

# PERCIPIENT STRATEGIES RESEARCH DOSSIER

**VIN GOPAL**

(NEW JERSEY STATE SENATE: LD-11)

Last Updated: August 11, 2023

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## EXECUTIVE SYNOPSIS

### DOSSIER NOTES

In preparing this background report, we undertook an examination of all readily available and relevant electronic and online records, several hundred Nexis and news articles, dozens of active and archived web pages, and several dozen public records from Nexis and the resources of various federal, state, and municipal government offices. The results of our analysis are contained below.

*Typographical Note:* There are a number of articles quoted in this report that contain typographical errors. These are from the original text of the article and have not been corrected when being quoted directly.

#### TOP HITS

##### *Financial*

##### Small Claims

- On at least three occasions, Gopal's businesses have filed small claims against others.
  - One of the cases settled while Gopal's business received default judgment in the other two, totaling \$831.50.

##### *Legal*

##### Breach Of Contract Lawsuits

- In both 2010 and 2016, Direct Development appears to have been named as a defendant in contract dispute lawsuits.
  - Both cases were dismissed following settlements.

##### *Criminal*

##### Traffic And Parking Citations

- Gopal has received at least 38 traffic and parking citations in the state of New Jersey for offenses such as unsafe operation of a vehicle, careless driving, obstructing the passage of other vehicles, delaying traffic, and speeding.

##### *Political*

##### Campaign Finance

- Thus far for Gopal has largely been funded by unions across the state such as IBEW, the NJ Laborer's PAC, and the NJ Carpenters PAC.
  - Gopal has also received nearly \$100,000 between the NJ Senate Democratic Majority and the Democratic Assembly Campaign Committee.

- Gopal has received tens of thousands of dollars from fellow Democratic candidates for elected office in the state.
- Gopal has received tens of thousands of dollars from liberal special interest groups like the NJ Association for Justice and the New Jersey Education Association.
- In 2011, and again between 2017 and 2021, Gopal received tens of thousands of dollars from labor and public sector unions in New Jersey like various chapters of Operating Engineers, Plumbers and Pipefitters, AFSCME, and SEIU.
  - Gopal received tens of thousands of dollars from liberal special interest groups like the New Jersey Association for Justice and the New Jersey Education Association.
  - Gopal received thousands of dollars from Phil Murphy’s campaign committee.
- Federally, Gopal has contributed to various Democrats from the state of New Jersey including Bob Menendez, Josh Gottheimer, Frank Pallone.
  - Gopal also contributed to the presidential campaigns of Cory Booker and Pete Buttigieg while giving to other prominent Democrats such as Jon Ossoff, Sara Gideon, and Jaime Harrison.
  - Gopal has given to the liberal organizations including the Future Now Fund and the Progressive Democrats of America.
- In New Jersey, Gopal has contributed to Phil Murphy.

#### **Partisan Ties And Activities**

- Gopal has supported the left’s electioneering power-grab through massive voting expansion.
- On social media, Gopal has touted endorsement from radical liberal organizations like Planned Parenthood.
- Gopal engages in blatantly partisan maneuvers in public office:
- Gopal has been accused of “using the state’s legislature as a political payback machine”.
- Gopal has relationships with prominent Democratic party figures known for promoting liberal beliefs.
  - In 2017, Al Gore helped rally Democrats to support Gopal.
  - In 2020, Gopal claimed Biden “is really going to be somebody who would unite our country which is currently divisive”.
  - Gopal was recently endorsed by Gov. Phil Murphy.

- On social media, Gopal has praised multiple prominent democratic party figures known for promoting radically liberal beliefs such as Barack Obama, Cory Booker and Ruth Bader Ginsberg.

### **Miscellaneous**

- Gopal's non-profit has been accused of possible violations of federal and state laws.
- Gopal led an effort to rid New Jersey of the "Freeholder" title.

### ***Policy***

### **Fiscal, Spending, Economic**

- Gopal voted to increase the tax burden on New Jersey's higher-earners and corporations:
  - In 2020, Gopal supported legislation that "further soaks the rich in taxation by imposing the state's top income tax rate of 10.75% onto all earnings over \$1 million".
  - In 2018, Gopal supported legislation that "discourages economic growth and innovation by increasing the marginal gross income tax rate on income above \$5 million from 8.97 percent to 10.75 percent".
  - In 2018, Gopal supported legislation that "harms business growth and reduces employment opportunities by making numerous changes to the corporate business tax, resulting in higher taxation of businesses".
- Gopal has supported "fiscally irresponsible" state budgets:
  - In 2020, Gopal supported New Jersey's "fiscally irresponsible budget bill..."
  - The 2022 state budget appeared to feature funding for several pork projects championed by Gopal.
  - In 2023, Gopal supported New Jersey's state budget, which is "7 percent higher than last year's".
  - According to Rowan University's Steve Sweeny Center for Public Policy, "multibillion-dollar budget gaps are likely within a few years, under the state's current tax and spending policies".
- Gopal led an effort to restore cuts to local education, but the result was described as only a "bad aid".
- Gopal has voted to expand the welfare state in New Jersey.
- Gopal flip-flopped on increasing state wage mandates after facing progressive pressure.
- In 2023, Gopal sponsored a bill to allow public safety personnel enrolled in New Jersey's pension system to retire early with a reduced pension.

- Gopal pushes union priorities and enjoys the support from prominent unions – including the local teachers’ union.
- Gopal has supported efforts to increase regulations on New Jersey businesses.
- Gopal has supported the Biden Administration’s fiscal agenda – including Build Back Better and the American Rescue Plan.
- On social media, Gopal has indicated he supports U.S. funding for Ukraine.

### **Energy And Environment**

- Gopal is known to support murphy’s energy plan – including controversial use of offshore wind power.
- Gopal has supported the left’s anti-growth environmental agenda:
  - In 2022, Gopal praised a community solar energy pilot program as an effective counter to climate change.
  - In 2022, Gopal sponsored legislation to end diverting clean energy funds to nj transit’s operating budget.
  - In 2021, Gopal supported legislation that would “unnecessarily drive-up consumer costs in order to advance a politicized leftist environmental agenda” by banning Styrofoam and imposing recycling mandates.
  - In 2020, Gopal supported legislation that “infringes consumer choice and drives up costs in the food service industry by banning several common consumer plastic, paper, and Styrofoam products”.
  - In 2020, Gopal supported legislation that “infringes property rights and reduces economic growth by preventing the department of environmental protection from issuing permits in ‘overburdened communities’”.
  - In 2018, Gopal supported legislation that banned offshore drilling.
- On social media, Gopal’s joint candidate campaign advocated for New Jersey to pass expensive clean energy legislation and join anti-growth climate change initiatives.
- Gopal has consistently enjoyed the support of environmental organizations.

### **Healthcare And Covid**

- Gopal supported murphy’s covid vaccination and testing requirements.
- Gopal supported the left’s big-government reaction to covid-19:
  - In April 2020, Gopal planned to introduced legislation to impose severe fines and/or jail party goers who violated social distancing orders.
  - In late April 2020, Gopal wrote in support of closing public parks.

- In June 2020, Gopal noted his request to have state officials investigate social distance violations.
- In July 2020, Gopal called for shore towns to impose capacity restrictions.
- In 2020, Gopal supported legislation that “attacks property rights by preventing landlords from evicting a tenant based on nonpayment of rent during the state of emergency declared by the Governor”.
- In 2021, Gopal advocated for individuals to wear covid-19 masks even if they were fully vaccinated.

### **Public Safety, Immigration, Law Enforcement**

- Gopal appears to support New Jersey’s status as a sanctuary state for illegal immigrants.
- Gopal supports providing state benefits to illegal immigrants:
  - In 2019, Gopal supported legislation that “permits those who reside in the country illegally to obtain driver’s licenses and state-issued identification cards”.
  - In 2020, Gopal supported legislation that “is designed to circumvent federal immigration law and the visa process by mandating illegal immigrants be provided occupational and professional licenses”.
- Gopal previously encouraged localities to “push for police reform”.

### **Education Standards, Curriculum, Parental Rights**

- Gopal appears to support the teaching of controversial content and curriculums in schools:
  - In 2019, Gopal voted in favor of a bill requiring “middle school and high school students to be taught the political, economic and social contributions of notable lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people throughout history”.
  - In 2023, Gopal “denounced ‘the misinformation and politicizing campaigns’ pushed by politicians ‘more interested in scaring parents instead of being truthful’”.
  - As the Senate Education Chairman, Gopal appeared to defend and advance controversial sex ed standards for New Jersey students.
  - In 2022, Gopal claimed Republican opposition and rhetoric against the sex ed standards was a “dangerous game”.
  - In 2022, Gopal praised Gov. Murphy’s nominees to replace three State Board of Education members who protested the murphy administration’s changes to sex ed standards.

- In 2021, Gopal supported legislation that would “indoctrinate” education fields with “leftist propaganda and enrich the companies and providers of [critical race theory related] training”.
- Gopal has frequently attended and spoken at education policy conferences hosted by several teacher associations, including the American Federation of Teachers (AFT) which has described DEI ideology as “core values” and has pledged to promote DEI policies in pension funds across the country.
- In 2020, Gopal signaled support for making New Jersey the first state in the nation to incorporate climate change education across its k-12 learning standards.
- Gopal has voted to undermine parental transparency in education.
  - In 2021, Gopal supported legislation that “permits school districts to administer student health surveys after prior written notification to parents and legal guardians”.

### **DEI, Additional Woke Ideology**

- Gopal supports affirmative action, the promotion of DEI and other aspects of woke ideology:
  - In 2020, Gopal supported legislation that “requires certain health care professionals to undergo explicit and implicit bias training”.
  - In 2020, Gopal supported legislation that “expands cronyism by establishing the office of clean energy equity”.
  - In 2021, Gopal supported legislation that would “socialize private business investment onto taxpayers – especially on the grounds of racial discrimination”.
  - In 2023, the AAPI caucus, led by Gopal, issued a joint statement criticizing the supreme court’s ruling rolling back affirmative action.

### **Race, Bail Funds**

- On social media, Gopal has promoted divisive racial content – including the Minnesota Bail Fund and Black Lives Matter.
  - In 2020, Gopal promoted the existence of “system racism”.
  - In 2020, Gopal appeared to reference beliefs promoted by the liberal history program the 1619 project, who have claimed the United States has been a racist county for over 400 years.
  - Gopal has attended at least one Black Lives Matter rallies and has spoken at events with signs promoting divisive racial ideology.
  - In 2020, Gopal donated to a Facebook fundraiser for the Minnesota Freedom Fund, which opposes “oppressive jailing” and pays criminal bails for.

- Gopal has promoted several race-based holidays and events such as Juneteenth.

### **Traditional Social Issues**

- Gopal is unapologetically pro-abortion:
  - In 2022, Gopal criticized the United States Supreme Court overturning Roe v. Wade and allowing abortion to be banned by state legislatures.
  - In 2022, Gopal supported legislation that establishes protections for individuals related to abortions.
  - In 2022, Gopal supported legislation that “prohibits extradition of individual from another state back to that state for actions related to conduct concerning [abortion]”.
- Gopal has worked to undermine the second amendment:
  - In 2018, Gopal introduced legislation “barring New Jersey public employee pension funds or annuities from investing in gun manufacturer companies”.
  - In 2018, Gopal supported legislation that “restricts second amendment rights unless citizens prove ‘specific threats’ against them”.
  - In 2022, Gopal supported the creation of an ammunition registry, which is “strengthening measures to surveil law-abiding citizens”.
  - Gopal has frequently posted support for strict gun control legislation on his social media accounts.
- Gopal is a staunch LGBTQ activist.
- Gopal has been pictured at local pride parades and has frequently promoted LGBTQ ideology, including showing support for “international transgender day of visibility”.

### **Miscellaneous**

- Gopal supports assisted suicide.
- Gopal supports expanding access to marijuana.

## BACKGROUND INFORMATION

### PERSONAL INFORMATION: VIN GOPAL

Full Name: Vinod “Vin” Gopal

DOB: May 18, 1985 (38)

Social Security: 150-78-XXXX

Home Address: 7 Bay Avenue  
Long Branch, NJ 07740  
Monmouth County  
(2021-Pres.)

Marital Status: Married

Spouse: Christina Zuk  
DOB: November 15, 1985 (37)



Children: One

Voter Registration: Registered Democrat – Monmouth County, New Jersey

Education: Unk. – Unk. M.B.A., Rutgers University  
2003 – 2007 B.A., Political Science, Pennsylvania State University

Employment: 2021 – Pres. Owner, Direct Consulting  
2018 – Pres. Senator, New Jersey State Senate, LD-11  
2010 – 2022 Owner, Direct Development, LLC  
2008 – 2022 Owner, Community Magazine NJ  
2019 – 2021 Adjunct Professor, Monmouth University  
2002 – 2005 Volunteer EMT, Colts Neck First Aid Squad

Associations: President, Vin Gopal Civic Association  
Former President, Hazlet Business Owners Association  
Former Board Member, Big Brothers Big Sisters Monmouth County  
Former Board Member, Monmouth County Chamber of Commerce

Military Service: N/A

Election Results: 2021 New Jersey State Senate, LD-11 (General, Won)  
2017 New Jersey State Senate, LD-11 (General, Won)  
2011 New Jersey General Assembly, LD-11 (General, Lost)



Web Sites: <https://gopalfornj.com/>  
<https://www.senatorgopal.com/>  
<https://www.njleg.state.nj.us/>  
<https://www.njsendems.org/>  
<https://en.wikipedia.org/>

Social Media: [Facebook](#) (Personal)  
[Facebook](#) (Campaign)  
[Facebook](#) (Official)  
[Twitter](#) (Campaign)  
[Instagram](#) (Campaign)  
[LinkedIn](#) (Personal)  
[YouTube](#) (Personal)  
[YouTube](#) (Official)

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ICYICY45@AOL.COM  
ICYICY45@MSN.COM  
VGOPAL@ITS.JNJ.COM  
VINOD.GOPAL@GMAIL.COM

Phone: (732) 299-5625

## ELECTION RESULTS

*Vin Gopal has been serving as the New Jersey State Senator for District 11 since winning his 2017 election; Gopal was re-elected in 2021. Gopal first ran for office in 2011, losing his bid for the New Jersey General Assembly for District 11.*

### ***2021 General Election, New Jersey State Senate, LD-11***

#### General Election Results (November 2, 2021)

Candidate	Party	Vote Total
Vin Gopal	DEM	36,978
Lori Annetta	REP	34,296

(Official Election Results, [New Jersey Secretary Of State](#), 11/2/21)

### ***2017 General Election, New Jersey State Senate, LD-11***

#### General Election Results (November 7, 2017)

Candidate	Party	Vote Total
Vin Gopal	DEM	31,308
Jennifer Beck	REP	27,150

(Official Election Results, [New Jersey Secretary Of State](#), 11/7/17)

### ***2011 General Election, New Jersey General Assembly, LD-11***

#### General Election Results (November 7, 2011)

Candidate	Party	Vote Total
Mary Pat Angeli	REP	18,479
Caroline Casagrande	REP	18,739
Vin Gopal	DEM	15,392
Kathleen Horgan	DEM	15,060

(Official Election Results, [New Jersey Secretary Of State](#), 11/8/11)

## CAMPAIGN FINANCE

*Thus far for Vin Gopal has received an aggregate of \$1,336,418.10 in total contributions for his campaign for the New Jersey State Senate for District 11. Similar to prior campaigns, Gopal has largely been funded by unions across the state such as IBEW, the NJ Laborer's PAC, and the NJ Carpenters PAC. Gopal has also received nearly \$100,000 between the NJ Senate Democratic Majority and the Democratic Assembly Campaign Committee; Gopal similarly received tens of thousands of dollars from fellow Democratic candidates for elected office in the state. It should also be noted that Gopal has received tens of thousands of dollars from liberal special interest groups like the NJ Association for Justice and the New Jersey Education Association. Gopal additionally carried over more than \$220,000 from his prior campaign. Gopal has disbursed an aggregate of \$963,420.87 to date, primarily spending his funds on consulting and media.*

*In 2011, and again between 2017 and 2021, Gopal received an aggregate of \$3,237,755 in total contributions for his campaigns for elected office in the state of New Jersey. Gopal received tens of thousands of dollars from labor and public sector unions in New Jersey like various chapters of Operating Engineers, Plumbers and Pipefitters, AFSCME, and SEIU. Gopal additionally received tens of thousands of dollars from liberal special interest groups like the New Jersey Association for Justice and the New Jersey Education Association. It should also be noted that Gopal received thousands of dollars from Phil Murphy's campaign committee.*

*Individually, Gopal has contributed an aggregate of \$38,416.92 to federal and statewide campaign committees. Federally, Gopal has contributed \$20,348.25 giving to various Democrats from the state of New Jersey including Bob Menendez, Josh Gottheimer, Frank Pallone. Gopal also contributed to the presidential campaigns of Cory Booker and Pete Buttigieg while giving to other prominent Democrats such as Jon Ossoff, Sara Gideon, and Jaime Harrison. It should also be noted that Gopal has given to the liberal organizations including the Future Now Fund and the Progressive Democrats of America. At the state level, Gopal has contributed \$18,068.67 to campaign committees in the state of New Jersey. Gopal has personally given nearly \$3,000 to his campaigns and has spread his contributions to various Democratic candidates and committees across the state including giving thousands of Phil Murphy.*

### ***Vin Gopal For New Jersey (2023)***

#### **Notable Contributions**

**Thus Far, Gopal Has Received An Aggregate Of \$1,336,418.10 In Total Contributions For His Campaign For The New Jersey State Senate.** (New Jersey Election Law Enforcement Commission, Accessed 7/31/23)

- **Between 2022 And 2023, Gopal Carried Over \$221,198.36 From His Prior Campaign.** (New Jersey Municipal Court Case Search, Accessed 8/1/23)
- **Between 2022 And 2023, Gopal Received \$64,978.06 From The NJ Senate Democratic Majority.** (New Jersey Municipal Court Case Search, Accessed 8/1/23)
- **Between 2022 And 2023, Gopal Received \$31,877.35 From The Democratic Assembly Campaign Committee.** (New Jersey Municipal Court Case Search, Accessed 8/1/23)
- **Between 2022 And 2023, Gopal Received \$15,000 From Local 102 PAC.** (New Jersey Municipal Court Case Search, Accessed 8/1/23)
- **Between 2022 And 2023, Gopal Received \$8,200 From Work PAC.** (New Jersey Municipal Court Case Search, Accessed 8/1/23)
- **Between 2022 And 2023, Gopal Received \$8,200 From The NJ State Laborers' PAC.** (New Jersey Municipal Court Case Search, Accessed 8/1/23)
- **Between 2022 And 2023, Gopal Received \$8,200 From MEDAC.** (New Jersey Municipal Court Case Search, Accessed 8/1/23)

- **Between 2022 And 2023, Gopal Received \$8,200 From Craig Coughlin Campaign Committee.** (New Jersey Municipal Court Case Search, Accessed 8/1/23)
- **Between 2022 And 2023, Gopal Received \$8,200 From Scutari For Senate.** (New Jersey Municipal Court Case Search, Accessed 8/1/23)
- **Between 2022 And 2023, Gopal Received \$8,200 From Eliana Pintor Marin For Assembly.** (New Jersey Municipal Court Case Search, Accessed 8/1/23)
- **Between 2022 And 2023, Gopal Received \$8,200 From Local Union 400 IBEW PAC.** (New Jersey Municipal Court Case Search, Accessed 8/1/23)
- **Between 2022 And 2023, Gopal Received \$8,200 From Fuel Merchants Association Of NJ.** (New Jersey Municipal Court Case Search, Accessed 8/1/23)
- **Between 2022 And 2023, Gopal Received \$8,200 From The NJ Association For Justice PAC.** (New Jersey Municipal Court Case Search, Accessed 8/1/23)
- **Between 2022 And 2023, Gopal Received \$8,200 From Greater NJ Carpenters PAC.** (New Jersey Municipal Court Case Search, Accessed 8/1/23)
- **Between 2022 And 2023, Gopal Received \$8,200 From Realtors PAC.** (New Jersey Municipal Court Case Search, Accessed 8/1/23)
- **Between 2022 And 2023, Gopal Received \$8,200 From IBEW Local 351 PAC.** (New Jersey Municipal Court Case Search, Accessed 8/1/23)
- **Between 2022 And 2023, Gopal Received \$8,200 From IBEW Local 456 COPE Fund.** (New Jersey Municipal Court Case Search, Accessed 8/1/23)
- **Between 2022 And 2023, Gopal Received \$8,200 From Local Union 164 IBEW COPE.** (New Jersey Municipal Court Case Search, Accessed 8/1/23)
- **Between 2022 And 2023, Gopal Received \$8,100 From Plumbers & Pipefitters Local Union No 9 PAC.** (New Jersey Municipal Court Case Search, Accessed 8/1/23)
- **Between 2022 And 2023, Gopal Received \$8,100 From NJEA.** (New Jersey Municipal Court Case Search, Accessed 8/1/23)
- **Between 2022 And 2023, Gopal Received \$5,100 From The Sheet Metal Workers Union 19 PAC.** (New Jersey Municipal Court Case Search, Accessed 8/1/23)

#### **Notable Expenditures**

**Thus Far, Gopal Has Disbursed An Aggregate Of \$963,420.87 For His Campaign For The New Jersey State Senate.** (New Jersey Election Law Enforcement Commission, Accessed 7/31/23)

- **Between 2022 And 2023, Gopal Disbursed \$152,000 To Gopal Donlon And Peterpaul For LD11.** (New Jersey Election Law Enforcement Commission, Accessed 7/31/23)

- **Between 2022 And 2023, Gopal Disbursed \$92,049 To Outfront For Consulting And Media.** (New Jersey Election Law Enforcement Commission, Accessed 7/31/23)
- **Between 2022 And 2023, Gopal Disbursed \$85,000 To Parktowne Associates LLC For Consulting.** (New Jersey Election Law Enforcement Commission, Accessed 7/31/23)
- **Between 2022 And 2023, Gopal Disbursed \$69,124 To SII Consulting For Consulting.** (New Jersey Election Law Enforcement Commission, Accessed 7/31/23)

***Vin Gopal For New Jersey (2011-2021)***

**Notable Contributions**

**Between 2011 And 2021, Gopal Received An Aggregate Of \$3,237,755 In Total Contributions For His Campaigns For Elected Office In New Jersey.** (New Jersey Election Law Enforcement Commission, Accessed 7/31/23)

- **Between 2011 And 2021, Gopal Received \$32,800 From The Operating Engineers Local 825.** (New Jersey Election Law Enforcement Commission, Accessed 7/31/23)
- **Between 2011 And 2021, Gopal Received \$31,950 From The Plumbers And Pipefitters Local 9.** (New Jersey Election Law Enforcement Commission, Accessed 7/31/23)
- **Between 2011 And 2021, Gopal Received \$31,070 From The Communication Workers New Jersey District 1.** (New Jersey Election Law Enforcement Commission, Accessed 7/31/23)
- **Between 2011 And 2021, Gopal Received \$28,600 From The New Jersey State PBA Local 600.** (New Jersey Election Law Enforcement Commission, Accessed 7/31/23)
- **Between 2011 And 2021, Gopal Received \$27,400 From The Electrical Workers Local 400.** (New Jersey Election Law Enforcement Commission, Accessed 7/31/23)
- **Between 2011 And 2021, Gopal Received \$24,600 From The New Jersey Association For Justice.** (New Jersey Election Law Enforcement Commission, Accessed 7/31/23)
- **Between 2011 And 2021, Gopal Received \$23,900 From The New Jersey State Laborers.** (New Jersey Election Law Enforcement Commission, Accessed 7/31/23)
- **Between 2011 And 2021, Gopal Received \$23,000 From The Northeast Regional Council Of Carpenters.** (New Jersey Election Law Enforcement Commission, Accessed 7/31/23)
- **Between 2011 And 2021, Gopal Received \$21,500 From The Monmouth County Democratic Association.** (New Jersey Election Law Enforcement Commission, Accessed 7/31/23)
- **Between 2011 And 2021, Gopal Received \$18,900 From The New Jersey Apartment Association.** (New Jersey Election Law Enforcement Commission, Accessed 7/31/23)
- **Between 2011 And 2021, Gopal Received \$16,900 From The Electrical Workers Local 164.** (New Jersey Election Law Enforcement Commission, Accessed 7/31/23)

- **Between 2011 And 2021, Gopal Received \$16,400 From Horizon Blue Cross Blue Shield Of New Jersey.** (New Jersey Election Law Enforcement Commission, Accessed 7/31/23)
- **Between 2011 And 2021, Gopal Received \$16,400 From The Electrical Workers Local 456.** (New Jersey Election Law Enforcement Commission, Accessed 7/31/23)
- **Between 2011 And 2021, Gopal Received \$16,300 From The New Jersey Education Association.** (New Jersey Election Law Enforcement Commission, Accessed 7/31/23)
- **Between 2011 And 2021, Gopal Received \$16,100 From The Sheet Metal Workers Local 27.** (New Jersey Election Law Enforcement Commission, Accessed 7/31/23)
- **Between 2011 And 2021, Gopal Received \$14,700 From The Electrical Workers Local 94.** (New Jersey Election Law Enforcement Commission, Accessed 7/31/23)
- **Between 2011 And 2021, Gopal Received \$9,200 From IBEW.** (New Jersey Election Law Enforcement Commission, Accessed 7/31/23)
- **Between 2011 And 2021, Gopal Received \$8,200 From The Phil Murphy Campaign Committee.** (New Jersey Election Law Enforcement Commission, Accessed 7/31/23)
- **Between 2011 And 2021, Gopal Received \$7,000 From AFSCME.** (New Jersey Election Law Enforcement Commission, Accessed 7/31/23)
- **Between 2011 And 2021, Gopal Received \$7,000 From SEIU.** (New Jersey Election Law Enforcement Commission, Accessed 7/31/23)
- **Between 2011 And 2021, Gopal Received \$5,200 From Princeton Public Affairs Group.** (New Jersey Election Law Enforcement Commission, Accessed 7/31/23)

***Individual Contributions***

**Federal Election Commission**

**According To The Federal Election Commission, Gopal Has Contributed An Aggregate Of \$20,348.25 To Federal Campaign Committees.** ([Federal Election Commission](#), Accessed 7/31/23)

Recipient	Year	Amount	Amount Aggregate YTD	Earmarked
ACTBLUE	2010	\$ 0.25	\$ 0.25	CONTRIBUTION TO ACTBLUE
ACTBLUE	2008	\$ 50.00	\$ 50.00	EARMARK TO: WYKA FOR CONGRESS
ACTBLUE	2020	\$ 50.00	\$ 50.00	EARMARKED FOR BONNIE WATSON COLEMAN FOR CONGRESS (C00558437)
ACTBLUE	2020	\$ 50.00	\$ 50.00	EARMARKED FOR BOOKER

				VICTORY FUND (C00734319)
ACTBLUE	2016	\$ 100.00	\$ 150.00	EARMARKED FOR COLE FOR CONGRESS (C00608968)
ACTBLUE	2016	\$ 50.00	\$ 150.00	EARMARKED FOR COLE FOR CONGRESS (C00608968)
ACTBLUE	2016	\$ 100.00	\$ 100.00	EARMARKED FOR COMMITTEE TO ELECT PETER JACOB FOR CONGRESS (C00595694)
ACTBLUE	2016	\$ 100.00	\$ 200.00	EARMARKED FOR COMMITTEE TO ELECT PETER JACOB FOR CONGRESS (C00595694)
ACTBLUE	2020	\$ 100.00	\$ 350.00	EARMARKED FOR DOUG JONES FOR US SENATE (C00640623)
ACTBLUE	2013	\$ 50.00	\$ 50.00	EARMARKED FOR MARCUS BRANDON FOR US CONGRESS (C00544668)
ACTBLUE	2019	\$ 75.00	\$ 75.00	EARMARKED FOR MICHAEL BLAKE FOR CONGRESS (C00703603)
ACTBLUE	2012	\$ 125.00	\$ 125.00	EARMARKED FOR NEW JERSEY DEMOCRATIC STATE COMMITTEE - FEDERAL ACCOUNT (C00104471)
ACTBLUE	2011	\$ 111.00	\$ -	EARMARKED FOR NEW JERSEY DEMOCRATIC STATE COMMITTEE - FEDERAL ACCOUNT (C00104471)

ACTBLUE	2010	\$ 75.00	\$ 75.00	EARMARKED FOR PALLONE FOR CONGRESS (C00409599)
ACTBLUE	2009	\$ 100.00	\$ 100.00	EARMARKED FOR PALLONE FOR CONGRESS (C00409599)
ACTBLUE	2009	\$ 50.00	\$ 50.00	EARMARKED FOR PALLONE FOR CONGRESS (C00409599)
ACTBLUE	2019	\$ 3.00	\$ 3.00	EARMARKED FOR PETE FOR AMERICA, INC (C00697441)
ACTBLUE	2016	\$ 100.00	\$ 100.00	EARMARKED FOR PHILLIPSON FOR CONGRESS (C00607424)
ACTBLUE	2020	\$ 100.00	\$ 100.00	EARMARKED FOR STEPHANIE FOR NEW JERSEY (C00717611)
ACTBLUE	2019	\$ 50.00	\$ 50.00	EARMARKED FOR WENDY DAVIS FOR CONGRESS (C00713297)
AMY MCGRATH FOR SENATE, INC.	2020	\$ 250.00	\$ 250.00	EARMARKED THROUGH ACTBLUE 10-08- 2020 \$220,334.70 - SEE MEMO ON SCH A FOR LINE 11C
BATTLEGROUND SENATE VICTORY 2016	2016	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00	
CATHERINE CORTEZ MASTO FOR SENATE	2016	\$ 500.00	\$ 500.00	
CORY 2020	2019	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00	
CORY 2020	2019	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 2,000.00	
DOUG JONES FOR SENATE COMMITTEE	2020	\$ 100.00	\$ 350.00	* EARMARKED CONTRIBUTION: SEE BELOW
DOUG JONES FOR SENATE COMMITTEE	2020	\$ 250.00	\$ 350.00	* EARMARKED CONTRIBUTION: SEE BELOW



FRIENDS OF RAJA FOR CONGRESS	2016	\$ 500.00	\$ 500.00	
FRIENDS OF ROY CHO INC	2013	\$ 400.00	\$ 400.00	
FRIENDS OF SURAJ PATEL	2020	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00	* EARMARKED CONTRIBUTION: SEE BELOW
FUTURE NOW FUND	2020	\$ 250.00	\$ 250.00	
GEORGIA SENATE VICTORY FUND	2020	\$ 500.00	\$ 500.00	* EARMARKED CONTRIBUTION: SEE BELOW
HIRAL FOR CONGRESS	2020	\$ 250.00	\$ 250.00	* EARMARKED CONTRIBUTION: SEE BELOW
INDIAN AMERICAN LEADERSHIP INITIATIVE POLITICAL ACTION COMMITTEE	2011	\$ 500.00	\$ 500.00	
JAIME HARRISON FOR US SENATE	2020	\$ 250.00	\$ 250.00	* EARMARKED CONTRIBUTION: SEE BELOW
JON OSSOFF FOR SENATE	2020	\$ 250.00	\$ 250.00	
JOSH GOTTHEIMER FOR CONGRESS	2016	\$ 250.00	\$ 250.00	
JOSH GOTTHEIMER FOR CONGRESS	2020	\$ 500.00	\$ 500.00	
JOSH GOTTHEIMER FOR CONGRESS	2022	\$ 250.00	\$ 250.00	
JOSH WELLE FOR CONGRESS	2018	\$ 250.00	\$ 250.00	
KENDRICK MEEK FOR FLORIDA INC	2010	\$ 500.00	\$ 500.00	
LINDA STENDER FOR CONGRESS	2008	\$ 500.00	\$ 500.00	
MENENDEZ FOR SENATE	2018	\$ 500.00	\$ 1,000.00	
MENENDEZ FOR SENATE	2018	\$ 500.00	\$ 1,000.00	
MENENDEZ FOR SENATE	2018	\$ 500.00	\$ 1,000.00	
MENENDEZ FOR SENATE	2018	\$ 500.00	\$ 1,000.00	
MENENDEZ FOR SENATE	2018	\$ 500.00	\$ 1,000.00	

MENENDEZ FOR SENATE	2018	\$ 500.00	\$ 1,000.00	
MENENDEZ VICTORY FUND	2018	\$ 500.00	\$ 1,000.00	* EARMARKED CONTRIBUTION: SEE BELOW
MENENDEZ VICTORY FUND	2018	\$ 500.00	\$ 1,000.00	* EARMARKED CONTRIBUTION: SEE BELOW
MIKIE SHERRILL FOR CONGRESS	2020	\$ 250.00	\$ 250.00	* EARMARKED CONTRIBUTION: SEE BELOW
NEW JERSEY DEMOCRATIC STATE COMMITTEE	2014	\$ 228.00	\$ 228.00	EARMARKED THROUGH ACTBLUE.
NEW JERSEY DEMOCRATIC STATE COMMITTEE	2013	\$ 226.00	\$ 226.00	EARMARKED THROUGH ACTBLUE.
NEW JERSEY DEMOCRATIC STATE COMMITTEE	2015	\$ 360.00	\$ 360.00	EARMARKED CONTRIBUTION THROUGH ACTBLUE
PALLONE FOR CONGRESS	2010	\$ 500.00	\$ 500.00	PARTNER SHARE - DIRECT DEVELOPMENT LLC
PALLONE FOR CONGRESS	2011	\$ 150.00	\$ 650.00	
PALLONE FOR CONGRESS	2017	\$ 250.00	\$ 250.00	
PALLONE FOR SENATE	2013	\$ 250.00	\$ 250.00	
PASCRELL FOR CONGRESS	2012	\$ 250.00	\$ 250.00	
PROGRESSIVE VOTE AKA PROGRESSIVE DEMOCRATS OF AMERICA	2008	\$ 300.00	\$ 325.00	
PROGRESSIVE VOTE AKA PROGRESSIVE DEMOCRATS OF AMERICA	2008	\$ 30.00	\$ 355.00	
PROGRESSIVE VOTE AKA PROGRESSIVE DEMOCRATS OF AMERICA	2008	\$ 10.00	\$ 365.00	
PROGRESSIVE VOTE AKA PROGRESSIVE DEMOCRATS OF AMERICA	2008	\$ 5.00	\$ 370.00	

SARA GIDEON FOR MAINE	2020	\$ 250.00	\$ 250.00	* EARMARKED CONTRIBUTION: SEE BELOW
SRI FOR CONGRESS	2020	\$ 250.00	\$ 250.00	* EARMARKED CONTRIBUTION: SEE BELOW
STEPHANIE FOR NEW JERSEY	2020	\$ 100.00	\$ 600.00	
STEPHANIE FOR NEW JERSEY	2020	\$ 500.00	\$ 600.00	
STRICKLAND FOR SENATE	2016	\$ 500.00	\$ 500.00	
WARNOCK FOR GEORGIA	2020	\$ 250.00	\$ 250.00	

([Federal Election Commission](#), Accessed 7/31/23)

**New Jersey Election Law Enforcement Commission**

**According To The New Jersey Election Law Enforcement Commission, Gopal Contributed An Aggregate Of \$18,068.67 To Campaign Committees In The State Of New Jersey.** (New Jersey Election Law Enforcement Commission, Accessed 7/31/23)

Election Year	Contribution Amount	Recipient
2013	\$ 2,000.00	ALTOMONTE & KRAUSE CTE
2011	\$ 200.00	AUBOURG, YVES FRANCOIS
2013	\$ 340.00	BENSON, DANIEL R
2009	\$ 400.00	BISHOP & BOLGER
2020	\$ 500.00	BRENNAN, THOMAS
2011	\$ 500.00	BUONO, BARBARA
2009	\$ 1,600.00	BYRNES, SEAN F
2009	\$ 205.00	BYRNES, SEAN F
2009	\$ 600.00	BYRNES, SEAN F
2017	\$ 500.00	CRYAN, JOSEPH
2016	\$ 500.00	DOHERTY, MATTHEW
2018	\$ 500.00	FAHL, JULIA
2017	\$ 2,996.00	GOPAL, VIN
2017	\$ (2,996.00)	GOPAL, VIN
2013	\$ 20.00	GUSCIORA, REED
2023	\$ 400.00	GUY, CRAIG
2016	\$ 100.00	HORGAN & YNGSTROM FOR COUNCIL
2016	\$ 300.00	HORGAN & YNGSTROM FOR COUNCIL
2017	\$ 500.00	LANDE, DAVID H
2016	\$ 35.00	MONMOUTH COUNTY DEMOCRATS
2015	\$ 35.00	MONMOUTH COUNTY DEMOCRATS
2016	\$ 35.00	MONMOUTH COUNTY DEMOCRATS

