Majorities of Both Republicans and Democrats in New Jersey's 7th and 9th Congressional Districts Agree on Nearly 100 Policy Proposals

This sheet shows bipartisan common ground on 93 policy proposals in New Jersey's 7th Congressional District and 100 in the 9th, across 14 issue areas. Most of these proposals were drawn from Congressional legislation and some from the Executive Branch. New Jerseyans also agree that Congress would be more likely to find common ground if it were more influenced by *We the People*. The findings come from the *Common Ground in the Battlegrounds?* Survey Series, conducted by the University of Maryland's Program for Public Consultation (PPC) in the run-up to the 2026 midterm elections. Numbers are the percent of **Republicans** and **Democrats** in support. Questions are abbreviated here — full question wording and more detail are at **vop.org/battlegrounds-newjersey**.

THE COMMON GROUND

Policies supported by majorities of both Republicans and Democrats

93	100
NJ-7	NJ-9

Of the 106 policy questions, a policy is counted as receiving bipartisan support when at least 51% of both Republicans and Democrats take the same position. Medicaid spending is listed twice, but counted once; Role of We the People questions are not counted.

HEALTHCARE COSTS Fielded May 28 – June 23, 2026

PROPOSAL	NJ-7		NJ-9	
	REP	DEM	REP	DEM
Cap prescription drug prices to what other developed countries pay (would reduce prices by about half)	81	86	85	87
Ban drug companies from paying generic makers to delay putting cheaper drugs on to the market	71	87	77	81
When a drug is unaffordable and was developed with federal funds, let the government override the patent and license other drug companies to make it	75	78	76	84
Reinstate the expired enhanced ACA subsidies to lower premiums and deductibles	68	90	82	89
Increase federal Medicaid spending to cover more low-income people *Also listed under Low-Income Assistance; counted once in the tally.*	51	81	71	78
Let people 55–64 buy into Medicare	69	85	77	85
Create a government-run public health insurance option anyone can buy into	72	84	77	82
Spend $13 billion more on substance-use treatment so nearly everyone who needs and wants it can get it	64	83	81	82
Make it a high priority for the government to ensure that everyone who needs and wants substance-use treatment can get it (very or somewhat high priority)	82	95	94	96
Common ground positions (majorities of both parties in favor)	9		9	

SOCIAL SECURITY Fielded May 28 – June 23, 2026

PROPOSAL *(AND ITS EFFECT ON THE BUDGET SHORTFALL)*	NJ-7		NJ-9	
	REP	DEM	REP	DEM
Subject income over $400,000 to the payroll tax (-61%)	68	79	75	79
Gradually raise the payroll tax from 6.2% to 6.5% (-15%)	54	72	66	68
Reduce benefits for the top 20% of lifetime earners (-11%)	54	65	69	75
Gradually raise the full retirement age from 67 to 68 (-15%)	62	42	67	56
Raise the minimum monthly benefit to $1,630 (125% of the poverty line) (+8%)	69	77	76	81

PROPOSAL *(AND ITS EFFECT ON THE BUDGET SHORTFALL)*	NJ-7		NJ-9	
	REP	DEM	REP	DEM
Base cost-of-living adjustments to what older adults actually buy (+12%)	69	64	70	72
Common ground positions (majorities of both parties in favor)	5		6	

FAMILIES & CHILDREN Fielded May 28 – June 23, 2026

PROPOSAL	NJ-7		NJ-9	
	REP	DEM	REP	DEM
Provide $25 billion to states and cities for to create or expand free universal preschool programs	56	82	76	83
Subsidize childcare so low- and middle-income families pay no more than 7% of income	56	90	76	86
Raise the Child Tax Credit to $3,600 and make it fully refundable for all income levels	64	88	81	78
Create a national 12-week paid family and medical leave program for all workers, funded by a 0.2% payroll tax	57	83	80	82
Common ground positions (majorities of both parties in favor)	4		4	

HOUSING AFFORDABILITY Fielded May 28 – June 23, 2026

PROPOSAL	NJ-7		NJ-9	
	REP	DEM	REP	DEM
Tax incentives for builders to build or repair homes affordable to low- and middle-income households	71	79	85	87
Invest $40 billion to build high-density housing affordable to very low- and low-income households	*49*	75	68	74
Provide $25 billion to local governments to build affordable high-density housing for low- and middle-income households	*45*	82	69	81
Increase funding for rental vouchers for the very low-income, elderly and disabled by $24 billion	58	84	75	89
Prohibit large corporations from owning single-family homes	64	79	80	84
Common ground positions (majorities of both parties in favor)	3		5	

