

NEW JERSEY

Voters in New Jersey will elect a new governor this cycle. All 80 seats in the New Jersey General Assembly are up for election in 2025. While Democrats are expected to maintain control of the assembly, the governor's race is considered to be a toss-up contest.

Governor

Republican Nominee

Jack Ciattarelli

Former assemblyman Jack Ciattarelli secured the Republican nomination for governor for a second time in June. While he lost in the Republican gubernatorial primary in 2017, Ciattarelli captured the party's nomination in 2021 but ultimately lost to Governor Phil Murphy (D) by a slim three-point margin. Ciattarelli represented District 16 from 2011 to 2018 in the New Jersey General Assembly and served as assistant majority whip from 2014 to 2018.

Ciattarelli has highlighted several [priorities](#) throughout his campaign including **affordability and cost of living**, improving **state government efficiency**, promoting **school choice** for K-12 students, and fostering **workforce development** through collaborations between state universities and vocational institutions.

Ciattarelli wants to **reduce state spending by 30%** and plans to utilize a line-item veto to limit government spending. He also hopes to **reduce the Corporation Business Tax** by 1% per year over the next five years. Ciattarelli has [proposed](#) a number of **tax cuts** including reducing the income tax for all taxpayers, consolidating tax brackets, capping property taxes to a percentage of the assessed home value, and suspending the taxation of retirement income.

In an event hosted by NJ PBS and WNYC Radio, Ciattarelli [called](#) for the **increase of affordable housing** in urban areas, highlighting that current housing law is overdeveloping in the suburbs.

In a recent campaign video, Ciattarelli [highlighted](#) the need to **diversify energy sources** to include natural gas and nuclear power. He cites that New Jersey's increased investment in offshore winds is driving energy costs.

The Center for Politics Sabato's Crystal Ball and The Cook Political Report have rated the New Jersey gubernatorial race as Leans Democratic. A poll released by [Fairleigh Dickinson University](#) on July 29 showed a close race: Democratic nominee Mikie Sherrill has an eight-point lead over Ciattarelli.

Ciattarelli earned a degree in Accounting and his MBA from Seton Hall. Prior to public life he worked as a certified public accountant and co-founded medical journal publishing companies.

Rider University will be [hosting](#) a gubernatorial debate between Ciattarelli and Sherrill on September 21.

Trivia: Ciattarelli was born in Somerville and raised in the Borough of Raritan, where his grandparents immigrated 100 years ago.