2015	\$	35.00	MONMOUTH COUNTY DEMOCRATS
2011	\$	25.00	MONMOUTH COUNTY DEMOCRATS
2015	\$	35.00	MONMOUTH COUNTY DEMOCRATS
2015	\$	35.00	MONMOUTH COUNTY DEMOCRATS
2019	\$	35.00	MONMOUTH COUNTY DEMOCRATS
2015	\$	35.00	MONMOUTH COUNTY DEMOCRATS
2019	\$	35.00	MONMOUTH COUNTY DEMOCRATS
2015	\$	35.00	MONMOUTH COUNTY DEMOCRATS
2019	\$	35.00	MONMOUTH COUNTY DEMOCRATS
2011	\$	150.00	MONMOUTH COUNTY DEMOCRATS
2016	\$	35.00	MONMOUTH COUNTY DEMOCRATS
2016	\$	35.00	MONMOUTH COUNTY DEMOCRATS
2011	\$	40.00	MONMOUTH COUNTY DEMOCRATS
2009	\$	25.00	MONMOUTH COUNTY DEMOCRATS
2022	\$	1,374.92	MOOR & KENDLE ASBURY TOGETHER
2015	\$	600.00	MUKHERJI, RAJ
2009	\$	500.00	MURPHY & DUPONT RED BANK DEMOCRATIC CAMPAIGN 2009
2017	\$	100.00	MURPHY, PHILIP
2017	\$	250.00	MURPHY, PHILIP
2017	\$	283.75	MURPHY, PHILIP
2017	\$	1,000.00	MURPHY, PHILIP
2005	\$	650.00	PANTER & MORGAN FOR ASSEMBLY
2018	\$	250.00	PARISI, ROBERT
2018	\$	100.00	PONSI, ADAM
2020	\$	1,000.00	RUSSO, BOB J
2020	\$	500.00	RUSSO, BOB J
2014	\$	300.00	SAYEGH, ANDRE
2021	\$	300.00	SORIANO, MICHAEL
2020	\$	500.00	SPILLER, SEAN M
2013	\$	500.00	VITALE, JOSEPH F

(New Jersey Election Law Enforcement Commission, Accessed 7/31/23)

## VOTING RECORDS

*Vinod Gopal has been an actively-registered Democratic Party voter in Monmouth County, New Jersey since September 17, 2008; Gopal originally registered in April 2004 but had his registration briefly cancelled in 2008. Since 2004, Gopal has failed to vote in at least four elections.*

### Monmouth County, NJ

**According To The Monmouth County Superintendent Of Elections, Gopal Has Been An Actively-Registered Democratic Party Voter In Monmouth County, New Jersey Since September 17, 2008.** (Voter Profile Report: Vinod Gopal, Monmouth County Superintendent Of Elections, Filed 9/17/08, New Jersey Open Records Law Request, Filled 7/11/23)

**Voter Information:**

**Voter Name:** VINOD GOPAL  
**DOB:** 05/18/1985  
**Voter ID:** J5211453037  
**Legacy ID:** 150759160

**Residence Address:**

**County:** Monmouth  
**Street Number:** 7  
**Street Name:** BAY AVE  
**Address Line 2:**  
**Municipality:** Long Branch City  
**City:** LONG BRANCH  
**State:** NJ  
**Zipcode:** 077407904

**Party Information:**

**Current Party:** Democratic  
**Party Privilege Date:** 10/08/2008

**Miscellaneous:**

**Gender:** Male  
**Registration Date:** 09/17/2008  
**Registration Type:** Agency

**Status Information:**

**Voting Privilege Date:** 10/08/2008  
**Date Last Voted:** 06/06/2023  
**Current Status:** Active  
**Poll Worker Status:**

**Mailing Address:**

**Address:**

**Inactive Confirmation Address:**

**Address:**

(Voter Profile Report: Vinod Gopal, Monmouth County Superintendent Of Elections, Filed 9/17/08, New Jersey Open Records Law Request, Filled 7/11/23)

**Gopal Originally Registered In April 2004 But Appears To Have Had His Registration Deleted.** (Voter Profile Report: Vinod Gopal, Monmouth County Superintendent Of Elections, Filed 4/20/04 New Jersey Open Records Law Request, Filled 7/11/23)

**Voter Information:**

**Voter Name:** VINOD GOPAL  
**DOB:** 05/18/1985  
**Voter ID:** H4587352242  
**Legacy ID:** 114387574

**Residence Address:**

**County:** Monmouth  
**Street Number:** 7  
**Street Name:** Canby Dr  
**Address Line 2:**  
**Municipality:** Colts Neck Township  
**City:** Colts Neck  
**State:** NJ  
**Zipcode:** 077221491

**Party Information:**

**Current Party:** Democratic  
**Party Privilege Date:** 04/20/2004

**Miscellaneous:**

**Gender:**  
**Registration Date:** 03/22/2004  
**Registration Type:** Mail In

**Status Information:**

**Voting Privilege Date:** 04/20/2004  
**Date Last Voted:** 02/05/2008  
**Current Status:** Deleted  
**Deleted Date:** 03/21/2006  
**Deleted Reason:** Duplicate  
**Poll Worker Status:**

**Mailing Address:**

**Address:** 7 CANBY DR  
 COLTS NECK NJ 07722

**Inactive Confirmation Address:**

**Address:**

(Voter Profile Report: Vinod Gopal, Monmouth County Superintendent Of Elections, Filed 4/20/04 New Jersey Open Records Law Request, Filled 7/11/23)

**Since 2004, Gopal Has Failed To Vote In At Least Four Elections: The 2006, 2007, 2009, And 2010 Primary Elections.** (Voter Profile Report: Vinod Gopal, Monmouth County Superintendent Of Elections, Filed 4/20/04 New Jersey Open Records Law Request, Filled 7/11/23)

Election Name	Election Date	Election Type	Election Code	Ballot Type	County Voted In	Municipality Voted In	Party Affiliation	Memo	User Scanned	Date Scanned	Date Counted	Ballot Status
PRIMARY ELECTION	06/06/2023	Primary	STATE PE	Mail In	Monmouth	Long Branch City	Democratic		moboetjohn001	06/22/2023	06/22/2023	Accepted
GENERAL ELECTION	11/08/2022	General	STATE GE	Mail In	Monmouth	Long Branch City	Democratic		moboetjohn001	11/22/2022	11/22/2022	Accepted
PRIMARY ELECTION	06/07/2022	Primary	STATE PE	Mail In	Monmouth	Long Branch City	Democratic		moboetjohn001	06/21/2022	06/21/2022	Accepted
MUNICIPAL ELECTION	05/10/2022	Municipal	M 2022	Mail In	Monmouth	Long Branch City	Democratic		moboetjohn001	05/19/2022	05/19/2022	Accepted
GENERAL ELECTION	11/02/2021	General	STATE GE	Mail In	Monmouth	Long Branch City	Democratic		moboiejpome001	11/17/2021	11/17/2021	Accepted
PRIMARY ELECTION	06/08/2021	Primary	STATE PE	Mail In	Monmouth	Long Branch City	Democratic		moboiejpome001	06/21/2021	06/21/2021	Accepted
GENERAL ELECTION	11/03/2020	General	STATE GE	Mail In	Monmouth	Long Branch City	Democratic		moboiejpome001	11/24/2020	11/24/2020	Accepted
PRIMARY ELECTION	07/07/2020	Primary	STATE PE	Mail In	Monmouth	Long Branch City	Democratic		moboiejpome001	08/04/2020	08/04/2020	Accepted
GENERAL ELECTION	11/05/2019	General	STATE GE 2019	Mail In	Monmouth	Long Branch City			MNBJPOME	11/15/2019	11/14/2019	Accepted
PRIMARY ELECTION	06/04/2019	Primary	STATE PE 2019	Provisional	Monmouth	Long Branch City	Democratic		MNBKSIKA	06/18/2019	06/04/2019	Rejected
GENERAL ELECTION	11/06/2018	General	STATE GE 2018	Mail In	Monmouth	Long Branch City			MNBJPOME	11/20/2018	11/19/2018	Accepted
PRIMARY ELECTION	06/05/2018	Primary	STATE PE 2018	Machine	Monmouth	Long Branch City	Democratic		MNSRBISH	06/12/2018	06/05/2018	
MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS	05/08/2018	Municipal	M 2018	Machine	Monmouth	Long Branch City			MNSCMOUN	05/09/2018	05/08/2018	
GENERAL ELECTION	11/07/2017	General	STATE GE 2017	Mail In	Monmouth	Long Branch City			MNBJPOME	11/17/2017	11/17/2017	Accepted
PRIMARY ELECTION	06/06/2017	Primary	STATE PE 2017	Machine	Monmouth	Long Branch City	Democratic		MNSLGATE	06/16/2017	06/06/2017	
GENERAL ELECTION	11/08/2016	General	STATE GENERAL 2016	Mail In	Monmouth	Long Branch City			MNBJPOME	11/22/2016	11/22/2016	Accepted
PRIMARY ELECTION	06/07/2016	Primary	STATE PE 2016	Machine	Monmouth	Long Branch City	Democratic		MNSMWADR	06/24/2016	06/07/2016	
GENERAL ELECTION	11/03/2015	General	STATE GE 2015	Mail In	Monmouth	Long Branch City			MNBJPOME	11/07/2015	11/06/2015	Accepted
PRIMARY ELECTION	06/02/2015	Primary	STATE PE 2015	Machine	Monmouth	Long Branch City	Democratic		MNSKMATU	06/04/2015	06/02/2015	
GENERAL ELECTION	11/04/2014	General	STATE GE 2014	Machine	Monmouth	Long Branch City			MNSMWADR	11/13/2014	11/04/2014	
PRIMARY ELECTION	06/03/2014	Primary	STATE PE 2014	Machine	Monmouth	Long Branch City	Democratic		MNSJHOFF	06/09/2014	06/03/2014	
MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS	05/13/2014	Municipal	M	Machine	Monmouth	Long Branch City			MNSJMAZU	05/14/2014	05/13/2014	
GENERAL ELECTION	11/05/2013	General	STATE GE 2013	Mail In	Monmouth	Long Branch City			MNBPGUDE	11/08/2013	11/08/2013	Accepted
SPECIAL GENERAL ELECTION FOR US SENATE	10/16/2013	General	STATE SPECIAL GE 2013	Provisional	Monmouth	Long Branch City			MNBPGUDE	10/22/2013	10/16/2013	Rejected
SPECIAL PRIMARY ELECTION FOR US SENATE	08/13/2013	Primary	STATE SPECIAL PE 2013	Machine	Monmouth	Long Branch City	Democratic		MNSJHOFF	08/22/2013	08/13/2013	
PRIMARY ELECTION	06/04/2013	Primary	STATE PE 2013	Machine	Monmouth	Long Branch City	Democratic		MNSJHOFF	06/11/2013	06/04/2013	
GENERAL ELECTION	11/06/2012	General	GE 2012	Provisional	Monmouth	Long Branch City			MNBPGUDE	02/08/2013	11/06/2012	Accepted
PRIMARY ELECTION	06/05/2012	Primary	STATE PE 2012	Machine	Monmouth	Long Branch City	Democratic		MNSJHOFF	06/14/2012	06/05/2012	
STATE GENERAL ELECTION	11/08/2011	General	STATE GE 110811	Mail In	Monmouth	Long Branch City			MNBPGUDE	11/14/2011	11/14/2011	Accepted

STATE PRIMARY	06/07/2011	Primary	STATE PE 2011	Machine	Monmouth	Long Branch City	Democratic	MNSJHOFF	06/10/2011	06/07/2011
STATE GENERAL 2010	11/02/2010	General	STATE GE 110210	Mail In	Monmouth	Long Branch City		MNBPGUDE	12/13/2010	12/13/2010 Accepted
STATE GENERAL ELECTION	11/03/2009	General	STATE GE 110309	Mail In	Monmouth	West Long Branch Borough		MNBPGATT	12/01/2009	12/01/2009 Accepted
GENERAL ELECTION	11/04/2008	General	00004	Machine	Monmouth	West Long Branch Borough		MNSMVINY	11/19/2008	11/04/2008
PRESIDENTIAL PRIMARY	02/05/2008	Primary	PRESIDENTIALPRIMARY	Machine			Democratic	MNSABARB	02/05/2008	02/05/2008
STATE-GENERAL ELECTION	11/06/2007	General	STATE11062007	Machine				MNSCLEHR	11/06/2007	11/06/2007
GENERAL 11/07/2006	11/07/2006	General	00040	Mail In				MNSLCURR	08/01/2007	11/07/2006
SCHOOL ELECTION	04/18/2006	Annual School	00004	Machine				MWOJCIK	09/15/2006	04/18/2006
GENERAL 11/02/2004	11/02/2004	General	00040	Mail In				CONV	12/11/2001	11/02/2004
PRIMARY 06/08/2004	06/08/2004	Primary	00040	Machine			Democratic	CONV	12/11/2001	06/08/2004

(Voter Profile Report: Vinod Gopal, Monmouth County Superintendent Of Elections, Filed 4/20/04 New Jersey Open Records Law Request, Filled 7/11/23)

### PUBLIC COMPENSATION

*Since 2018, Vin Gopal has received an aggregate of \$269,500 in taxpayer-funded compensation while serving in the New Jersey State Senate.*

#### *New Jersey State Senate (2018-Pres.)*

**Since 2018, Gopal Has Received An Aggregate Of \$269,500 In Taxpayer-Funded Compensation While Serving In The New Jersey State Senate.** ([NJ Open Data Center](#), Accessed 7/31/23)

Full Name	Year	Qtr	Department	Section	Title	Employee Relations Group (ERG)	Annual Salary	YTD Regular Payments	YTD Overtime Payments	YTD Other Payments	YTD Total Payments
Q GOPAL, VINOD	2023	2	LEGISLATURE	LEGISLATIVE-SENATORS	SENATOR	N/A	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$24,500.01	\$24,500.01
Q GOPAL, VINOD	2022	4	LEGISLATURE	LEGISLATIVE-SENATORS	SENATOR	N/A	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$49,000.00	\$49,000.00
Q GOPAL, VINOD	2021	4	LEGISLATURE	LEGISLATIVE-SENATORS	SENATOR	N/A	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$49,000.00	\$49,000.00
Q GOPAL, VINOD	2020	4	LEGISLATURE	LEGISLATIVE-SENATORS	SENATOR	N/A	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$49,000.00	\$49,000.00
Q GOPAL, VINOD	2019	4	LEGISLATURE	LEGISLATIVE-SENATORS	SENATOR	N/A	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$49,000.00	\$49,000.00
Q GOPAL, VINOD	2018	4	LEGISLATURE	LEGISLATIVE-SENATORS	SENATOR	N/A	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$49,000.00	\$49,000.00

([NJ Open Data Center](#), Accessed 7/31/23)

### CRIMINAL RECORDS

*Vin Gopal has received at least 38 traffic and parking citations in the state of New Jersey for offenses such as unsafe operation of a vehicle, careless driving, obstructing the passage of other vehicles, delaying traffic, and speeding.*

#### *Traffic & Parking Citations*

**Gopal Has Received At Least 38 Traffic And Parking Citations In The State Of New Jersey For Offenses Such As Unsafe Operation Of A Vehicle, Careless Driving, Obstructing The Passage Of Other Vehicles, Delaying Traffic, And Speeding.** (New Jersey Municipal Court Case Search, Accessed 8/1/23)



Court Name	Case Number	Offense	Offense Description	Offense Date	Court Date/ Pay by Date	Case Status	Warrant Status
NEWARK MUNICIPAL COURT	P46 130247	23:7-6	OVERTIME PARKING AT METER	03/25/2013	04/09/2013	Disposed	
ROSELAND BORO MUNICIPAL COURT	SP5 307833	39:4-56	DELAYING TRAFFIC	05/06/2014	05/28/2014	Disposed	
BAYONNE CITY MUNICIPAL COURT	P37 130433	7-13.2	PARKING TIME LIMITED-METER PARKING	05/06/2013	05/28/2013	Disposed	
NORTH BRUNSWICK COURT	E13 7376	39:4-98 .09	SPEEDING (.09 INDICATES EXCEEDING BY 1-9 MPH)	05/13/2013	07/09/2013	Disposed	
NORTH BRUNSWICK COURT	E13 7377	39:3-74	OBSTRUCTION OF WINDSHIELD FOR VISION	05/13/2013	07/09/2013	Disposed	
SAYREVILLE MUNICIPAL COURT	L 67050	39:4-98 .14	SPEEDING (.14 INDICATES EXCEEDING BY 10-14 MPH)	03/29/2006	07/13/2006	Disposed	
SOUTH AMBOY MUNICIPAL COURT	A 62453	39:3-74	OBSTRUCTION OF WINDSHIELD FOR VISION	05/03/2012	05/15/2012	Disposed	
SOUTH AMBOY MUNICIPAL COURT	A 62454	39:3-29C	FAIL TO POSS DRIV INS CARD	05/03/2012	07/12/2012	Disposed	
ALLENHURST BORO MUNICIPAL CT	C 7238	39:3-76.2F	FAILURE TO WEARSEAT EQUIPMENT-RESPONSIBILITY OF DRIVER	06/03/2012	06/21/2012	Disposed	
ASBURY PARK MUNICIPAL COURT	P05 225201	7-11.2	OVERTIME METER PARKING	12/14/2022	01/05/2023	Disposed	

Court Name	Case Number	Offense	Offense Description	Offense Date	Court Date/ Pay by Date	Case Status	Warrant Status
ASBURY PARK MUNICIPAL COURT	P16 171249	7-11.2	OVERTIME METER PARKING	05/04/2017	06/15/2017	Disposed	
COLTS NECK TWP MUNICIPAL COURT	E18 14	39:4-97	CARELESS DRIVING: LIKELY TO ENDANGER PERSON OR PROPERTY	01/07/2018	01/21/2018	Disposed	
COLTS NECK TWP MUNICIPAL COURT	H 13024	39:4-97.2	UNSAFE OPERATION OF VEHICLE	10/12/2008	11/14/2008	Disposed	
COLTS NECK TWP MUNICIPAL COURT	H 13025	39:3-29	FAILURE TO POSSESS DL OR REG	10/12/2008	11/14/2008	Disposed	
AVON-BY-THE-SEA MUNICIPAL CT	C 15743	39:4-58	VEHICLE LOADED OBSTRUCTING VIEW	07/29/2011	09/06/2011	Disposed	
BRIELLE BORO MUNICIPAL COURT	BB 8800	39:3-66	MAINTENANCE OF LAMPS	01/06/2007	01/23/2007	Disposed	
DEAL BORO MUNICIPAL COURT	D 55620	39:4-98 .09	SPEEDING (.09 INDICATES EXCEEDING BY 1-9 MPH)	01/01/2011	02/07/2011	Disposed	
EATONTOWN MUNICIPAL COURT	E 38126	39:4-97	CARELESS DRIVING: LIKELY TO ENDANGER PERSON OR PROPERTY	09/18/2008	10/10/2008	Disposed	
EATONTOWN MUNICIPAL COURT	E 38127	39:3-76.2F	FAILURE TO WEARSEAT EQUIPMENT-RESPONSIBILITY OF DRIVER	09/18/2008	10/10/2008	Disposed	
EATONTOWN MUNICIPAL COURT	E 38128	39:3-4	DRIVING OR PARKING UNREGISTERED MOTOR VEHICLE	09/18/2008	10/10/2008	Disposed	

Court Name	Case Number	Offense	Offense Description	Offense Date	Court Date/ Pay by Date	Case Status	Warrant Status
FREEHOLD BORO MUNICIPAL COURT	226466	39:3-76.2F	FAILURE TO WEARSEAT EQUIPMENT-RESPONSIBILITY OF DRIVER	02/19/2013	03/12/2013	Disposed	
HOLMDEL TWP MUNICIPAL COURT	P 6858	39:3-76.2F	FAILURE TO WEARSEAT EQUIPMENT-RESPONSIBILITY OF DRIVER	03/12/2010	03/29/2010	Disposed	
HOWELL TWP MUNICIPAL COURT	E20 2119	39:4-97.2	UNSAFE OPERATION OF VEHICLE	10/19/2020	01/29/2021	Disposed	
HOWELL TWP MUNICIPAL COURT	E20 2120	39:4-98 .19	SPEEDING (.19 INDICATES EXCEEDING BY 15-19 MPH)	10/19/2020	01/29/2021	Disposed	
LITTLE SILVER BORO COURT	E22 511	39:4-56	DELAYING TRAFFIC	03/23/2022	04/06/2022	Disposed	
OCEAN TOWNSHIP MUNICIPAL COURT	A 197523	39:4-67	OBSTRUCTING PASSAGE OF OTHER VEHICLES	05/01/2009	08/11/2009	Disposed	Recalled
OCEAN TOWNSHIP MUNICIPAL COURT	A 215668	39:4-67	OBSTRUCTING PASSAGE OF OTHER VEHICLES	02/13/2012	02/21/2012	Disposed	
RED BANK BORO MUNICIPAL COURT	E19 9212	8-2.9B	METER EXPIRED	08/06/2019	08/20/2019	Disposed	
RED BANK BORO MUNICIPAL COURT	E23 2733	8-2.9B	METER EXPIRED	03/07/2023	04/17/2023	Disposed	
RED BANK BORO MUNICIPAL COURT	P07 90920	8-2.9B	METER EXPIRED	03/31/2009	05/14/2009	Disposed	

Court Name	Case Number	Offense	Offense Description	Offense Date	Court Date/ Pay by Date	Case Status	Warrant Status
SEA BRIGHT BORO MUNICIPAL CT	SB 35889	39:3-74	OBSTRUCTION OF WINDSHIELD FOR VISION	09/27/2012	10/11/2012	Disposed	
SHREWSBURY BORO MUNI COURT	SHB 30368	39:4-56	DELAYING TRAFFIC	01/08/2018	02/07/2018	Disposed	
POINT PLEASANT BEACH MUN CT	P05 90224	10-3.2	OVERTIME PARKING	05/31/2009	07/15/2009	Disposed	
ELIZABETH MUNICIPAL COURT	SP4 184519	39:4-98 .09	SPEEDING (.09 INDICATES EXCEEDING BY 1-9 MPH)	09/08/2008	10/01/2008	Disposed	
EDISON TWP MUNICIPAL COURT	E11 8531	39:4-81C	FAILURE TO OBSERVE TRAFFIC CONTROL DEVICE (CAMERA)	10/16/2011	12/20/2011	Disposed	
PISCATAWAY TWP MUNICIPAL COURT	E13 8421	39:4-81C	FAILURE TO OBSERVE TRAFFIC CONTROL DEVICE (CAMERA)	02/03/2013	03/20/2013	Disposed	
WOODBRIIDGE MUNICIPAL COURT	56 109009	39:4-81	FAILURE TO OBSERVE TRAFFIC CONTROL DEVICE	06/03/2012	06/11/2012	Disposed	
WOODBRIIDGE MUNICIPAL COURT	55 3126	7-17	RESIDENTIAL PERMIT PARKING	03/04/2006	05/04/2006	Disposed	

(New Jersey Municipal Court Case Search, Accessed 8/1/23)



**POLICE RECORDS**

*NOTE: No immediately actionable information could be gleaned from municipal police records relating to Vin Gopal.*

**REAL PROPERTY RECORDS**

***7 Bay Avenue, Long Branch, NJ, Monmouth County***

*This is the primary residence owned by Vin Gopal and his wife, Christina Zuk through their holding company Renga, LLC. This single-family residence comprises four bedrooms and three bathrooms and has a 2022 assessed value of \$1,346,000. Gopal and his wife have owned the property since July 2021.*



([Monmouth County GIS](#), Accessed 7/31/23)

**Property Information**

Full Address:	7 Bay Avenue, Long Branch, NJ 07740
County:	Monmouth County
Parcel ID:	1327_480_3.01
Property Type:	Single-Family Residential
Owner:	RENGA, LLC
Sale Date:	07/16/2021
Sale Price:	\$1,265,000
Year Built:	2000
Total Bedrooms:	4
Total Bathrooms:	3
Total Square Footage:	3,124
2022 Assessed Value:	\$1,346,000

([Monmouth County Assessor](#), Accessed 7/31/23)

**Tax Information**

**In 2022, Gopal Paid \$17,427.96 In Total Municipal Property Taxes.** ([Monmouth County Assessor](#), Accessed 7/31/23)

ASSESSOR'S OFFICE CITY OF LONG BRANCH 344 BROADWAY LONG BRANCH NJ 07740		PRESORTED FIRST-CLASS MAIL U.S. POSTAGE PAID FREEHOLD NJ PERMIT #1	
DISTRICT: CITY OF LONG BRANCH			
NOTICE OF PROPERTY TAX ASSESSMENT FOR 2023		DATE MAILED: 11/15/22	
THIS NOTICE IS REQUIRED UNDER N.J.S.A. 54:4-38.1		#008026	
BLOCK: 480	LOT: 3.01	QUAL:	
PROPERTY LOCATION: 7 BAY AVE		CLASS: 2	
LAND: 708,200	BUILDING: 637,800	TOTAL:	1,346,000
NET PROPERTY TAXES BILLED FOR 2022		2022 ASSESSMENT	
WERE: \$17,427.96	TOTAL:		972,000
<b>THIS IS NOT A BILL. SEE OTHER SIDE FOR APPEAL INFORMATION.</b>			
7 BAY AVE LONG BRANCH, NJ		07740	

([Monmouth County Assessor](#), Accessed 7/31/23)

**BANKRUPTCIES, JUDGMENTS, & LIENS RECORDS**

*Vin Gopal has no personal financial issues; however, his businesses have been involved in several. On at least three occasions, Gopal's businesses have filed small claims against others; one of the cases settled while Gopal's business received default judgment in the other two, totaling \$831.50.*

***Small Claims***

**Direct Development LLC V. James Ruppert**

**In August 2020, Direct Development Filed A Small Claims Complaint Against James Ruppert Over A Contract Dispute, Demanding \$2,275 In Monmouth County, New Jersey.**

(Case No. MON DC 005193-20, *Direct Development LLC V. James Ruppert*, Monmouth County Superior Court, Filed 8/17/20)

Docket Number: MON DC 005193 - 20

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Case Caption: Direct Development L Vs Ruppert James  
 Court: Special Civil Part Venue: Monmouth Case Initiation Date: 08/17/2020 Age: 00 YR 00 MO  
 Case Type: Contract Dispute Case Status: Closed Demand Amount: \$2,275.00  
 Case Track: Judge: Jury Demand: None Disposition Date: 03/21/2022  
 Case Disposition: Settled-While Scheduled For Trial Statewide Lien:

Plaintiffs (1) Defendants (1) Case Proceedings (2) ACMS Documents (7) Fees (7)

▶ Direct Development L Lc [AKA](#)

(Case No. MON DC 005193-20, *Direct Development LLC V. James Ruppert*, Monmouth County Superior Court, Filed 8/17/20)

- **In March 2022, The Parties Agreed To Settle And The Case Was Dismissed With Prejudice.** (Case No. MON DC 005193-20, *Direct Development LLC V. James Ruppert*, Monmouth County Superior Court, Filed 3/21/22)

**Direct Development LLC V. Tri State Metal Erector**

**In April 2014, Direct Development Filed A Small Claims Complaint Against Tri State Metal Erector Over A Contract Dispute, Demanding \$250 In Monmouth County, New Jersey.** (Case No. MON SC 000915-14, *Direct Development LLC V. Tri State Metal Erector*, Monmouth County Superior Court, Filed 4/2/14)

Docket Number: MON SC 000915 - 14

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Case Caption: Direct Development L Vs Tri State Metal Erec Tor  
 Court: Special Civil Part Venue: Monmouth Case Initiation Date: 04/02/2014 Age: 00 YR 00 MO  
 Case Type: Contract-Small Claim Case Status: Defaulted Demand Amount: \$250.00  
 Case Track: Judge: Jury Demand: None Disposition Date: 05/08/2014  
 Case Disposition: Default Judgment Statewide Lien:

Plaintiffs (1) Defendants (1) Case Proceedings (2) Judgments (1) ACMS Documents (3) Fees (2)

▼ VJ-3852-14

<b>Debtor(s):</b> TOR TRI STATE METAL EREC	<b>Creditor(s):</b> LC COMMU N DIRECT DEVELOPMENT L	<b>Court Cost:</b> 22.00	<b>Interest:</b> 0.00
<b>File Date:</b> 05/13/2014	<b>Judgment Awarded:</b> 250.00	<b>Other Costs:</b> 0.00	<b>Credits:</b> 0.00
<b>Attorney Fees:</b> 12.50	<b>Judgment Total:</b> 284.50	<b>Status:</b> OPEN	<b>Status Date:</b> 05/14/2014

(Case No. MON SC 000915-14, *Direct Development LLC V. Tri State Metal Erector*, Monmouth County Superior Court, Filed 4/2/14)

- **In May 2014, Direct Development Received Default Judgment Of \$284.50.** (Case No. MON SC 000915-14, *Direct Development LLC V. Tri State Metal Erector*, Monmouth County Superior Court, Filed 5/13/14)

**Direct Development LLC V. Bayshore Construction Inc.**

**In April 2014, Direct Development Filed A Small Claims Complaint Against Bayshore Construction Over A Contract Dispute, Demanding \$500 In Monmouth County, New Jersey.** (Case No. MON SC 000916-14, *Direct Development LLC V. Bayshore Construction Inc.*, Monmouth County Superior Court, Filed 4/2/14)

Docket Number: MON SC 000916 - 14

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Create Summary Report

**Case Caption:** Direct Development L Vs Bayshore Constructio N Inc  
**Court:** Special Civil Part      **Venue:** Monmouth      **Case Initiation Date:** 04/02/2014      **Age:** 00 YR 00 MO  
**Case Type:** Contract-Small Claim      **Case Status:** Defaulted      **Demand Amount:** \$500.00  
**Case Track:**      **Judge:**      **Jury Demand:** None      **Disposition Date:** 05/08/2014  
**Case Disposition:** Default Judgment      **Statewide Lien:**

Plaintiffs (1)
Defendants (1)
Case Proceedings (2)
Judgments (1)
ACMS Documents (3)
Fees (2)

▼ VJ-3853-14

<b>Debtor(s):</b> N INC BAYSHORE CONSTRUCTIO	<b>Creditor(s):</b> LC/COMMUN I DIRECT DEVELOPMENT L	<b>Court Cost:</b> 22.00	<b>Interest:</b> 0.00
<b>File Date:</b> 05/13/2014	<b>Judgment Awarded:</b> 500.00	<b>Other Costs:</b> 0.00	<b>Credits:</b> 0.00
<b>Attorney Fees:</b> 25.00	<b>Judgment Total:</b> 547.00	<b>Status:</b> OPEN	<b>Status Date:</b> 05/14/2014

(Case No. MON SC 000916-14, *Direct Development LLC V. Bayshore Construction Inc.*, Monmouth County Superior Court, Filed 4/2/14)

- **In May 2014, Direct Development Received Default Judgment Of \$547.** (Case No. MON SC 000916-14, *Direct Development LLC V. Bayshore Construction Inc.*, Monmouth County Superior Court, Filed 4/2/14)

### LEGAL ISSUES

*While no personal legal issues could be found for Vin Gopal, his businesses have been involved in at least two legal matters. In both 2010 and 2016, Direct Development appears to have been named as a defendant in contract dispute lawsuits; both cases were dismissed following settlements.*

#### ***Deejay Associates Inc. V. Nassau Publications LLC, Et Al.***

**In May 2010, Deejay Associates And Several Others Filed A Breach Of Contract Complaint Against Direct Development And Several Others In Monmouth County, New Jersey.** (Case No. MON L 002184-10, *Deejay Associates Inc. V. Nassau Publications LLC, Et Al.*, Monmouth County Superior Court, Filed 5/3/10)

Docket Number: MON L 002184 - 10

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Create Summary Report

**Case Caption:** Deejay Assoc Inc Etals Vs Nassau Publications Etal  
**Court:** Civil Part  
**Case Type:** Contract/Commercial Transaction  
**Case Track:** 2  
**# of Discovery Days:** 740  
**Original Discovery End Date:** 05/05/2011  
**Original Arbitration Date:**  
**Original Trial Date:** 10/09/2012  
**Disposition Date:** 05/07/2014

**Venue:** Monmouth  
**Case Status:** Closed  
**Judge:** Dennis R Obrien  
**Age of Case:** 00 YR 00 MO  
**Current Discovery End Date:** 07/18/2012  
**Current Arbitration Date:**  
**Current Trial Date:**  
**Case Disposition:** Partially Tried

**Case Initiation Date:** 05/03/2010  
**Jury Demand:** 6 Jurors  
**Team:** 2  
**Consolidated Case:** N  
**# of DED Extensions:** 5  
**# of Arb Adjournments:** 0  
**# of Trial Date Adjournments:** 3  
**Statewide Lien:**

Plaintiffs (7)
**Defendants (7)**
Case Proceedings (90)
ACMS Documents (123)
Fees (121)

- ▶ John M Burtnick, Jr
- ▶ Carolyn Burtnick
- ▶ Direct Development Llc AKA
- ▶ Nassau Publicationsllc
- ▶ Nassau Holdings Of Princeton In
- ▶ Nassau Journals Llc
- ▶ Louis F Mercatanti

(Case No. MON L 002184-10, *Deejay Associates Inc. V. Nassau Publications LLC, Et Al.*, Monmouth County Superior Court, Filed 5/3/10)

- **In May 2014, The Parties Agreed To Settle And The Case Was Dismissed.** (Case No. MON L 002184-10, *Deejay Associates Inc. V. Nassau Publications LLC, Et Al.*, Monmouth County Superior Court, Filed 5/7/14)

***Beth Lasch V. Direct Development LLC***

**In October 2016, Beth Lasch Filed A Civil Tort Complaint Against Direct Development LLC In Monmouth County, New Jersey.** (Case No. MON L 003615-16, *Beth Lasch V. Direct Development LLC*, Monmouth County Superior Court, Filed 10/11/16)

Docket Number: MON L 003615 - 16

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Create Summary Report

**Case Caption:** Beth Lasch Vs Direct Development  
**Court:** Civil Part  
**Case Type:** Tort-Other  
**Case Track:** 2  
**# of Discovery Days:** 300  
**Original Discovery End Date:**  
**Original Arbitration Date:**  
**Original Trial Date:**  
**Disposition Date:** 01/25/2017

**Venue:** Monmouth  
**Case Status:** Closed  
**Judge:** Paul X Escandon  
**Age of Case:** 00 YR 00 MO  
**Current Discovery End Date:**  
**Current Arbitration Date:**  
**Current Trial Date:**  
**Case Disposition:** Dismissed By Court Without Prejudice

**Case Initiation Date:** 10/11/2016  
**Jury Demand:** None  
**Team:** 2  
**Consolidated Case:** N  
**# of DED Extensions:** 0  
**# of Arb Adjournments:** 0  
**# of Trial Date Adjournments:** 0  
**Statewide Lien:**

Plaintiffs (1)
**Defendants (1)**
Case Proceedings (6)
ACMS Documents (16)
Fees (16)

▼ Direct Development

<b>Party Description:</b> Business	<b>Party Status:</b> Dism W/O Pr	<b>Attorney Name:</b> Eric D Brophy
<b>Address Line 1:</b>	<b>Address Line 2:</b>	<b>Attorney Bar ID:</b> 034781999
<b>City:</b> <b>State:</b>	<b>Zip:</b> 00000	<b>Phone:</b>
<b>Attorney Email:</b>		

(Case No. MON L 003615-16, *Beth Lasch V. Direct Development LLC*, Monmouth County Superior Court, Filed 10/11/16)

- **In January 2017, The Case Was Dismissed After The Parties Most Likely Agreed To Settle.** (Case No. MON L 003615-16, *Beth Lasch V. Direct Development LLC*, Monmouth County Superior Court, Filed 1/25/17)

**BUSINESS RECORDS**

*Vin Gopal is the current manager of five New Jersey-domiciled businesses: Direct Communications and Consulting LLC, Tic Tac Toe Development LLC, Renga LLC, Renga II LLC, and Direct Development, LLC. Gopal is the former manager of at least four New Jersey-domiciled businesses: All-American Printing and Promotion, LLC, Monitor Publications LLC, Main Street, NJ LLC, and Raw Feed News, LLC.*

***New Jersey Businesses***

**Gopal Is The Current Manager Of Five New Jersey-Domiciled Businesses.** (New Jersey Department Of Treasury, Accessed 8/1/23)

- **Gopal Is A Former Manager Of Four New Jersey-Domiciled Businesses.** (New Jersey Department Of Treasury, Accessed 8/1/23)

<b>Business Name</b>	<b>Incorporation Date</b>	<b>Dissolution Date</b>	<b>Involvement</b>	<b>Reason For Dissolution</b>
Direct Communications And Consulting LLC	9/21/2020	N/A	Managing Member	N/A
Tic Tac Toe Development LLC	11/9/2016	N/A	Managing Member	N/A
Renga LLC	5/1/2021	N/A	Managing Member	N/A
Renga II LLC	5/1/2021	N/A	Managing Member	N/A
Direct Development, LLC	8/12/2008	N/A	Managing Member	N/A
All-American Printing And Promotion, LLC	4/9/2010	11/16/2014	Managing Member	Failed To File Annual Report For Two Consecutive Years
Monitor Publications LLC	2/9/2009	9/16/2012	Principal	Failed To File Annual Report For Two Consecutive Years
Main Street, NJ LLC	7/16/2014	2/16/2017	Principal	Failed To File Annual Report For Two Consecutive Years
Raw Feed News, LLC	6/18/2003	1/16/2007	Managing Member	Failed To File Annual Report For Two Consecutive Years

(New Jersey Department Of Treasury, Accessed 8/1/23)

### NON-PROFIT RECORDS

*Gopal is the current manager of the Vin Gopal Civic Association A NJ Nonprofit Corporation, which was incorporated*

*Gopal has also been listed as an uncompensated member of the Monmouth Conservation Foundation since 2019.*

#### ***Vin Gopal Civic Association A NJ Nonprofit Corporation***

**In May 2013, Gopal And Several Others Incorporated Jersey Promise A NJ Nonprofit Corporation As A Domestic Non-Profit With The New Jersey Department Of Treasury.**

(New Jersey Department Of Treasury, Filed 5/6/13)

CERTIFICATE OF INC, (NON PROFIT)

**JERSEY PROMISE A NJ NONPROFIT CORPORATION**  
0400571206

The above-named DOMESTIC NON-PROFIT CORPORATION was duly filed in accordance with New Jersey State Law on 05/06/2013 and was assigned identification number 0400571206. Following are the articles that constitute its original certificate.

