

**Indivisible Lambertville/New Hope (ILNH) Questionnaire
for New Jersey CD7 Democratic Candidates**

Candidate Name: Beth Ellen Aduato

General / Philosophy

1. What are your top three priorities for your first two years in Congress and how do those demonstrate your core values? What do you see as your role in trying to achieve this?

Housing costs, food insecurity, and medical costs are undeniable stressors for working American families. Even in some of the wealthier zip codes in our district, food insecurity is on the rise. Affordability is on everyone's minds, so most candidates will be—rightfully—running on this issue. As a person who is struggling to make ends meet, I completely understand the need to immediately address these so-called kitchen table issues. If my employer raises the premiums on my healthcare, I will have to make drastic cuts in my budget elsewhere.

The first steps that the new Congress should take must alleviate some of the everyday stress: Restore ACA cuts, make wealthy people pay their fair share, start subsidizing healthy foods for all Americans (other countries do it!), free lunch for all public school students and finally, raise minimum wage and end the gender-pay-gap!

As for my overall, long-term priorities, the following will--by their essence--bring relief to middle-class families and working Americans. In my opinion they are inextricably linked. For clarity's sake, however, I will give them numbers.

- 1) Healthcare for all. I have been to a doctor or ER in five different countries. All of these places had more affordable healthcare than we do. My experiences have countered the usual rhetoric about countries with universal healthcare—can't get a timely appointment, the doctors are inferior, etc. I have found this to be patently untrue. Aside from my obvious bad luck in other countries, I am not an expert, so I look to those who are. According to former Secretary of Labor Robert Reich, "Healthcare for All" is affordable and necessary because of the extreme jump we are about to see with premiums. Healthier young people, like my daughter, will drop their coverage, leaving a pool of less healthy people, creating a sort of "death spiral." I agree with Sen. Sanders and believe that progressive income/wealth taxes could pay for this. We should definitely be able to negotiate drug prices—there was a famous episode of "60 Minutes" that showed the same drug being manufactured in Ireland and selling for (approximately) eight times the amount in the U.S. than in Canada. It is a matter of our government having the will to provide a humane approach to our citizens vs. corporate greed. I will vote every time for universal healthcare.

- 2) We must restore the rule of law. I wrote this section a few days ago and this morning the Trump administration "took over" Venezuela. In doing so, he not only ignored the Constitution, but also ignored the rules-based, international order. He is obviously parroting Putin's actions of ignoring these laws that were set in motion after World

**Indivisible Lambertville/New Hope (ILNH) Questionnaire
for New Jersey CD7 Democratic Candidates**

War II which declare—among other things—that “bigger” or “more powerful” countries cannot just invade smaller countries, that we must respect the sovereignty of nations. The very simple rule of law says it all—no one is above the law. So, we need to set in motion the reversal of the lawlessness that is plaguing our country right now, starting with the White House.

You may say, how can there be a complete overhaul in a two-year time period? The answer is that it must be begun. The reason that Republicans have been able to win on fear of crime, fear of immigrants, fear of minorities is because we do not shine enough light on the evidence of the criminal justice system. When people fear the “other,” they will believe lies, they will vote to build more prisons (and private prisons as that! And who gets the contracts to build these private prisons? Republican donors), and they will buy more guns. How many elected members of Congress take money from the NRA? It is quite the cycle.

Obviously, our criminal justice has never been perfect. We have inequality in sentencing, we have racism in all aspects of the system, most people have what is called an A2J problem (access to justice), and women are a forgotten part of the system. Still, a legal system based on our Constitution should be starting point, not something that has been ignored. We are now a country that pulls people off the streets, out of their cars, out of kitchens of restaurants with no access to due process. We are a country that plans to increase ICE agents and cuts funding to Head Start. We are a country who would rather lock up people than put money into crime prevention.

So, what would be my role in trying to achieve this? I would try to join the judiciary committee, but even if I were not on that committee, I would be vocal about the issue. I am not trying to go to Washington., D.C. to be mealy-mouthed. Obviously, people who are in a “Trump bubble” do not believe facts when they are confronted. Perhaps, if we hold town halls across the state and the country and make people understand the truth about crime. Make people understand that their neighbors have been dehumanized in order to feed a political machine. We may not reach everyone, but we can reach enough people to stop our country from being a full-out police state.

For brevity’s sake (although not so brief so far...), let’s go to the next priority.