LOW-INCOME ASSISTANCE Fielded May 28 – June 23, 2026

PROPOSAL	NJ-7		NJ-9	
	REP	DEM	REP	DEM
Raise monthly SNAP benefits for individuals living alone above the current $170 (allowed to choose the amount)	58	71	73	76
…for single mothers above the current $530	*47*	58	60	66
Offer discounts on fruits and vegetables bought with SNAP	68	88	89	87
Increase federal Medicaid spending to cover more people (allowed to increase, keep the same, or decrease) *Also listed under Healthcare Costs; counted once in the tally.*	51	81	71	78
Raise the federal minimum wage above $7.25 (allowed to choose the amount) *Median Democrat: $15 in both districts. Median Republican: $12 in both districts.*	80	96	89	91
Raise the maximum Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) for workers without children from $630 to $1,300	74	83	79	82
Raise the savings limit for EITC eligibility	75	81	82	86
Lower the EITC eligibility age from 25 to 21	66	80	70	74
Common ground positions (majorities of both parties in favor)	7		8	

ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE Fielded May 28 – June 23, 2026

PROPOSAL	NJ-7		NJ-9	
	REP	DEM	REP	DEM
Create a federal agency to monitor and regulate AI	75	86	79	84
Require new AI programs that make critical decisions (e.g. review health insurance claims) to pass a government test to: ensure they follow the law, are unbiased, have security protections	75	81	84	88
For critical decision-making AI programs already in use, let the government audit them	69	70	77	77
Require deepfakes to be labeled as AI-generated	86	92	90	87
Prohibit campaigns and PACs from using deepfakes in ads	79	83	82	84
Work toward an international treaty regulating large-scale AI	75	78	76	80
Work toward an international treaty banning fully autonomous weapons (use AI to fire on targets without human command)	77	90	80	80
Common ground positions (majorities of both parties in favor)	7		7	

IMMIGRATION Fielded May 28 – June 23, 2026

PROPOSAL	NJ-7		NJ-9	
	REP	DEM	REP	DEM
Deport undocumented immigrants convicted of a crime	90	83	90	86
Offer legal status to long-term undocumented immigrants with no criminal record who pay a penalty and back taxes	60	82	71	84
Offer a path to citizenship to those brought here illegally as children	69	88	81	85
Require E-Verify for all new hires AND increase the number of work visas to match labor demand	74	83	82	81
Hire hundreds more asylum judges and staff to cut wait times (which are currently several years on average)	69	78	83	86
Common ground positions (majorities of both parties in favor)	5		5	

ABORTION & BIRTH CONTROL Fielded July 21 – Aug. 2, 2026

PROPOSAL	NJ-7		NJ-9	
	REP	DEM	REP	DEM
Do not make abortion a crime before fetal viability (chose between multiple options for criminalization)	82	92	78	92
Fund clinics to provide free or low-cost birth control to women who can't afford it	61	91	70	89
Prohibit states from restricting access to birth control	64	84	70	91
Continue to require that health insurance cover birth control	71	89	64	88
Common ground positions (majorities of both parties in favor)	4		4	

ENERGY & ENVIRONMENT Fielded July 21 – Aug. 2, 2026

PROPOSAL	NJ-7		NJ-9	
	REP	DEM	REP	DEM
Make reducing air pollution a high priority	80	94	88	91
Make reducing greenhouse gas emissions a high priority	66	93	77	91
Adopt a goal of cutting U.S. emissions 2% a year	66	90	74	90

PROPOSAL	NJ-7		NJ-9	
	REP	DEM	REP	DEM
Provide tax credits for producing energy that has not greenhouse gas emissions (solar, wind, geothermal, nuclear)	71	85	71	89
Require electric companies to get a minimum share of power from zero-carbon sources	56	82	64	91
Tax credits for making homes and buildings more energy-efficient	72	89	73	86
Require new cars to get more miles per gallon	69	83	66	83
Commit with other countries to reduce greenhouse gas emissions	60	93	82	90
Take part in international efforts to study and share climate and energy data	74	92	70	91
Provide financial assistance and job training to fossil-fuel workers who lose their jobs in the transition to clean energy	76	88	83	90
Common ground positions (majorities of both parties in favor)	10		10	