- 1. **Name:**  
JERSEY PROMISE A NJ NONPROFIT CORPORATION
- 2. **Registered Agent:**  
DAVID G. BROWN II
- 3. **Registered Office:**  
692 GERARD AVENUE  
LONG BRANCH, NJ 07740
- 4. **Business Purpose:**  
Post Hurricane Sandy organization to assist in the community.
- 5. **Qualification as set forth herein:**  
AS SET FORTH IN THE BYLAWS
- 6. **Rights and Limitations of the members if not previously addressed:**  
AS SET FORTH IN THE BYLAWS
- 7. **Method of electing Trustees as set forth herein:**  
AS SET FORTH IN THE BYLAWS
- 8. **Asset Distribution:**  
AS SET FORTH IN THE BYLAWS



CERTIFICATE OF INC, (NON PROFIT)  
JERSEY PROMISE A NJ NONPROFIT CORPORATION  
0400571206

9. First Board of Trustees:

VIN GOPAL  
1338 HIGHWAY 36  
HAZLET, NJ 07730

DAVID G. BROWN II  
692 GERARD AVENUE  
LONG BRANCH, NJ 07740

RICH DINAN  
5 ANGELA CIRCLE  
HAZLET, NJ 07730

10. Incorporators:

VIN GOPAL  
1338 HIGHWAY 36  
HAZLET, NJ 07730

11. Main Business Address:

1338 HIGHWAY 36  
HAZLET, NJ 07730

Signatures:

VIN GOPAL

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF I HAVE

(New Jersey Department Of Treasury, Filed 5/6/13)

**In November 2015, Gopal Amended The Name To The Vin Gopal Civic Association A NJ Nonprofit Corporation.** (New Jersey Department Of Treasury, Filed 11/16/15)

Pursuant to the provisions of Title 15A:9-4 New Jersey Non-profit Corporation Act, the undersigned corporation executes the following Certificate of Amendment to its Certificate of Incorporation:

- 1. Name of the Corporation: Jersey Promise A NJ Corporation
- 2. NJ 10 digit ID Number: 0400-5712-06
- 3. Article I of the Certificate of Incorporation is hereby amended to read as follows:  
Name Changed to "Vin Gopal Civic Association, Inc."

- 4. The corporation  has  does not have members.
  - A. For Corporations WITH members:
    - Number entitled to vote \_\_\_\_\_ Voting FOR \_\_\_\_\_ Voting AGAINST \_\_\_\_\_
    - If any class or classes of members are entitled to vote as a class, set forth the number of members of each class, the series of votes of each class voting for and against, and the number of members present at the meeting, OR
    - \_\_\_\_\_ Adoption was by unanimous written consent without meeting.
    - Date of Adoption: \_\_\_\_\_
  - B. For Corporations WITHOUT members:
    - Number of Trustees 3 Voting FOR 3 Voting AGAINST 0
    - Trustees present at meeting \_\_\_\_\_ OR
    - Adoption was by unanimous written consent without meeting
    - Date of Adoption: September 15, 2015

5. Other Provisions:

Signature: Vin Gopal Date: 10/5/15  
(Must be Ch. Of Bd. Pres. Or Vice Pres)  
Name: Vin Gopal, President  
(Type Name and Title)

(New Jersey Department Of Treasury, Filed 11/16/15)



- **The Non-Profit Is Currently Active To Date.** (New Jersey Department Of Treasury, Accessed 7/1/23)

Status Report For: VIN GOPAL CIVIC ASSOCIATION A NJ NONPROFIT CORPORATION  
 Report Date: 8/1/2023  
 Confirmation Number: 232133075463

**IDENTIFICATION NUMBER, ENTITY TYPE AND STATUS INFORMATION**

Business ID Number: 0400571206  
 Business Type: NON PROFIT CORPORATION  
 Status: ACTIVE  
 Original Filing Date: 05/06/2013  
 Stock Amount: N/A  
 Home Jurisdiction: NJ  
 Status Change Date: NOT APPLICABLE

(New Jersey Department Of Treasury, Accessed 7/1/23)

***Monmouth Conservation Foundation***

**Gopal Has Been Listed As An Uncompensated Member Of The Monmouth Conservation Foundation Since 2019.** ([ProPublica](#), Accessed 8/1/23)

Person	Title	Organization Name	Fiscal Year	Org. City	Compensation From W-2 or 1099-MISC	Compensation From Related Orgs.
VIN GOPAL	DIRECTOR	MONMOUTH CONSERVATION FOUNDATION	2022	MIDDLETOWN, NJ	\$0	\$0
Vin Gopal	President	VIN GOPAL CIVIC ASSOCIATION ↳ JERSEY PROMISE	2021	TINTON FALLS, NJ	\$0	\$0
Vin Gopal	Presdient	VIN GOPAL CIVIC ASSOCIATION ↳ JERSEY PROMISE	2020	TINTON FALLS, NJ	\$0	\$0
Vin Gopal	President	VIN GOPAL CIVIC ASSOCIATION ↳ JERSEY PROMISE	2019	TINTON FALLS, NJ	\$0	\$0
VIN GOPAL	EX-OFFICIO	MONMOUTH CONSERVATION FOUNDATION	2019	MIDDLETOWN, NJ	\$0	\$0

([ProPublica](#), Accessed 8/1/23)

**PROFESSIONAL & RECREATIONAL LICENSES**

*NOTE: No professional or recreational licenses could be found for Vin Gopal.*

**PERSONAL FINANCIAL DISCLOSURE**

*On his 2022 Financial Disclosure Statement, Gopal declared he received between \$75,000 and at least \$99,999 in earned income while his wife received more than \$50,000. Gopal additionally listed unearned income from dividends and investments totaling between \$60,000 and \$84,999; Gopal disclosed two liabilities, both valued over \$50,000, for a commercial and personal property. Gopal stated he held interest in three business while listing six fiduciary positions; Gopal’s wife held three fiduciary positions.*

**2022 Financial Disclosure Statement**

**Earned Income**

**In 2022, Gopal Declared He Received More Than \$50,000 In Earned Income From Direct Communications & Consulting.** (2022 Financial Disclosure Statement, [New Jersey State Legislature](#), Filed 5/15/23)

**In 2022, Gopal Declared He Received Between \$25,000 And \$49,999 In Earned Income From The State Of New Jersey.** (2022 Financial Disclosure Statement, [New Jersey State Legislature](#), Filed 5/15/23)

**In 2022, Gopal Declared His Wife Received More Than \$50,000 In Earned Income From Princeton Public Affairs Group.** (2022 Financial Disclosure Statement, [New Jersey State Legislature](#), Filed 5/15/23)

**I. EARNED INCOME:** List the name, address and amount for each source of earned income. (Earned income includes salaries, bonuses commissions, profit sharing, fees, pensions and Social Security.)

	Name of Employer	Address of Employer	Amount Code				Self	Spouse	Child
			1	2	3	4			
1)	<u>Direct Communications &amp; Consulting</u>	<u>97 Apple Street Tinton Falls, NJ 07724</u>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2)	<u>State of NJ - Member of Senate</u>	<u>802 West Park Ave., Ocean NJ 07712</u>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3)	<u>Princeton Public Affairs Group</u>	<u>160 W. State Street, Trenton NJ 08608</u>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

(2022 Financial Disclosure Statement, [New Jersey State Legislature](#), Filed 5/15/23)

**Dividends**

**In 2022, Gopal Declared He Received Between \$10,000 And \$24,999 In Dividends From Star One & Star Two, LLC.** (2022 Financial Disclosure Statement, [New Jersey State Legislature](#), Filed 5/15/23)

**In 2022, Gopal Declared He And His Wife Received Less Than \$10,000 In Dividends From Fidelity Investments.** (2022 Financial Disclosure Statement, [New Jersey State Legislature](#), Filed 5/15/23)

**In 2022, Gopal Declared He And His Wife Received Less Than \$10,000 In Dividends From Prudential Investments.** (2022 Financial Disclosure Statement, [New Jersey State Legislature](#), Filed 5/15/23)

**In 2022, Gopal Declared His Wife Received Less Than \$10,000 In Dividends From Capital One.** (2022 Financial Disclosure Statement, [New Jersey State Legislature](#), Filed 5/15/23)

**In 2022, Gopal Declared His Wife Received Less Than \$10,000 In Dividends From Valic IRA.** (2022 Financial Disclosure Statement, [New Jersey State Legislature](#), Filed 5/15/23)

**In 2022, Gopal Declared He And His Wife Received Less Than \$10,000 In Dividends From Series 1 Bonds (For Their Daughter).** (2022 Financial Disclosure Statement, [New Jersey State Legislature](#), Filed 5/15/23)

B. DIVIDENDS		Amount Code				Self	Spouse	Child
Name	Address	1	2	3	4			
1) Star One & Star Two, LLC	7 Canby Drive, Colts Neck NJ 07722	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2) Fidelity Investments	530 Route 35, Shrewsbury NJ 07712	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3) Prudential Investments	PO Box 502, Scranton PA 18506	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4)		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

**ADD** *Click button on left to add additional UNEARNED INCOME (DIVIDENDS).*

B. DIVIDENDS		Amount Code				Self	Spouse	Child
Name	Address	1	2	3	4			
5) Capital One	1680 Capital One Drive, Mclean Virginia 22102	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
6) Valic IRA	2919 Allen Parkway, Houston TX, 77019	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
7) Series 1 Bonds (For our Daughter)	1500 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW Washington DC 20220	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

(2022 Financial Disclosure Statement, [New Jersey State Legislature](#), Filed 5/15/23)

**Income From Investments**

**In 2022, Gopal Declared He Received Between \$25,000 And \$49,999 In Investment Income From Star One & Star Two, LLC.** (2022 Financial Disclosure Statement, [New Jersey State Legislature](#), Filed 5/15/23)

**In 2022, Gopal Declared He Received Between \$25,000 And \$49,999 In Investment Income From Morgan Stanley.** (2022 Financial Disclosure Statement, [New Jersey State Legislature](#), Filed 5/15/23)

**In 2022, Gopal Declared He And His Wife Received Less Than \$10,000 In Investment Income From Touchstone IRA.** (2022 Financial Disclosure Statement, [New Jersey State Legislature](#), Filed 5/15/23)

C. INCOME from investments, trusts and estates (including capital gains).		Amount Code				Self	Spouse	Child
Name	Address	1	2	3	4			
1) Star One & Star Two, LLC	7 Canby Drive, Colts Neck NJ 07722	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2) Morgan Stanley	1 New York Plaza, NY NY - 36th Floor	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3) Touchstone IRA	303 Broadway, Suite 1100, Cincanatti Ohio 45202	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

(2022 Financial Disclosure Statement, [New Jersey State Legislature](#), Filed 5/15/23)

**Liabilities**

**In 2022, Gopal Declared A Business Commercial Loan Liability Valued Over \$50,000 To Morgan Stanley.** (2022 Financial Disclosure Statement, [New Jersey State Legislature](#), Filed 5/15/23)

**In 2022, Gopal Declared A Residential Loan Liability Valued Over \$50,000 To Morgan Stanley.** (2022 Financial Disclosure Statement, [New Jersey State Legislature](#), Filed 5/15/23)

VI. **LIABILITIES:** List the name and address of each creditor for you or your spouse and the nature and amount of each liability except for liabilities which are: (a) less than \$15,000 and owed to a relative; (b) less than \$3,000 and owed to any other person; (c) loans secured by a personal motor vehicle or household furniture or appliances; or (d) revolving charge accounts.

	Name & Nature of Liability	Address	Amount Code				Self	Spouse
			1	2	3	4		
1)	Morgan Stanley - Business Commercial Loan	1 New York Plaza, NY NY - 36th Floor	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2)	Morgan Stanley - Residential Loan	1 New York Plaza, NY NY - 36th Floor	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

(2022 Financial Disclosure Statement, [New Jersey State Legislature](#), Filed 5/15/23)

**Business Interests**

**In 2022, Gopal Declared He Held Interest In Direct Communications & Consulting, LLC.** (2022 Financial Disclosure Statement, [New Jersey State Legislature](#), Filed 5/15/23)

**In 2022, Gopal Declared He Held Interest In Tic Tac Toe, LLC.** (2022 Financial Disclosure Statement, [New Jersey State Legislature](#), Filed 5/15/23)

**In 2022, Gopal Declared He And His Wife Held Interest In Renga I & Renga II, LLC.** (2022 Financial Disclosure Statement, [New Jersey State Legislature](#), Filed 5/15/23)

VIII. **BUSINESS ORGANIZATIONS:** List the name and address of all business organizations in which you or your spouse held an interest.

	Name	Address	Self	Spouse
1)	Direct Communications & Consulting, LLC	97 Apple Street, Tinton Falls NJ 07724	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2)	Tic Tac Toe, LLC	97 Apple Street, Tinton Falls NJ 07724	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3)	Renga I & Renga II, LLC	2137 Rt. 35, Holmdel NJ 07773	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

(2022 Financial Disclosure Statement, [New Jersey State Legislature](#), Filed 5/15/23)

**Fiduciary Positions**

**In 2022, Gopal Declared He Was A Partner/Owner Of Direct Communications & Consulting, LLC.** (2022 Financial Disclosure Statement, [New Jersey State Legislature](#), Filed 5/15/23)

**In 2022, Gopal Declared He Was A Partner/Owner Of Renga I & Renga II, LLC.** (2022 Financial Disclosure Statement, [New Jersey State Legislature](#), Filed 5/15/23)

**In 2022, Gopal Declared He Was The Founder And Chairman At The Vin Gopal Civic Association, 501(c)3.** (2022 Financial Disclosure Statement, [New Jersey State Legislature](#), Filed 5/15/23)

**In 2022, Gopal Declared He Was An Advisory Board Member Of The Monmouth Conservation Foundation.** (2022 Financial Disclosure Statement, [New Jersey State Legislature](#), Filed 5/15/23)

**In 2022, Gopal Declared He Was An Advisory Board Member Of The Count Basie Theater.** (2022 Financial Disclosure Statement, [New Jersey State Legislature](#), Filed 5/15/23)

**In 2022, Gopal Declared He Was An Advisory Board Member Of The Salvation Army Of Asbury Park.** (2022 Financial Disclosure Statement, [New Jersey State Legislature](#), Filed 5/15/23)

**In 2022, Gopal Declared His Wife Was A Member Of The Long Branch Planning Board.**  
 (2022 Financial Disclosure Statement, [New Jersey State Legislature](#), Filed 5/15/23)

**In 2022, Gopal Declared His Wife Was A Board Member Of 180 Turning Lives Around.**  
 (2022 Financial Disclosure Statement, [New Jersey State Legislature](#), Filed 5/15/23)

**In 2022, Gopal Declared His Wife Was A Member Of PAM’s List.** (2022 Financial Disclosure Statement, [New Jersey State Legislature](#), Filed 5/15/23)

Addendum IX. OFFICES, TRUSTREES, OR DIRECTORSHIPS

Senator Gopal

Business Organization(s)

Tic Tac Toe, LLC - Partner/Owner Direct Communications & Consulting, LLC - Partner/Owner Renga & Renga II LLC - LLC which owns the residential property my spouse and I live in - we are both 50% partners.

Volunteer Organization(s)

Vin Gopal Civic Association, 501c3, Founder and Chairman - Volunteer  
 Monmouth Conservation Foundation, Advisory Board - Volunteer  
 Count Basie Theater, Advisory Board - Volunteer  
 Salvation Army of Asbury Park, Advisory Board - Volunteer

Spouse

Business Organization(s)

Renga & Renga II LLC - LLC which owns the residential property my spouse and I live in - we are both 50% partners.

Volunteer Organization(s)

Long Branch Planning Board, Member - Volunteer  
 180 Turning Lives Around, Board Member - Volunteer  
 PAM’s List, Board Member - Volunteer

(2022 Financial Disclosure Statement, [New Jersey State Legislature](#), Filed 5/15/23)

**Real Estate**

**In 2022, Gopal Declared He Owned A Commercial Property At 97 Apple Street, Tinton Falls, NJ 07724.** (2022 Financial Disclosure Statement, [New Jersey State Legislature](#), Filed 5/15/23)

**In 2022, Gopal Declared He And His Wife Owned 7 Bay Avenue, Long Branch, NJ 07740.**  
 (2022 Financial Disclosure Statement, [New Jersey State Legislature](#), Filed 5/15/23)

X. **REAL ESTATE:** Provide the address and a brief description, including the county and municipality where located, for all real property in New Jersey in which you, your spouse, or minor child held an interest. You do not need to provide the address, description, county or municipality of the principal or secondary residence of you, your spouse, or minor child, unless you, your spouse, or minor child derived income from that property. If you, your spouse, or minor child derived income from such a property, you should provide the address, description, county and municipality for any such property.

	Property Address including County & Municipality	Description of Property	Self	Spouse	Child
1)	97 Apple Street, Tinton Falls NJ 07724	Commerical Property - Office Building	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2)	7 Bay Ave, Long Branch NJ 07740	Residential Property - Primary Residence	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

(2022 Financial Disclosure Statement, [New Jersey State Legislature](#), Filed 5/15/23)

## **GOPAL’S SUPPORT FOR A FISCALLY IRRESPONSIBLE, ANTI-GROWTH AGENDA**

### **GOPAL VOTED TO INCREASE THE TAX BURDEN ON NEW JERSEY’S HIGHER-EARNERS AND CORPORATIONS**

***In 2020, Gopal Supported Legislation That “Further Soaks The Rich In Taxation By Imposing The State’s Top Income Tax Rate Of 10.75% Onto All Earnings Over \$1 Million”***

**In 2020, Gopal Voted Yea On A 10, Which Expanded The Millionaires Tax.** ([A 10](#), Passed (25 - 14), New Jersey State Senate, 9/24/20, Gopal Voted Yea)

- NOTE: “Increases gross income tax rate from 8.97 percent to 10.75 percent on income between \$1,000,000 and \$5,000,000, and provides up to \$500 tax rebate to eligible taxpayers.” ([A 10](#))

**ACU: A 10 “Further Soaks The Rich In Taxation By Imposing The State’s Top Income Tax Rate Of 10.75% Onto All Earnings Over \$1 Million.”** “This bill further soaks the rich in taxation by imposing the state’s top income tax rate of 10.75% onto all earnings over \$1 million. Under existing law, earnings between \$1 million and \$5 million were taxed at a rate of 8.97%. Part of the new revenue will then be redistributed to those making under \$75,000 via a \$500 rebate check.” ([American Conservative Union](#))

**The American Conservative Union “Opposes This Direct Wealth Redistribution Which Harms Economic Growth And Opposed This Bill.”** “ACU recognizes the state already punishes the “rich” with one of the highest income tax rates in the country, opposes this direct wealth redistribution which harms economic growth and opposed this bill. The Senate passed the bill on September 24, 2020 by a vote of 25-14 and the bill was signed into law.” ([American Conservative Union](#))

***In 2018, Gopal Supported Legislation That “Discourages Economic Growth And Innovation By Increasing The Marginal Gross Income Tax Rate On Income Above \$5 Million From 8.97 Percent To 10.75 Percent”***

**In 2018, Gopal Voted Yea On A 3088, Which Significantly Increased The Top Marginal Tax Rate.** ([A 3088](#), Passed (24 - 15), New Jersey State Senate, 7/1/18, Gopal Voted Yea)



<u>Over \$500,000.00</u> <u>but not over</u> <u>\$5,000,000.00</u>	<u>\$27,807.50 plus</u> <u>8.970% of the</u> <u>excess over</u> <u>\$500,000.00.</u>
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<u>Over</u> <u>\$5,000,000.00</u>	<u>\$431,457.50</u> <u>plus 10.75% of</u> <u>the excess over</u> <u>\$5,000,000.00.</u>
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[\(A 3088\)](#)

**ACU: A 3088 “Discourages Economic Growth And Innovation By Increasing The Marginal Gross Income Tax Rate On Income Above \$5 Million From 8.97 Percent To 10.75 Percent And Mandates Employers Withhold 15.6 Percent Of Income Over \$5 Million.”**

“This bill discourages economic growth and innovation by increasing the marginal gross income tax rate on income above \$5 million from 8.97 percent to 10.75 percent and mandates employers withhold 15.6 percent of income over \$5 million. Additionally, the bill imposes an additional 17 percent tax on "investment management services income." Finally, the bill encourages dependence on government by increasing the state Earned Income Tax Credit, which awards cash subsidies to those whose incomes exceed qualifications for other welfare programs.”

[\(American Conservative Union\)](#)

**The American Conservative Union “Opposes Efforts To Discourage Innovation And Siphon Even More Resources Out Of The Private Sector To Fund Wasteful And Out-Of-Control Government Spending And Opposed This Bill.”**

“ACU opposes efforts to discourage innovation and siphon even more resources out of the private sector to fund wasteful and out-of-control government spending and opposed this bill. The Senate passed the bill on July 1, 2018 by a vote of 24-15.” [\(American Conservative Union\)](#)

***In 2018, Gopal Supported Legislation That “Harms Business Growth And Reduces Employment Opportunities By Making Numerous Changes To The Corporate Business Tax, Resulting In Higher Taxation Of Businesses”***

**In 2018, Gopal Voted Yea On A 4202, Which Increased Business Tax Burdens.** [\(A 4202,](#)

Passed (23 - 15), New Jersey State Senate, 7/1/18, Gopal Voted Yea)

- NOTE: “Imposes surtax on corporation business tax liability; decouples certain provisions from Internal Revenue Code; imposes tax on certain dividends.” [\(A 4202\)](#)

**ACU: A 4202 “Harms Business Growth And Reduces Employment Opportunities By Making Numerous Changes To The Corporate Business Tax, Resulting In Higher Taxation Of Businesses.”** “This bill harms business growth and reduces employment opportunities by making numerous changes to the corporate business tax, resulting in higher taxation of businesses. Under the bill, a 2.5 percent tax surcharge is imposed on corporations with incomes above \$1 million. Additionally, the bill subjects more dividend income to taxation and uncouples a portion of the state tax code from the federal Tax Cuts and Jobs Act, which will result in higher tax liabilities.” ([American Conservative Union](#))

**The American Conservative Union “Opposes This Anti-Growth, "Soak The Rich" Tax Increase To Pay For Increased Spending Which Results In The Highest Corporate Tax Rate In The Country And Opposed This Bill.”** “ACU opposes this anti-growth, "soak the rich" tax increase to pay for increased spending which results in the highest corporate tax rate in the country and opposed this bill. The Senate passed the bill on July 1, 2018 by a vote of 23-15.” ([American Conservative Union](#))

## **GOPAL HAS SUPPORTED FISCALLY IRRESPONSIBLE STATE BUDGETS**

***In 2020, Gopal Supported New Jersey’s FY 2021 “Fiscally Irresponsible Budget Bill [That] Spends \$32.7 Billion Over Nine Months And Places State Solvency At Risk By Taking On \$4.5 Billion In New Debt Through Bonds”***

**In 2020, Gopal Voted Yea On S 2021, The 2021 New Jersey State Budget.** ([S 2021](#), Passed (25 - 14), New Jersey State Senate, 9/24/20, Gopal Voted Yea)

- NOTE: “Appropriates \$32,711,205,000 in State funds and \$13,856,161,239 in federal funds for the State budget for fiscal year 2020-2021.” ([S 2021](#))

**ACU: S 2021 “Fiscally Irresponsible Budget Bill Spends \$32.7 Billion Over Nine Months And Places State Solvency At Risk By Taking On \$4.5 Billion In New Debt Through Bonds.”** “This fiscally irresponsible budget bill spends \$32.7 billion over nine months and places state solvency at risk by taking on \$4.5 billion in new debt through bonds. Furthermore, the bill exemplifies insider corruption in the budgetary process with ridiculous pork projects including funding for youth golf programs in Essex County and shade tree management in Metuchen.” ([American Conservative Union](#))

**The American Conservative Union “Opposes Runaway Government Spending And Paving The Way For Even Greater Tax Burdens And Hikes, Opposes Indebting New Jersians At A Time Of Declining Tax Revenue Projections Due To COVID-19 And Opposed This Bill.”** “ACU opposes runaway government spending and paving the way for even greater tax burdens and hikes, opposes indebting New Jersians at a time of declining tax revenue projections due to COVID-19 and opposed this bill. The Senate passed the bill on September 24, 2020 by a vote of 25-14 and the bill was signed into law.” ([American Conservative Union](#))



***In The 2022 NJ Budget, “New Items Abound, Like Half A Million Dollars To Help Maintenance At The Ocean Grove Boardwalk And \$1 Million Toward The Renovation Of The Keansburg Public Beach House, Both In Monmouth County And Sponsored By County Resident Sen. Vin Gopal”***

**“And Another \$500,000 Headed To Eatontown For Captain James M. Gurbisz Park, Courtesy Of Gopal”**

**In The 2022 NJ Budget, “New Items Abound, Like Half A Million Dollars To Help Maintenance At The Ocean Grove Boardwalk And \$1 Million Toward The Renovation Of The Keansburg Public Beach House, Both In Monmouth County And Sponsored By County Resident Sen. Vin Gopal”; “And Another \$500,000 Headed To Eatontown For Captain James M. Gurbisz Park, Courtesy Of Gopal.”** “While there are some hyperlocal projects with high price tags, there are also statewide programs that will see a bump in funding, such as millions toward health services at hospitals and medical care facilities, as well as funding for school security. There were also some projects that might look familiar. Sen. Teresa Ruiz is calling for \$3.5 million for the Newark Symphony Hall Infrastructure Projects, an effort that she argued needed \$5 million last year. Ruiz lives and works in Newark. Similarly, the Paramus Library will receive \$500,000 on top of the \$300,000 it received last year, thanks to Sen. Joseph Lagana. He lives in Paramus. But new items abound, like half a million dollars to help maintenance at the Ocean Grove Boardwalk and \$1 million toward the renovation of the Keansburg Public Beach House, both in Monmouth County and sponsored by county resident Sen. Vin Gopal. There's \$525,000 headed to South Plainfield for the replacement of the Police Athletic League field, thanks to Diegnan, and another \$500,000 headed to Eatontown for Captain James M. Gurbisz Park, courtesy of Gopal.” (*Daily Record*, 8/23/22)

***In 2023, Gopal Supported New Jersey’s FY 2024 State Budget, Which Is “7 Percent Higher Than Last Year’s”***

**In 2023, Gopal Voted Yea On A 5669, The New Jersey FY 2023-2024 State Budget.** ([A 5669](#), Passed (25-12), New Jersey State Senate, 6/30/23, Gopal Voted Yea)

- NOTE: “Appropriates \$54,357,547,000 in State funds and \$26,144,171,463 in federal funds for the State budget for fiscal year 2023-2024.” ([A 5669](#))

**According To The New York Times, New Jersey’s 2023 State Budget Is “7 Percent Higher Than Last Year’s.”** (“Gov. Murphy Looks To Burnish Legacy With A \$54.3 Billion Budget,” [New York Times](#), 7/1/23)

## ***Gov. Murphy Looks to Burnish Legacy With a \$54.3 Billion Budget***

New Jersey’s election-year spending plan is 7 percent higher than last year’s.

(“Gov. Murphy Looks To Burnish Legacy With A \$54.3 Billion Budget,” [New York Times](#), 7/1/23)

***According To The New York Times, The State's 2023 Budget Does Not Lose Sight Of Social Justice Initiatives***

**The New York Times Appears To Claim The State's Budget Does Not Lose Sight Of Social Justice Initiatives.** “On Friday night, he signed the state’s \$54.3 billion budget, a spending plan that is 7 percent higher than last year’s and was passed hours ahead of a constitutional deadline. In the coming weeks Mr. Murphy will meet with companies that grade the state’s credit, hoping to use the new budget, among other measures, to burnish his legacy as a prudent money manager who paid down the state’s costly debts without losing sight of social justice initiatives.” (“Gov. Murphy Looks To Burnish Legacy With A \$54.3 Billion Budget,” [New York Times](#), 7/1/23)

**The Passed Budget Is “\$1.2 Billion Larger Than The Draft Mr. Murphy Proposed In February” And Was A “Feeding Frenzy Of Unexplained Pork”**

**State Senator, Declan O’Scanlon Jr., Noted The Passed Budget Is “\$1.2 Billion Larger Than The Draft Mr. Murphy Proposed In February” And Was A “Feeding Frenzy Of Unexplained Pork”.** “Senator Declan J. O’Scanlon Jr., a Republican on the budget committee, said that the budget, which is \$1.2 billion larger than the draft Mr. Murphy proposed in February, was a missed opportunity filled with a “feeding frenzy of unexplained pork.” He called it a “failure to seize what may have been a unique opportunity to set New Jersey on a path to long-term, sustainable fiscal stability.” The adopted budget, which comes four months before the state legislative elections in November, is 45 percent greater than the first budget Mr. Murphy signed in 2018, which was \$37.4 billion. By comparison, during Mr. Christie’s eight years in office, New Jersey’s budget grew by 18 percent.” (“Gov. Murphy Looks To Burnish Legacy With A \$54.3 Billion Budget,” [New York Times](#), 7/1/23)

- **Declan O’Scanlon Jr.: “[The Budget Is A] Failure To Seize What May Have Been A Unique Opportunity To Set New Jersey On A Path To Long-Term, Sustainable Fiscal Stability.”** (“Gov. Murphy Looks To Burnish Legacy With A \$54.3 Billion Budget,” [New York Times](#), 7/1/23)
- **“The Adopted Budget, Which Comes Four Months Before The State Legislative Elections In November, Is 45 Percent Greater Than The First Budget Mr. Murphy Signed In 2018”.** (“Gov. Murphy Looks To Burnish Legacy With A \$54.3 Billion Budget,” [New York Times](#), 7/1/23)

***According To Rowan University’s Steve Sweeney Center For Public Policy, “Multibillion-Dollar Budget Gaps Are Likely Within A Few Years, Under The State’s Current Tax And Spending Policies”***

**According To Rowan University’s Steve Sweeney Center For Public Policy, “Multibillion-Dollar Budget Gaps Are Likely Within A Few Years, Under The State’s Current Tax And Spending Policies.”** “A five-year budget forecast included in a report released on Thursday by Rowan University’s Steve Sweeney Center for Public Policy predicts multibillion-dollar budget gaps are likely within a few years, under the state’s current tax and spending policies. “New Jersey faces a looming fiscal crisis, with state revenues projected to fall \$3 billion to \$4 billion short annually of the amount needed to continue state programs and state aid at current service

levels from Fiscal Year 2025 to Fiscal Year 2029,” according to the report.” (“Sobering Fiscal News For NJ Now And Long-Term,” [NJ Spotlight News](#), 6/16/23)

- **“New Jersey Faces A Looming Fiscal Crisis, With State Revenues Projected To Fall \$3 Billion To \$4 Billion Short Annually Of The Amount Needed To Continue State Programs And State Aid At Current Service Levels From Fiscal Year 2025 To Fiscal Year 2029”.** (“Sobering Fiscal News For NJ Now And Long-Term,” [NJ Spotlight News](#), 6/16/23)

**NJ Spotlight News Reporting, Notes A Scenario For New Jersey Where “The Gaps Between Revenues And Expenditures Could Grow To Over \$18 Billion Cumulatively Through The End Of The 2028 Fiscal Year”**

**NJ Spotlight News Reporting, Notes A Scenario For New Jersey Where “The Gaps Between Revenues And Expenditures Could Grow To Over \$18 Billion Cumulatively Through The End Of The 2028 Fiscal Year.”** “But the “pessimistic” scenario projects the gaps between revenues and expenditures could grow to over \$18 billion cumulatively through the end of the 2028 fiscal year. That would come as the impact of potential weaknesses in real estate lending and a slowdown in federal spending stemming from the recent deal related to the federal debt ceiling take their toll on the economy, according to the report, which foresees a 30% chance of the worst of the three scenarios coming to fruition. ” (“Sobering Fiscal News For NJ Now And Long-Term,” [NJ Spotlight News](#), 6/16/23)

**GOPAL LED AN EFFORT TO RESTORE CUTS TO LOCAL EDUCATION BUT THE RESULT WAS DESCRIBED AS ONLY A “BAD AID”**

***In March 2023, Monmouth And Ocean Counties Were Proposed To Lose Nearly \$46 Million In State Education Funding Despite A State Budget That Increases Spending On Schools Overall***

**In 2023, ‘Monmouth And Ocean Counties Are Proposed To Lose Nearly \$46 Million In State Education Funding Despite A State Budget That Increases Spending On Schools Overall.’** “Several Shore schools have suffered drastic cutbacks in state aid dating back to 2018 when state Senate Bill 2, or S2, realigned the school funding formula in the state. Monmouth and Ocean counties are proposed to lose nearly \$46 million in state education funding despite a state budget that increases spending on schools overall. The New Jersey Department of Education released its proposed state aid funding the 2023-24 school year Thursday afternoon. That data shows 43 districts in Monmouth and Ocean counties would lose a combined \$60.4 million next school year, with Toms River Regional, Asbury Park, Freehold Regional and Jackson school districts poised to take some of the biggest hits. Those losses are offset by 39 school districts that expected to gain about \$14.5 million in state aid. Proposed funding for the counties' vocational school districts remained flat. The cuts to the Jersey Shore school districts come despite Gov. Phil Murphy's proposed budget adding more than \$834 million in K-12 education statewide.” (*Asbury Park Press*, 3/9/23)

