

**2021 NEW JERSEY ASSEMBLY and SENATE
BEHAVIORAL HEALTH DISORDERS
PREVENTION, TREATMENT, and RECOVERY
CANDIDATE SURVEY**

I. General Views on Alcohol and Drug Disorders Policies to Address Stigma

Alcohol and drug disorders have only recently become recognized as chronic diseases, much like diabetes or hypertension. Yet the stigma associated with them continues to persist and often prevents people from seeking the treatment they need, contributing to disease severity and adding huge costs to public programs.

Indicate which principles (if any) you agree with regarding your general views of alcohol and drug addiction (Substance Use Disorder) and recovery policies to address behavioral health issues by placing a check mark next to the letter(s) that correspond with your opinions.

a) Substance Use Disorders are preventable, treatable, chronic diseases and are as diagnosable/treatable as diabetes, asthma and hypertension.

b) Addiction is a matter of will. Government assistance is warranted, but ultimately, recovery is the individual's choice.

c) I would support sufficient funding to ensure that treatment and recovery services are available to those who need them.

d) The criminal code (Title 2C) should be examined as to whether the state's drug laws ought to be re-worked

e) Other _____

II. NJ Policy Perspective and the NJ Harm Reduction Coalition released a report over the summer, recommending the elimination of criminal penalties for low-level possession/use and sales of all drugs. Which best represents your view?

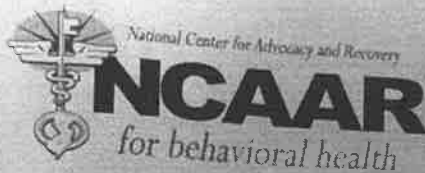
a) I would support the decriminalization of all low-level drug use, possession and sales

b) I would support the decriminalization of all low-level drug use/possession, but not sales

c) I do not support the decriminalization of all possession/use of drugs

d) Undecided, would like to learn more

e) Other _____



III. I would support any, or all, of the following initiatives if they could be demonstrated to get and keep people in long-term recovery.

- a) Continued criminal record expungement reform
- b) Tax credits for employers who hire people in recovery
- c) Enhanced financial aid and program assistance to communities disparately impacted by the War on Drugs
- d) Reduction of court-ordered fees and fines for individuals who successfully complete a treatment or diversion program
- e) Expanded use of peer recovery support services
- f) Other _____

IV. In the past year, drug overdoses have dramatically increased. Naloxone (brand name – NARCAN) is an opioid antidote that can reverse an overdose. I would support adequate government funding in order to expand the use of naloxone. Check all that apply:

- a) Mandating every pharmacy maintain a minimum supply of naloxone
- b) On public transportation
- c) In public libraries
- d) On college and university campuses
- e) In homeless shelters
- f) Authorize EMT's to dispense naloxone
- g) Mandate a supply of naloxone in other public spaces, e.g. stadiums, theaters, arenas, etc.
- h) Other _____

V. On an attached page, in seventy-five (75) words or less, please explain any other legislative priorities you will have regarding the prevention, treatment of and recovery from addictive illnesses if elected.

Jackie Gonzalez

From: Edward Martone <emartone@ncaarbh.org>
Sent: Thursday, August 26, 2021 12:10 AM
To: 'Jackie Gonzalez'
Subject: FW: Survey
Attachments: NCAAR Page 1.jpg; NCAAR Page 2.jpg; NCAAR Signature Page.jpg

From: Shirley Turner [mailto:senturner@comcast.net]
Sent: Wednesday, August 25, 2021 6:27 PM
To: emartone@ncaarbh.org
Subject: Survey

Dear Ed,

I am pleased to have the opportunity to submit my answers to your 2021 candidate survey. Attached is the completed survey and signed form to be included in your database. Additionally, below is the answer to question V.

Following on the success of county drug courts, which I sponsored and supported and fought to provide funding for, my bill S414, establishes a central municipal drug court to give low-level drug offenders an opportunity for recovery. Since mental illness and addiction can be co-occurring, my bill S416, would help to divert individuals with mental illness away from the criminal justice system and provide police with training to handle mental health crises. Finally, my bill S873 would provide funding to support addiction treatment for the uninsured, underinsured, and those on Medicaid; the program would be funded by an opioid tax on the first wholesale distribution of an opioid drug.

Thank you for the opportunity to participate in your survey.

Sincerely,

Shirley K. Turner
Senator – 15th District



CANDIDATE MUST SIGN SURVEY TO BE INCLUDED IN THE DATABASE

Candidate Name: Shirley K. Turner
(please print)

Candidate Signature: Shirley K. Turner

District: 15

Party: Democrat

Date: August 23, 2021