- 3) Preserve K-12 public education and stop the corporatization of universities. Right now, only 25% of the American population has children attending public schools. This erodes the support necessary for maintaining and improving public education. The trend toward home-schooling as an alternative to “woke” public schools conveniently allows for such things as the teaching of propaganda and the whitewashing of history. We need to stand strong with union educators both on the collegiate and K-12 levels. The federal cuts to education can be supplemented in a wealthier state such as NJ, but they still show up somewhere. From speaking with elected officials across CD7, it seems that our public schools K-12 are okay for the meantime. Federal research

**Indivisible Lambertville/New Hope (ILNH) Questionnaire
for New Jersey CD7 Democratic Candidates**

funding that was cut from Rutgers has been restored...for now, but the smaller colleges are suffering. The elimination and/or reduction of student visas has had a deleterious effect on many university programs around our state. Additionally, they are cutting loans for graduate school, so anyone who is not wealthy enough to write a large check may not be able to pursue post-graduate education. As one Rutgers student rightly said, "This is by design."

We need to restore the status of the college courses that the administration has recently "down-graded" to non-professional studies. Interestingly, the majority of those programs are those that are traditionally female-dominated.

All of this is on purpose—to keep the masses undereducated and more readily influenced by the government. Let's also call it what it is...a return to an America when those who went to college were white, wealthy, Protestant, and male.

The second committee I would try to join, therefore, is the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

Finally, these three priorities—as with most of public policy—affect women more than they affect men. We are in a time when women's rights are--once-again—at issue. The Peter Thiels and the JD Vances and the Pete Hegseths are obviously trying to recreate the United States in a way that takes away freedoms, keeps more people poor, unhealthy, uneducated, and obstructs voting rights. Right in Project 2025, there is a section about women not having the right to vote anymore.

Before we can go back to progress, we must redress the social ills that have been inflicted upon our people.

2. What are the two main provisions of the OBBB Act you would roll back, and how would you achieve that?

The OBBB Act puts people's health at stake, puts families at greater risk for food insecurity, will force hospitals to make service reductions, and it will force the closing of rural hospitals and nursing homes. Those are just some of the terrible social and environmental impacts. So, let's start with rolling back the reason for the cuts to social safety nets and working people's cuts—reverse the tax cuts for the wealthiest Americans. Then, restore the aforementioned cuts.

This bill would be the largest transfer of wealth from the poor to the rich in modern American history, so ROLL IT BACK. Who says it is permanent? We were all under the impression that *Roe v. Wade* could not be overturned and that it was masterfully protected in *Planned Parenthood v. Casey*. So, this idea that it cannot be undone is nonsense.

Then, the next three provisions I would push to roll back would be: 1) the defunding of reproductive healthcare clinics, 2) the repealing of the clean energy tax credits, and 3) the

**Indivisible Lambertville/New Hope (ILNH) Questionnaire
for New Jersey CD7 Democratic Candidates**

provision that deregulates deadly weapons, making it easier to buy silencers and short-barreled rifles. That is technically four roll backs, but these are not ordinary times.

A Democratic take-over of the House would enable us to end this--what could honestly be called--"reign of terror." I would push for nothing less than these roll backs. This is not time to make deals.

Leadership

3. How would you describe your leadership style, giving an example from your past work, and how would that influence your approach in Congress?

My father is a coach. I watched him get the best out of people by individualizing his approach to members of his team. I do not, however, yell. I believe leadership on executive boards or on nonprofits or in the classroom requires a calm demeanor, a willingness to put in as much work as you expect from your "team," and staying on top of crucial information so you can lead from strength.

Traditionally, "freshman" members of Congress need time to figure out the intricacies of the job and do not readily earn placement on prestigious committees. This midterm election, however, will present a reckoning between restoring our republic or allowing the corporations and corrupt billionaires to lay waste to our 250-year experiment. This is no time to let inexperience hold us back. If we flip Congress, the Democrats must work together—in strength and solidarity—to layer-by-layer peel back and expose the corruption and address it.

So, in this case, I would be observant, study, then insinuate myself wherever possible, and remain active with my constituents and use the media. Congress can no longer afford to act like a country club.

4. What two measures would you take to address the corruption of the current administration?

Wherever impeachment is warranted and possible by law, begin the process. Wherever prosecution is warranted, begin the process. White collar crime is still crime even when it is committed by members of the executive branch. War crimes that are committed when there is no war? That is just crime.