***In March 2023, Under A Legislative Compromise Between Murphy And Legislators, A Bill Would Restore \$102.7 Million In State Aid, Reducing Originally Proposed State Aid Cuts By Two-Thirds In The NJ State Budget***

**In 2023, Under A Legislative Compromise Between Murphy And Legislators, A Bill Would Restore \$102.7 Million In State Aid, Reducing Originally Proposed State Aid Cuts By Two-Thirds In The NJ State Budget.** “A host of New Jersey school districts slated to have their state aid cut in Gov. Phil Murphy's new state budget proposal would see smaller reductions than originally planned under a deal the governor's administration just reached with top Democratic lawmakers. The bill would restore about \$102.7 million in state aid for districts in Murphy's budget plan for the fiscal year that begins in July. That means affected districts would ultimately see only one-third of the decreases they were originally scheduled to get. State Sen. Vin Gopal, D-Monmouth, said this will help several districts across the state help avoid layoffs and program cuts. “Hundreds of thousands of teachers have their jobs on the line,” Gopal told NJ Advance Media. “These districts have higher inflation costs, mental health costs, technology costs. The state is sitting on a surplus right now. We should be helping these districts.” Murphy said in a statement released late Friday that his administration “remains committed to providing New Jersey students with a world-class education, which is why we continue to dedicate historic levels of aid for our schools in each year's budget.”” (*Star-Ledger*, 3/18/23)

***“The Bill's Two Sponsors, Gopal And State Sen. Andrew Zwicker, D-Middlesex, Are Both Running For Reelection In Competitive Districts”***

**“The Bill's Two Sponsors, Gopal And State Sen. Andrew Zwicker, D-Middlesex, Are Both Running For Reelection In Competitive Districts.”** “Republicans have hammered Murphy in recent weeks for the cuts to some school districts. This comes in a big legislative election year. All 120 seats in the Legislature are up for grabs in November, with Democrats hoping to retain control as Republicans aim to take at least one house for the first time in 20 years. The bill's two sponsors, Gopal and state Sen. Andrew Zwicker, D-Middlesex, are both running for reelection in competitive districts. The allocation of state school aid is based on a series of formulas designed to bridge the gap between the amount of money a district can take in and the amount of money it needs to provide a good education. Factors like property tax revenues, enrollment size and number of students who need higher levels of support, like those from low-income families or English language learners, are taken into account when determining how much aid a district needs. Despite the current funding formula being developed in 2008, a provision that prevented any districts from losing aid stayed in place until 2017. The 2008 formula is on track to be fully funded by 2025, the governor's office has said.” (*Star-Ledger*, 3/18/23)

***The School Aid Restoration Bill Passed In Late March 2023***

**The School Aid Restoration Bill Passed In Late March 2023.** “Lawmakers have fast-tracked a bill that would restore two-thirds of the state aid that school districts were set to lose in the upcoming year. Schools throughout the state were collectively preparing for a loss of about \$157 million. The proposed legislation would restore \$102.8 million and provide a one-time payment to districts that were losing funding for the 2023-24 school year. The bill cleared committee Monday morning and unanimously passed the Senate on Monday afternoon. It is expected to move through the Assembly later this month. Gov. Phil Murphy has said he will sign the

legislation. Although the bill garnered unanimous support, some said it did not go far enough. Sen. Declan O'Scanlon, R-Monmouth, proposed an amendment to increase the amount of aid to restore it completely. That was tabled. O'Scanlon called the process "policy malfeasance" and said it doesn't matter "where your district is or what your circumstances are," because "further cuts like this are a problem." "It's a shame we can't simply do the right thing," he said. "We have to continue to torture these districts for some reason. It's one percent of our overall surplus that could make these districts whole this year when we have agreed, apparently, that we are going to revisit this formula and fix this. And we do need to it. We cannot continue down this path." To qualify, districts will have to send the commissioner of education a written plan explaining how they plan to use the funds and how they will fund operations in future school years." (*Daily Record*, 3/22/23)

### ***School Leaders Described The Relief Funding Bill As Only A "Band Aid"***

**School Leaders Described The Relief Funding Bill As Only A "Band Aid."** "More than 160 New Jersey school districts that have suffered through six years of state aid cuts will receive one-time payments totaling \$102 million this year through a last-minute bill signed last week in Trenton. But many of those districts' leaders say the extra money, which is separate from Gov. Phil Murphy's budgeted school funding, is just a "Band-Aid" and they need a sustainable solution to keep serving their students. Many of the districts face dropping enrollment, but the aid cuts are driving them to cut programs, increase class sizes, and lay off teachers and staff. For instance, 40 faculty and staff members in Sussex County's Vernon Township school district were informed March 23 that they would not be returning to their jobs this fall. The district lost \$8.5 million over six years, school officials said. The additional aid from last week's legislation provides a one-time payment of \$211,000. "We need a long-term systemic solution ... this is a Band-Aid. It's only a one-time allocation," said Jeanne Howe, superintendent of Jefferson Township Public Schools in Morris County, another affected district. Jefferson will receive \$1 million through the legislation, more than most other school districts in Passaic, Morris and Sussex counties receiving the payments. The Jefferson district's enrollment dropped 29% since 2010 but its state aid has fallen by 60%, she said. Jefferson Township will likely spend its \$1 million on district technology needs. It is "a one-year source of money, so it's not as though we can build this into our regular budget account," Howe said." (North Jersey, 5/4/23)

## **GOPAL HAS VOTED TO EXPAND THE WELFARE STATE IN NEW JERSEY**

### ***In 2018, Gopal Supported Legislation That "Encourages Greater Dependence On Government By Increasing The Cash Welfare Benefits To Households As The Result Of The Birth Of A Child"***

**In 2018, Gopal Voted Yea On S 490, Which Removed A Cap On Family Welfare Benefits.** ([S 490](#), Passed (26 - 14), New Jersey State Senate, 6/21/18, Gopal Voted Yea)

- NOTE: "Repeals family cap in Work First New Jersey program." ([S 490](#))

**ACU: S 490 "Encourages Greater Dependence On Government By Increasing The Cash Welfare Benefits To Households As The Result Of The Birth Of A Child."** "This bill encourages greater dependence on government by increasing the cash welfare benefits to



households as the result of the birth of a child. Previous law set a "family cap" on welfare benefits unless a child is born within 10 months after applying for benefits or the pregnancy results from rape or incest.” ([American Conservative Union](#))

**The American Conservative Union “Opposes Efforts To Expand Dependence On Government Which Leads To Intergenerational Poverty And Opposed This Bill.”** “ACU supports efforts to help people live happier, healthier, more productive lives by encouraging them to become more self-sufficient, opposes efforts to expand dependence on government which leads to intergenerational poverty and opposed this bill. The Senate passed the bill on June 21, 2018 by a vote of 26-14” ([American Conservative Union](#))

## **GOPAL FLIP-FLOPPED ON INCREASING STATE WAGE MANDATES AFTER FACING PROGRESSIVE PRESSURE**

***In 2017, Gopal Noted Disagreement “With Murphy On \$15 Per Hour Minimum Wage”; “Gopal Said His Business Would Not Have Survived Its First Few Years Had That Been In Place”***

**In 2017, “Gopal: Disagrees With Murphy On \$15 Per Hour Minimum Wage. Gopal Said His Business Would Not Have Survived Its First Few Years Had That Been In Place.”** “Gopal: Disagrees with Murphy on \$15 per hour minimum wage. Gopal said his business would not have survived its first few years had that been in place. He said New Jersey needs to focus on being business-friendly, specifically to mom-and-pop operations. "We really need to get back to Main Street," he said.” (*Asbury Park Press*, 10/12/17)

***However, In 2018, Gopal Proposed A Compromise Measure To Raise The Minimum Wage To \$12***

**However, In 2018, Gopal Proposed A Compromise Measure To Raise The Minimum Wage To \$12.** “In the meantime, senior staffers from both the Legislature and governor’s office have been meeting to go over the bill, Murphy said. “I will continue to work with the members of my caucus to produce a balanced bill that is fair to workers and respects the business community,” Coughlin said in a written statement Tuesday. “I look forward to meeting with the governor and senate president this upcoming Thursday to further our discussion on minimum wage.” Meanwhile, Sen. Vin Gopal, D-11th District, unveiled his own proposed “compromise” increase to \$12 an hour over three years, starting with an increase to \$10.10 on Jan. 1, followed by a study on the impact of a wage increase on small businesses.” (NJBIZ, 12/12/18)

***In 2019, Amid Progressive Outcry, Gopal Pulled His Bill To Delay Implementation Of a \$15 Minimum Wage During Economic Downturns***

**In 2019, Amid Progressive Outcry, Gopal Pulled His Bill To Delay Implementation Of A \$15 Minimum Wage During Economic Downturns.** “Lawmakers are pulling a vote Thursday on a controversial bill to suspend the state’s yearly minimum wage increases now \$10 an hour, and slated to rise to \$15 an hour by 2024 in the event of an economic recession, according to the bill’s main sponsor Sen. Vin Gopal, D-11th District. The measure met opposition from U.S. Rep.

Don Norcross, D-1st District, who in a Tuesday afternoon statement called the proposal “irresponsible” and said that it would “harm both workers and businesses.” “I’ve asked Chairman Madden to pull my bills tomorrow and he said OK,” Gopal tweeted Wednesday morning. “There will be no discussion. I look forward to meeting with stakeholders in the weeks and months ahead on the positives and negatives of both bills.” Under the first measure, Senate Bill 3607, the state-mandated pay increase schedule would be suspended in the event of a decline in employment and sales tax, at which point the suspension would be instituted on a year-by-year basis. The second scenario laid out in the bill would suspend the wage increase until the state regains revenue past 2 percent. Senate Bill 3608, meanwhile, would create a task force to study the effect the minimum wage increase has on businesses including the ability to hire new workers, whether they needed to cut hours or lay off workers to make ends meet, and whether they switched to automation.” (NJBIZ, 11/13/19)

***In 2023, Gopal’s Joint Candidate Campaign Was Endorsed By A New Jersey Union Group Who Praised The Candidates For Their Work Advocating To Raise The Federal Minimum Wage To \$15 An Hour***

**In May 2023, The Joint Candidate Campaign Profile Touted An Endorsement From The SEIU New Jersey State Council, Who Praised The Candidates For Their Work Advocating To Raise The Federal Minimum Wage To \$15 An Hour.** (Joint Candidate Campaign Profile, [Instagram](#), 5/15/23)





teammonmouth 12w

● Endorsement Alert ●

“These early endorsements – before the primaries next month – reflect the Council’s commitment to these labor champions who have shown leadership on issues of vital importance such as the \$15 minimum wage, safe staffing ratios in nursing homes, a fair organizing process for Starbucks workers, the need for better working conditions in warehouse distribution centers and adequate funding for graduate medical education,” said SEIUNJ Council President Megan Chambers, who is Co-Manager of the Laundry, Distribution, and Food Service (LDFS) Joint Board, Workers United SEIU.

(Joint Candidate Campaign Profile, [Instagram](#), 5/15/23)

**IN 2023, GOPAL SPONSORED A BILL TO ALLOW PUBLIC SAFETY PERSONNEL ENROLLED IN NEW JERSEY'S PENSION SYSTEM TO RETIRE EARLY WITH A REDUCED PENSION**

***In 2023, “Gov. Phil Murphy On Monday Rejected A Proposal To Immediately Allow All Police And Firefighters Enrolled In New Jersey's Pension System To Retire Early With A Reduced Pension After 20 Years Of Service”***

**In 2023, “Gov. Phil Murphy On Monday Rejected A Proposal To Immediately Allow All Police And Firefighters Enrolled In New Jersey's Pension System To Retire Early With A Reduced Pension After 20 Years Of Service.”** “Gov. Phil Murphy on Monday rejected a proposal to immediately allow all police and firefighters enrolled in New Jersey's pension system to retire early with a reduced pension after 20 years of service. But the Democratic governor didn't rule out the idea completely as he issued a conditional veto of the measure, dubbed the "burnout bill." Instead, Murphy suggested extending a law he signed temporarily providing the 20-and-out benefit by another three years and reassess its impact after that. If it still makes financial sense, he said, the pension system's board can make the benefit permanent. This all relates to a complicated issue that has changed a few times in recent decades. State law requires members of the state's Police and Firemen's Retirement System to retire at 65 with their full pension. But a 1999 state law allowed people with 20 years of service to retire, albeit at half their final compensation. That was later changed during then-Gov. Chris Christie's administration so anyone hired after January 2000 has to be at least 55 years old or have 25 years of service to retire early. Murphy, though, signed a law in 2021 allowing nearly 8,000 police officers and firefighters about to reach 20 years of service a two-year window to retire early, regardless of



their age or enrollment date, with half their final compensation. The unions who advocated for the change said the law was not creating a new benefit, but bringing workers in line with those hired before 2000 to correct what they argued was a misrepresentation of the 1999 law by Christie's administration.” (*Express Times*, 5/16/23)

***“State Sen. Vin Gopal, D-Monmouth, A Main Sponsor Of The Bill, Declined To Comment...”***

**“State Sen. Vin Gopal, D-Monmouth, A Main Sponsor Of The Bill, Declined To Comment Monday.”** “After that, he said, if the system's board of trustees finds the benefit "does not result in increased employer contributions or impact the long-term viability" of the system, the board "can then permanently institute" a 20-and-out benefit "without the need for additional legislation." That, Murphy said, is because of a 2018 bill that gave the board "certain functions, powers, and duties relating to the management" of the system. "I have full confidence that the Board would make such a decision responsibly, based on the facts and data that are developed during the five-year trial period," Murphy wrote. State Sen. Vin Gopal, D-Monmouth, a main sponsor of the bill, declined to comment Monday.” (*Express Times*, 5/16/23)

**GOPAL PUSHES UNION PRIORITIES AND ENJOYS THE SUPPORT FROM PROMINENT UNIONS – INCLUDING THE LOCAL TEACHERS’ UNION**

***In 2022, 26 Elected Officials Including Gopal “Signed A Letter Of Support For The Recent Unionization Efforts At Starbucks Stores In The State, Urging CEO Howard Schultz To Adhere To, And Sign, The Fair Election Principles”***

**In 2022, 26 Elected Officials Including Gopal “Signed A Letter Of Support For The Recent Unionization Efforts At Starbucks Stores In The State, Urging CEO Howard Schultz To Adhere To, And Sign, The Fair Election Principles.”** “Twenty-six New Jersey elected officials signed a letter of support for the recent unionization efforts at Starbucks stores in the state, urging CEO Howard Schultz to adhere to, and sign, the Fair Election Principles. Starbucks workers organizing a union drive gathered at the Hopewell store on Monday with legislators to support their campaign and other Starbucks union drives across the state. U.S. Rep. Bonnie Watson Coleman (D-12th Dist.) spoke at the event in solidarity with the workers, who launched their unionization effort in January, as the first New Jersey Starbucks to do so. "We stand in solidarity with Starbucks workers seeking to organize in our state and our communities," Watson Coleman said. "New Jersey is stronger when workers have a collective voice in their pay and working conditions." Watson Coleman was also one of the 26 New Jersey lawmakers who signed the letter addressed to Schultz. The letter lists nine fair election principles, including not making any implicit or explicit threats and giving equal space for pro-union materials if anti-union materials are posted on the premises. "All workers have the right to a union and to a collective voice in the conditions of their own employment," part of the letter reads. "We believe that these organizing efforts will ultimately lead to a stronger and more sustainable future for Starbucks, the workers, and our State." The signatories also include: Donald Norcross (D-1st Dist.); Andy Kim (D-3rd Dist.); Frank Pallone (D- 6th Dist.); Bill Pascrell (D-9th Dist.); Donald Payne Jr. (D-10th Dist.); Mikie Sherrill (D-11th Dist.); Teresa Ruiz (D-Essex); Fred Madden (D-

Gloucester); Troy Singleton (D-Burlington); Vin Gopal (D-Monmouth); Shirley Turner (D-Mercer); Andrew Zwicker (D-Middlesex); Patrick Diegnan (D-Middlesex); Joseph Cryan (D-Union); Richard Codey (D-Essex); Brian Stack (D-Hudson); Daniel Benson (D-Mercer); Joseph Egan (D-Middlesex) Herb Conaway (D-Burlington); Assembly Speaker Craig Coughlin (D-Woodbridge); Robert Karabinchak (D-Middlesex); Angela McKnight (D-Hudson); Ellen Park (D-Bergen), Anthony Verrelli (D-Mercer); and Thomas Giblin (D-Essex).” (Star Ledger, 4/4/22)

***In 2023, Gopal’s Joint Candidate Campaign Touted Endorsements From Multiple New Jersey Trade Unions, Including The New Jersey Chapter Of The American Federation Of Teachers And The New Jersey State AFL-CIO***

**American Federation Of Teachers (New Jersey)**

**In July 2023, Gopal’s Joint Candidate Campaign Touted The Endorsement Of The New Jersey Chapter Of The American Federation Of Teachers.** (Joint Candidate Campaign Profile, [Twitter](#), 7/18/23)



(Joint Candidate Campaign Profile, [Twitter](#), 7/18/23)

**In July 2023, Gopal’s Joint Candidate Campaign Profile Touted The Endorsement Of The New Jersey Chapter Of The American Federation Of Teachers.** (Joint Candidate Campaign Profile, [Instagram](#), 7/18/23)



(Joint Candidate Campaign Profile, [Instagram](#), 7/18/23)

**Communications Workers Of America**

**In May 2023, Gopal’s Joint Candidate Campaign Touted The Endorsement Of The Communications Workers Of America.** (Joint Candidate Campaign Profile, [Twitter](#), 5/30/23)

 **Vin, Margie, & Luanne**  
@TeamMonmouth

ENDORSEMENT ALERT!

Thanks to @CWAUnion for your endorsement of our entire Democratic ticket!

Read full statement here: [insidernj.com/.../cwa-announ...](https://insidernj.com/.../cwa-announ...)



1:40 PM · May 30, 2023 · 86 Views

(Joint Candidate Campaign Profile, [Twitter](#), 5/30/23)

**Monmouth County Education Association**

**In May 2023, Gopal’s Joint Candidate Campaign Touted The Endorsement Of The Monmouth County Education Association, A Chapter Organization Of The New Jersey Education Association.** (Joint Candidate Campaign Profile, [Twitter](#), 5/9/23)

 **Vin, Margie, & Luanne**  
@TeamMonmouth

ENDORSEMENT ALERT!

We are so proud to have all received the endorsement of @MCEA\_NJ @NJEA! Educators in Monmouth County work so hard every day for our kids, and we are honored to stand with them.

[#NJEA](#) [#MonmouthCountyEducationAssociation](#) [#teammonmouth](#) [#LD11](#)

2:44 PM · May 9, 2023 · 155 Views

(Joint Candidate Campaign Profile, [Twitter](#), 5/9/23)

**In May 2023, Gopal’s Joint Candidate Campaign Touted The Endorsement Of The Monmouth County Education Association, A Chapter Organization Of The New Jersey Education Association.** (Joint Candidate Campaign Profile, [Instagram](#), 5/1/23)



(Joint Candidate Campaign Profile, [Instagram](#), 5/1/23)

**Gopal Has Attended Several Events Hosted By The Monmouth County Education Association**

**In April 2023, Gopal Attended The Monmouth County Education Association Annual Legislative Diner.** (Official Profile, [Facebook](#), 4/27/23)



(Official Profile, [Facebook](#), 4/27/23)

**In February 2023, Gopal Attended An Event Hosted By The Monmouth County Education Association.** (Official Profile, [Facebook](#), 2/24/23)



(Official Profile, [Facebook](#), 2/24/23)

**In October 2022, Gopal Posted A Photo From An Event Hosted By The Monmouth County Education Association.** (Official Profile, [Facebook](#), 10/6/22)





(Official Profile, [Facebook](#), 10/6/22)

**New Jersey Building And Construction Trades Council**

**In July 2023, Gopal’s Joint Candidate Campaign Touted The Endorsement Of The New Jersey Building And Construction Trades Council.** (Joint Candidate Campaign Profile, [Twitter](#), 7/20/23)

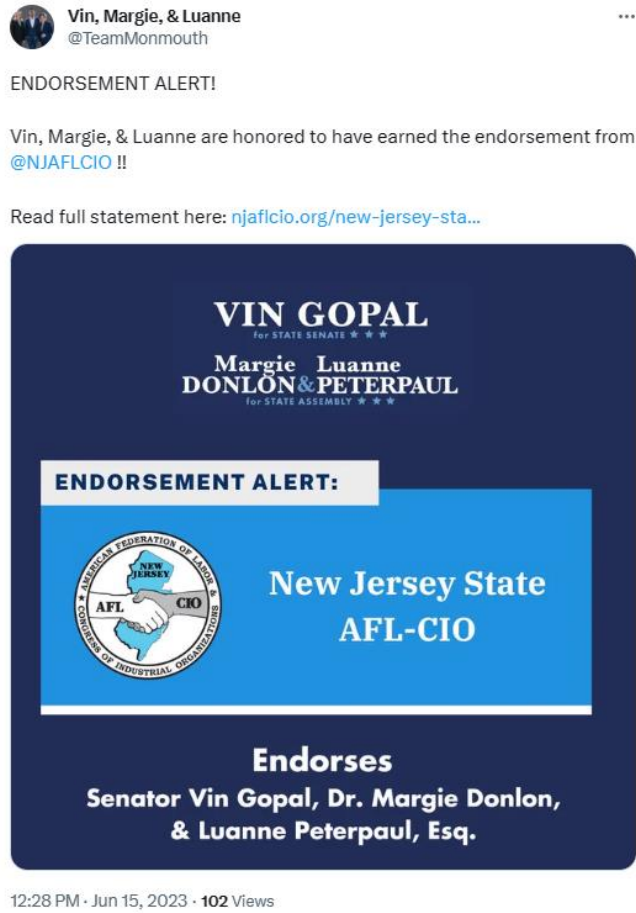


(Joint Candidate Campaign Profile, [Twitter](#), 7/20/23)

**New Jersey State AFL-CIO**

**In June 2023, Gopal’s Joint Candidate Campaign Touted The Endorsement Of The New Jersey State AFL-CIO.** (Joint Candidate Campaign Profile, [Twitter](#), 6/15/23)





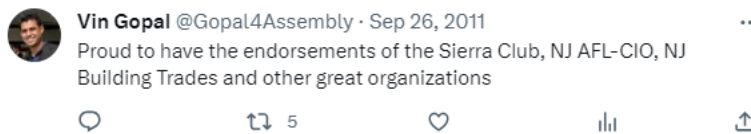
(Joint Candidate Campaign Profile, [Twitter](#), 6/15/23)

**In June 2023, Gopal’s Joint Candidate Campaign Profile Touted The Endorsement Of The New Jersey State AFL-CIO.** (Joint Candidate Campaign Profile, [Instagram](#), 6/15/23)



(Joint Candidate Campaign Profile, [Twitter](#), 6/15/23)

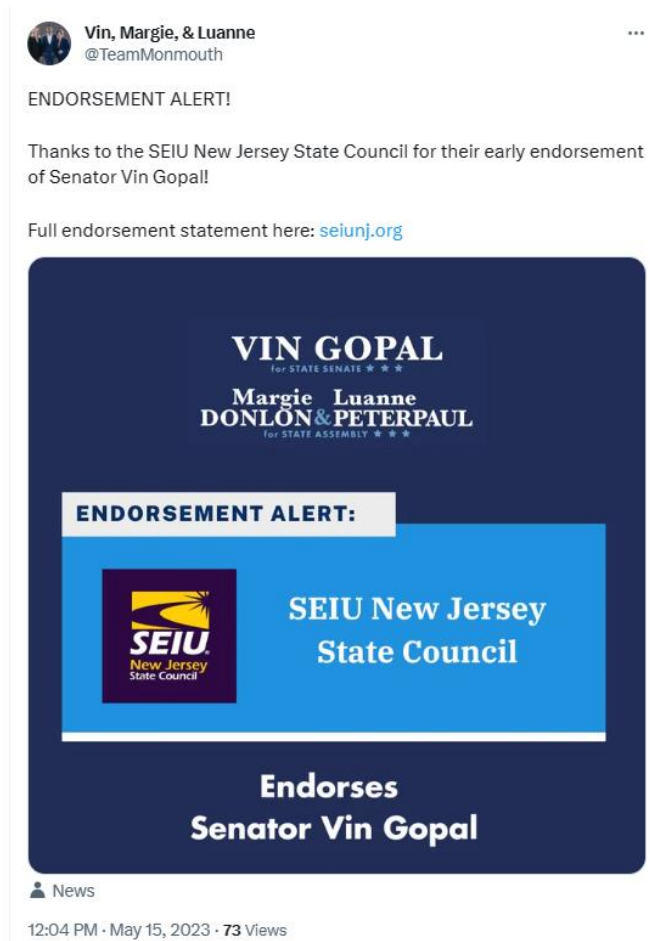
**In September 2011, Gopal Tweeted That He Was Endorsed By The NJ AFL-CIO.** (Campaign Profile, [Twitter](#), 9/26/11)



(Campaign Profile, [Twitter](#), 9/26/11)

**SEIU New Jersey State Council**

**In May 2023, The Joint Candidate Campaign Touted The Endorsement Of The SEIU New Jersey State Council.** (Joint Candidate Campaign Profile, [Twitter](#), 5/15/23)



(Joint Candidate Campaign Profile, [Twitter](#), 5/15/23)

**In May 2023, The Joint Candidate Campaign Profile Touted The Endorsement Of The SEIU New Jersey State Council.** (Joint Candidate Campaign Profile, [Instagram](#), 5/15/23)



(Joint Candidate Campaign Profile, [Instagram](#), 5/15/23)

***Gopal Has Frequently Attended Events Hosted By New Jersey Labor Unions And Has Previously Described Himself As A “Proud Member” Of A New Jersey Union***

**In July 2023, Gopal Posted A Picture Addressing The New Jersey Building Trades Convention.** (Official Profile, [Facebook](#), 7/19/23)



(Official Profile, [Facebook](#), 7/19/23)

**In June 2023, Gopal Posted Speaking At The IBEW Local 102.** (Official Profile, [Facebook](#), 6/6/23)



(Official Profile, [Facebook](#), 6/6/23)

**In June 2023, Gopal Posted That He Was “A Proud Member Of IBEW Local 400”.** (Official Profile, [Facebook](#), 6/6/23)



(Official Profile, [Facebook](#), 6/6/23)

**In May 2023, Gopal Posted That He Attended The American Federation Of Teachers AFT New Jersey 2023 Legislative Conference.** (Official Profile, [Facebook](#), 5/20/23)





(Official Profile, [Facebook](#), 5/20/23)

## **GOPAL HAS SUPPORTED EFFORTS TO INCREASE REGULATIONS ON NEW JERSEY BUSINESSES**

### ***In 2022, Gopal Noted His Support For Legislation To Ban Membership From Restricting Gasoline Sales To Only Paid Members***

**In 2022, Gopal Noted His Support For Legislation To Ban Membership From Restricting Gasoline Sales To Only Paid Members.** ‘Not a Costco member? The warehouse club would be forced to once again allow you to buy gas at their stores in New Jersey if a pair of state lawmakers get their way. State Sens. Richard Codey, D-Essex, and Vin Gopal, D-Monmouth, have introduced nearly identical bills (S3000 and S3029) that would ban membership clubs from restricting gasoline sales only to paid members in the Garden State. The measures don't mention Costco by name, but they come three months after the company's gas stations in New Jersey switched to permitting only store members to purchase the often-cheaper gasoline at their pumps. That ended a longstanding policy letting everyone fill up there, whether they had a membership card or not. "Last time I checked, that's a commodity," Codey, a former New Jersey governor, said of gasoline. "What's going on here?" Gopal said this is especially an issue as people continue to deal with high gas prices, even though they've begun to drop. The average price for a gallon of regular gas in New Jersey as of Friday was \$3.44, according to AAA -- higher than it

was a year ago (\$3.22) but lower than it was a month ago (\$3.93). "I do believe gas is a public commodity, just like food and energy," Gopal said. "I don't believe there should be membership costs to get things generally in the public good." The lawmaker stressed he is not telling businesses what to charge for gas, just that "it shouldn't be done as a club." "I don't think adding an additional barrier is great," Gopal said." (*The Times*, 10/1/22)

## **GOPAL HAS SUPPORTED THE BIDEN ADMINISTRATION'S FISCAL AGENDA**

***In 2022, "Lawmakers From ... The New Jersey Legislature ... Called On Members Of Congress To Commit To Funding From The "Build Back Better Act" That Would Expand Rental Assistance, Fund Public Housing Repairs, And Grow The National Housing Trust Fund To Build More Affordable Homes"***

### **Gopal Was Among The Lawmakers Listed In The Release**

**2022: "Lawmakers From The New Jersey Congressional Delegation And The New Jersey Legislature This Week Called On Members Of Congress To Commit To Funding From The "Build Back Better Act" That Would Expand Rental Assistance, Fund Public Housing Repairs, And Grow The National Housing Trust Fund To Build More Affordable Homes."**

"Lawmakers from the New Jersey Congressional Delegation and the New Jersey Legislature this week called on members of Congress to commit to funding from the "Build Back Better Act" that would expand rental assistance, fund public housing repairs, and grow the national Housing Trust Fund to build more affordable homes. The announcements were part of an event hosted by the Housing and Community Development Network of NJ (the Network) in support of the Network's HouseNJ campaign, which calls for federal- and state-level housing investments. With the "Build Back Better Act" stalled in the U.S. Senate, state and national housing advocates are urging lawmakers to support essential Build Back Better Act investments in any upcoming budget reconciliation bill. "It took us years to build back from the foreclosure crisis and now we run the risk of seeing all of our hard fought progress erased," said U.S. Senator Bob Menendez (D-NJ). "That's why we must make the transformative investments in the President's 'Build Back Better' plan to address our country's affordable housing crisis. If this pandemic has taught us anything it's that housing is healthcare and at a time like this we should be doing everything we can to help families find a safe and affordable place to call home." "It is time for us to make long overdue investments to create, preserve and improve our affordable housing infrastructure," said U.S. Senator Cory Booker (D-NJ). "We must use this opportunity to build back better and bring down the cost of housing, improve housing conditions, and remove historic barriers to housing access." The Network's HouseNJ campaign urges the Biden Administration and Congress to include the housing investments from the House-passed Build Back Better Act in any reconciliation deal, which is the expected path for the bill's final passage. These investments will provide rental assistance to additional extremely low-income households, increase the National Housing Trust Fund, as well as repair and preserve public housing. If the House version of the "Build Back Better Act" were enacted, NJ would receive 21,000 new rental vouchers. The state would also receive \$545.3 million from the National Housing Trust Fund for 5,000 new



homes affordable to households at extremely low incomes. In comparison, NJ received \$24.3 million in 2021.” ([Insider NJ](#), 2/25/22)

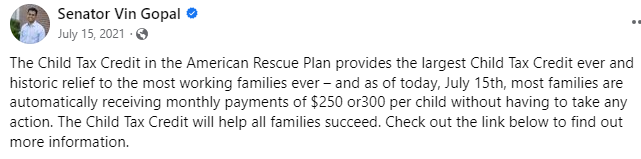
- **Gopal Was Among The Lawmakers Listed In The Release.** ““We need to make sure that every resident who needs housing has the opportunity to get it,” said Senator Vin Gopal (D-Monmouth). “We’re seeing a dramatic increase of mental health cases after the pandemic. Not having a stable home or a roof over their head, things we take for granted, creates that cycle of stress.” Berger noted that grassroots leaders and housing advocates from around the state will be organizing in their communities to secure support for these investments from all members of the NJ Congressional delegation. Senator Gopal and Assemblywoman Timberlake said they would be introducing legislative resolutions that call for the inclusion of these housing investments in the reconciliation bill.” ([Insider NJ](#), 2/25/22)

***In 2021, Gopal Noted His Support For The Biden Infrastructure Plan And Specifically Noted His Support For Offshore Wind***

**In 2021, Gopal Noted His Support For The Biden Infrastructure Plan And Specifically Noted His Support For Offshore Wind.** “A group of New Jersey elected officials, green business groups and civil rights leaders applauded Rep. Frank Pallone (D-Monmouth) for introducing legislation that would ban offshore drilling off the state’s coastline and called on Congress to wean itself from Big Oil and instead make transformative investments to create clean energy jobs. Rep. Pallone’s legislation comes as President Biden is pushing the American Jobs Plan, which would invest trillions of dollars in clean energy, creating millions of new jobs replacing 100 percent of the nation’s lead drinking water lines, weatherizing 2 million aging homes and offices, building new solar panels and wind turbines and other major national infrastructure needs. “Rep. Pallone’s bold leadership highlights the choice ahead of New Jersey and our nation,” said Alex Taurel, Conservation Program Director for League of Conservation Voters. “Are we going to continue to dig the hole deeper and put more communities’ health and safety at risk from offshore oil? Or are we going to invest in a clean energy future that creates good paying union jobs, and centers environmental justice? Congress has the chance to take us down the right path with the American Jobs Plan and we are so thankful New Jerseyans have leaders like Representative Pallone putting their future first.” “Congressman Pallone’s bill will help ensure that visitors will be able to come down the Jersey Shore to enjoy our clean waters for generations to come,” said state Sen. Vin Gopal (D-Mercer). “Rather than doubling down on polluting industries that threaten our coastline, we need to be investing in growing green energy industries, including offshore wind, that will enable us to provide union jobs to New Jersey families while also helping us fight climate change. New Jersey has been a leader in both environmental protection and clean energy, and I look forward to working with our congressional representatives to turbocharge these efforts by working to pass the American Jobs Plan.” ([Insider NJ](#), 5/7/21)

***In 2021, Gopal Praised The American Rescue Plan Promoted By President Joe Biden***

**In July 2021, Gopal Praised The American Rescue Plan For Its “Historic Relief To The Most Working Families Ever”.** (Official Profile, [Facebook](#), 7/15/21)




(Official Profile, [Facebook](#), 7/15/21)

**ON SOCIAL MEDIA, GOPAL HAS INDICATED HE SUPPORTS U.S. FUNDING FOR UKRAINE**

*In March 2022, Gopal Expressed Support For Ukraine And Hosted An Event Titled “Stand With Ukraine Event”*

**In March 2022, Gopal Expressed Support For Ukraine And Hosted An Event Titled “Stand With Ukraine Event.”** (Official Profile, [Facebook](#), 3/18/22)


**Senator Vin Gopal**   
 March 18, 2022 · 🌐

Stand with Ukraine - Today at 4:00 p.m.  
 My office has been flooded with questions from constituents asking what they can do locally to support Ukraine.  
 Join me this afternoon at Riverside Gardens Park in Red Bank to discuss how our local communities can work together to lend aid to Ukraine and its citizens. The event will kick off at 4 p.m.



