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October 27, 2009

Dear CUNY Colleague:

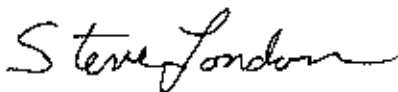
Next Tuesday, November 3rd, is Election Day and New Jersey voters will decide who will be the next Governor of New Jersey. Last week, the PSC Executive Council endorsed Jon Corzine as the best choice for New Jersey residents based on his record of supporting labor rights of all employees, and in particular, standing up for the Union of Rutgers Administrators (AFT Local 1766) to form a union through majority sign-up.

Despite having inherited budget deficits in a difficult economic climate, Governor Jon Corzine has defended public higher education and made several significant advances, most notably, we believe, establishing paid family leave benefits through the state's Temporary Disability Benefits Program. New Jersey is only the third state to do so, and the PSC feels strongly that New York should follow its lead. He has also expanded state-funded health care mandating health insurance for all children.

By contrast, Corzine's Republican challenger, Chris Christie, is a former prosecutor who has made his anti-union, anti-public sector sentiments abundantly clear. If elected, Christie pledges to lay off public workers, to undermine public sector collective bargaining rules and increase managerial control, and to eliminate defined-benefit pension benefits for state workers in favor of a more risky 401(k)-style, defined-contribution plan. A Christie victory will be touted as an endorsement for rolling back progressive labor policies and for disinvesting in public sector programs like higher education. We do not want to embolden those in New York State who seek similar policies here.

On behalf of President Barbara Bowen and the PSC Executive Council, I urge you to vote for Governor Jon Corzine next Tuesday, November 3.

In Solidarity,



Steven London
PSC First Vice President and Legislative Representative