Affordability

5. What changes, if any, would you support to the federal tax code?

- 1) Reinstate the EV tax credit and other clean energy credits
- 2) Would return the rules on the Child Tax Care Credit so that parents do not need a SSN (the child still requires one)

**Indivisible Lambertville/New Hope (ILNH) Questionnaire
for New Jersey CD7 Democratic Candidates**

- 3) Change the “Trump Accounts” which are designed to “produce entrepreneurs” to the “baby bond” proposal of Cory Booker, which were designed to close the racial wealth gap.
- 4) Raise the marginal tax rates for income over \$1,000,000 and again for \$2,000,000...in other words, progressive tax rates.
- 5) Put the “pass-through” exemptions back to 37% from the OBBB’s 29.6%, which some experts say was a major win for entrepreneurs and high-net-worth people
- 6) Restore the previous cap (\$10 million) on capital gains from the sale of qualified small business stock (QSBS)
- 7) Lower the “new, expanded” special industry deductions
- 8) Not tax-related, but restore the Biden-era student loan forgiveness program and keep the ARPA rule that it is not counted as taxable income

6. What initiatives would you propose to address housing affordability and food insecurity?

Let’s start with housing affordability. I heard someone from Summit say that “their grown children could not afford to live in the town they grew up in.” While this is certainly an issue, it does show how relative “affordability” can be. The median sale price in Summit is around \$1.6 million, so it unsurprising that 30-year-olds cannot afford that. (These people were Democrats, by the way!)

The average home price in the district hovers around \$500,000 with a median household income just under \$134,000. This seems like a doable home price to income ratio, but that is obviously not the whole story. A person in a single-income, (average per-capita) situation would have difficulty buying a home in the district. Additionally, the rent prices are so high that it is difficult to save for a mortgage down payment.

Now, let’s look at renting in the district (which is not unlike the rest of NJ). In order to rent a two-bedroom apartment in our state, you need approximately \$51,000 in income. A minimum-wage, full time job in NJ yields \$31,000, therefore, a single parent could not rent a two-bedroom apartment with one minimum wage job.

Here’s a fun fact—(sarcasm, it’s not fun)—women own only 1% of the property around the world.

The poverty rate in CD7 is just below 5%, which is well below the national average of 13.4%, but as a member of Congress I would not only be advocating for my district, but for the state as well as the country. Stepping deeper into the issue, homelessness is once-again on the rise. The numbers are at an all-time high and resources are insufficient to meet demand. In 2024, NO community had enough permanent housing to serve everyone experiencing homelessness. Proposed cuts to Continuum of Care (CoC) programs will put more people on the streets.

**Indivisible Lambertville/New Hope (ILNH) Questionnaire
for New Jersey CD7 Democratic Candidates**

We need to build more housing. Of course, we face the NIMBY problem—even “liberals” like Robert DeNiro fought against a housing project in Brooklyn for senior citizens because it destroyed a favorite garden.

One more word on this—the shelters in NJ are full. (I personally dealt with a woman who became homeless on Christmas Eve last year and I could not find a single shelter or church that would house her.) Not only are the shelters full, but it is also difficult to find an entity that will give you a recommendation for a shelter.

Only 35 affordable and available rental homes exist for every 100 extremely low-income rental households.

Where do we begin? In a district like CD7, we have towns that do not want affordable housing. We know that these towns will pay neighboring towns to fulfill the obligations. Perhaps we can give more incentive to those “willing” towns to build homes quickly? We can focus on abandoned buildings, warehouses, factories...implementing brownfield and grayfield remediation, as a win-win. This would be my approach to affordable housing.

Kamala Harris had some great program ideas that we should adapt. Her two overall plans were to 1) ban rent inflating algorithms (Preventing the Algorithmic Facilitation of Rental Housing Cartels Act) and 2) discouraging predatory investing (Stop Predatory Investing Act). Harris also proposed a \$25,000 first-time buyer, down payment support. While many people in our district have considerably comfortable incomes, there are many who fall into the “gray area,” that is above the poverty level, but below the level for home buying. Consider women who left the workforce for a time to raise children and then got divorced. They may not be able to afford the down payment or may not be eligible for a mortgage if they are newly re-entering the workforce. These are real people—not theoretical.

Food insecurity is on the rise all over the country and in CD7 as well. Towns known for being affluent are included, so it cannot be said that this is a problem for just “some people” in our district. The folks from the Food Bank Network of Somerset County told me that their “backpack program” (children experiencing food insecurity are given these lunches in backpacks, so they can fit in) has increased by 1000 students each year for the last four years.

We must restore SNAP and Head Start. We must reject any cuts to USDA provision of food assistance.