(Official Profile, [Facebook](#), 3/18/22)

**GOPAL IS KNOWN TO SUPPORT MURPHY’S ENERGY PLAN – INCLUDING CONTROVERSIAL USE OF OFFSHORE WIND POWER**

*In 2023, Gopal Has Been Criticized By Republicans For His Support Of Murphy’s Energy Plan And Its Controversial Use Of Wind Power, Which May Have Harmful Effects On Ocean Life*

**In 2023, Gopal Has Been Criticized By Republicans For His Support Of Murphy’s Energy Plan And Its Controversial Use Of Wind Power, Which May Have Harmful Effects On Ocean Life.** “A new effort to save the humpback whales in the North Atlantic Ocean has been launched to stop offshore wind energy farms in places like New Jersey. The commercial aims at New Jersey Democrat Senator Vin Gopal, who has fallen in line with Governor Phil Murphy and his radical clean energy plan that could once again put the species in danger. The video, sponsored by the Republican State Leadership Committee, portrays offshore wind energy projects as the next great threat to the whales after decades-long conservation efforts brought them from the brink of extinction. “During a television interview last week, Gopal unequivocally dismissed any possible connection between sonar mapping of the ocean floor and the tragic

deaths of dolphins and whales up and down the Jersey shore,” said Steve Dnistrian, the Republican candidate for state senate in LD-11. “Gopal called anyone who believes in such a connection – including dozens of elected officials from both parties, advocates and concerned citizens – conspiracy theorists, which is inappropriate, insulting and callous. I stand with the bipartisan coalition of elected official, advocates and citizens calling for a moratorium on all offshore wind activity. Implementing a moratorium is perfectly reasonable to everyone, except the governor, Gopal and those who stand ready to make billions of dollars off of the Murphy’s master energy plan. Clearly, they could care less about 40 dead dolphins and countless whales washing up on our beaches.” The plight of the humpback whale was so dire in the 1980s that in the 1986 Star Trek film *The Voyage Home*, whales had become extinct by the 23rd century. The movie was credited for bringing the plight of the endangered species to the public spotlight.” ([Shore News Network](#), 8/2/23)

- January 2023: “New Jersey State Sen. Vin Gopal, Who Represents Part Of Coastal Monmouth County, Said He’s “Very Concerned” About Any Ties Between Wind And The Whales.”** “Murphy, like the president, has made offshore wind a key component of his clean energy plans. At least one moderate Democrat is expressing hesitation, too. New Jersey state Sen. Vin Gopal, who represents part of coastal Monmouth County, said he’s “very concerned” about any ties between wind and the whales. The political headache couldn’t come at a worse time for the offshore wind industry, which is already struggling to finance wind farms, including Ocean Wind 1, which would be New Jersey’s first.” (*Politico*, 1/29/23)

***NOTE: However, Gopal Is Known To Have Opposed Legislation Allowing An Offshore Wind Company To Access Federal Tax Credits***

**NOTE: However, Gopal Is Known To Have Opposed Legislation Allowing An Offshore Wind Company To Access Federal Tax Credits.** “Republicans in the 4th legislative district have begun attacking Assemblyman Paul Moriarty (D-Washington), who is running for the district’s Senate seat this year, over his recent vote for a bill allowing the offshore wind company Ørsted to access substantial federal tax credits. “This is a classic ‘Robin Hood in Reverse’ scheme that screws local ratepayers to bail out a multi-billion-dollar company,” said Chris Del Borrello, a former Washington Township Councilman and the Republican Senate nominee in the 4th district. “What was Paul Moriarty thinking? Or better yet, follow the money.” The offshore wind farms currently in the early stages of construction along the Jersey Shore have long been the subject of intense debate in New Jersey politics. Democrats, most prominently Gov. Phil Murphy, have said offshore wind development is a necessary part of the fight against climate change; Republicans have responded that wind farms would harm tourism along the Shore, and have connected the development to a spate of whale deaths earlier this year. The battle came to a head in the state legislature over the Ørsted bill, which essentially gives the company federal tax credits that would have instead gone to ratepayers in New Jersey. Murphy signed the bill last week, shortly after it passed the legislature on a near-party line vote. Only one Democrat voted against the bill: State Sen. Vin Gopal (D-Long Branch), who faces a competitive fight for re-election in a Monmouth County district that covers some of the most iconic parts of the Jersey Shore.” ([NJ Globe](#), 7/17/23)

## GOPAL HAS SUPPORTED THE LEFT’S ANTI-GROWTH ENVIRONMENTAL AGENDA

*In 2022, Gopal Praised A Community Solar Energy Pilot Program As An Effective Counter To Climate Change*

**In August 2022, Gopal Praised The Community Solar Energy Pilot Program At Extra Space Storage As A Project That Fights Against Climate Change.** (Official Profile, [Facebook](#), 8/1/22)



(Official Profile, [Facebook](#), 8/1/22)

### **In 2018, “Gopal Released The Following Statement In Support Of Governor Murphy’s Executive Order To Rejoin The Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative”**

**In 2018, “Senator Vin Gopal Released The Following Statement In Support Of Governor Murphy’s Executive Order To Rejoin The Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative.”** “Senator Vin Gopal released the following statement in support of Governor Murphy’s Executive Order to rejoin the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative: “Today is a day future generations of New Jerseyans will thank us for. I am excited to see Governor Murphy taking swift action to support our environment and there is no better place to do it than right here in Monmouth County. Readmission to the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative will put us on a path toward a cleaner



environment for our children and help drive green innovation throughout the state of New Jersey. “Here in Monmouth County, every environmental issue is an economic issue. Along our boardwalks and beaches, our mom and pop shops help drive the state’s \$44 billion tourism industry. Today’s action should provide those business owners with further assurance that New Jersey is working to ensure they don’t just survive, but thrive. Beyond our tourism industry, New Jersey has an opportunity to lead the way in the renewable energy economy. By 2023, solar energy alone is expected to account for an additional 220,000 jobs across the United States, with wind and other forms of renewable energy adding thousands more. Many of these are high paying jobs that cannot be outsourced. We need to be sure New Jerseyans are filling those roles and readmission to RGGI takes us in that direction. “It’s time for New Jersey to be an environmental leader again and the Governor’s decision to rejoin the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative is the right first step.” ([Insider NJ](#), 1/29/18)

**In 2019, Gopal Supported Legislation That “Drives Up Energy Costs By Forcing The State To Rejoin The Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI), From Which The Christie Administration Withdrew The State”**

**In 2019, Gopal Voted Yea On A 1212, Which Rejoined The Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative.** ([A 1212](#), Passed (26 - 12), New Jersey State Senate, 12/16/19, Gopal Voted Yea)

- NOTE: “Clarifies intent of P.L.2007, c.340 regarding NJ’s required participation in Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative.” ([A 1212](#))

**ACU: A 1212 “Drives Up Energy Costs By Forcing The State To Rejoin The Draconian Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI) From Which The Christie Administration Withdrew The State.”** “This bill drives up energy costs by forcing the state to rejoin the draconian Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI) from which the Christie administration withdrew the state. The RGGI is a cap-and-trade program which assesses fees on the carbon dioxide emissions of electric energy producers and whose costs are passed onto ratepayers through higher electricity rates. The bill directs the fees to a newly created Global Warming Solutions Fund which expands government cronyism through its grants and financial assistance directives.” ([American Conservative Union](#))

**The American Conservative Union “Opposes Increasing Energy Costs For Millions Of Families, Believes It Is Outrageous To Finance Special Interest Initiatives With The RGGI Funds As Opposed To Providing Ratepayers Relief And Opposed This Bill.”** “ACU opposes increasing energy costs for millions of families, believes it is outrageous to finance special interest initiatives with the RGGI funds as opposed to providing ratepayers relief and opposed this bill. The Senate passed the bill on December 16, 2019 by a vote of 26-12 and the bill was signed into law.” ([American Conservative Union](#))

**In 2018, Gopal Supported Legislation That “Commits The State To The U.S. Climate Alliance, A Coalition Formed In Response To President Trump's Action To Protect American Independence By Withdrawing The U.S. From The Paris Climate Accord”**

**In 2018, Gopal Voted Yea On S 598, Which Required New Jersey To Join The US Climate Alliance.** ([S 598](#), Passed (26 - 12), New Jersey State Senate, 2/1/18, Gopal Voted Yea)

- NOTE: “Requires NJ to join U.S. Climate Alliance to uphold Paris Climate Accord.” ([S 598](#))

**ACU: S 598 “Commits The State To The U.S. Climate Alliance, A Coalition Formed In Response To President Trump's Action To Protect American Independence By Withdrawing The U.S. From The Paris Climate Accord.”** “This bill commits the state to the U.S. Climate Alliance, a coalition formed in response to President Trump's action to protect American independence by withdrawing the U.S. from the Paris Climate Accord. The bill requires the state to uphold that accord and cedes lawmaking authority to the Climate Alliance by forcing the state to abide by the goals established by the alliance.” ([American Conservative Union](#))

**The American Conservative Union “Opposes This Political Stunt To Weaken The Efforts Of The Trump Administration To Defend America's Independence And Reduce Energy Prices And Opposed This Bill.”** “ACU believes it is absurd for the state to cede lawmaking authority to an unaccountable nonprofit and has long opposed the Paris Climate Accord (especially considering every participating European country has failed to comply with the accord's anti-growth mandates) and opposes this political stunt to weaken the efforts of the Trump administration to defend America's independence and reduce energy prices and opposed this bill. The Senate passed the bill on February 1, 2018 by a vote of 26-12.” ([American Conservative Union](#))

***In 2022, Gopal Sponsored Legislation To End Diverting Clean Energy Funds To NJ Transit's Operating Budget***

**In 2022, Gopal Sponsored Legislation To End Diverting Clean Energy Funds To NJ Transit's Operating Budget.** “Environment New Jersey issued the following joint news release with 36 organizations: The Jersey Renewals coalition, representing 37 labor, environmental, community and faith organizations, greatly appreciates the efforts of over 10 legislators who support ending the raids on the Clean Energy Fund in the FY '23 Budget. Led by Senator Zwicker, the prime sponsor of Senate Budget Resolution S. 373, these legislators seek to end the diversion of \$83.6 million in the FY'23 Budget, which is more than 23% of the total Clean Energy Fund. The raiding of the Clean Energy Funds is apparently to support New Jersey Transit's operating budget, and the Department of Corrections, despite the State's budgetary surplus, which exceeds \$6.75 billion. Diverting these legislatively dedicated monies will stymie New Jersey's ability to meet climate policy goals, create good well-paying jobs, and protect vulnerable communities. Protecting these legislatively dedicated funds will tackle air pollution, develop clean and renewable sources of energy, lower rates for New Jerseyans, and improve public health, so Jersey Renewals thanks the leaders below who seek to end these raids. Sen. Zwicker's Senate Budget Resolution S. 373 is co-primed by Sen. Vin Gopal (D-11); and co-sponsored by Sen. Linda Greenstein (D-14), Sen. Shirley Turner (D-15), Sen. Bob Smith (D-17), Sen. Gordon Johnson (D-38), Asm. John McKeon (D-27), Asm. Dan Benson (D-14), Asm. James Kennedy (D-22) and Asm. Clinton Calabrese (D-36). At the time of this press release, several other legislators also expressed support for this resolution to put an end to the raids. "It is time to end the Clean Energy Fund raids. Now is the time to commit the full \$344 million contributed by ratepayers into the Clean Energy Fund. Doing so will invest in the health of the

State's residents, and promote a more affordable, reliable, and cleaner energy future," said Senator Andrew Zwicker, (D-16)." (Environment NJ, 6/24/22)

***In 2021, Gopal Supported Legislation That Would “Unnecessarily Drive-Up Consumer Costs In Order To Advance A Politicized Leftist Environmental Agenda” By Banning Styrofoam And Imposing Recycling Mandates***

**In 2021, Gopal Voted Yea On S 2515, Which Banned Styrofoam And Imposed Recycling Mandates.** ([S 2515](#), Passed (22 - 14), New Jersey State Senate, 6/24/21, Gopal Voted Yea)

- NOTE: “Establishes postconsumer recycled content requirements for rigid plastic containers, glass containers, paper and plastic carryout bags, and plastic trash bags; prohibits sale of polystyrene loose fill packaging.” ([S 2515](#))

**The American Conservative Union “Opposes This Attack On The Offerings Of The Private Sector Which Unnecessarily Drive-Up Consumer Costs In Order To Advance A Politicized Leftist Environmental Agenda And Opposed This Bill.”** “ACU opposes this attack on the offerings of the private sector which unnecessarily drive-up consumer costs in order to advance a politicized Leftist environmental agenda and opposed this bill. The Senate passed the bill on June 24, 2021 by a vote of 22-14. (The bill failed to advance in the Assembly in 2021.)” ([American Conservative Union](#))

***In 2020, Gopal Supported Legislation That “Infringes Consumer Choice And Drives Up Costs In The Food Service Industry By Banning Several Common Consumer Plastic, Paper, And Styrofoam Products”***

**In 2020, Gopal Voted Yea On S 864, Which Imposed A Ban On Plastic And Paper Bags, Plastic Straws, And Styrofoam Food Service Products.** ([S 864](#), Passed (25 - 13), New Jersey State Senate, 9/24/20, Gopal Voted Yea)

- NOTE: “Prohibits provision or sale of single-use plastic carryout bags, single-use paper carryout bags, and polystyrene foam food service products; limits provision of single-use plastic straws; appropriates moneys from Clean Communities Program Fund for public education.” ([S 864](#))

**ACU: S 864 “Infringes Consumer Choice And Drives Up Costs In The Food Service Industry By Banning Several Common Consumer Plastic, Paper, And Styrofoam Products.”** “This bill infringes consumer choice and drives up costs in the food service industry by banning several common consumer plastic, paper, and Styrofoam products. Under the bill, beginning in May 2020, all stores and food service businesses from providing or selling single-use plastic and paper carryout bags. Additionally, the bill prohibits food-service businesses from handing out plastic straws, unless specifically requested by a customer (effective November 2021). Furthermore, the bill bans the use of single-use plastic or polystyrene foam food containers, utensils, and cups. Businesses that fail to comply with the bill are fined up to \$5,000 for each violation. The bill also allocates \$500,000 per year for three years to fund a public education campaign to distribute reusable bags and creates a Plastics Advisory Council within the New Jersey Department of Environment Protection.” ([American Conservative Union](#))



**The American Conservative Union “Opposes This Government Overreach Which Will Drive Up Costs For Businesses And Consumers, Believes Government Should Enforce Anti-Littering Ordinances Instead Of Burdening Law-Abiding Consumers With Draconian Mandates, And Opposed This Bill.”**

“ACU opposes this government overreach which will drive up costs for businesses and consumers, believes government should enforce anti-littering ordinances instead of burdening law-abiding consumers with draconian mandates, and opposed this bill. The Senate passed the bill on September 24, 2020 by a vote of 25-13 and the bill was signed into law.” ([American Conservative Union](#))

***In 2020, Gopal Supported Legislation That “Infringes Property Rights And Reduces Economic Growth By Preventing The Department Of Environmental Protection From Issuing Permits In ‘Overburdened Communities’”***

**In 2020, Gopal Voted Yea On S 232, Which Would Deny Permits The Advance**

**‘Environmental Justice’ In Certain Communities.** ([S 232](#), Passed (21 - 14), New Jersey State Senate, 8/27/20, Gopal Voted Yea)

- NOTE: “Requires DEP to evaluate environmental and public health stressors of certain facilities on overburdened communities when reviewing certain permit applications.” ([S 232](#))

**ACU: S 232 “Infringes Property Rights And Reduces Economic Growth By Preventing The Department Of Environmental Protection From Issuing Permits In ‘Overburdened Communities’.”**

“This bill infringes property rights and reduces economic growth by preventing the Department of Environmental Protection from issuing permits in “overburdened communities”. The bill defines overburdened communities as those where at least 35% of the households qualify as low-income or at least 40% of residents identify as minority. As a result, manufacturers and other job creators would be prevented from obtaining permits for facilities such as power plants, incinerators, solid waste, or for anything defined as a major source of air pollution under the federal Clean Air Act.” ([American Conservative Union](#))

**The American Conservative Union “Opposes This Measure Which Reduces Economic Growth And Further Impoverishes Communities That Need Investment And Jobs The Most And Opposed This Bill.”**

“ACU recognizes state and federal laws already place stringent requirements on air pollution and this bill infringes the property rights of landowners and corporations in these regions. ACU opposes this measure which reduces economic growth and further impoverishes communities that need investment and jobs the most and opposed this bill. The Senate passed the bill on August 27, 2020 by a vote of 21-14 and the bill was signed into law.” ([American Conservative Union](#))

***In 2018, Gopal Supported Legislation That Banned Offshore Drilling***

**In 2018, Gopal Voted Yea On A 839, Which Prohibited Offshore Drilling.** ([A 839](#), Passed (37 - 0), New Jersey State Senate, 3/26/18, Gopal Voted Yea)

- NOTE: “Prohibits offshore oil and gas exploration, development, and production in State waters, and issuance of DEP permits and approvals for activities associated with offshore oil and gas activities.” ([A 839](#))

**ACU: A 839 “Is Designed To Hinder Oil And Gas Production In Federal Waters And Will Result In Higher Energy Costs For All Americans.”** “This bill is designed to hinder oil and gas production in federal waters and will result in higher energy costs for all Americans. Under the bill, the state Department of Environmental Protection and other state agencies are prohibited from leasing or conveying any portion of state coastal lands if the action would result in an increase in oil or natural gas production in federal waters. Furthermore, the bill bolsters the prohibition of drilling in state coastal lands.” ([American Conservative Union](#))

**The American Conservative Union “Supports All Sources Of Energy And Opposes This Attack On The Trump Administration's Efforts To Reduce Energy Costs And Expand Economic Growth And Opposed This Bill.”** “ACU supports all sources of energy and opposes this attack on the Trump administration's efforts to reduce energy costs and expand economic growth and opposed this bill. The Senate passed the bill on March 26, 2018 by a vote of 37-0.” ([American Conservative Union](#))

***On Social Media, Gopal’s Joint Candidate Campaign Advocated For New Jersey To Pass Expensive Clean Energy Legislation And Join Anti-Growth Climate Change Initiatives***

**In July 2023, Gopal’s Joint Candidate Campaign Profile Called To Codify 100% Clean Energy By 2035” Into New Jersey State Law.** (Joint Candidate Campaign Profile, [Instagram](#), 7/7/23)



(Joint Candidate Campaign Profile, [Instagram](#), 7/7/23)

***Gopal Has Frequently Promoted New Jersey State Programs Encouraging Residents To Purchase Electric Vehicles***

**In October 2022, Gopal Posted A Promotion Of An Incentive For Purchasing An Electric Vehicle.** (Official Profile, [Facebook](#), 10/13/22)



(Official Profile, [Facebook](#), 10/13/22)

**In September 2022, Gopal Posted A Promotion Of An Incentive For Purchasing An Electric Vehicle.** (Official Profile, [Facebook](#), 9/23/22)



(Official Profile, [Facebook](#), 9/23/22)

**In March 2022, Gopal Posted In Support Of The “It Pay\$ To Plug In” Grant, Which Is A Grant For Fast Charging Infrastructure For Electric Vehicles.** (Official Profile, [Facebook](#), 3/14/22)



(Official Profile, [Facebook](#), 3/14/22)

**In September 2019, Gopal Celebrated A New Electric Vehicle Charging Station In Asbury.**  
(Official Profile, [Instagram](#), 9/27/19)



(Official Profile, [Instagram](#), 9/27/19)

***On Social Media, Gopal Praised The New Jersey Student Climate Challenge Seeking To Address The Impacts Of Climate Change***

**In June 2023, Gopal Posted Praise For The NJ Student Climate Challenge To Address The Impacts Of Climate Change.** (Official Profile, [Facebook](#), 6/21/23)





(Official Profile, [Facebook](#), 6/21/23)

***Gopal Has Consistently Enjoyed The Support Of Environmental Organizations***

**NOTE:** *Additional environmentalist associations can be provided upon request.*

**In 2021, Gopal Was Endorsed By Environment NJ.** “Environment New Jersey issued the following news release on Oct. 13, 2021: Environment New Jersey today released its full slate of endorsements for the state legislative and mayoral elections and the gubernatorial race, as it prepares to launch a get out the vote and voter education push state-wide and in key legislative races leading up to Election Day on Tuesday, November 2. Environment New Jersey, on behalf of their more than 20,000 dues-paying citizen members, released its full slate of legislative and mayoral endorsements, as well as its support for the re-election of Governor Phil Murphy. Receiving the group's endorsements are 13 State Assembly and Senate legislative champions spanning 11 legislative districts across the state. The organization endorsed six State Senators and Senate candidates with a record of marked environmental leadership, including Senator Bob Smith (D-17), Senator Linda Greenstein (D-14) and Senator Vin Gopal (D-11). The organization also endorsed the Senate candidacy of Asm. Andrew Zwicker (D-16), Asm. Vince Mazzeo (D-2) and Christine Clarke, the Democratic challenger in the 26th District.” (Environment NJ, 10/14/21)

**In 2023, Zwicker, Gopal, Burzichelli, And Moriarty Were Endorsed By The NJ LCV.** “The New Jersey League of Conservation Voters has endorsed Democrats in four competitive legislative districts but skipped over 22 Democratic incumbents and all but one Republican lawmaker. The 53,000-member grassroots environmental group is backing John Burzichelli against State Sen. Edward Durr (R-Logan) in the 3rd district, Assemblyman Paul Moriarty (D-Washington Township) for the open Senate seat in the 4th, and State Sens. Vin Gopal (D-Long Branch) and Andrew Zwicker (D-South Brunswick) in the 11th and 16th districts, respectively. In addition to Durr, the organization endorsed challengers against six Assembly incumbents:

Bethanne McCarthy-Patrick (R-Mannington) in District 3; Michael Torrissi (R-Hammonton) and Brandon Umba (R-Medford) in District 8; Brian Rumpf (R-Little Egg Harbor) in District 9; and Marilyn Piperno (R-Colts Neck) and Kim Eulner (R-Shrewsbury) in District 11. The LCV is backing Christine Clarke for Senate in the 25th against Senate Minority Leader Anthony Bucco (R-Boonton), and Evesham Councilwoman Heather Cooper, a Democrat, for the open GOP Senate seat in the 8th. The lone Republican statewide to capture a League of Conservation Voters endorsement is Assemblyman Rob Clifton (R-Matawan) in District 12. “We could not be prouder of the dedicated, pro-environment leaders in this round of legislative endorsements, and we look forward to electing them to office and working together to build a more equitable and sustainable clean energy future for our children and grandchildren,” said Allison McLeod, the group’s senior policy director. “Codifying 100% clean energy by 2035, advancing offshore wind, and strengthening our democracy are all on the ballot.” It’s not clear how impactful the LCV endorsement is, although in low-turnout elections, every little bit helps.” ([NJ Globe](#), 7/6/23)

**In 2017, “The New Jersey Sierra Club Called Gopal’s Win A “Victory For The Environment.”**” “Gopal accused Beck of being a “foot soldier” for Christie and a political insider who lost touch with her constituents in Monmouth County. The New Jersey Sierra Club called Gopal’s win a “victory for the environment.” “He will fight to deal with climate change and support New Jersey getting back into the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative,” Jeff Tittel, director of the Sierra Club, said in a statement. “It is really time for a change in the 11th district and Vin will bring that change.”” (*Star Ledger*, 11/8/17)

## **GOPAL SUPPORTED THE LEFT’S BIG-GOVERNMENT REACTION TO COVID-19**

### ***In April 2020, Gopal Planned To Introduced Legislation To Impose Severe Fines And/ Or Jail Party Goers Who Violated Social Distancing Orders***

**In April 2020, Gopal Planned To Introduced Legislation To Impose Severe Fines And/ Or Jail Party Goers Who Violated Social Distancing Orders.** “Despite daily reminders that verge on begging for public compliance, gatherings continue. “It angers us,” Murphy said Tuesday. “We believe the more swift, visible action that is taken such as you saw in Newark last night ... the more quickly we can bring this non-compliant behavior to zero.” Lawmakers are proposing their own ways to crack down. Sen. Vin Gopal, D-Monmouth, says partygoers should be penalized, too. He plans to introduce a bill that will direct law enforcement to cite attendees, potentially resulting in a fine of \$1,000 or six months in jail. “Proper social distancing is essential for keeping our hospitals from being overwhelmed, and these arrogant and shortsighted gatherings are putting every one of us at risk,” Gopal said in a statement. A group of Ocean County Republican lawmakers want to give the health commissioner power to collect a \$10,000 to \$15,000 fine if anyone hosts a party in violation of the governor's order.” (*Asbury Park Press*, 4/2/20)

### ***In Late April 2020, Gopal Wrote In Support Of Closing Public Parks***

**In Late April 2020, Gopal Wrote In Support Of Closing Public Parks.** “Living near a public park — whether state, local or county — is one of the many upsides of residing in the Garden

State. Whether it's walking through Seven Presidents Oceanfront Park or hiking in South Mountain Reservation, New Jersey's open spaces often provide a welcome respite to our lives. We know that Gov. Phil Murphy and New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection Commissioner Catherine R. McCabe also treasure our open spaces and recognize their importance to people across our state. That's why we understand how difficult it must have been to close New Jersey's state and county parks as part of our statewide response to COVID-19. Unfortunately, we do not live in a time of easy decisions. And we support the decision to temporarily close New Jersey's parks. As of Monday, more than 88,000 of our fellow New Jerseyans have tested positive for COVID-19. Sadly, more than 4,300 have passed away. Statewide, we owe it to them — and to their families and loved ones — to take an aggressive approach to protect public health, especially when it comes to social distancing. Over 14,000 New Yorkers have also died so far from COVID-19. Between, New Jersey and New York, we are averaging nearly 1,000 deaths per day this past week. This is a horrific statistic. As Murphy and state health experts have said on many occasions, we must do everything we can to flatten the curve and slow the rate of new COVID-19 infections. Unfortunately, just as the COVID-19 outbreak was surging, so were the crowds at state parks and forests. Just prior to closing state and county parks, visitation numbers to state parks were at unusually high levels. And so were the behaviors that threaten public health.” (Vin Gopal, Op-Ed, *Star-Ledger*, 4/21/20)

***In June 2020, Gopal Noted His Request To Have State Officials Investigate Donovan's Reef Bar For Social Distancing Violations***

**In June 2020, Gopal Noted His Request To Have State Officials Investigate Donovan's Reef Bar For Social Distancing Violations.** “Lewis contacted both Sen. Vin Gopal, D-Monmouth, and Gov. Phil Murphy, asking for action to be taken against Donovan's Reef. Gopal said Monday that after hearing from Lewis he contacted James Graziano, acting director of the state's Division of Alcoholic Beverage Control, who said he would investigate. There was no immediate word from the division or from the state Attorney General's Office on whether any action has been taken. "That's where you're seeing the spikes (in coronavirus infections) in Texas and Florida coming from, the bars and clubs," Gopal said. "So this is unacceptable." Donovan's Reef lists on its website the precautions the bar says it is taking during the pandemic. They include "hygiene hand washing stations located throughout the venue," social distance markers and signs, and "practicing safe staff social distancing and continual education." The website reads "We will have dedicated hygiene specialists on staff during all operating hours. PPE (personal protective equipment) i.e.: gloves and masks will be available to all our staff at all times, and to customers upon request." Phil Murphy mentioned the out-of-state spikes when he announced at his daily press briefing that he was canceling a plan to reopen indoor dining in restaurants.” (*Asbury Park Press*, 6/30/20)

***In July 2020, Gopal Called For Shore Towns To Impose Capacity Restrictions***

**In July 2020, Gopal Called For Shore Towns To Impose Capacity Restrictions.** “According to Murphy's May executive order, towns are required to implement “reasonable restrictions,” including non-discriminatory capacity restrictions. Those capacity limits, determined by local officials, could be achieved through limiting beach badge sales or monitoring the crowds with



technology. “I think both are good options,” says state Sen. Vin Gopal, D-Monmouth. “I think the towns have got to handle this on their own. “They know their beaches, they know their entry points, they know their populations, and I think the state has to enforce it.” Which option are Shore towns choosing for limiting capacity?” (*The Times*, 7/15/20)

***In 2020, Gopal Supported Legislation That “Attacks Property Rights By Preventing Landlords From Evicting A Tenant Based On Nonpayment Of Rent During The State Of Emergency Declared By The Governor”***

**In 2020, Gopal Voted Yea On S 2485, Which Extended The Eviction Moratorium.** ([S 2485](#), Passed (23 - 15), New Jersey State Senate, 6/29/20, Gopal Voted Yea)

- NOTE: “Prohibits eviction as remedy for nonpayment of rent due during time surrounding COVID-19 pandemic in certain circumstances.” ([S 2485](#))

**ACU: S 2485 “Attacks Property Rights By Preventing Landlords From Evicting A Tenant Based On Nonpayment Of Rent During The State Of Emergency Declared By The Governor”.** “This bill attacks property rights by preventing landlords from evicting a tenant based on nonpayment of rent during the state of emergency declared by the governor due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The bill contains no provision which requires the tenant to show inability to pay due to COVID-19. An eviction is only permitted if the residential tenant lives in an owner-occupied residential property.” ([American Conservative Union](#))

**The American Conservative Union “Firmly Opposes The Left’s ‘Cancel Rent’ Movement Which Drives Up Housing Costs For Everyone And Opposed This Bill.”** “ACU recognizes that landlords oftentimes have mortgages and other expenses themselves, and firmly opposes the Left’s “cancel rent” movement which drives up housing costs for everyone and opposed this bill. The Senate passed the bill on June 29, 2020 by a vote of 23-15. (The bill failed to advance in the Assembly.)” ([American Conservative Union](#))

***In 2021, Gopal Advocated For Individuals To Wear COVID-19 Masks Even If They Were Fully Vaccinated***

**In April 2021, Gopal Posted In Favor Of People Masking Up Even If They Are Fully Vaccinated.** (Official Profile, [Facebook](#), 4/6/21)



(Official Profile, [Facebook](#), 4/6/21)

## **GOPAL SUPPORTED MURPHY’S VACCINATION AND TESTING REQUIREMENTS**

***In August 2021, Gopal Announced “...He Supports Gov. Phil Murphy’s New Vaccination And Testing Requirements For Employees Of Health Care And Congregate Living Facilities”***

**In August 2021, “State Sen. Vin Gopal (D-Long Branch), The Chair Of The Senate Military And Veterans’ Affairs Committee, Announced On Tuesday That He Supports Gov. Phil Murphy’s New Vaccination And Testing Requirements For Employees Of Health Care And Congregate Living Facilities.”** “State Sen. Vin Gopal (D-Long Branch), the chair of the Senate Military and Veterans’ Affairs Committee, announced on Tuesday that he supports Gov. Phil Murphy’s new vaccination and testing requirements for employees of health care and congregate living facilities. The requirements, which Murphy unveiled at a press briefing yesterday, mandates that all workers in such facilities will either need to show proof of vaccination or get a minimum of one Covid test per week beginning September 7. “The state-run veterans homes were among some of the hardest facilities hit in the beginning of the global COVID-19 pandemic,” Gopal said. “This mandate to either have state health care employees get vaccinated or be tested every two weeks means we can give some assurance to our veterans and other community members that they are safe, and their health will continue to be a priority in this state.” Several of the state’s veterans’ homes were horrifically impacted by Covid in 2020, with

at least 102 residents of the Veterans Memorial Home in Menlo Park dying of the virus, and at least 89 deaths at another facility in Paramus. The catastrophes have been subject to a statewide grand jury investigation, and Murphy announced the appointment of new CEOs at both devastated facilities in March.” ([NJ Globe](#), 8/3/11)

- **“The Requirements, Which Murphy Unveiled At A Press Briefing Yesterday, Mandates That All Workers In Such Facilities Will Either Need To Show Proof Of Vaccination Or Get A Minimum Of One Covid Test Per Week Beginning September 7.”** ([NJ Globe](#), 8/3/11)

***In 2021, Gopal Encouraged Undocumented Immigrants To Receive A COVID-19 Vaccine***

**In March 2021, Gopal Posted In Support Of Undocumented Immigrants To Go And Get The COVID-19 Vaccine.** (Official Profile, [Facebook](#), 3/22/21)



(Official Profile, [Facebook](#), 3/22/21)

## **GOPAL’S EMBRACE OF THE WOKE AGENDA AND RADICAL SOCIAL POLITICS**

### **GOPAL APPEARS TO SUPPORT NEW JERSEY’S STATUS AS A SANCTUARY STATE FOR ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS**

*In 2021, Gopal Supported Legislation That “Prohibits State And Local Entities And Private Detention Facilities From Entering Into Agreement To Detain Noncitizens”*

**In 2021, Gopal Voted Yea On A 5207, Which Prohibited State And Local Detention Agreements With ICE.** ([A 5207](#), Passed (23 - 15), New Jersey State Senate, 6/24/21, Gopal Voted Yea)

- NOTE: “Prohibits State and local entities and private detention facilities from entering into agreement to detain noncitizens.” ([A 5207](#))

**The American Conservative Union “Supports Assisting The Federal Government In Its Constitutional Role To Enforce Our Nation’s Immigration Laws And Opposed This Bill.”** “ACU supports assisting the federal government in its constitutional role to enforce our nation’s immigration laws and opposed this bill. The Senate passed the bill on June 24, 2021 by a vote of 23-15 and the bill was signed into law.” ([American Conservative Union](#))

*In 2021, Gopal Supported “Documented And Undocumented” South Asian DREAMers Participating In An Essay Contest To Win A Scholarship And A Trip To Washington, DC*

**In September 2021, Gopal Posted Support For A Contest For South Asian DREAMers To Win A Scholarship And A Trip To Washington, DC.** (Official Profile, [Facebook](#), 9/21/21)



(Official Profile, [Facebook](#), 9/21/21)

## GOPAL SUPPORTS PROVIDING STATE BENEFITS TO ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS

*In 2019, Gopal Supported Legislation That “Permits Those Who Reside In The Country Illegally To Obtain Driver’s Licenses And State-Issued Identification Cards”*

**In 2019, Gopal Voted Yea On A 4743, Which Provided Driver’s Licenses To Illegal Immigrants.** ([A 4743](#), Passed (21 - 17), New Jersey State Senate, 12/16/19, Gopal Voted Yea)

- NOTE: “Creates two categories of driver's licenses and identification cards; allows residents unable to prove lawful presence in US to receive permits, and standard driver's licenses or identification cards; permits MVC to increase certain fees.” ([A 4743](#))

**ACU: A 4743 “Permits Those Who Reside In The Country Illegally To Obtain Driver’s Licenses And State-Issued Identification Cards.”** “This bill permits those who reside in the country illegally to obtain driver’s licenses and state-issued identification cards. Specifically, the bill creates an entirely new class of driver’s licenses and identification cards, known as “standard” licenses and IDs, which do not require proof of lawful presence in the U.S. and are a way to bypass the federal REAL ID Act. Additionally, the bill prohibits the state Motor Vehicle

Commission (MVC) from retaining any documents used to apply for the license or ID and largely prevents the MVC from cooperating with investigations involving unlawful residents who are “standard” cardholders. Furthermore, the bill does not require these licenses and IDs to include unique designs disclosing that an unlawful resident cardholder cannot use the card to vote.” ([American Conservative Union](#))

**The American Conservative Union “Opposes This Blatant Attempt To Encourage Individuals To Skirt The Law And Disenfranchise Lawful Voters Through Voter Fraud And Opposed This Bill.”** “ACU supports efforts to help the federal government perform its constitutional role in enforcing the nation’s immigration laws, opposes this blatant attempt to encourage individuals to skirt the law and disenfranchise lawful voters through voter fraud and opposed this bill. The Senate passed the bill on December 16, 2019 by a vote of 21-17 and the bill was signed into law.” ([American Conservative Union](#))

***In 2020, Gopal Supported Legislation That “Is Designed To Circumvent Federal Immigration Law And The Visa Process By Mandating Illegal Immigrants Be Provided Occupational And Professional Licenses”***

**In 2020, Gopal Voted Yea On S 2455, Which Provided Occupational Licenses To Illegal Immigrants.** ([S 2455](#), Passed (26 - 11), New Jersey State Senate, 6/29/20, Gopal Voted Yea)

- NOTE: “Prohibits lawful presence in United States as qualification for obtaining professional or occupational license.” ([S 2455](#))

**ACU: S 2455 “Is Designed To Circumvent Federal Immigration Law And The Visa Process By Mandating Illegal Immigrants Be Provided Occupational And Professional Licenses.”** “This bill is designed to circumvent federal immigration law and the visa process by mandating illegal immigrants be provided occupational and professional licenses. Specifically, the bill prevents an agency from denying the issuance of a license based on citizenship or immigration status.” ([American Conservative Union](#))

**The American Conservative Union “Opposes The Majority Of State Occupational Licensing Mandates, We Oppose This Measure Which Permits Individuals To Circumvent The Visa Process And Federal Immigration Law.”** “While ACU opposes the majority of state occupational licensing mandates, we oppose this measure which permits individuals to circumvent the visa process and federal immigration law. ACU supports assisting the federal government in enforcing our nation’s immigration laws and opposed this bill. The Senate passed the bill on June 29, 2020 by a vote of 26-11 and the bill was signed into law.” ([American Conservative Union](#))

