny African-Americans the right to vote, ranging from, what he called, the "crippling economic reprisals to the tragic reign of violence and terror." While the days of "violence and terror" may be behind us, we are concerned that the reign of misinformation and distortion may have the same effect – keeping our registered voters from exercising their most fundamental, democratic right. We appreciate that Governor Jon Corzine, Secretary of State Nina Mitchell Wells and Public Advocate Ronald Chen are standing with us to send a clear signal to those who would intimidate – whether through ignorance or deception – that such tactics will not be tolerated.

The standard is clear. On November 4, 2008, every New Jersey resident can vote, if:

1. You are a U.S. Citizen,
2. You are at least 18 years old,
3. You have been a New Jersey resident at least since October 4, 2008, and
4. You registered to vote by or before October 14, 2008.

Contrary to what you may be hearing, your right to vote is not dependent upon your economic condition. You can vote even if you have lost your job, received a notice of foreclosure, or a notice of eviction. In New Jersey, you also have the right to vote even if you are an ex-felon, if you are not in prison or you have completed your term of probation or parole.

You should also know that you cannot be asked to show identification at the polling place, unless you are a first time registrant who did not provide ID before going to the polls; or you receive a proper challenge and the challenger signs an affidavit supporting his challenge. If you are required to provide identification in order to vote, you should provide a current and valid photo identification or any document with your name and current address. Examples of a current and valid photo ID are a NJ driver's license, a US passport, military or other government ID, student or job ID, store membership ID such as a Sam's Club, BJ's or Costco card. Examples of a document with your name and current address are a bank statement, car registration, government check or document, rent receipt, utility bill or any other official document.

On November 4th, America will hold a historic election. We have asked all of our members around the State to make themselves available through Election Day at churches, community organizations and in other volunteer efforts of their choice. Our objective is to ensure that history's call is not muted.



MILAGROS CAMACHO, ESQ.
Camacho Gardner and Associates
President
Hispanic Bar Association of New Jersey
(201) 536-0007
mcamacho@camachogardner.com
Mcamacho_hbanj@yahoo.com

PRESS RELEASE STATEMENT

The Hispanic Bar Association of New Jersey (HBA-NJ) fully supports non-partisan election protection efforts that will ensure that all Latino voters have full access to the voting booth, free of intimidation, and free of any technical problems that will impede their right to cast a vote for the candidate of their choice. This year's national election is remarkable for many reasons, not the least of which is the fact that there are so many first time voters who are coming to the polls. The government of New Jersey must ensure that they are ready for smooth incorporation of these new voters and that they are treated respectfully.

Election protection efforts are also important for those voters in New Jersey for which English is their second language. To that end the HBA-NJ is happy to announce the existence of a bilingual – Spanish/English – telephone hotline service called Our Vote 1-866-687-8683/ 1-888-Ve-Y-Vota 1-888-839-8682 .

Members of the HBA-NJ are affiliated with this nonpartisan effort and we hope that this information is available to all New Jersey Latino citizens who are more proficient in Spanish and run into problems with bilingual assistance at the polls, or any other problems that impede their constitutional right to participate in this election.



For more information contact:
Desha Jackson, President
732-855-8007

PRESS RELEASE

Did you know that in New Jersey, women had the right to vote as early as 1776, but in 1807, the law was changed to restrict the right to vote to “free white male citizens”?

The New Jersey Women Lawyers Association celebrates the right of women to vote and the 19th Amendment to the Constitution—one that took 133 years after the original Constitution was ratified and 72 years after the Seneca Falls Convention on women’s rights. In remembering the struggle that led to that victory, NJWLA recognizes the importance of an informed electorate and commends Attorney General Anne Milgram for taking steps to insure that all citizens are informed of their voting rights, including publishing a voter handbook that can be found at <http://www.njelections.org/publications/voter-rights-handbook-081308.pdf>. We encourage all citizens to know their rights as registered voters.

Voters may wonder, “What can I do to support my candidate at the Polls on Election Day?” It is important to know that electioneering is NOT permitted within 100 feet of a polling station. This perimeter is strictly enforced.

This means you CANNOT do the following in this area:

- Campaign for a candidate, political party or public question
- Carry a sign that advertises your candidate or a position on an issue on the ballot
- Wear a button or sticker that advertises a political party “line”, candidate or public question position
- Verbally advocate or denounce a candidate or political position
- Loiter in the polling area
- Pay someone to vote for your candidate

You may:

- Electioneer outside of the 100 feet perimeter
- Carry a “cheat sheet” of candidates you intend to vote for, as long as it is your list- not given to you by a campaign or candidates

- Talk to poll workers while you are in the voting location, as long as you are not advocating for a candidate
- Talk to the press, if you so desire, if they are conducting exit polling

You may receive assistance in a voting machine only if you are:

- Blind
- Visually impaired
- Physically disabled
- Illiterate

If you require assistance due to the above reasons, you may choose a friend or family member to assist you, or if you go to the polls alone, you must be given two assistants that work for the board. Also, the machines may have audio equipment to assist you in your voting.

If have any concerns about any of the above, you may petition the Court. You may do so by contacting the Division of Elections at 1-877-NJ-Voter, or you may ask your polling officers where you can go to file such a petition.