These are steps for now. My proposal would also include long-term changes. Three years ago, I worked in Belgium and was shocked at the price of groceries and healthy food. I asked some students how this was possible and the answer was, “In Belgium, we subsidize healthy food so it is available for everyone.” Belgium is a smaller country, sure, and we are bigger. We can probably do this if we stop subsidizing the processed food industry. Cory Booker has been talking about this for years—we need the will to do it.

Public Health

**Indivisible Lambertville/New Hope (ILNH) Questionnaire
for New Jersey CD7 Democratic Candidates**

7. What specific legislative language or mechanisms would you back to support federal protections for reproductive justice?

I support the Women’s Health Protection Act of 2022, which would prohibit “governmental restrictions on the provision of, and access to, abortion services” and the Ensuring Access to Abortion Act, which would prohibit “the interference, under color of State Law, with the provision of interstate abortion services and for other purposes.” I stand with the National Organization for Women which is calling for a “new, filibuster-proof Congress that will codify abortion rights nationally” and we need state legislatures that will make protecting women’s health a priority.

Further, we must push back against efforts to limit access to medication abortion (mifepristone). This safe and effective medication is used by most women seeking abortions. Whether clinicians can dispense mifepristone is a state-specific legal question. In New Jersey, we do not face this problem, but we must stand with our sisters across the country to guarantee their rights.

Finally, we must restore federal funding for Planned Parenthood, through Medicaid reimbursements. This is another attack on women’s control over their own bodies. This defunding blocks people who use Medicaid from getting care at Planned Parenthood health centers and that means that over 1.1 million patients could now lose access to birth control, wellness visits, STI tests, and cancer screenings. Because of the Trump administration and Congress, women may have to travel far and wait longer for important health care, as demand increases at the PP centers that remain open. To paraphrase Ruth Bader Ginsburg—*all we ask of our brethren is to keep their laws off our reproductive systems.*

8. What are your proposals to improve healthcare access and affordability?

My answers to previous questions overlap here, so I will recap the proposals.

Healthcare:

- 1) Healthcare for all
- 2) In the meantime, restore the ACA cuts (including cuts to rural health centers).
- 3) Restore funding to Planned Parenthood health centers, where more than 1.1 million patients go for birth control, wellness visits, STI tests, and cancer screenings.
- 4) Allow the government to once-again negotiate with pharmaceutical companies.

9. What legislation would you introduce or support to end gun violence?

No regular person needs an assault weapon. No regular person needs an automatic weapon. You want to hunt deer for food? Well, if you shoot a deer with an assault weapon, you won't be able to eat that deer. When someone orders more than five guns to the same address over a short period of time, the authorities should be alerted. Children should never be able to access guns without parental guidance. Background checks should be extensive. People with mental illness should not be allowed to purchase a gun. No domestic abuser should ever be able to purchase again. Notice I did not say "convicted" domestic abuser? They are hardly ever convicted. So, my stance would be if

**Indivisible Lambertville/New Hope (ILNH) Questionnaire
for New Jersey CD7 Democratic Candidates**

you have been arrested three times for domestic violence--even if it never goes to court--you lose your right to own a gun...forever. When I was researching and teaching in Belgium for eight months. I observed families walking around Brussels. If a car backfired or a loud bang came from a construction site, nobody hit the ground. They just continued walking and chatting and riding their bikes and kicking a ball. Imagine that...

Climate, Energy & Environment

10. What specific actions would you take or propose to protect the climate and the environment? If possible, please name specific ties to New Jersey.

Pardon my "conversational" opening line, but this is the one that always gets me. Don't they have to live here, too? Don't they have children? Don't they have grandchildren? Do they know something we don't know or is there a place to which they all plan to escape? Back to policy talk--again, we are going to have to repair what this administration has done regarding environmental protections, new sources of energy (just last week they declared that "wind" is a security risk), the forever chemicals that were just okayed, and so many other attacks on the environment.

We need to support a clean energy economy, electric vehicles, clean energy investment in vulnerable communities. We need to hold polluters accountable; companies, for example, like LeFarge that dumped chemicals into the water in Alpena, Michigan and people wondered about the high cancer rates of children there. Guess what—my boss wouldn't let me cover that story as a TV reporter in 1997! An important note: one of my professors for my MPAP was former NJ Governor Florio. He made the companies comply with strict environmental laws. People said the companies would leave, but guess what—they didn't.