***In 2020, Gopal Criticized The Trump Administration’s Immigration Policies, Especially Its Restrictions On H-1B Visas***

**In 2020, Gopal Criticized The Trump Administration’s Immigration Policies, Especially Its Restrictions On H-1B Visas.** “Gopal talked about the immigration policy of President Donald Trump and its implications for the South Asian community. He mentioned he would seriously doubt whether his parents or other immigrants like them would have been legally allowed to



immigrate to this country under a Trump administration, according to the statement. He pointed out that while "our country is supposed to represent diversity and inclusion, there are many policies under the Trump administration which are not good for South Asians, like restrictions on H-1B visas, according to the statement." (*The Independent*, 8/10/20)

## **GOPAL PREVIOUSLY ENCOURAGED LOCALITIES TO “PUSH FOR POLICE REFORM”**

### ***In 2020, “Gopal Said He Was Encouraged To See More Localities Push For Police Reform”***

**In 2020, “Gopal Said He Was Encouraged To See More Localities Push For Police Reform.”** “This year the holiday has come to increased prominence with some of the racial tensions present in the United States. State Sen. Vin Gopal, D-Monmouth, said the lessons of Juneteenth are relevant today. "It's good to see Juneteenth, one of the most important dates of the year, celebrated," Gopal said. Gopal said he was encouraged to see more localities push for police reform. Asbury Park Police Chief David Kelso, who attended the rally, said body cameras were being introduced to the department's street crime unit and members would now be wearing the traditional blue uniforms. The rest of the department rolled out body cameras starting in 2016.” (*Asbury Park Press*, 6/20/20)

## **GOPAL APPEARS TO SUPPORT THE TEACHING OF CONTROVERSIAL CONTENT AND CURRICULUMS IN SCHOOLS**

### ***In 2019, Gopal Voted In Favor Of A Bill Requiring “Middle School And High School Students To Be Taught The Political, Economic And Social Contributions Of Notable Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual And Transgender People Throughout History”***

**In 2019, Gopal Voted In Favor Of A Bill Requiring “Middle School And High School Students To Be Taught The Political, Economic And Social Contributions Of Notable Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual And Transgender People Throughout History.”** “The bill requires middle school and high school students to be taught the political, economic and social contributions of notable lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people throughout history. New Jersey is the second state to do so. If you guessed California was first, you guessed right. What's wrong with teaching students about the contributions of the LGBT community? Maybe nothing. But what and how will it be taught? And what is the process for developing a curriculum that will benefit the students and the community? Those questions are left unaddressed in the one-page bill. The Legislature provided no framework or guidelines for what the curriculum should contain. It will be left to local school boards to determine exactly what to include in the lesson plans. That exercise isn't likely to be an easy one. Will the lessons be weaved into a broader curriculum? Will the lessons the LGBT community and lawmakers who supported the bill be confined to a single, self-contained unit? How will it be tailored differently for middle school and high school students? Will the contributions of lesbians, gays and transsexuals be featured if their sexual orientation had nothing to do with their historical legacy? Will it focus more heavily on LGBT activists and their contributions to moving the LGBT agenda forward? How will the



curriculum deal with gay historical figures such as Socrates and Michelangelo? What about 20th-century figures such as Susan B. Anthony, Eleanor Roosevelt and astronaut Sally Ride? How about more modern-day figures? Ellen DeGeneres? Rachel Maddow? Former New Jersey Gov. Jim McGreevey? Where will the line be drawn? Anything related to the LGBT community and education is inherently sensitive. That helps explain why so many legislators in Trenton refused to vote yes or no on the bill. In the Assembly, 15 lawmakers abstained, including several who represent Ocean and Monmouth counties: Anne Gove, Ronald Dancer, Amy Handlin, Serena DiMaso and Edward Thomson. Most Ocean County legislators voted against the bill. In the Senate, Vin Gopal was the only one of the six Ocean or Monmouth legislators to support it.” (Asbury Park Press, 2/5/19)

***In 2023, Gopal “Denounced ‘The Misinformation And Politicizing Campaigns’ Pushed By Politicians ‘More Interested In Scaring Parents Instead Of Being Truthful’”***

**“Gopal And Lagana, While Chiding The School Board For Its Move To Speed The Timeline For School Districts To Pass Their Equity Plans, Also Denounced ‘The Misinformation And Politicizing Campaigns’ Pushed By Politicians ‘More Interested In Scaring Parents Instead Of Being Truthful.’”** “Gopal and Lagana, while chiding the school board for its move to speed the timeline for school districts to pass their equity plans, also denounced “the misinformation and politicizing campaigns” pushed by politicians “more interested in scaring parents instead of being truthful.” “There is a continual attempt by these politicians to mislead parents with outlandish accusations of schools teaching children inappropriate things with zero evidence of that taking place across over 600 school districts throughout the state,” they said. Gopal is facing a tough reelection bid in November — he represents the only New Jersey legislative district where different parties hold upper and lower chamber seats — and Lagana’s district is expected to host a close race as well. Schepisi charged the criticism of the board from Scutari and Coughlin is itself rooted in electoral politics. “I think they understand how upset parents are at the moment, so in trying to protect their vulnerable members, they now have to take these positions,” she said.” (NJ Monitor, 8/4/23)

***As The Senate Education Chairman, Gopal Appeared To Defend And Advance Controversial Sex Ed Standards For New Jersey Students***

**In 2022, “Gopal -- The Senate Education Chairman Who Was Re-Elected By A Close Margin In November -- Stressed That Most Of What He's Read In Articles About The Controversy Is Not Included In The Guidelines”; He Claimed The Standards Were Just General Recommendations**

**In 2022, “Gopal -- The Senate Education Chairman Who Was Re-Elected By A Close Margin In November -- Stressed That Most Of What He's Read In Articles About The Controversy Is Not Included In The Guidelines”; He Claimed The Standards Were Just General Recommendations.** “In a Facebook post Tuesday morning, Gopal -- the Senate education chairman who was re-elected by a close margin in November -- stressed that most of what he's read in articles about the controversy is not included in the guidelines. “There is generic language on identifying gender roles and treating all kids, regardless or their gender, with

respect," Gopal said. "Anything that is more specific than that is coming from a specific Board of Education locally." Gopal also said the guidelines are simply recommendations from the state. "It is up to a local board of education to use them if they want but they don't have to," he said. The senator also said parents can opt their students out of the lessons. Other critics focused their comments generally on when it's appropriate to teach children about sex." (*Star Ledger*, 4/13/22)

**In 2022, Gopal's "Senate Education Committee Voted Along Party Lines To Move Forward With A Democratic-Sponsored Bill That Doesn't Undo The Standards But Aims To Allay Concerns By Mandating School Districts Publish Their Sex Ed Curriculums Online In The Summer, Ensuring Parents Can Ask Questions About The Lessons, And Reinforcing Their Right To Opt Children Out Of The Classes"**

**In May 2022, Gopal's "Senate Education Committee Voted Along Party Lines To Move Forward With A Democratic-Sponsored Bill That Doesn't Undo The Standards But Aims To Allay Concerns By Mandating School Districts Publish Their Sex Ed Curriculums Online In The Summer, Ensuring Parents Can Ask Questions About The Lessons, And Reinforcing Their Right To Opt Children Out Of The Classes."** "For about two hours Monday, a state Senate panel heard often-heated testimony from some parents, conservative groups, and religious leaders who voiced fear about children being exposed to what they see as inappropriate or even pornographic material under New Jersey's new sex education standards. At the same time, Republican lawmakers repeated their calls to repeal the incoming guidelines -- despite Democrats, education officials, and progressive advocates who insist the issue is being twisted and blown out of proportion. In the end, the Senate Education Committee voted along party lines to move forward with a Democratic-sponsored bill that doesn't undo the standards but aims to allay concerns by mandating school districts publish their sex ed curriculums online in the summer, ensuring parents can ask questions about the lessons, and reinforcing their right to opt children out of the classes. "If this becomes law ... we will know what's going on in our curricula in all of our school districts," state Sen. Vin Gopal, D-Monmouth, the committee's chairman and bill's main sponsor, said during the hearing at the Statehouse in Trenton. "And if we see bad actors out there, this will be how we can try to correct that -- if we do see things being taught that shouldn't be taught." New Jersey's updated health and physical education standards, adopted by the state Board of Education in June 2020, outline when students should learn about topics such as sexual orientation, gender identity, and anatomy. It's up to individual school districts to implement their own curricula based on the guidelines starting in the 2022-23 school year." (*Star Ledger*, 5/9/22)

**"Gopal -- Who Narrowly Won Re-Election Last Year -- Said He Sponsored The Bill That Advanced Monday (S2481) To Give Parents A Greater Say In The Matter, Even Though He Has Said Critics Are Spreading Misinformation About The Standards"**

**"Gopal -- Who Narrowly Won Re-Election Last Year -- Said He Sponsored The Bill That Advanced Monday (S2481) To Give Parents A Greater Say In The Matter, Even Though He Has Said Critics Are Spreading Misinformation About The Standards."** "Gopal -- who narrowly won re-election last year -- said he sponsored the bill that advanced Monday (S2481) to give parents a greater say in the matter, even though he has said critics are spreading

misinformation about the standards. The measure would require school boards in the state to offer an annual opportunity for parents, guardians, and other residents to publicly comment on any curriculum using the standards. It would also require districts to post curricula to their websites at least two weeks before classes start, while also reiterating parents' rights to opt their child out of sex education at school. The latter part is already guaranteed by a 1980 state law. This was the first time Gopal's measure received a public hearing. The result was less a debate on the bill and more a forum for Republicans and opponents of the standards to keep pressing Democrats to repeal them completely and start over.” (*Star Ledger*, 5/9/22)

***In 2022, Gopal Claimed Republican Opposition And Rhetoric Against The Sex Ed Standards Was A “Dangerous Game”***

**In 2022, Gopal Claimed Republican Opposition And Rhetoric Against The Sex Ed Standards Was A “Dangerous Game.”** “Senate Education chairman Vin Gopal (D-Monmouth) reminds us that his bill requiring districts to post their sex ed curriculum was blocked by Republicans, even though it echoed legislation pushed by that party's lawmakers for years. “These are politicians trying to mislead parents, and win votes with fear,” Gopal said. “To this day, they haven't pointed to a single one of our 600-plus districts teaching inappropriate material to school age children, and they continue to attack the teaching profession as a whole -- advocating cameras in classrooms, using loaded terms like 'groomers.' They are playing a dangerous game.” Elected officials genuinely care about children, but some have been co-opted by a cynical political movement that believes the protection of a child is best achieved by banning books and not guns. Their culture war, however, doesn't factor in the potential damage to kids, and it ignores the evidence that we actually need more expansive sex education in New Jersey's schools, not less.” (*Star Ledger*, 8/25/22)

**“What Started As A Worthy Debate On Educational Standards, Gopal Said, Was Hijacked, Manipulated And Distorted By GOP Operatives”**

**“What Started As A Worthy Debate On Educational Standards, Gopal Said, Was Hijacked, Manipulated And Distorted By GOP Operatives.”** “So why is a Democrat backing what seems to be a popular conservative talking point? What started as a worthy debate on educational standards, Gopal said, was hijacked, manipulated and distorted by GOP operatives. The purpose of his bill is simply to strengthen and clarify transparency and public access to the curriculum process, said Gopal, who narrowly won reelection last year in a competitive district. “Politicians and political consultants ... are trying to mislead well-meaning very reasonable parents who want to know what’s in their child’s classroom,” Gopal told NJ Spotlight News. “The state Republican Party is doing a lot of it. They’re doing paid ads and ... trying to mislead people and drive up votes.” In a written response to NJ Spotlight News, Brad Schnure, communications director for the state Senate Republican Office, said “These concerns are being driven first and foremost by parents who were shocked by the explicit and age-inappropriate nature of some of the sample teaching materials they were provided to demonstrate how school districts might teach the new state mandated sex education standards this fall.” No one is disputing Schnure’s assertion that Westfield parents brought the debate into public view. But what was a local debate in Westfield was quickly weaponized for political reasons and then

refracted through the lens of biased media platforms. Along the way, facts give way to erroneous spin and a debate devolved into a tribal fight. That was on display during Monday's committee hearing on Gopal's bill. Some parents, religious officials and conservative advocates said these sex-education standards are "sexualizing" and "grooming" children." ([NJ Spotlight News](#), 5/11/22)

***In 2022, Gopal Praised Murphy's Nominees To Replace Three State Board Of Education Members Who Protested The Murphy Administration's Changes To Sex Ed Standards***

**In October 2022, Gopal Praised Murphy's Nominees To Replace Three State Board Of Education Members Who Protested The Murphy Administration's Changes To Sex Ed Standards.** "Gov. Phil Murphy has nominated three women to serve on the state Board of Education, a group made up of 13 unelected members who approve rules and regulations and advise the state on educational policy. Mary Bennett, Kwanghee Jung and Claudine Keenan, who all hold credentials in the field of education, will replace current board members Mary Elizabeth Gazi, Mary Beth Berry and Vice President Andrew Mulvihill. This is the first group of nominations Murphy has made to the board since his reelection in 2021, even though most of the current members' terms are nearly ended and four board members' terms expired several years ago. State board members serve for six-year terms and without compensation. Mulvihill, Berry and Gazi, all had expired terms and were serving in holdover status. The three outgoing board members broke with protocol when they protested the Murphy administration's changes to the state's sex education standards, which have continued to fuel controversy in school districts and have become a rallying point for November's school board elections. The three members, along with Jack Fornaro, wrote an unofficial letter, leaked to the press in May, asking state Department of Education acting Commissioner Angelica Allen-McMillan to reopen and examine the 2020 Comprehensive Health and Physical Education standards and make "potential adjustments" to the language. Fornaro remains on the board. The letter also asked Allen-McMillan to permit districts to continue teaching the older 2014 standards until a review of the already-adopted 2020 standards could be completed. In the state Board of Education meeting that followed the letter, Allen-McMillan also went off script and made an opening statement not on the agenda in which she said she would not change the standards. Instead, she said, she "wholeheartedly disagrees" with anyone who suggests changing the standards and that retracting them would be "a disservice" to students. At the time, outgoing board member Mulvihill said the standards should be revisited because they offended some people's moral and religious beliefs. Board President Kathy Goldenberg tabled the discussion, saying changing the standards, which the board approved in 2020, wasn't "even a remote possibility." The three nominees must now be approved by their district senators before they can be confirmed to join the board by a vote in the Senate. The nominees were selected by Murphy with the consent of Allen-McMillan, and with some support from legislators. "I read and researched their biographies. I didn't talk to them directly, but they all seem to have excellent qualifications and a lot of public education experience," said Sen. Vin Gopal, D-Monmouth, chair of the Senate Education Committee. He commended Murphy for selecting individuals who show "steadfast commitment to public education in their careers." Not all lawmakers were aware of the nominations." ([Asbury Park Press](#), 10/2/22)

***In 2021, Gopal Supported Legislation That Would “Indoctrinate” Education Fields With “Leftist Propaganda And Enrich The Companies And Providers Of [Critical Race Theory Related] Training”***

**In 2021, Gopal Voted Yea On S 2834, Which Forced Teachers To Undergo Training On Critical Race Theory Related Content.** ([S 2834](#), Passed (32 - 6), New Jersey State Senate, 12/20/21, Gopal Voted Yea)

- NOTE: “Mandates training on culturally responsive teaching for all candidates for teaching certification.” ([S 2834](#))

**The American Conservative Union “Opposes Taking Away The Ability Of Teachers To Receive Valuable Training In Core Education Fields And Instead Indoctrinate Them With Leftist Propaganda And Enrich The Companies And Providers Of Such Training And Opposed This Bill.”** “ACU opposes taking away the ability of teachers to receive valuable training in core education fields and instead indoctrinate them with Leftist propaganda and enrich the companies and providers of such training and opposed this bill. The Senate passed the bill on December 20, 2021 by a vote of 32-6 and the bill was signed into law.” ([American Conservative Union](#))

***Gopal Has Frequently Attended And Spoken At Education Policy Conferences Hosted By Several Teacher Associations, Including The American Federation of Teachers (AFT) Which Has Described DEI Ideology As “Core Values” And Has Pledged To Promote DEI Policies In Pension Funds Across The Country***

**In May 2023, Gopal Attended The American Federation Of Teachers AFT New Jersey 2023 Legislative Conference.** (Official Profile, [Facebook](#), 5/20/23)



(Official Profile, [Facebook](#), 5/20/23)

- In A July 2022 Resolution, The AFT Described Diversity, Equity And Inclusion (DEI) As “Core Values” And Pledged To Promote DEI Policies In Public Pension Funds And Corporate Leadership Across The Country Through Lobbying And Activism.** “WHEREAS, diversity, equity and inclusion (DEI) are core values of the American Federation of Teachers, and the AFT is committed to leading the fight for racial justice; and WHEREAS, DEI refers to policies and programs that promote the representation and participation of historically underrepresented groups, including but not limited to people of color, women, LGBTQIA+ individuals, veterans and disabled individuals... RESOLVED, that the American Federation of Teachers will work with public pension funds, state treasurers, policymakers and advocacy organizations to promote diversity, equity and inclusion among asset managers, corporate leadership and boards of directors through engagement and shareholder activism; and RESOLVED, that the AFT will work with affiliates to identify, recruit, train and support diverse candidates for pension boards; and RESOLVED, that the AFT pension Trustee Council will work within its role as fiduciaries and investors to determine the risk posed to our pension funds by lack of diversity and systemic racism, and to raise concerns as investors and shareholders when appropriate.” (“DEI And Racial Justice In Investments,” [American Federation Of Teachers](#), 7/17/22)



**In May 2023, Gopal’s Joint Candidate Campaign Touted The Endorsement Of The Monmouth County Education Association, A Chapter Organization Of The New Jersey Education Association (NJEA).** (Joint Candidate Campaign Profile, [Twitter](#), 5/9/23)



(Joint Candidate Campaign Profile, [Twitter](#), 5/9/23)

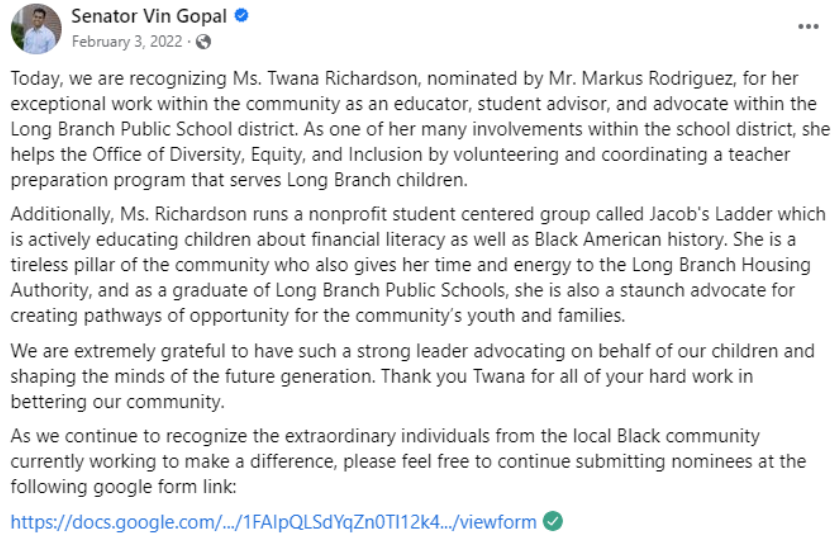
- In August 2022, The NJEA Ran A Television Ad Labeling Parents Speaking Out Against Gender Ideology Lessons And Critical Race Theory As “Extremists”** “The New Jersey chapter of the nation’s largest teachers union, the National Education Association (NEA), published an ad labeling parents who speak out at school board meetings against Critical Race Theory (CRT) and gender identity lessons as ‘extremists.’ The New Jersey National Education Association (NJEA) published a 15 second commercial discussing how New Jersey citizens should agree that students deserve ‘a world class education’ that should be separate from politics, according to an Aug. 15 video. However, the video cuts to black and white photos of people yelling in crowded meetings with headlines of articles describing parent protests at school board meetings over CRT and gender ideology, with a narrator calling the parents ‘extremist.’ ‘When extremists start attacking our schools, that’s not who we are,’ the video said. ‘People who only want to fight to score political points should take that somewhere else.’... The video posted to the NJEA YouTube page has more than 25,000 views. The NEA has affiliates in every state and NJEA has membership options for aspiring, current and retired teachers, the group’s website stated. ‘This ad reveals the true mission of the NEA, which is serving political bureaucrats,’ Elisabeth Messenger, national executive director of Americans for Fair Treatment, which focuses on ‘constitutional rights around union membership,’ told the DCNF. ‘Let’s not forget the NEA spends \$2 on politics for every \$1 it spends on representing its members. The union should focus on providing excellent service to their members – not targeting parents.’” (Reagan Reese, “Teachers Union Runs Ad Calling Conservative Parents ‘Extremists,’” [The Daily Caller](#), 8/17/22)



**In 2020, Gopal Praised A New Jersey Teacher For Their Work In Promoting DEI Policies In Schools**

**In February 2022, Gopal Posted Praise For Ms. Twana Richardson For Her Involvement In The Long Branch Public School District Office Of Diversity, Equity And Inclusion.**

(Official Profile, [Facebook](#), 2/3/22)



(Official Profile, [Facebook](#), 2/3/22)

***In 2020, Gopal Signaled Support For Making New Jersey The First State In The Nation To Incorporate Climate Change Education Across Its K-12 Learning Standards***

**2020: “First Lady Tammy Murphy Today Announced That The New Jersey State Board Of Education Has Adopted Her Initiative To Make New Jersey The First State In The Nation To Incorporate Climate Change Education Across Its K-12 Learning Standards.”**

“TRENTON – First Lady Tammy Murphy today announced that the New Jersey State Board of Education has adopted her initiative to make New Jersey the first state in the nation to incorporate climate change education across its K-12 learning standards. The New Jersey Student Learning Standards (NJSLS) outline what is taught in New Jersey’s public schools and set the foundation for school districts to craft instruction and curricula. With this adoption, climate change education will be incorporated across seven content areas—21st Century Life and Careers, Comprehensive Health and Physical Education, Science, Social Studies, Technology, Visual and Performing Arts, and World Languages. Climate change standards have also been added to the appendices of the Mathematics and English Language Arts guidelines, which are up for review in 2022. “In New Jersey, we have already begun to experience the effects of climate change, from our disappearing shorelines, to harmful algal blooms in our lakes, super storms producing torrential rain, and summers that are blazing hot,” said First Lady Murphy. “The adoption of these standards is much more than an added educational requirement; it is a symbol of a partnership between generations. Decades of short-sighted decision-making has fueled this crisis and now we must do all we can to help our children solve it. This generation of students will feel the effects of climate change more than any other, and it is critical that every student is

provided an opportunity to study and understand the climate crisis through a comprehensive, interdisciplinary lens.” ([Insider NJ](#), 6/3/20)

- **Gopal Praised The Climate Standards.** ““It’s unfortunate that climate change has been turned into such a divisive political tool. In reality, it is a scientific fact, and human activity is a major contributing factor,” said Senator Vin Gopal. “While we cannot control how the politics is played on the federal level, through the First Lady’s first-in-the-nation initiative we can ensure our students understand the real world causes, effects and strategies to mitigate the future damage. For the students set to inherit this warming world, properly educating them is the most responsible thing we can do.” ([Insider NJ](#), 6/3/20)

## **GOPAL HAS VOTED TO UNDERMINE PARENTAL TRANSPARENCY IN EDUCATION**

***In 2021, Gopal Supported Legislation That “Permits School Districts To Administer Student Health Surveys After Prior Written Notification To Parents And Legal Guardians”***

**In 2021, Gopal Voted Yea On A 5597, Which No Longer Required Schools To Receive Permission To Survey Students On Sexual Behavior.** ([A 5597](#), Passed (24 - 15), New Jersey State Senate, 6/24/21, Gopal Voted Yea)

- NOTE: “Permits school districts to administer student health surveys after prior written notification to parents and legal guardians.” ([A 5597](#))

***The American Conservative Union “Supports Strong Parental Rights, Opposes Leftist Attempts To Bypass Parents And Indoctrinate Children On Sensitive Issues And Opposed This Bill”***

The American Conservative Union “Supports Strong Parental Rights, Opposes Leftist Attempts To Bypass Parents And Indoctrinate Children On Sensitive Issues And Opposed This Bill.” “ACU supports strong parental rights, opposes Leftist attempts to bypass parents and indoctrinate children on sensitive issues and opposed this bill. The Senate passed the bill on June 24, 2021 by a vote of 24-15 and the bill was signed into law.” ([American Conservative Union](#))

## **GOPAL SUPPORTS AFFIRMATIVE ACTION, THE PROMOTION OF DEI AND OTHER ASPECTS OF WOKE IDEOLOGY**

***In 2020, Gopal Supported Legislation That “Requires Certain Health Care Professionals To Undergo Explicit And Implicit Bias Training”***

**The American Conservative Union “Opposes This Measure Designed To Enrich Radical Leftists Consultants At The Expense Of Patients And Opposed This Bill”**

**In 2020, Gopal Voted Yea On S 703, Which Required Hospitals Provide Implicit Bias Training.** ([S 703](#), Passed (29 - 7), New Jersey State Senate, 8/27/20, Gopal Voted Yea)

- NOTE: “Requires certain health care professionals to undergo explicit and implicit bias training.” ([S 703](#))

**ACU: S 703 “Increases Health Care Costs By Requiring Hospitals To Provide ‘Implicit Bias’ Training To Medical Professionals Who Serve Pregnant Women.”** “This bill increases health care costs by requiring hospitals to provide “implicit bias” training to medical professionals who serve pregnant women. As a result, medical professionals would be taken away from caring for their patients in order to enrich consultants attempting to advance a radical leftist narrative that all individuals are inherently racist.” ([American Conservative Union](#))

**The American Conservative Union “Opposes This Measure Designed To Enrich Radical Leftists Consultants At The Expense Of Mothers And Patients And Opposed This Bill.”** “ACU supports equal rights under the law for all, believes all individuals should be treated with dignity and respect. ACU opposes this measure designed to enrich radical leftists consultants at the expense of mothers and patients and opposed this bill. The Senate passed the bill on August 27, 2020 by a vote of 29-7. (The bill failed to advance in the Assembly in 2020.)” ([American Conservative Union](#))

***In 2020, Gopal Supported Legislation That “Expands Cronyism By Establishing The Office Of Clean Energy Equity”***

**In 2020, Gopal Voted Yea On S 2484, Which Established The Office Of Clean Energy Equity.** ([S 2484](#), Passed (28 - 10), New Jersey State Senate, 11/16/20, Gopal Voted Yea)

- NOTE: “Establishes Office of Clean Energy Equity in BPU; directs establishment of certain clean energy, energy efficiency, and energy storage programs for overburdened communities; makes change to community solar program.” ([S 2484](#))

**ACU: S 2484 “Expands Cronyism By Establishing The ‘Office Of Clean Energy Equity’ And Forcing Taxpayers To Provide The New Entity At Least \$50 Million In Funding.”** “This bill expands cronyism by establishing the “Office of Clean Energy Equity” and forcing taxpayers to provide the new entity at least \$50 million in funding. The office is directed to interfere in the marketplace by establishing community solar programs and deploying energy storage systems. Furthermore, the bill mandates the Department of Labor and Workforce Development provide grants to “community-based, diversity-focused nonprofit organizations” for green energy initiatives.” ([American Conservative Union](#))

**The American Conservative Union “Opposes This Cronyism Which Interferes In The Marketplace By Enriching Government Favored Companies And Organizations And Opposed This Bill.”** “ACU supports all sources of energy and believes government should not favor one source over another. ACU opposes this cronyism which interferes in the marketplace by enriching government favored companies and organizations and opposed this bill. The Senate passed the bill on November 16, 2020 by a vote of 28-10. (The bill failed to advance in the Assembly.)” ([American Conservative Union](#))

***In 2021, Gopal Supported Legislation That Would “Socialize Private Business Investment Onto Taxpayers – Especially On The Grounds Of Racial Discrimination”***

**In 2021, Gopal Voted Yea On S 2769, Which Created A Program That Provided Grants To Only Minority Businesses.** ([S 2769](#), Passed (30 - 1), New Jersey State Senate, 1/28/21, Gopal Voted Yea)

- NOTE: “Establishes "Minority Business Development Program" in EDA; appropriates \$50 million to EDA from federal funds.” ([S 2769](#))

**The American Conservative Union “Opposes Measures Which Socialize Private Business Investment Onto Taxpayers – Especially On The Grounds Of Racial Discrimination – And Opposed This Bill.”** “ACU supports equal rights and opportunities under the law for all, and believes it is the role of government to apply all laws equally. ACU opposes measures which socialize private business investment onto taxpayers – especially on the grounds of racial discrimination – and opposed this bill. The Senate passed the bill on January 28, 2021 by a vote of 30-1. (The bill failed to advance in the Assembly.)” ([American Conservative Union](#))

***In 2023, The AAPI Caucus, Led By Gopal, Issued A Joint Statement Criticizing The Supreme Court’s Ruling Rolling Back Affirmative Action***

**In June 2023, The AAPI Caucus, Led By Gopal, Issued A Joint Statement Criticizing The Supreme Court’s Ruling Rolling Back Affirmative Action.** “The members of the New Jersey Legislative Latino, Black and Asian-American and Pacific Islander Caucuses issued the following statement on the Supreme Court decision that rolls back race-based Affirmative Action measures at American universities: “Once again, the U.S. Supreme Court has delivered a shattering blow to our democracy with a recent decision that strikes down decades of legal precedent. Laws are enacted to help right a wrong, provide direction to ensure we move society toward equality and justice, protect citizens and give, regardless of race or heritage, access to opportunities once closed off to them. “This is not only just a setback for the country’s higher education institutions. Corporate diversity programs promoting equity are also at risk. The systemic unequal treatment and discrimination people of color experienced in corporate America was brought to light through the discussions taking place around affirmative action and businesses had to find a solution to answering the call for diversity. “Racial inequalities still persist and pervade our educational and business spaces. We cannot simply turn a blind eye and pretend they will go away. Diversity, equity and inclusion programs make access to higher education possible for everyone. Preserving and protecting DEI programs and ensuring access for all people of color remains a steadfast priority for our caucuses. We did not come this far to turn the clocks back now.” ([Insider NJ](#), 6/20/23)

## **ON SOCIAL MEDIA, GOPAL HAS PROMOTED DIVISIVE RACIAL CONTENT – INCLUDING THE MINNESOTA BAIL FUND AND BLACK LIVES MATTER**

### ***In 2020, Gopal Promoted The Existence Of “System Racism”***

**Gopal, In 2020: “We Cannot Solve The Problem Of Systemic Racism Overnight, But We Can And Must Come Together As A Nation To Agree That It Exists, To Heal The Wounds In Our Nation’s Psyche, And To Make Sure That This Kind Of Tragedy Never Happens Again.”** “I cannot, and should not pretend that I have ever experienced the plight or experiences of America’s black community—but I want to understand, and I stand with our black community in their fight for justice. Watching this video was sickening, inhumane, disgusting and horrifying. Point blank – it was murder sanctioned by individuals sworn to protect us. The officers involved in the murder of George Floyd without a doubt failed to uphold their oath to protect and serve. This should not discount the tens of thousands of officers who risk their lives each day upholding their oath and protecting their communities, but we must also understand that benevolent words and apologies from upstanding members of law enforcement will not undo the pain of generations of pain, anguish, and oppression. We need action. We cannot afford to let this tragedy pass into yesterday’s headlines. America needs healing, and our black community deserves justice for the bigotry and systematic prejudice that many black Americans face every day. Abusive and prejudiced police officers must be held accountable for their actions, and good police officers must be empowered to speak up if they see something wrong—not pressured or shamed into staying silent. This incident is not an isolated one, nor does the violent policing of black Americans exist in a vacuum. Today’s conflicts grew from seeds first planted four hundred years ago, and have been nurtured and twisted by decades of segregation and prejudice. Addressing this problem will take accountability, proper bias training, support for community policing, and the installation of a culture that punishes abuse and rewards integrity. We cannot solve the problem of systemic racism overnight, but we can and must come together as a nation to agree that it exists, to heal the wounds in our nation’s psyche, and to make sure that this kind of tragedy never happens again.” ([NJ Globe](#), 5/30/20)

### ***In 2020, Gopal Appeared To Reference Beliefs Promoted By The Liberal History Program The 1619 Project, Who Have Claimed The United States Has Been A Racist County For Over 400 Years***

**In May 2020, Gopal Seemed To Reference Ideas Held By The 1619 Project, Stating “Today’s Conflicts Grew From Seeds First Planted Four Hundred Years Ago, And Have Been Nurtured And Twisted By Decades Of Segregation And Prejudice.”** (Official Profile, [Facebook](#), 5/29/20)





(Official Profile, [Facebook](#), 5/29/20)

- **According To The 1619 Project By The New York Times Magazine, August 2019 Was The 400th Anniversary Of American Slavery.** “The 1619 Project is an ongoing initiative from The New York Times Magazine that began in August 2019, the 400th anniversary of the beginning of American slavery. It aims to reframe the country’s history by placing the consequences of slavery and the contributions of black Americans at the very center of our national narrative.” ([New York Times Magazine](#), 8/14/19)

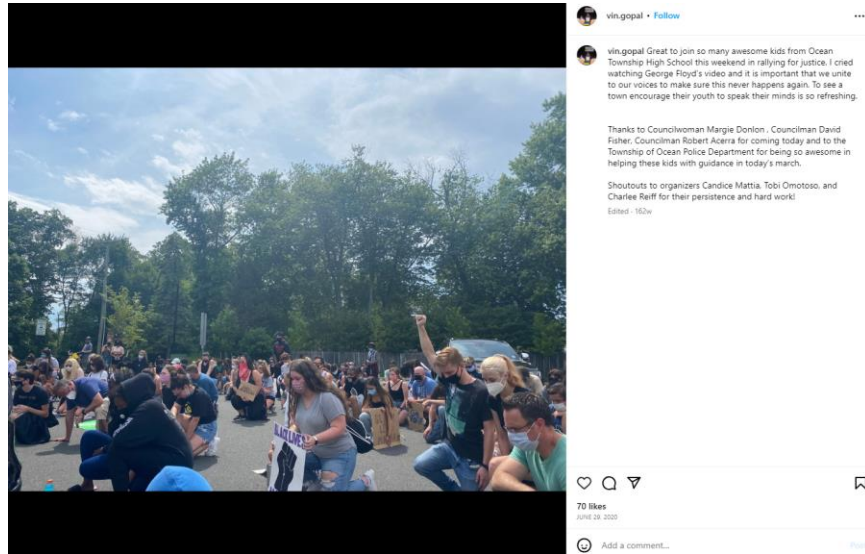
***Gopal Has Attended At Least One Black Lives Matter Rallies And Has Spoken At Events With Signs Promoting Divisive Racial Ideology***

**In June 2020, Gopal Posted Pictures At A Black Lives Matter Rally.** (Official Profile, [Facebook](#), 6/27/20)



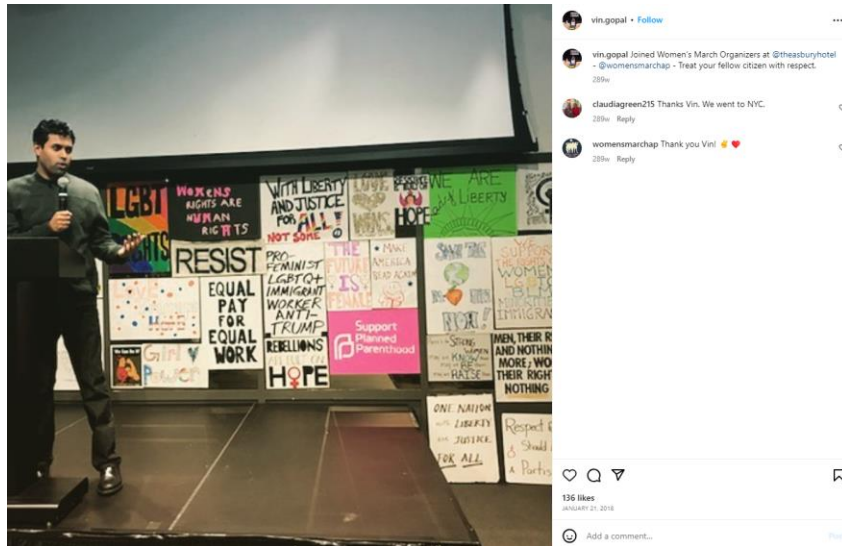
(Official Profile, [Facebook](#), 6/27/20)

