

NEWS BRIEFS

NOW-NJ



National Organization for Women
New Jersey Chapter
ELECTION ISSUE
FALL 2012

President's Message

by *Rita Spaulding*

This year, more than any other election year, is a pivotal one for women. NOW-NJ proudly and enthusiastically supports the National NOW/Political Action Committee endorsement of Barack Obama and Joe Biden for re-election in 2012.

The president and vice president have continued to champion the goals of our organization. These include: equal pay for equal work, making sure young people have an opportunity to pursue affordable higher education, and signing a health care act that ensures that women have access to lifesaving preventative care.

There are numerous reasons to vote for the Obama/Biden ticket. It is vital that this team continue to build on the foundation that they started, in supporting women and families. Here are some facts about the accomplishments Barack Obama has made that favor women:

Equal Pay is always at the forefront of NOW's platform. We still have a long way to go to create an economy where hard work pays off, regardless of gender. Women still earn just 77 cents for every dollar a man makes for the same work. To help women fight back against pay discrimination, President Obama signed the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act. He also established the Equal Pay Task Force and supports the Paycheck Fairness Act, which give women more tools to equalize this issue.

Thanks to the Affordable Care Act, new health insurance will benefit women by giving them access to well-women visits, mammograms, birth control, and health screenings without co-pays. This act makes it possible for

Candidates Endorsed by National NOW and NOW-NJ PAC

President/Vice President: **Barack Obama/Joe Biden**

U.S. Senate: **Robert Menendez**

U.S. House

District 1: **Robert Andrews**

District 2: **Cassandra Shober**

District 3: **Shelley Adler**

District 6: **Frank Pallone**

District 7: **Upendra Chivukula**

District 11: **John Arvanites**

District 12: **Rush Holt**

New Jersey State Assembly

District 16: **Marie Corfield**

District 26: **Joseph Raich**

*For the latest list of endorsements, go to
www.nowpacs.org/2012/federal.html#NJ.*

women to stay healthy, rather than only accessing the health care system when they are sick. Additionally, the plan will not be able to discriminate against women by forcing them to pay 150% more for health insurance than men.

Obama has always believed the LGBT community should be regarded fairly and equally. He and Joe Biden were the first sitting president and vice president to publicly announce their defense of marriage for same-sex couples. In addition, President Obama repealed the "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" military policy. Now Gay and Lesbian service members no longer have to conceal who they are in order to perform their jobs defending our country.

President Obama knows the importance of education in fostering a future for our country. To that end, he is assisting college students and their families by restructuring the student loan system. He has doubled the investment in Pell Grants, and extended the American Opportunity Tax credit, to help approximately 10 million families pay for college. Through the Recovery Act, President Obama is helping to sustain almost 400,000 educator jobs in schools across the country. Since millions of single mothers are the heads of household, as well as educators, these measures are particularly beneficial to them.

Women know what is at stake in this election and they will make the difference in the re-election of the Obama/Biden ticket. The overwhelming majority of women understand that Barack Obama has been a president that has made the issues important to women a priority. We all need to ensure his re-election by getting out and casting our votes.

National Organization for Women of New Jersey

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Feminist Resources

Where can you get reliable, feminist-oriented information on the candidates' positions and issues in this election?

National Organization for Women - www.now.org. Of course, this is where a NOW member would go first! But also check out Terry O'Neill's series of articles on The Huffington Post blog, starting with "The Romney-Ryan Budget: Why Women Should Care", at http://www.huffingtonpost.com/terry-oneill/the-romneyryan-budget-why_b_1683955.html.

Project Vote Smart - www.votesmart.org. Project Vote Smart is a non-partisan, nonprofit educational organization funded exclusively through individual contributions and philanthropic foundations. You can check your legislator's voting record, or use their "VoteEasy" tool to see how your candidate compares to your views.

Get Out HER Vote! - <http://feministcampus.org/vote>. The Feminist Majority Foundation's Get Out HER Vote Campaign (GOHV) is the nation's only student-led voter education and registration initiative aimed at increasing young women's voter participation.

Emily's List - <http://emilyslist.org>. EMILY's List is dedicated to electing pro-choice Democratic women to office.

HERvotes - <http://hervotes.org>. HERvotes is a collaborative effort of over 50 women's groups working together to mobilize women voters in 2012 around preserving women's Health and Economic Rights – the HER in HERvotes.

Join our discussion group (members only).

http://groups.yahoo.com/group/now_nj_discussion/join.

Find us on Facebook!

<http://www.facebook.com/NowNewJersey>

Follow us on Twitter!

http://twitter.com/NOW_NJ

Register Now for the State Conference, November 17, 2012

This is an election year for NOW-NJ. Members will vote on State Board Officers for new two-year terms. There are still open Officer positions. If you are interested in a job description for any position, email nownjsecy@gmail.com. Register for the conference via our website at www.nownj.org.

Nominations for State Board Officers should be sent to nownjelectionschair@gmail.com. All nominations must be made in writing not less than ten (10) days prior to the conference date. This does not preclude nominations from the floor.

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Next State Board Meeting is
December 8, hosted by
South Jersey-Alice Paul Chapter
Email nownjsecy@gmail.com
for details.

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