New Jersey used to be quite polluted and we took serious steps to tend our Garden State. We have the second-strictest laws on automobile emissions in the country (after California). We remediated brownfields. We passed those laws in the 90s, under Florio. We cleaned up some of our polluted rivers, such as the Passaic. Our drive to re-purpose the brownfields, however, appears to have stagnated. Clean energy investment in New Jersey should include repurposing more old warehouses and factories. We can build affordable housing, include renewable energy sources, and avoid more urban sprawl at the same time.

Due to climate change, sea levels are rising. Storms are occurring more often and with more rainfall. These changes can make it harder for communities to address flood risk. Counties in CD7 are susceptible to flooding and this will put a greater burden on our district. In 2012, HUD introduced a program to provide integrated flood risk reduction and "resilient" solutions to flood-prone areas. The "Rebuild by Design Meadowlands Project" is one such program. We need to increase the reach of programs like this to address other flood-risk areas. And of course, we need to reinstate all the programs that were embraced by the Biden Administration and were cut by this one.

Education

**Indivisible Lambertville/New Hope (ILNH) Questionnaire
for New Jersey CD7 Democratic Candidates**

11. What is your vision for how the federal government should support education, including childcare, pre-K, public K-12 schools, and higher education, including affordability?

As this is one of my top priorities, I will refer back to my answers on question 1. I will add here, however, that I also support:

- Free Pre-K
- Encouragement of businesses to provide childcare. Innovative programs could accompany this, such as, giving “field credit” to student teachers and social work students.
- Take the bonus money we have been offering ICE agents and re-direct that to teacher pay across the country. According to the American Federation of Teachers, attracting good teachers is a problem in our country right now. (Also, let’s keep guns away from schools.)
- Free community college across the country
- Student loans were never meant to be a money-making source for the government; restore the original intent
- Stop the over-hiring of administrators at high salaries! Across the nation, more and more administrators are being hired who have jobs that are not needed, while the counselors and advisors are losing their jobs. This leads to—
- Stop the corporatization of education! Stop these schools from making deals with “software companies” that insist on “designing courses” in a uniform way and making schools pay for this nonsense. The professors and teachers know how to design their own courses.
- Stop the attack against the humanities. Critical thinking, the ability to write, a knowledge of history, political science, and philosophy (just to name a few subjects under attack) lift us up...we then progress as people.
- STOP the attack on academic freedom overall!

Public education is the great equalizer, so a regime that wants to shrink the middle-class and exclude women and minorities naturally wants to reduce educational opportunities.

Immigration & Border Policy

12. What is your vision for how the US government should handle issues around immigration, in terms of both policy and process?

Like most political issues we are currently facing as a country, the topic of immigration now has to be dealt with in a twofold manner. Instead of progressing, we have egregiously regressed. Before we can begin serious reform, we must repair the incalculable damage wrought by this administration’s inhumane and illegal treatment of undocumented individuals. Next, we must end the scapegoating of immigrants, who are indeed *not* committing the vast majority of crime and are certainly not taking “our” houses, jobs, and medical care. We need to make this message crystal clear. These

**Indivisible Lambertville/New Hope (ILNH) Questionnaire
for New Jersey CD7 Democratic Candidates**

societal changes must be put in place before we can reform the immigration system and expand pathways for those who seek legal status. True criminal justice reform keeps people safer and costs less money. The same can be said for the immigration detention system which costs billions and frequently violates due process. Moving forward, we must provide a way for those who are and have been contributing to our economies and to our neighborhoods, to apply for legal status and citizenship.

13. What immediate steps would you take to hold ICE, CPB, the attorney general, and others accountable for illegal actions?

We can no longer recognize ICE as a governmental operation—they are a rogue group existing outside the law. So, they must be completely disbanded, restructured, and RE-NAMED. No law enforcement officers in this country should be masked, untrained in the law, unaccountable to supervisors, etc. Those ICE agents who have committed violence or any other illegal action should be prosecuted.

U.S. Customs and Border Patrol has always enjoyed more leeway when it comes to warrantless searches, as you have diminished rights at borders. This includes airports and train stations. This is why, for example, customs officers have performed body-cavity searches on “drug mules.” CBP is abusing their rights at this time, however, because they are conducting searches and detainment far past the areas of their jurisdiction. These people working outside the law should be fired and in some cases, prosecuted.

The attorney general should be impeached because of high crimes. (This person has watched videos and has observed pictures of children being raped and has done nothing.) Additionally, back to the subject of this question, the attorney general certainly has knowledge of the unconstitutional actions of ICE agents and CBP officers and their superiors and has done nothing.