**In June 2020, Gopal Posted Pictures At A Black Lives Matter Rally.** (Official Profile, [Instagram](#), 6/29/20)



(Official Profile, [Instagram](#), 6/29/20)

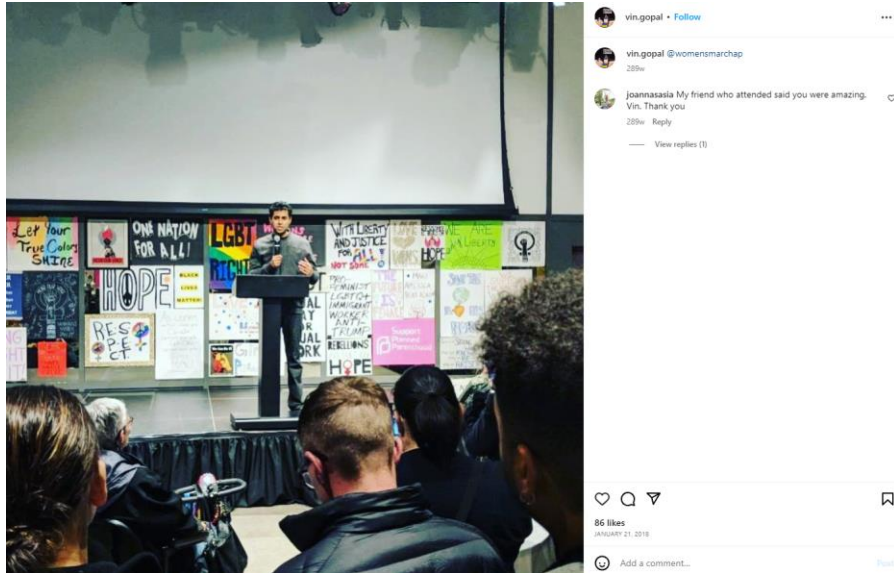
**In January 2018, Gopal Posted A Photo In Front Of A “Resist” Sign.** (Official Profile, [Instagram](#), 1/21/18)



(Official Profile, [Instagram](#), 1/21/18)

**In January 2018, Gopal Posted A Photo In Front Of A “Black Lives Matter” Sign.** (Official Profile, [Instagram](#), 1/21/18)

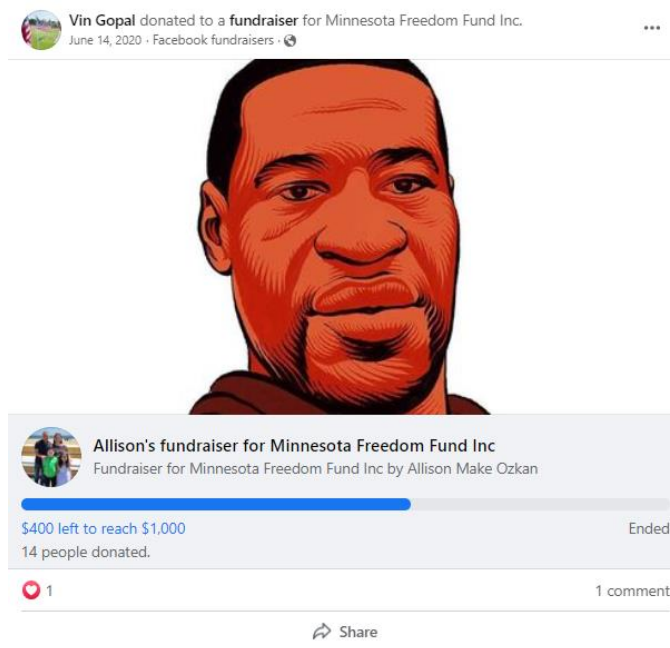




(Official Profile, [Instagram](#), 1/21/18)

***In 2020, Gopal Donated To A Facebook Fundraiser For The Minnesota Freedom Fund, Which Opposes “Oppressive Jailing” And Pays Criminal Bails For***

**In June 2020, Gopal Posted And Donated To A Fundraiser For The Minnesota Freedom Fund.** (Personal Profile, [Facebook](#), 6/14/20)



(Personal Profile, [Facebook](#), 6/14/20)

- **According To The Organization Website, The Minnesota Freedom Fund “Pays Criminal Bail And Immigration Bonds For Those Who Cannot Otherwise Afford To As We Seek To End Discriminatory, Coercive, And Oppressive Jailing”. “The**

Minnesota Freedom Fund pays criminal bail and immigration bonds for those who cannot otherwise afford to as we seek to end discriminatory, coercive, and oppressive jailing.”  
([Minnesota Freedom Fund](#), Accessed 8/9/23)

***Gopal Has Promoted Several Race-Based Holidays And Events Such As Juneteenth***

**In June 2023, Gopal Posted Celebrating Juneteenth.** (Official Profile, [Facebook](#), 6/19/23)



(Official Profile, [Facebook](#), 6/19/23)

**In June 2023, Gopal Posted A Phot Speaking At The Monmouth County Diversity Alliance Inc.’s Juneteenth Celebration.** (Official Profile, [Facebook](#), 6/17/23)



(Official Profile, [Facebook](#), 6/17/23)

**In February 2023, Gopal Posted In Celebration Of Black History Month.** (Official Profile, [Facebook](#), 2/1/23)



(Official Profile, [Facebook](#), 2/1/23)

**In June 2022, Gopal Posted At The Long Branch Juneteenth Celebration.** (Official Profile, [Facebook](#), 6/18/22)



(Official Profile, [Facebook](#), 6/18/22)

**In July 2020, Gopal Attended A Candlelight Vigil For Those That Lost Their Life To Systemic Racism.** (Official Profile, [Facebook](#), 7/16/20)



(Official Profile, [Facebook](#), 7/16/20)



**In 2020, Gopal Claimed “America Needs Healing” From “Bigotry And Systematic Prejudice”**

**In May 2020, Gopal Posted That “America Needs Healing” For The Systematic Prejudice Within It.** (Official Profile, [Facebook](#), 5/29/20)



(Official Profile, [Facebook](#), 5/29/20)

**GOPAL IS A STAUNCH LGBTQ ACTIVIST**

***Gopal Has Been Pictured At Local Pride Parades And Has Frequently Promoted LGBTQ Ideology, Including Showing Support For “International Transgender Day Of Visibility”***

**In July 2023, Gopal Posted A Photo Infront Of A Transgender Flag.** (Official Profile, [Facebook](#), 7/5/23)



(Official Profile, [Facebook](#), 7/5/23)

**In June 2023, Gopal’s Joint Candidate Campaign Profile Posted That They Are “Full Of PRIDE” At The Asbury Park Pride Parade.** (Joint Candidate Campaign Profile, [Facebook](#), 6/5/23)



(Joint Candidate Campaign Profile, [Facebook](#), 6/5/23)

**In June 2023, Gopal Posted That He Was Excited To “Join” The Asbury Park Pride Parade.** (Official Profile, [Facebook](#), 6/4/23)



(Official Profile, [Facebook](#), 6/4/23)

**In November 2022, Gopal Posted In Celebration Of Transgender Day Of Remembrance.** (Official Profile, [Facebook](#), 11/20/22)





(Official Profile, [Facebook](#), 11/20/22)

**In October 2022, Gopal Posted In Celebration Of National Coming Out Day.** (Official Profile, [Facebook](#), 10/11/22)



(Official Profile, [Facebook](#), 10/11/22)

**In October 2022, Gopal Posted In Celebration Of LGBTQ+ History Month.** (Official Profile, [Facebook](#), 10/3/22)



(Official Profile, [Facebook](#), 10/3/22)

**In March 2022, Gopal Posted To Celebrate International Transgender Day Of Visibility.** (Official Profile, [Facebook](#), 3/31/22)



(Official Profile, [Facebook](#), 3/31/22)

### ***Gopal Has Been Endorsed By Local LGBTQ Activists***

**In 2017, Gopal Was Endorsed By Garden State Equality.** ‘Garden State Equality, the state’s largest and most active gay and lesbian rights advocacy organization, today plans to formally back Democrat Vin Gopal for state senate in the battleground 11th District. “We consider Vin Gopal a friend, and we know he will have our back with Phil Murphy in Trenton,” Christian Fuscarino, executive director of Garden State Equality, told InsiderNJ. “We know we will have two allies.” Gopal is seeking to oust long-serving state Senator Jennifer Beck (R-11) in New Jersey’s most-watched senate election this year. “It came down to Senator Beck having told us she would support issues and then reversing her decision, and with what is happening federally, we cant have that uncertainty,” Fuscarino said. He noted a birth certificate bill that Beck sponsored, which she ultimately opposed; and pointed out that she first opposed the marriage quality bill and then later voted for it, after redistricting rearranged Asbury Park into the 11th District. “Vin Gopal is someone we can count on, and we know we can take him at his word,” Fuscarino said.” ([Insider NJ](#), 9/7/17)

### ***In 2021, Gopal Sponsored Legislation Codifying Gay Marriage Rights Into Law***

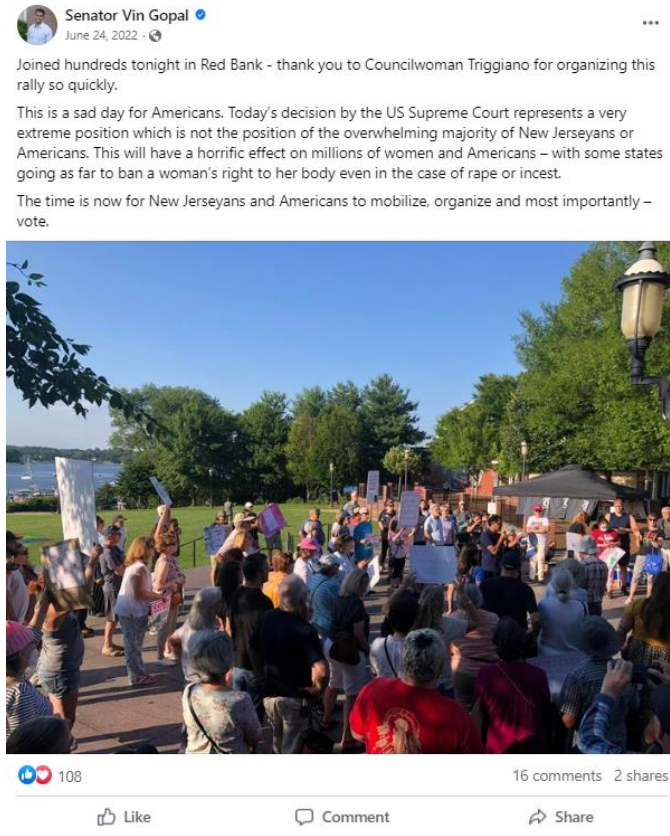
**In 2021, Gopal Sponsored Legislation Codifying Gay Marriage Rights Into Law.** “Marriage equality may soon be better protected in New Jersey as a bill moves on to votes in the state Senate and Assembly. A 2013 court ruling legalized same-sex marriage in New Jersey, but it has not been cemented in a statute. The New Jersey Senate Budget and Appropriations Committee

on Thursday voted almost unanimously to move the bill forward that would codify marriage equality into law. Legislators will consider the bill on Monday. If it passes both chambers, it heads to Gov. Phil Murphy for his likely approval. He has vocally supported LGBTQ rights during his tenure. The momentum in Trenton arrives at an important time, explained Christian Fuscarino, executive director of Asbury Park-based Garden State Equality. "With a conservative-leaning Supreme Court, we cannot afford to sit by in hopes the Justices will leave Obergefell v. Hodges intact," Fuscarino said, referring to the 2015 ruling that legalized marriage equality at a national level. "Our Legislature must act now to preserve this sacred right." When marriage equality got the all-clear from New Jersey courts, Amy Quinn and her partner of 10 years, Heather Jensen, were among the first to be wed, exchanging vows in a ceremony on Asbury Park Boardwalk. Nearly a decade later, Quinn is now deputy mayor of Asbury Park and the fight for marriage equality in New Jersey continues. "I can't believe we're still fighting for this, but here we are," Quinn said. LGBTQ couples worry that without protections granted by a law, "the rights given ... could change with a different court," said former state Sen. Bill Baroni, who was the first person to vote "yes" to marriage equality in 2013. "I envy one of you because one of you could be the last person to vote 'yes' on marriage equality and put it in our law forever and say to the people of New Jersey, no matter who you love we value you, we honor you, you are equal," Baroni said during Thursday's committee meeting. The last "yes" vote on Thursday came from state Sen. Dawn Marie Addiego, D- Burlington. State Sen. Steven Oroho, R-Sussex, cast the sole opposing vote, citing concerns over "a lack of religious exemption" in the bill. Quinn said the effort is "really smart" of the bill's lead sponsors: state Sens. Loretta Weinberg, D-Bergen; Vin Gopal, D-Monmouth; and Stephen Sweeney, D-Camden, the outgoing president of the Senate." (*Asbury Park Press*, 12/18/21)

## **GOPAL IS UNAPOLOGETICALLY PRO-ABORTION**

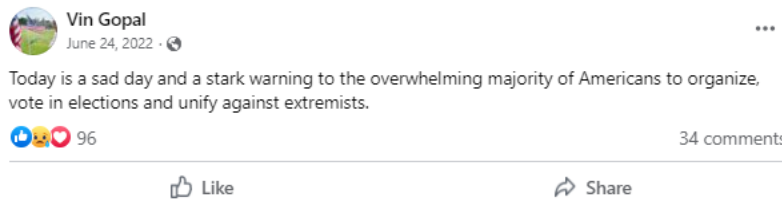
***In 2022, Gopal Criticized The United States Supreme Court Overturning Roe V. Wade And Allowing Abortion To Be Banned By State Legislatures***

**In June 2022, Gopal Posted In Disagreement With The Supreme Court's Decision To Overturn Roe V. Wade.** (Official Profile, [Facebook](#), 6/24/22)



(Official Profile, [Facebook](#), 6/24/22)

**In June 2022, Gopal Seemed To Post That The Overturning Of Roe V. Wade Is Result Of Extremist In Power.** (Personal Profile, [Facebook](#), 6/24/22)




(Personal Profile, [Facebook](#), 6/24/22)

**One Year After The Supreme Court Decision, Gopal's Joint Candidate Campaign Encouraged Protests Against The Decision And Encouraged Supporters To Vote For Pro-Abortion Candidates**

**In June 2023, Gopal's Joint Candidate Campaign Profile Posted Photos That Called For An End To Abortion Bans.** (Joint Candidate Campaign Profile, [Facebook](#), 6/24/23)



 Vote Gopal, Donlon & Peterpaul for Monmouth County  
June 24 · 🌐

ONE YEAR WITHOUT ROE

Today marks the one-year anniversary of the Supreme Court's decision to overturn Roe vs. Wade. Regardless of political lines, we should be able to agree that freedoms should NEVER be taken away.

We gathered today in Red Bank to renew our fight for women's reproductive freedom, and to re-affirm our commitment to fight for women in the Statehouse to make sure this freedom isn't stripped away in future years. Thanks to Special Guest Jackie Cornell, Executive Director of [Planned Parenthood Action Fund of New Jersey](#) and Red Bank Council Member Kate Triggiano for joining, and of course everyone who attended and showed so much energy and enthusiasm for our ticket!!

Team Monmouth is unequivocally pro-choice and will never back down from this fight.

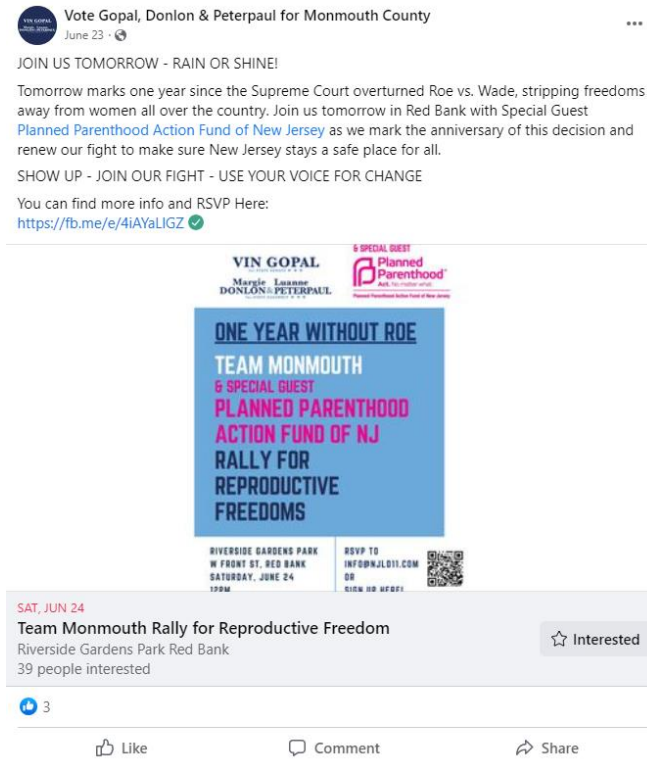
[#teammonmouth](#) [#womensrightsarehumanrights](#) [#proroe](#)



(Joint Candidate Campaign Profile, [Facebook](#), 6/24/23)



**In June 2023, Gopal’s Joint Candidate Campaign Profile Posted That The Repeal Of Roe V. Wade Stripped Freedoms From Women All Over The Country.** (Joint Candidate Campaign Profile, [Facebook](#), 6/23/23)



(Joint Candidate Campaign Profile, [Facebook](#), 6/23/23)

**In June 2023, Gopal’s Joint Candidate Campaign Claimed Abortion Should Remain Legal In New Jersey**

**In June 2023, Gopal’s Joint Candidate Campaign Profile Encouraged Supporters To Vote For Pro-Abortion Candidates So New Jersey Residents Can Maintain The “Right To Choose”.** (Joint Candidate Campaign Profile, [Facebook](#), 6/22/23)



(Joint Candidate Campaign Profile, [Facebook](#), 6/22/23)

***In 2023, Gopal Held A Rally Criticizing The Supreme Court’s Dobbs Decision***

**In June 2023, Gopal, Donlon, And Peterpaul Held A Rally Criticizing The Supreme Court’s Dobbs Decision.** “New Jersey State Sen. Vin Gopal, who is running for reelection, and State Assembly candidates Margie Donlon and Luanne Peterpaul hold a rally marking one year since the U.S. Supreme Court 'Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization' decision.” (*The Associated Press*, 6/23/23)

***In 2022, Gopal Supported Legislation That Establishes Protections For Individuals Related To Abortions***

**In 2022, Gopal Voted Yea On A 3975, Which Further Converts New Jersey Into A Sanctuary State For Abortionists.** ([A 3975](#), Passed (24 - 13), New Jersey State Senate, 6/29/22, Gopal Voted Yea)

- NOTE: “Concerns protections with respect to nondisclosure of certain patient information relating to reproductive healthcare services, and protecting access to services and procedures related to abortion for certain out-of-State persons.” ([A 3975](#))

**ACU: A 3975 “Prohibits Government Agents And Other Entities From Disclosing Information Relating To A Person’s Seeking And/Or Attainment Of Abortion Services.”**

“This bill prohibits government agents and other entities from disclosing information relating to a person’s seeking and/or attainment of abortion services. The bill also prevents medical boards from penalizing individuals for performing abortions upon other individuals residing in locations where abortion is illegal.” ([American Conservative Union](#))

**The American Conservative Union “Believes Abortion Is Always A Human Tragedy, Opposes Its Expansion, And Opposed This Bill.”** “CPAC believes abortion is always a human tragedy, opposes its expansion, and opposed this bill. The Senate passed this bill on June 29, 2022 by a vote of 24-13 and the bill later became law.” ([American Conservative Union](#))

***In 2021, Gopal Sponsored The Reproductive Freedom Act***

**In 2021, Gopal Wrote In Opposition To Abortion Restrictions Passed In Texas.** “First, to fully understand what is at stake, we need to know what the Texas abortion law does exactly. This law contains three major points of horror. New Jerseyans need to understand that this isn't just a simple abortion law, this law turns upside down the safety and security of every woman in Texas. First, this law bans abortions after an ultrasound can detect what lawmakers defined as a fetal "heartbeat," which can be as early as six weeks into pregnancy. However, as medical and legal experts explain, this term is misleading as embryos at this stage of development do not yet possess a heart. Second, this particular bill does not even make an exemption for pregnancies resulting from rape or incest. Third, and the main difference from all other bills relating to abortion law, this bill allows private citizens to sue abortion providers or anyone else who helps someone get an abortion, even if they have no direct relation to the person receiving the abortion. For example, if a woman were to request a car from a ride-sharing app such as Uber, Lyft, or taxi, the individual who drove the patient to the appointment could get sued for helping even though the individual had no idea what the appointment was for. The ensuing rush of private citizens now allowed to sue aims to put advocacy groups, doctors, clinics, and other pro-choice organizations out of business by taking up all of their time and money fighting against these suits. Furthermore, people who sued would be awarded at least \$10,000 as well as costs for attorney's fees, if they won their case. So what does this mean for New Jersey? Despite being legal, access to abortion has always been fragile and limited. In New Jersey, there exists strong case law that provides additional protections beyond the federal law for the right to access abortion care. But court cases may not be sufficient to fully protect and ensure New Jerseyans access to abortion, particularly if the U.S. Supreme Court follows their inaction on Texas by gutting Roe when they rule on the Mississippi case next year. New Jerseyans will be vulnerable to the same uncertainties that we now face at the federal level.” (Vin Gopal, Op-Ed, *Star Ledger*, 10/4/21)

**Gopal: “To Protect New Jerseyans, And Ensure Access To Comprehensive Reproductive Healthcare Including Abortion Care For All, New Jersey Should Enact The Reproductive**

**Freedom Act.** “To protect New Jerseyans, and ensure access to comprehensive reproductive healthcare including abortion care for all, New Jersey should enact the Reproductive Freedom Act. We must make a commitment to creating communities where residents are able to receive the care they need — whenever they need it — and decide for themselves if, when, and how to grow their families. Depriving anyone of their constitutional rights and criminalizing private citizens who help, is not only dangerous for this country but a giant step backward. New Jersey can send the message that we are not going back. When the legislature returns this November, New Jersey needs to pass the Reproductive Freedom Act as one of its first acts, ensuring that what happened in Texas can never happen here in New Jersey. (Vin Gopal, Op-Ed, *Star Ledger*, 10/4/21)

- **“State Senator Vin Gopal Is A Prime Sponsor Of The Reproductive Freedom Act.”** (Vin Gopal, Op-Ed, *Star Ledger*, 10/4/21)

***In 2018, Gopal Supported Legislation That “Restores Taxpayer Funding For Planned Parenthood And Other Abortion Providers Which Had Been Suspended During The Christie Administration”***

**In 2018, Gopal Voted Yea On S 120, Which Restored Taxpayer Funding For Abortion Providers.** ([S 120](#), Passed (29 - 10), New Jersey State Senate, 2/1/18, Gopal Voted Yea)

- NOTE: “Makes FY 2018 supplemental appropriation of \$7,453,000 to DOH for family planning services.” ([S 120](#))

**ACU: S 120 “Restores Taxpayer Funding For Planned Parenthood And Other Abortion Providers Which Had Been Suspended During The Christie Administration.”** “This bill restores taxpayer funding for Planned Parenthood and other abortion providers which had been suspended during the Christie administration. Specifically, the bill appropriates \$7.5 million for family planning services in the fiscal year 2018 budget.” ([American Conservative Union](#))

**The American Conservative Union “Believes Abortion Is A Human Tragedy, Supports Restrictions On The Practice, Opposes Taxpayer Funding For Any Clinic Which Takes The Lives Of The Unborn And Opposed This Bill.”** “ACU believes abortion is a human tragedy, supports restrictions on the practice, opposes taxpayer funding for any clinic which takes the lives of the unborn and opposed this bill. The Senate passed the bill on February 1, 2018 by a vote of 29-10” ([American Conservative Union](#))

***In 2019, Gopal Supported Legislation That “Forces Taxpayers To Provide An Additional \$9.5 Million To Fund Abortion Providers Such As Planned Parenthood”***

**In 2019, Gopal Voted Yea On A 5802, Which Provided Additional Taxpayer Funding For Abortion Providers.** ([A 5802](#), Passed (25 - 15), New Jersey State Senate, 12/16/19, Gopal Voted Yea)

- NOTE: “Makes FY 2020 supplemental appropriation of \$9.5 million to DOH for family planning services.” ([A 5802](#))

**ACU: A 5802 “Forces Taxpayers To Provide An Additional \$9.5 Million To Fund Abortion Providers Such As Planned Parenthood.”** “This supplemental appropriations bill forces

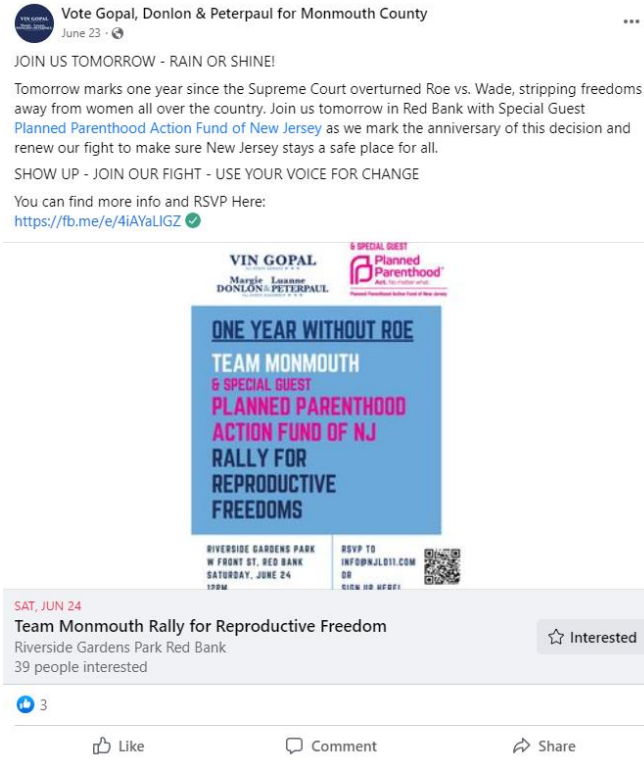
taxpayers to provide an additional \$9.5 million to fund abortion providers such as Planned Parenthood. State taxpayers already provide Planned Parenthood \$10.5 million in state funds. The bill is in response to regulations adopted by the Trump administration which prohibited Title X family planning funds from being channeled to abortion providers.” ([American Conservative Union](#))

**The American Conservative Union “Believes Abortion Is A Human Tragedy, Supports Efforts To End The Practice And Opposed This Bill.”** “ACU believes abortion is a human tragedy, supports efforts to end the practice and opposed this bill. The Senate passed the bill on December 16, 2019 by a vote of 25-15 and the bill was signed into law.” ([American Conservative Union](#))

**March 2022: “Planned Parenthood Action Fund Of New Jersey Joins With Nine New Jersey State Legislators Who Celebrate And Thank The Abortion Providers Who Provide Care In Our State: Former Governor Richard Codey, Senator Vin Gopal, Assemblyman Clinton Calabrese, Assemblywoman Annette Chaparro, Assemblywoman Shama Haider, Assemblywoman Mila Jasey, Assemblywoman Saddaf Jaffer, Assemblywoman Angela Mcknight, And Assemblywoman Shanique Speight.”** “March 10 marks the National Day for the Appreciation of Abortion Providers. This day is commemorated annually in honor of Dr. David Gunn, an abortion provider who was murdered in Florida on this date in 1993. Abortion providers are steadfastly committed to ensuring their patients can exercise their right to make personal medical decisions and access the full range of reproductive health care, including abortion. Today, Planned Parenthood Action Fund of New Jersey joins with nine New Jersey state legislators who celebrate and thank the abortion providers who provide care in our state: former Governor Richard Codey, Senator Vin Gopal, Assemblyman Clinton Calabrese, Assemblywoman Annette Chaparro, Assemblywoman Shama Haider, Assemblywoman Mila Jasey, Assemblywoman Saddaf Jaffer, Assemblywoman Angela McKnight, and Assemblywoman Shanique Speight. Earlier this year, we celebrated as Governor Murphy signed the Freedom of Reproductive Choice Act into law, ensuring that all New Jerseyans have the right to access abortion care. But as we draw nearer to a Supreme Court decision that could overturn Roe v. Wade or render it meaningless, abortion rights across the country are at risk. Despite this, abortion providers continue to show up for their patients each and every day. Below, you will find the text of an open letter written in gratitude to New Jersey’s abortion providers, and the members of our state legislature who proudly add their names.” ([Insider NJ](#), 3/10/22)

***In 2023, Gopal’s Joint Candidate Campaign Profile Posted That They Are Hosting An Event With Planned Parenthood Action Fund Of New Jersey***

**In June 2023, Gopal’s Joint Candidate Campaign Profile Posted That They Are Hosting An Event With Planned Parenthood Action Fund Of New Jersey.** (Joint Candidate Campaign Profile, [Facebook](#), 6/23/23)



(Joint Candidate Campaign Profile, [Facebook](#), 6/23/23)

**In 2023, Gopal Participated In A Rally Jointly Organized By Planned Parenthood Criticizing A Texas Ruling Pulling An Abortion Drug**

**In 2023, Gopal Participated In A Rally Jointly Organized By Planned Parenthood Criticizing A Texas Ruling Pulling An Abortion Drug.** “Planned Parenthood Action Fund of New Jersey (PPAFNJ) and Garden State Equality ask the community to stand in solidarity on Sunday, April 16, where a rally is planned to protest against a Texas court ruling to pull the medication abortion drug Mifepristone from the U.S. market after being available for more than 20 years. The rally for abortion access will be held at Garden State Equality, located at 1408 Main St., from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. U.S. Congressman Frank Pallone, State Senator Vin Gopal, Justine Evyn Saliski, Project Manager and Trainer with Garden State Equality and Jackie Cornell, Executive Director for Planned Parenthood Action Fund of New Jersey will be speaking during the program portion of the rally which will begin at noon, rain or shine. "We are looking forward to having a strong turnout of voices, especially with Congressman Pallone and Senator Gopal joining us to rally together and demand equitable abortion access for all," Justine Evyn Saliski told TAPinto "Garden State Equality wants to amplify the fact that the Texas abortion pill ruling is a dangerous precedent and one that is a clear setback for LGBTQ equality as it further impedes on the right to bodily autonomy for all people," Saliski noted.” (TAP Into, 4/15/23)



***In 2022, Gopal Supported Legislation That “Prohibits Extradition Of Individual From Another State Back To That State For Actions Related To Conduct Concerning [Abortion]”***

**In 2022, Gopal Voted Yea On A 3974, Which Prohibits Extradition For Abortion Services.**  
([A 3974](#), Passed (26 - 11), New Jersey State Senate, 6/29/22, Gopal Voted Yea)

- NOTE: “Prohibits extradition of individual from another state back to that state for actions related to conduct concerning reproductive health care services lawful in this State.” ([A 3974](#))

**ACU: A 2974 “Prohibits The Government From Extraditing Individuals Out Of The State Of New Jersey In Order To Comply With Demands From Other States That A Person Be Prosecuted For Their Attainment Of An Abortion In New Jersey.”** “This bill prohibits the government from extraditing individuals out of the state of New Jersey in order to comply with demands from other states that a person be prosecuted for their attainment of an abortion in New Jersey.” ([American Conservative Union](#))

**The American Conservative Union “Believes Abortion Is Always A Human Tragedy, Opposes Its Expansion, And Opposed This Bill.”** “CPAC believes abortion is always a human tragedy, opposes its expansion, and opposed this bill. The Senate passed this bill on June 29, 2022 by a vote of 26-11 and the bill later became law.” ([American Conservative Union](#))

**GOPAL HAS WORKED TO UNDERMINE THE SECOND AMENDMENT**

***In 2018, Gopal Introduced Legislation “Barring New Jersey Public Employee Pension Funds Or Annuities From Investing In Gun Manufacturer Companies”***

**2018: “State Sen. Vin Gopal, D 11th District, Plans To Introduce A Bill Barring New Jersey Public Employee Pension Funds Or Annuities From Investing In Gun Manufacturer Companies.”** “State Sen. Vin Gopal, D 11th District, plans to introduce a bill barring New Jersey public employee pension funds or annuities from investing in gun manufacturer companies. Assemblyman Eric Houghtalin, D-11th District, and Assemblywoman Joan Downey, D-11 District, will co-sponsor similar legislation at the assemblys next quorum. We cannot stand by and let gun manufacturers that profit by producing weapons benefit from the investment of our pension funds, Gopal said in a news release. With this bill we are sending a message that New Jersey is making a conscious decision about the type of companies the state should invest in. The bill also would require the State Investment Council and the director of the Division of Investments to submit an initial report on its prohibited investments and to submit annual reports on its progress towards compliance with the prohibition. The pension funds from public employees should not in any way serve to help these firearms companies become richer at the expense of the lives of many innocent people who are being murdered with firearms throughout the country, Houghtalin said.” (NJBIZ, 2/22/18)

***In 2018, Gopal Supported Legislation That “Restricts Second Amendment Rights Unless Citizens Prove ‘Specific Threats’ Against Them”***

**In 2018, Gopal Voted Yea On A 2758, Which Further Restricts Second Amendment Rights.** ([A 2758](#), Passed (24 - 13), New Jersey State Senate, 6/7/18, Gopal Voted Yea)

- NOTE: “Codifies regulations defining justifiable need to carry handgun.” ([A 2758](#))

**ACU: A 2758 “Restricts Second Amendment Rights Unless Citizens Prove ‘Specific Threats’ Against Them.”** “This bill restricts Second Amendment rights unless citizens prove "specific threats" against them. The bill rolls back a reform implemented during the Christie administration which slightly eased the process to lawfully obtain a handgun under the state's draconian gun control. Under previous law, individuals could only obtain permits for handguns if they demonstrated a "justifiable need," including "serious threat." This bill imposes an even greater restriction by requiring evidence of a "specific threat.”” ([American Conservative Union](#))

**The American Conservative Union “Believes This Legislation Sets A Dangerous Precedent By Requiring Citizens To Earn Their Constitutional Rights, Supports The Founders' Belief In The Second Amendment And Opposed This Bill.”** “ACU believes this legislation sets a dangerous precedent by requiring citizens to earn their constitutional rights, supports the founders' belief in the Second Amendment and opposed this bill. The Senate passed the bill on June 7, 2018 by a vote of 24-13.” ([American Conservative Union](#))

***In 2018, Gopal Supported Legislation That “Obstructs Second Amendment Rights By Placing An Unnecessary Burden On Private Firearm Purchasers And Sellers”***

**In 2018, Gopal Voted Yea On A 2757, Which Placed Further Restrictions On Purchasing Firearms.** ([A 2757](#), Passed (31 - 3), New Jersey State Senate, 6/7/18, Gopal Voted Yea)

- NOTE: “Requires background check for private gun sales.” ([A 2757](#))

**ACU: A 2757 “Obstructs Second Amendment Rights By Placing An Unnecessary Burden On Private Firearm Purchasers And Sellers.”** “This bill obstructs Second Amendment rights by placing an unnecessary burden on private firearm purchasers and sellers. Prior to this bill, those seeking to purchase a firearm from a private seller (e.g., two neighbors or two friends) were required to receive a special ID card and undergo fingerprinting, background checks and mental health evaluations. Under the bill, sellers must hire a licensed dealer to broker the transaction and conduct a National Background Check in addition to the previously-enacted checks.” ([American Conservative Union](#))

**The American Conservative Union “Supports The Founders' Belief In The Second Amendment And Opposes This Duplicative Measure Which Drives Up Costs And Makes It More Difficult For Individuals To Lawfully Purchase Firearms And Opposed This Bill.”** “ACU supports the founders' belief in the Second Amendment and opposes this duplicative measure which drives up costs and makes it more difficult for individuals to lawfully purchase firearms and opposed this bill. The Senate passed the bill on June 7, 2018 by a vote of 31-3” ([American Conservative Union](#))