FEDERAL TAXES Fielded July 21 – Aug. 2, 2026

PROPOSAL *(AND ITS EFFECT ON FEDERAL REVENUE)*	NJ-7		NJ-9	
	REP	DEM	REP	DEM
Wealth tax of 2% on wealth over $50 million and 3% over $1 billion (+$200B)	59	82	68	85
Tax capital gains like ordinary income for households earning $200,000–$500,000 (+$26B)	*49*	55	51	60
Tax capital gains like ordinary income for households earning $500,000–$1 million (+$18B)	*47*	75	54	67
Tax capital gains like ordinary income for households earning $1 million or more (+$120B)	56	80	64	79
Raise the effective income tax rate on households with $200,000–$500,000 income from 21% to at least 24% (allowed to increase, keep same or decrease tax rate) (+$145B)	*35*	56	*44*	55
Raise the effective income tax rate on households with $500,000–$1 million income from 25% to at least 28% (allowed to increase, keep same or decrease tax rate) (+$48B)	*38*	65	*41*	72
Raise the effective income tax rate on households with $1 million+ income from 27% to at least 29% (allowed to increase, keep same or decrease tax rate) (+$73B)	*45*	70	*47*	72
Tax hedge fund managers' income like ordinary income (end the carried-interest break) (+$1B)	74	79	69	80
Apply the estate tax to more inherited wealth, by lowering the tax exemption from $15 million to $5 million (chose between multiple options, including eliminating the tax) (+$17B)	*48*	69	57	68
Raise the effective corporate tax rate from 12% to at least 14% (allowed to increase, keep same, or decrease) (+$41B)	*40*	65	*46*	67
Impose a 0.01% tax on stock purchases (+$30B)	*50*	62	*50*	57
Common ground positions (majorities of both parties in favor)	3		6	

GOVERNMENT REFORM Fielded July 21 – Aug. 2, 2026

PROPOSAL	NJ-7		NJ-9	
	REP	DEM	REP	DEM
Require that all Congressional redistricting be done by non-partisan citizen commissions (equal numbers of Republicans, Democrats and independents)	78	89	85	84

PROPOSAL	NJ-7		NJ-9	
	REP	DEM	REP	DEM
Pass a Constitutional amendment setting term limits for Congress (four terms in the House, two in the Senate)	81	86	78	86
Use ranked choice voting in Congressional elections with three or more candidates	53	55	63	65
Prohibit members of Congress from trading stocks in individual companies	81	80	82	80
Prohibit the President, Vice President and Supreme Court Justices from trading stocks in individual companies	72	69	72	71
Require Supreme Court Justices to follow the same ethics standards as all other federal judges	85	82	83	88
Common ground positions (majorities of both parties in favor)	6		6	

CAMPAIGN FINANCE Fielded July 21 – Aug. 2, 2026

PROPOSAL	NJ-7		NJ-9	
	REP	DEM	REP	DEM
Pass a Constitutional amendment allowing Congress and state legislatures to restrict corporate and PAC spending on elections (overturning Citizens United)	77	87	85	87
Encourage small donors by making half of small campaign contributions refundable as a tax credit	52	69	68	66
Require corporations, unions and other groups to immediately report campaign-related spending to their shareholders and members, the public and the FEC	82	87	83	91
Require the FEC to publicly disclose the names of significant donors paying for TV or radio ads about candidates or controversial issues	76	82	76	83
Require federal contractors to publicly disclose donations to groups that spend on campaign-related activities	77	91	78	82
Keep the prohibition on nonprofits that receive tax-deductible donations (e.g. churches, universities) from endorsing or funding candidates	71	79	75	75
Common ground positions (majorities of both parties in favor)	6		6	

CRIMINAL JUSTICE Fielded July 21 – Aug. 2, 2026

PROPOSAL	NJ-7		NJ-9	
	REP	DEM	REP	DEM
Require police officers to intervene when another officer is using excessive force, and train them to do so	77	89	85	94
Prohibit chokeholds that cut off breathing or blood flow to the brain	55	86	67	84
Require police departments to have body cameras and officers to wear them and turn them on when responding to calls or interacting with suspects	82	93	83	92
Require law enforcement agencies to report officer misconduct to a national database available to other agencies making hiring decisions	87	88	76	92
Fund states to hire independent prosecutors when an officer is charged with using deadly force	65	83	68	84
Lower the mandatory minimum sentence for major drug offenses from 10 years to 5, and let the judge decide whether it should be more	59	71	60	73
Let federal judges release prisoners convicted as juveniles who have served at least 20 years, with 5 years of supervised release	57	77	61	78
Restrict solitary confinement so it cannot be used as punishment for minor violations, or for no more than 30 days in a row	78	81	88	89
Prohibit employers and licensing boards from disqualifying someone who was arrested but never charged or convicted	68	68	64	66