Kristi Noem should be prosecuted for basically using huge amounts of our tax dollars to purchase unnecessary items such as a new fleet of luxury cars and personal planes. She should also be prosecuted for crimes against humanity, but that is a hard one to define under our laws. We do not recognize the International Criminal Court, unfortunately.

AI, Privacy & Surveillance

14. What legislation would you support related to AI? Please address digital ID and digital currency in your response.

The Brennan Center for Justice is tracking artificial intelligence legislation. Interestingly, during the 118th Congress, lawmakers introduced over 150 bills over the use of AI—none of them passed. Some of the bills introduced by the 119th Congress that I would support are:

- AI Sovereignty Act—sponsored by Eugene Vindman (D-VA-7) which would direct the Secretary of Commerce to track crucial developments in AI technology

**Indivisible Lambertville/New Hope (ILNH) Questionnaire
for New Jersey CD7 Democratic Candidates**

- Protect Elections from Deception Act—sponsored by Julie Johnson (D-TX-32)—self-explanatory
- Unleashing Low-Cost Rural AI Act—sponsored by Jim Costa (D-CA-21)—studies the impact of AI and data center site growth on energy supply resources in the US
- The Weather Act-Reauthorization Act—sponsored by Frank (R-OK-3)—improving NOAA's weather research.

These are some examples of legislation I would support—using AI to further knowledge in a more expeditious way.

I am not excited about AI in schools. It is allowing our students to take the “easy way out” on assignments (those who choose to do so, not all) and producing repetitive, often inaccurate, and ultimately soulless work.

I attended a workshop on AI through Rutgers University and was expecting it to be “pro” AI; rather, it was surprisingly negative. It was then that I first learned that AI “hallucinates,” meaning it will make-up something it does not “know.” Also, it uses an incredible amount of water and is, therefore, environmentally damaging.

I believe that AI should be used judiciously in ways that improve society and not make us less capable of critical thinking.

If you watch the documentary *The Great Hack*, you will learn about the dangers of these people sitting around in rooms, gathering all the information they can possibly find to sell you things, to brainwash voters, to learn about your personal habits. They take credit for Brexit. They literally used social media to turn Hillary Clinton into a monster. They attacked her on the right and the left. After Trump won that election, the employees at Cambridge Analytica had a great celebration. It is unsettling.

Digital IDs carry significant risks to privacy and susceptibility to mass surveillance. We probably have no idea about the damage that was done by “DOGE” and will be done by Palantir. I believe our government should be protecting us from such invasions, not using them to create a police state.

Because of this, I do not support a complete system of digital ID. Unfortunately, I think we are way beyond this. Data are kept on you every time you log-on to your computer, every time you use Duolingo or use your EZPass. Journalist Ronan Farrow often appears on podcasts and says that we have to turn off our phones at least once-a-day. How many of us realize that everything is monitored?

While digital currency offers faster and less expensive transactions with greater mobility of payment, it also carries greater risks of hacking, high volatility, and regulatory uncertainty. For those negative reasons, I would not sanction its use until we—as a country—are out from under this corrupt regime.

**Indivisible Lambertville/New Hope (ILNH) Questionnaire
for New Jersey CD7 Democratic Candidates**

Campaign Finance and Coalition Support

15. Do you support public financing or stricter limits on outside (PAC/super PAC) spending? Are there any specific companies, organizations, or individuals you would refuse donations from?

In some European countries, there is a cap on how much you can spend on a campaign. The super PACs in this country go further than just outspending candidates, they sometimes threaten them. It is not new that political systems often scare away our most talented or best suited policy makers but allowing billionaires to essentially “purchase” some legislative seats has gotten us...well...here.

I am probably naïve in this area, so I am unaware of all the PACs and super PACs out there, but I do know that I would refuse donations from the NRA, AIPAC, Elon Musk, the Koch Brothers, and anyone of that ilk. I would only accept PAC money from issue PACs such as NOW or the National Women’s Political Caucus or from unions. Also, if there is a corporate PAC that is female/minority/LGBTQ+ owned and only does great things for people, I would accept donations from that entity. I am not sure that exists, however.

16. What coalitions and community partners are you currently working with?

Community Food Bank
Food Bank Network of Somerset County
Mental Health Association of Morris County
RVCC—guidance counselors
NJ Reentry
Women Rising
SAVE of Essex County
SAFE in Hunterdon County
Hudson PRIDE
Hudson County Prosecutors’ Office SVU division
Partners—Transforming Lives Through Justice
NJ CASA