

Phil Murphy Democrat

If we get our economy right, we get New Jersey right. Yet for eight painful years Chris Christie and Kim Guadagno have gotten it wrong. I am running for governor because New Jersey needs a stronger, fairer economy and I have a plan to get us there.

Let's start with the facts. Today, families in New Jersey are paying more and getting less. That is not by accident, nor is the rest of America in the same shape. While median household incomes across the country grew from 2010 to 2015 New Jersey families saw their incomes fall. People are working harder yet making less money; that is simply unacceptable.

Parkway and Turnpike tolls increased 50%. NJ Transit fares are up 36% while service, safety, and reliability declined. College tuition at state schools is approximately 20% higher than eight years ago. And property taxes have risen 17%.

We need to be very clear about something — it wasn't a question of whether our state had the money, it was a choice about how that money was used, such as giving out \$8 billion in corporate tax breaks, underfunding public schools by nearly \$9 billion. It's no coincidence that property taxes have gone up for middle and working class families while millionaires got tax cuts.

We've seen 11 straight credit rating downgrades, and our fiscal condition is the worst in the country. None of our problems have been solved. They've only gotten worse.

But I am an optimist, and we can put things right.

It starts by reclaiming our dominance in the innovation economy and investing in infrastructure to create new jobs at good wages. It's making college more affordable, and standing up for the right things, like funding Planned Parenthood and women's health programs.

It's property tax relief that starts by fully funding our public schools. It's asking the wealthiest New Jerseyans to pay their fair share, and revamping ineffective tax breaks that have only benefitted big corporations. It's ending the practice of overpriced hedge funds managing state pensions.

It's reforming our criminal justice system, including the legalization and taxation of marijuana to bring in hundreds of millions in new revenues.

It's creating an innovative Public Bank to invest in New Jersey's small businesses, not Wall Street's profit centers. It's equal pay and a stronger minimum wage. It's building a Green Economy with good jobs.

New Jersey needs bolder and more visionary leadership. This state is blessed with an unmatched location, a talented work force, and great institutions of learning. We need to put those to work instead of neglecting them.

I don't come from Trenton's failed special interest politics. And I don't owe the special interests anything. I spent my career learning how economies grow and create jobs.

We need to make New Jersey's economy stronger and fairer, to make this a state that works for every family. We need to move beyond small politics dominated by the special interests. We need a governor who will have your back. I will.