PROPOSAL	NJ-7		NJ-9	
	REP	DEM	REP	DEM
…or convicted of a petty, nonviolent crime (e.g. littering, jaywalking, loitering)	59	64	66	68
…or convicted of a crime unrelated to their ability to do the job	*46*	56	56	71
Limit how long employers and licensing boards can disqualify a person: one year after a misdemeanor sentence, five years after a felony	66	78	76	85
Automatically seal the record of a non-violent drug conviction five years after the sentence is completed	71	77	71	79
Common ground positions (majorities of both parties in favor)	12		13	

AMERICA'S ROLE IN THE WORLD Fielded July 21 – Aug. 2, 2026

PROPOSAL	NJ-7		NJ-9	
	REP	DEM	REP	DEM
Make upholding collective security a high priority — contributing to collective military operations or using economic sanctions in response to aggression	85	81	74	75
Continue to be part of NATO	79	86	79	85
Continue to provide military assistance to Ukraine (equipment, ammunition, training and intelligence)	62	81	62	72
Have nuclear arms control treaties with Russia that limit both arsenals and require inspections	74	80	78	76
Continue to abide by the moratorium on testing nuclear weapons	73	83	72	82
Require the President to get a Congressional declaration of war before using nuclear weapons first (sole authority kept for responding to a nuclear attack)	81	65	78	67
Automatically cut off funding for a military action started by the President if Congress does not approve it within 60 days (except in response to a direct attack)	57	83	*46*	85
Provide foreign aid for humanitarian relief (food, medical care and shelter for victims of famine, floods or war)	83	96	82	91
…for global health (treating and preventing disease, training doctors and nurses, clean water)	78	93	78	91
…for economic development (food production, infrastructure, private enterprise and financial systems)	63	80	67	88
…for education (training teachers, school attendance, literacy)	68	90	69	88
…for the environment (reducing pollution, cleaner energy, preparing for natural disasters)	65	87	66	93
…for democracy (free and fair elections, human rights, a free press and the rule of law)	81	88	76	87
Common ground positions (majorities of both parties in favor)	13		12	

THE COMMON GROUND

Policies supported by majorities of both Republicans and Democrats

NJ-7	NJ-9
93	100

THE ROLE OF "WE THE PEOPLE" Fielded May 28 – June 23, 2026

POSITIONS	NJ-7		NJ-9	
	REP	DEM	REP	DEM
If Congress were more influenced by the people, it would be more likely to find common ground	80	91	93	90

POSITIONS	NJ-7		NJ-9	
	REP	DEM	REP	DEM
…more likely to serve the common good	79	81	88	87
Listening to the people would help break the logjam in Congress, because the people are less polarized than members of Congress	70	74	81	64
News stories on policy should include relevant public opinion data most of the time or always	72	85	82	78
When Congress is going to vote on a bill, it's very important for news to report whether a majority favors the law	70	69	77	73
Estimated share of the time federal elected officials do what the majority of the public wants (*mean %)*	*40*	*31*	*44*	*42*

ABOUT THE SURVEYS

The surveys were conducted by the University of Maryland's Program for Public Consultation (PPC) as part of the *Common Ground in the Battlegrounds?* series covering 11 competitive states and 28 competitive U.S. House districts.

The 106 policy proposals included in these surveys were chosen because national surveys by PPC and others had found majorities of both Republicans and Democrats in support. The battleground survey series sought to see whether that common ground holds in competitive states and districts. Project partners are PPC, the Civic Innovation Center at the University of Maryland, and Voice of the People. None advocates for policy positions or endorses candidates.

New Jersey's 7th and 9th Congressional Districts were surveyed in two waves. Wave 1 (Healthcare, Social Security, Families & Children, Housing, Low-Income Assistance, Artificial Intelligence, Immigration, The Role of *We the People*) was fielded May 28 – June 23, 2026, to 500 adults in NJ-7 and 500 in NJ-9; the confidence intervals are ±6.1 and 6.0%.

Wave 2 (Abortion & Birth Control, Energy & Environment, Federal Taxes, Government Reform, Campaign Finance, Criminal Justice, America's Role in the World) was fielded July 21 – August 2, 2026, to 502 adults in NJ-7 and 500 in NJ-9; the confidence intervals are ±6.2 and 6.0%.

Samples were drawn from multiple online opt-in panels, including Cint, Dynata, and Prodege. Samples were pre-stratified and/or weighted to match the adult population of each geography by key demographics (gender, age, race/ethnicity, income and education). The distributions of partisan affiliation were within expectations based on voter registration for non-leaners or the Cook Partisan Voting Index for leaners, or weighted to be so.

New Jersey press releases and questionnaires: **vop.org/battlegrounds-newjersey**
All states and districts surveyed: **vop.org/battlegrounds-aggregate**