***In 2018, Gopal Supported Legislation That Appears To Be Some Form Of A 'Red-Flag Law'***

**In 2018, Gopal Voted Yea On A 1217, Which Allowed The Seizure Of Firearms Without Due Process.** ([A 1217](#), Passed (32 - 5), New Jersey State Senate, 6/7/18, Gopal Voted Yea)

- NOTE: "Authorizes gun violence restraining orders and firearm seizure warrants." ([A 1217](#))

**ACU: A 1217 "Allows Certain Individuals To Submit An Ex Parte (I.E., One-Sided) Petition To A Court For An "Extreme Risk Protection Order" Which Requires The Temporary Seizure Of All Firearms Held By The Accused".** "This bill allows certain individuals to submit an ex parte (i.e., one-sided) petition to a court for an "Extreme Risk Protection Order" which requires the temporary seizure of all firearms held by the accused if they are considered a danger to themselves or others simply due to their possession of a firearm. Under the bill, any family member, any current or former household member or former roommate may submit the petition. Furthermore, the bill requires very low standards of evidence (good cause and preponderance of evidence) for a court to issue a temporary or final extreme risk protection order, the latter of which revokes the Second Amendment rights of the accused for an entire year." ([American Conservative Union](#))

**The American Conservative Union "Supports The Founders' Belief In The Second Amendment, Opposes The Seizure Of Any Property, Including Firearms, Without Due Process And On The Basis Of Unchallenged Accusations, And Opposed This Bill."** "ACU supports the founders' belief in the Second Amendment, opposes the seizure of any property, including firearms, without due process and on the basis of unchallenged accusations, and opposed this bill. The Senate passed the bill on June 7, 2018 by a vote of 32-5" ([American Conservative Union](#))

***In 2018, Gopal Supported Legislation That "Is Another Step Toward Eliminating Second Amendment Rights By Expanding The Ban Of Ammunition Magazines To Those With Capacities Of 10 Rounds"***

**In 2018, Gopal Voted Yea On A 2761, Which Banned Ammunition Magazine With Capacities Greater Than 10 Rounds.** ([A 2761](#), Passed (23 - 13), New Jersey State Senate, 6/7/18, Gopal Voted Yea)

- NOTE: "Reduces maximum capacity of ammunition magazines to 10 rounds." ([A 2761](#))

**ACU: A 2761 "Is Another Step Toward Eliminating Second Amendment Rights By Expanding The Ban Of Ammunition Magazines To Those With Capacities Of 10 Rounds (Previously 15)."** "This bill is another step toward eliminating Second Amendment rights by expanding the ban of ammunition magazines to those with capacities of 10 rounds (previously 15). Individuals who already own magazines which hold up to 10 rounds of ammunition are required to permanently modify the device or surrender it to authorities within 180 days. Those who possess a firearm with an unmodifiable fixed magazine are required to register the firearm with the state." ([American Conservative Union](#))

**The American Conservative Union “Supports The Founders' Belief In The Second Amendment And Opposed This Bill.”** “ACU supports the founders' belief in the Second Amendment and opposed this bill. The Senate passed the bill on June 7, 2018 by a vote of 23-13.” ([American Conservative Union](#))

***In 2022, Gopal Supported The Creation Of An Ammunition Registry, Which Is “Strengthening Measures To Surveil Law-Abiding Citizens”***

**In 2022, Gopal Voted Yea On A 1302, Which Created An Ammunition Registry.** ([A 1302](#), Passed (25 - 15), New Jersey State Senate, 6/29/22, Gopal Voted Yea)

- NOTE: “Regulates sale of handgun ammunition and develops system of electronic reporting of handgun ammunition sales.” ([A 1302](#))

**The American Conservative Union “Opposes Strengthening Measures To Surveil Law-Abiding Citizens And Opposed This Bill.”** “This bill, the likes of which is part of a slew of anti-Second Amendment legislation passed in New Jersey in 2022, requires that gun retailers keep electronic records containing information about individuals who purchase handgun ammunition. CPAC opposes strengthening measures to surveil law-abiding citizens and opposed this bill. The Senate passed this bill on June 29, 2022 by a vote of 25-15 and the bill later became law.” ([American Conservative Union](#))

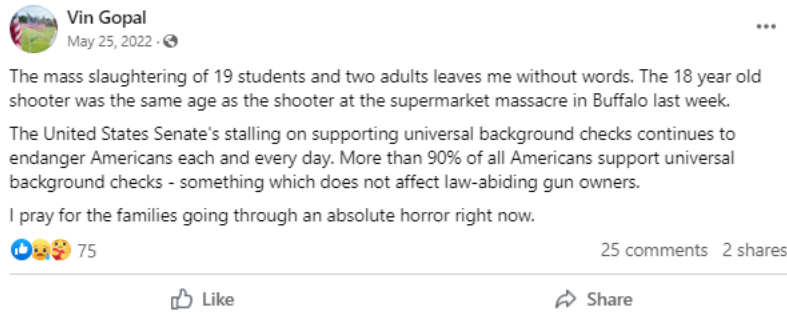
***In 2022, Gopal Was Among The Legislators To Vote For A 4769, Which Imposed Additional Restrictions On Concealed Carry***

**In 2022, Gopal Was Among The Legislators To Vote For A 4769, Which Imposed Additional Restrictions On Concealed Carry.** “The legislation (A4769) comes after the U.S. Supreme Court in June effectively invalidated tough concealed-carry restrictions in states like New York and New Jersey and made it easier to obtain carry permits there. Democrats introduced this bill in response to the decision. It would require gun owners in New Jersey seeking to get a carry permit to purchase liability insurance and take training courses, while increasing permit fees and prohibiting people from carrying firearms in a wide range of "sensitive places" in the state -- including schools, public parks, courthouses, and bars. It would also prohibit carrying guns on private property unless the property owner allows it. Supporters say the measure would help protect residents if the court ruling leads to more guns being carried in public. Critics counter that it's unconstitutional and unfair, essentially barring law-abiding gun owners from carrying in most public places once they leave home, while criminals would simply ignore the rules. The state Assembly voted narrowly along party lines, 42-29, last month to pass the measure. The state Senate voted narrowly largely along party lines, 21-16, on Monday.” (*Star Ledger*, 12/20/22)

- NOTE: *Gopal’s support for the measure is listed later in the piece.*

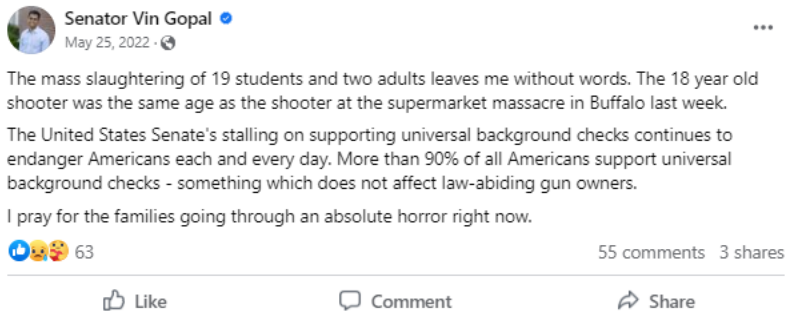
***Gopal Has Frequently Posted Support For Strict Gun Control Legislation On His Social Media Accounts***

**In May 2022, Gopal Posted That The United States Senate Is Endangering American Every Day By Not Passing Universal Background Checks.** (Personal Profile, [Facebook](#), 5/25/22)



(Personal Profile, [Facebook](#), 5/25/22)

**In May 2022, Gopal Posted In Favor Of Universal Background Checks.** (Official Profile, [Facebook](#), 5/25/22)



(Official Profile, [Facebook](#), 5/25/22)

**In June 2021, Gopal Posted In Favor Of “Common-Sense Gun Laws”.** (Official Profile, [Facebook](#), 6/4/21)



(Official Profile, [Facebook](#), 6/4/21)

**In June 2020, Gopal Posted In Support Comprehensive Background Checks And “Common-Sense Gun” Laws. (Official Profile, [Facebook](#), 6/5/20)**



(Official Profile, [Facebook](#), 6/5/20)



**In July 2019, Gopal Seemed To Post In Support Of Red Flag Laws For People At Risk Of Suicide.** (Official Profile, [Instagram](#), 7/17/19)



(Official Profile, [Instagram](#), 7/17/19)

**In June 2019, Gopal Posted That People Should Need To Pass A Firearm Training Course And A Firearm License Before They Can Get A Firearm.** (Official Profile, [Instagram](#), 6/27/19)



(Official Profile, [Instagram](#), 6/27/19)

***Gopal Has Spoken At Multiple Events Hosted By Pro-Gun Control Advocacy Groups***

**In July 2022, Gopal Posted A Photo Of Him Speaking At A March For Our Lives Event.** (Official Profile, [Facebook](#), 7/15/22)



(Official Profile, [Facebook](#), 7/15/22)

**In June 2019, Gopal Praised Moms Demand Action NJ And Attended Their Legislative Day.** (Official Profile, [Instagram](#), 6/27/19)



(Official Profile, [Instagram](#), 6/27/19)

## **GOPAL SUPPORTS ASSISTED SUICIDE**

### ***In 2019, Gopal Supported Legislation That “Allows Doctors To Prescribe Terminally Ill Patients Lethal Doses Of Medication To Prematurely End Their Lives”***

**In 2019, Gopal Voted Yea On A 1504, Which Eliminated Criminal Penalties Against Physicians Who Assist In A Patient’s Death.** ([A 1504](#), Passed (21 - 16), New Jersey State Senate, 3/25/19, Gopal Voted Yea)

- NOTE: ““Medical Aid in Dying for the Terminally Ill Act”; permits qualified terminally ill patient to self-administer medication to end life in humane and dignified manner.” ([A 1504](#))

**ACU: A 1504 “Allows Doctors To Prescribe Terminally Ill Patients Lethal Doses Of Medication To Prematurely End Their Lives.”** “This bill allows doctors to prescribe terminally ill patients lethal doses of medication to prematurely end their lives. ACUF’s Center for Human Dignity engages heavily on this issue and others that threaten to undermine the inherent dignity and value of every human life.” ([American Conservative Union](#))

**The American Conservative Union “Opposes Efforts To Reverse The Physicians’ Hippocratic Oath... And Create A Class Of Citizens No Longer Protected From Coercion From Medical Professionals, Insurance Companies And Heirs And Opposed This Bill.”** “ACU opposes efforts to reverse the physicians’ Hippocratic Oath (i.e., “First do no harm ... Neither will I administer a poison to anybody when asked to do so, nor will I suggest such a course”) and create a class of citizens no longer protected from coercion from medical professionals, insurance companies and heirs and opposed this bill. The Senate passed the bill on March 25, 2019 by a vote of 21-16 and the bill was signed into law.” ([American Conservative Union](#))

## **GOPAL SUPPORTS EXPANDING ACCESS TO MARIJUANA**

### ***Gopal Supported The Legalization Of Marijuana***

**Gopal Supported The Legalization Of Marijuana.** “Legalize marijuana? Beck: No. New Jersey is already suffering from an opioid epidemic, which started off as a legal drug on the market that was abused. She could support decriminalizing small amounts of marijuana, but that limit would need to be clearly defined to prevent unintended protections for drug dealers. Gopal: Yes, but New Jersey should also take its time doing so to learn how to combat ill effects that cropped up in other states that have legalized marijuana.” (*Asbury Park Press*, 10/12/17)

### ***Gopal Voted For Legislation Codifying The Legalization Of Marijuana***

**Gopal Voted For Legislation Codifying The Legalization Of Marijuana.** “In previous comments about S-3454, Arnone said, “Not only does this (law) keep parents in the dark about what may be happening in their child’s life, it also shows children there are no major consequences if they are found using marijuana or alcohol for the first time. “Parents should have the right to know if their child is using or in possession of marijuana from the first encounter and be given the chance to discuss its consequences before it potentially becomes a larger issue.” In a press release addressing the issue, state Sen. Robert Singer (R-Monmouth and

Ocean) was quoted as saying, "People are starting to realize some of the concerning provisions of New Jersey's new marijuana laws that will cause real problems if we don't address them now. "Parents are worried that parental notification is now prohibited when kids are caught with drugs or alcohol. They have a right to know if their 12-year-old is smoking pot. "Police officers are concerned the new laws treat them like criminals. They are not the enemy and we should not hamstringing their efforts to keep kids away from drugs and alcohol," Singer said. In the Senate vote on S-3454, Sen. Vin Gopal (D-Monmouth) voted "yes," Sen. Declan O'Scanlon (R-Monmouth) voted "no," Sen. Sam Thompson (R-Monmouth, Ocean, Middlesex and Burlington) voted "no" and Singer voted "no."” (News Transcript, 3/12/21)

***In 2021, Gopal Introduced Legislation That “Would Allow Anyone 21 And Older To Grow Up To Six Marijuana Plants At Home, With A Maximum Of 12 Plants Per Household. Medical Patients Could Grow Up To 10 Plants”***

**In 2021, “Sen. Vin Gopal, D-Monmouth, Introduced A Bill, S3582, Monday That Would Allow Anyone 21 And Older To Grow Up To Six Marijuana Plants At Home, With A Maximum Of 12 Plants Per Household. Medical Patients Could Grow Up To 10 Plants.”** “Another lawmaker is taking a shot at letting people grow their own marijuana now that New Jersey has legalized the drug. Sen. Vin Gopal, D-Monmouth, introduced a bill, S3582, Monday that would allow anyone 21 and older to grow up to six marijuana plants at home, with a maximum of 12 plants per household. Medical patients could grow up to 10 plants. Currently, growing five plants or less can result in three to five years in prison and a \$25,000 fine. Gopal's bill is the latest to touch on home grow for recreational use. Another was introduced in February by the late Sen. Gerald Cardinale, R-Bergen. He died before the bill made its way through Legislative committees. Sen. Troy Singleton, D-Burlington, also introduced a bill last month to allow the state's medical marijuana patients to grow up to four plants. That could help patients circumvent high prices and supply limitations that have hampered patient access. Many states with medical cannabis programs allow patients to grow their own medicine at home, but New Jersey lawmakers have shied away from the idea, saying it may come down the line, but for now will is likely to remain banned.” (South Jersey Times, 3/25/21)

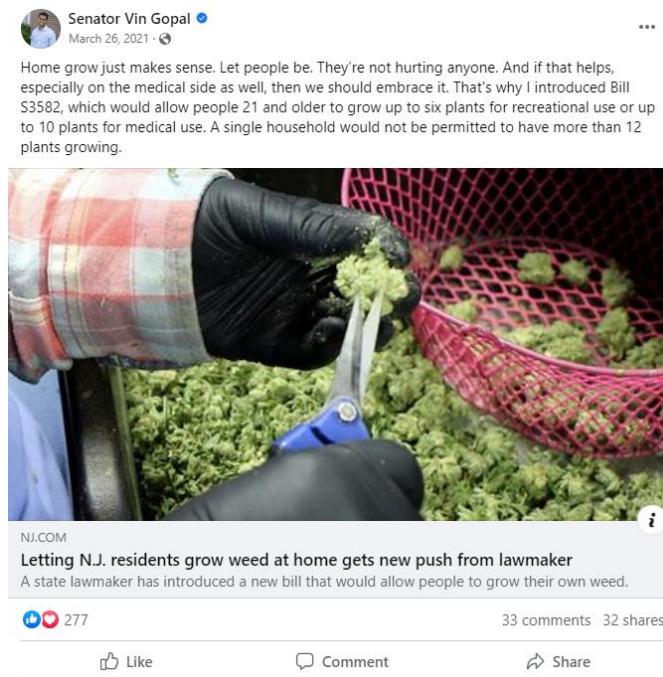
***On Social Media, Gopal Has Repeatedly Expressed Support For Recreational Marijuana Use And Has Supported New Jersey Residents Being Able To Grow Marijuana Plants In Their Residences For Personal Use***

**In January 2022, Gopal Posted In Support Of Legalizing Growing Marijuana In Residents Homes.** (Official Profile, [Facebook](#), 1/24/22)



(Official Profile, [Facebook](#), 1/24/22)

**In March 2021, Gopal Posted In Favor Of A Bill That Allowed The General Public To Grow Their Own Marijuana Plants For Recreational Purposes.** (Official Profile, [Facebook](#), 3/26/21)



(Official Profile, [Facebook](#), 3/26/21)

**In June 2020, Gopal Tweeted That He Was A Sponsor Of The Marijuana Decriminalization Bill.** (Official Profile, [Twitter](#), 6/29/20)





(Official Profile, [Twitter](#), 6/29/20)

**GOPAL HAS SUPPORTED THE LEFT’S ELECTIONEERING POWER-GRAB**

*Gopal Supported The 2020 Election Be “Conducted Primarily By Mail And Mandating Ballots Be Mailed To Every Registered Voter Even If They Do Not Request One”*

**In 2020, Gopal Voted Yea On A 4475, Which Implemented A Vote By Mail Scheme.** ([A 4475](#), Passed (22 - 13), New Jersey State Senate, 8/27/20, Gopal Voted Yea)

- NOTE: “Requires county boards of election to establish ballot drop boxes in each county at least 45 days before election: revises procedures concerning mail-in ballots for 2020 general election.” ([A 4475](#))

**ACU: A 4475 “Weakens Election Integrity By Declaring The November 2020 Election Be Conducted Primarily By Mail And Mandating Ballots Be Mailed To Every Registered Voter Even If They Do Not Request One.”** “This bill weakens election integrity by declaring the November 2020 election be conducted primarily by mail and mandating ballots be mailed to every registered voter even if they do not request one. Furthermore, the bill mandates the deployment of unsecured ballot drop boxes which may be accessible 24 hours a day for 45 days up to election day.” ([American Conservative Union](#))

**The American Conservative Union “Opposes Measures Which Weaken Ballot Integrity And Opposed This Bill.”** “ACU recognizes that election integrity safeguards, such as reserving absentee mail-in voting for individuals who are unable to vote in-person on Election Day, are



designed to help ensure that one person cannot cast the ballot of another (or one person on behalf of many others). ACU supports efforts to strengthen election integrity and ensure that all legal ballots are counted, and that no illegal ballot is counted, which disenfranchises eligible voters. ACU opposes measures which weaken ballot integrity and opposed this bill. The Senate passed the bill on August 27, 2020 by a vote of 22-13 and the bill was signed into law.” ([American Conservative Union](#))

***Gopal Has Consistently Supported Bills That Implement Automatic Voter Registration***

**In 2018, Gopal Supported Legislation That “Completely Flips The Voter Registration Process At Voter Registration Agencies By Automatically Registering An Individual To Vote And Requiring Them To Opt Out”**

**In 2018, Gopal Voted Yea On A 2014, Which Implemented Automatic Voter Registration.**

([A 2014](#), Passed (24 - 13), New Jersey State Senate, 4/12/18, Gopal Voted Yea)

- NOTE: “Automatically registers to vote and updates voter registration for eligible person when applying for motor vehicle driver's license, or non-driver identification card.” ([A 2014](#))

**ACU: A 2014 “Completely Flips The Voter Registration Process At Voter Registration Agencies By Automatically Registering An Individual To Vote And Requiring Them To Opt Out.”** “This bill completely flips the voter registration process at voter registration agencies by automatically registering an individual to vote and requiring them to opt out.” ([American Conservative Union](#))

**The American Conservative Union “Opposes This Measure Which Weakens Ballot Integrity And Makes It Easier To Commit Vote Fraud, Which Suppresses Legal Votes, And Opposed This Bill.”** “ACU opposes this measure which weakens ballot integrity and makes it easier to commit vote fraud, which suppresses legal votes, and opposed this bill. The Senate passed the bill on April 12, 2018 by a vote of 24-13.” ([American Conservative Union](#))

**In 2019, Gopal Supported Legislation That “Creates A New Avenue For Vote Fraud And Weakens Election Integrity By Establishing An Online Voter Registration Website And Allowing Individuals To Register To Vote Online...”**

**In 2019, Gopal Voted Yea On S 589, Which Created Online Voter Registration.** ([S 589](#), Passed (27 - 10), New Jersey State Senate, 1/13/20, Gopal Voted Yea)

- NOTE: “Requires Secretary of State to establish secure Internet website for online voter registration; authorizes use of digitized signatures from New Jersey Motor Vehicle Commission's database.” ([S 589](#))

**ACU: S 589 “Creates A New Avenue For Vote Fraud And Weakens Election Integrity By Establishing An Online Voter Registration Website And Allowing Individuals To Register To Vote Online.”** “This bill creates a new avenue for vote fraud and weakens election integrity by establishing an online voter registration website and allowing individuals to register to vote online. Additionally, the bill allows the state to “waive or modify any requirement under the law or regulation that may interfere” with the bill’s stated goal of establishing online voter

registration ahead of the 2020 general election. Furthermore, the bill opens the door for foreign interference in the state election system by explicitly allowing support services for the new website to be performed outside the U.S.” ([American Conservative Union](#))

**The American Conservative Union “Opposes This Measure Which Weakens Ballot Integrity And Makes It Easier To Commit Voter Fraud And Opposed This Bill.”** “ACU opposes efforts to disenfranchise eligible voters by permitting ineligible voters and foreign actors to sway elections, opposes this measure which weakens ballot integrity and makes it easier to commit voter fraud and opposed this bill. The Senate passed the bill on January 13, 2020 by a vote of 27-10 and the bill was signed into law.” ([American Conservative Union](#))

**ON SOCIAL MEDIA, GOPAL HAS TOUTED ENDORSEMENT FROM  
RADICAL LIBERAL ORGANIZATIONS LIKE PLANNED  
PARENTHOOD**

*Throughout His Tenure As An Elected Official, Gopal Has Touted Endorsements From Multiple Radical Liberal Organizations Such As Planned Parenthood, The Garden State Equality Action Fund, And The Sierra Club*

**Garden State Equality Action Fund**

**In June 2023, Gopal’s Joint Candidate Campaign Touted The Endorsement Of The Garden State Equality Action Fund.** (Joint Candidate Campaign Profile, [Twitter](#), 6/1/23)



We can think of no better way to kick off Pride month! Thanks to @GSEquality for their special endorsement of Luanne Peterpaul for Assembly!

Read full statement here: [insidernj.com/press-release/...](https://insidernj.com/press-release/)

#TeamMonmouth #NJpride #loveisloveislove



2:39 PM · Jun 1, 2023 · 338 Views

(Joint Candidate Campaign Profile, [Twitter](#), 6/1/23)

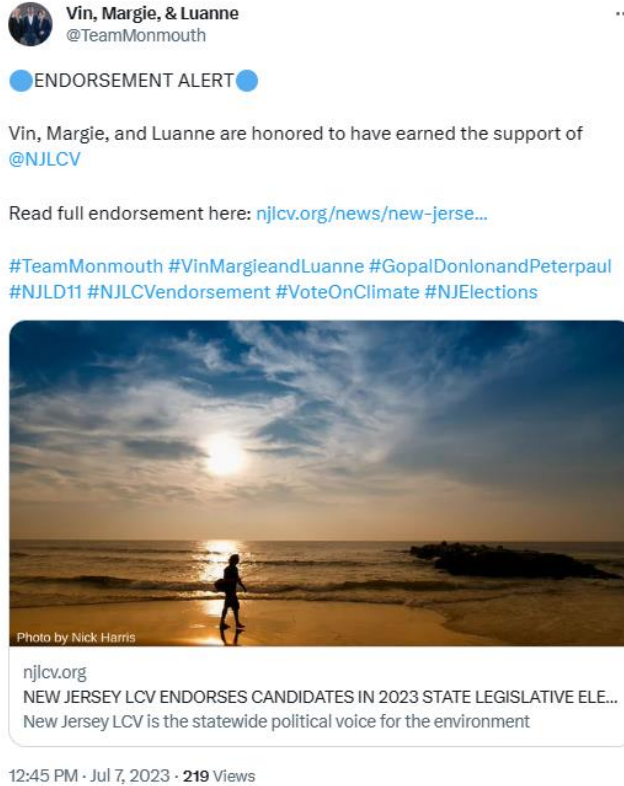
**In June 2023, Gopal’s Joint Candidate Campaign Profile Touted The Endorsement Of The Garden State Equality Action Fund.** (Joint Candidate Campaign Profile, [Instagram](#), 6/1/23)



(Joint Candidate Campaign Profile, [Instagram](#), 6/1/23)

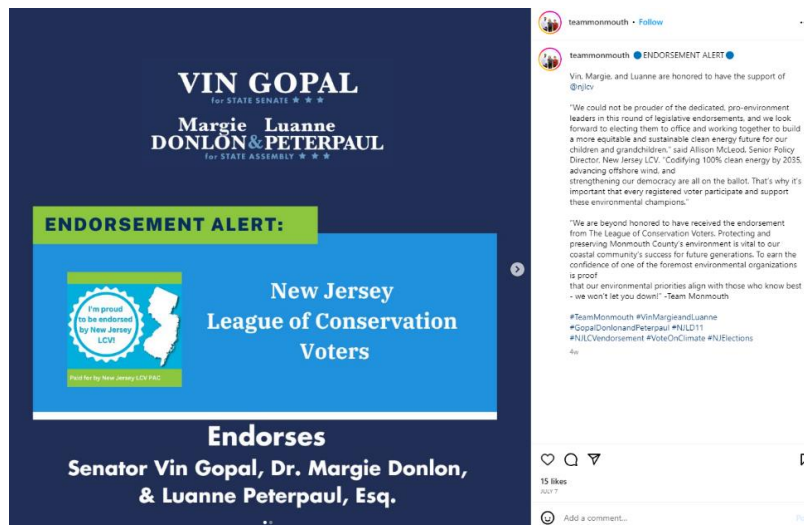
### New Jersey League Of Conservation Voters

**In July 2023, Gopal’s Joint Candidate Campaign Touted The Endorsement Of The New Jersey League Of Conservation Voters.** (Joint Candidate Campaign Profile, [Twitter](#), 7/7/23)



(Joint Candidate Campaign Profile, [Twitter](#), 7/7/23)

**In July 2023, Gopal’s Joint Candidate Campaign Profile Touted The Endorsement Of The New Jersey League Of Conservation Voters.** (Joint Candidate Campaign Profile, [Instagram](#), 7/7/23)



(Joint Candidate Campaign Profile, [Instagram](#), 7/7/23)

### Planned Parenthood

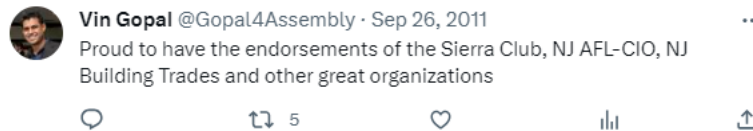
**In October 2011, Gopal Tweeted That He Was Endorsed By Planned Parenthood.** (Campaign Profile, [Twitter](#), 10/7/11)



(Campaign Profile, [Twitter](#), 10/7/11)

### Sierra Club

**In September 2011, Gopal Tweeted That He Was Endorsed By The Sierra Club.** (Campaign Profile, [Twitter](#), 9/26/11)



(Campaign Profile, [Twitter](#), 9/26/11)

## **GOPAL USES PUBLIC OFFICE TO ENGAGE IN BLATANTLY PARTISAN MANEUVERS**

***Gopal Has Been Accused Of “Using The State’s Legislature As A Political Payback Machine”***

### **In 2023, Republicans Criticized Gopal’s “Legislation Prohibiting County Constitutional Officers From Serving As Political Party Bosses In New Jersey”**

**In May 2023, Republicans Criticized Gopal’s “Legislation Prohibiting County Constitutional Officers From Serving As Political Party Bosses In New Jersey.”** “Legislation prohibiting county constitutional officers from serving as political party bosses in New Jersey is on its way to the full state Senate. The bill, introduced last week by state Sen. Vin Gopal, D-Monmouth, was approved along party lines in the state Senate Judiciary Committee on Thursday after a half-hour of intense opposition from Republican party leaders in Gopal's home district. The legislation would prevent county clerks, sheriffs and surrogates from serving as chairpersons, co-chairpersons and vice-chairpersons of county committees within political parties. Gopal called the bill "common sense" and a "no-brainer" because of the partisan implications political leadership could have on sensitive topics. "When you enter the judiciary, you have sheriff's officers there. When you handle an election matter, there are sheriff's officers there. Clerks run the elections and surrogates, who are also affected by this bill, are also quasi-judges," Gopal said. "I don't understand how any rational person should think they could be political bosses." But as state Sen. Jon Bramnick pointed out, the roles are already partisan because many constitutional officers in New Jersey are elected and there are already systems in place to ensure that they don't exert undue influence.” (*The Record*, 5/22/23)

**“In Response To Backlash Over The Bill, Seen By Many As Using The State’s Legislature As A Political Payback Machine, Gopal Pulled The Bill”**

**“In Response To Backlash Over The Bill, Seen By Many As Using The State’s Legislature As A Political Payback Machine, Gopal Pulled The Bill.”** “It was reportedly a coordinated effort between New Jersey Democrat Senator Vin Gopal and Ocean County Chairman George Gilmore to try to unseat a mutual enemy, Monmouth County Sheriff Shawn Golden. Golden, who also serves as the Monmouth County GOP Chairman, is a mutual foe of both Gopal and Gilmore, two unlikely political allies brought together out of political necessity. Gopal’s bill sought to disqualify constitutional officers such as sheriffs from becoming political party chairmen. However, the only person the law would have affected would have been Golden, thus dubbing Gopal’s legislation as the “Golden Rule”. In response to backlash over the bill, seen by many as using the state’s legislature as a political payback machine, Gopal pulled the bill. Golden himself testified at the Assembly Judiciary Committee, saying the bill targets him and was a political attack on his freedom of association and freedom of speech. Gilmore and Golden have been feuding since Gilmore’s arrest and sentencing on federal charges. Upset that Golden sided with Gilmore’s successor, Frank B. Holman, a political feud ensued for the next four years that continues today as Golden’s operatives are now operating against Gilmore in Ocean County. The once untouchable chairman, losing the fear and respect he once wielded statewide, is seeing challenges to his own agenda in Ocean County elections each cycle, often by candidates with affiliations with the Monmouth GOP. Gopal and Gilmore are close allies and friends, according to Gopal. Both have been seen meeting with each other and with Governor Phil Murphy in recent months. Gilmore, the Ocean County GOP Chairman, now works for a lobbying firm owned by the brother of the state’s most powerful political figure, George Norcross causing many insiders in Ocean County to question Gilmore’s loyalty to the Republican party. Gopal said he may reintroduce the bill at some point in the future.” ([Shore News Network](#), 5/20/23)

***In 2021, Gopal Supported Legislation Described As A “Partisan Attack On The President”***

**In 2021, Gopal Voted Yea On SR 106, Which Urged The Impeachment Of Donald Trump.** ([SR 106](#), Passed (24 - 5), New Jersey State Senate, 1/11/21, Gopal Voted Yea)

- NOTE: “Strongly condemns President Trump and extremist protesters who breached United States Capitol and urges his removal from office.” ([SR 106](#))

**The American Conservative Union “Opposes This Partisan Attack On The President And Opposed This Resolution.”** “ACU recognizes that on multiple occasions President Trump called for the protests on January 6th to remain peaceful. ACU further recognizes that at the time of this vote President Trump had only nine days remaining in office and this call for impeachment solely serves as a personal political attack to prevent President Trump from seeking a future term and deny him government benefits and Secret Service protection as a private citizen. ACU opposes this partisan attack on the president and opposed this resolution. The Senate passed the resolution on January 11, 2021 by a vote of 24-5.” ([American Conservative Union](#))



## **GOPAL HAS RELATIONSHIPS WITH PROMINENT DEMOCRATIC PARTY FIGURES KNOWN FOR PROMOTING LIBERAL BELIEFS**

### ***In 2017, Gopal Received Significant Support From Democratic Party Boss George Norcross***

**In 2017, Gopal Received Significant Support From Democratic Party Boss George Norcross.** “Gopal, 32, is the former chairman of the Monmouth County Democrats. He fundraised at a steady pace all year and got some last-minute help from a super PAC aligned with South Jersey power broker George Norcross, which dropped more than \$876,000 on the race in the last days. On the campaign trail, Gopal repeatedly tied Beck to Gov. Chris Christie, who has become deeply unpopular in New Jersey. "I'm a lifelong resident of Monmouth County. I love this county," he said earlier Tuesday. "I watched taxes go up each and every day. I think both parties have been responsible, whether its [Gov. Jon] Corzine or Christie. We need a new direction." More than \$4 million had been poured into the district as of Oct. 27, making it among the most expensive legislative races this year. Beck had tried to link Gopal to Norcross, calling him "Camden County Vin" and accusing him of being beholden to outside interests.” (*New York Observer*, 11/8/17)

### ***In 2017, Al Gore Helped Rally Democrats To Support Gopal***

**In 2017, Al Gore Helped Rally Democrats To Support Gopal And Other Candidates.** “Former Vice President Al Gore told a crowd of hundreds on Sunday that Democrats and progressive voters must send a message to Washington and Trenton, one that rejects Republican policies and makes New Jersey's environment a priority. At the Ocean Township Municipal Gym, Gore endorsed gubernatorial candidate Phil Murphy and took aim at Republican policies, and by extension President Donald Trump. Gore criticized environmental records, values, hurricane response and the economic policies of both Trump and Gov. Chris Christie - and by extension, Lt. Gov. Kim Guadagno, the Republican gubernatorial candidate. "This is a time when the people of the United States of America have to say 'we've got to have our common sense back'," Gore said to enthusiastic applause. "This country is worth fighting for. The state is worth fighting for." Gore was the last speaker at the rally designed to drive support behind Murphy, the re-election bids of Assemblyman Eric Houghtaling and Assemblywoman Joann Downey, and state Senate candidate Vin Gopal, who is challenging incumbent Republican Sen. Jennifer Beck in the 11th Legislative District, among Democrats seeking office.” (*Asbury Park Press*, 10/16/17)

### ***In 2020, Gopal Claimed Biden “Is Really Going To Be Somebody Who Would Unite Our Country Which Is Currently Divisive”***

**2020: “Gopal Added That Biden ‘Is Really Going To Be Somebody Who Would Unite Our Country Which Is Currently Divisive.’”** “Gopal added that Biden "is really going to be somebody who would unite our country which is currently divisive." He urged all South Asian Americans to participate in the political process and ensure that people vote. He also requested South Asian Americans to ensure that "our friends and neighbors in other states understand how important this election is, not only for a few policy changes or change a few Supreme Court

justices," this election is "about the fabric of our diverse country which we all love," according to the statement." (*The Independent*, 8/10/20)

***Gopal Was Recently Endorsed By Gov. Phil Murphy***

**In 2023, Gov. Phil Murphy Attended Gopal's Campaign Kickoff To Endorse Him And Noted "There's No One I Know Who Gets More Stuff Done Than This Guy."** "State Senator Vin Gopal, D-Long Branch, announced Monday that he is running for re-election in November in hopes of continuing to represent Monmouth County in the 11th Legislative District in the New Jersey Senate. Senator Gopal made the announcement at the iPlay America event center in Freehold Township where a crowd of more than 800 people gathered in support of his campaign along with Gov. Phil Murphy as well as elected officials throughout the state from both parties including former Republican Governor nominee and Senate nominee Doug Forrester. "I'm here first and foremost actually not as Governor, I'm here as a resident of Monmouth County," said Gov. Murphy. "There's no one I know who gets more stuff done than this guy. He checks the partisan politics at the door and focuses on things like mental health and women's healthcare," said Gov. Murphy, adding, "No one has the backs of our Veterans more than Vin Gopal. No one has the back of our members of law enforcement and first responders more than Senator Gopal." Senator Gopal was elected in 2017 and re-elected in 2021. He has since sponsored dozens of pieces of legislation that have become laws including increasing access to services and programs for people with mental and behavioral disabilities. If elected this November, Senator Gopal will become the first Democrat in Monmouth County to serve a third term in the state senate. \*\*BULLSEYE Senate President Nick Scutari, D-Linden, who was the evening's emcee, expressed his support for Senator Gopal. "Vin has been an amazing voice for civil discourse in a political reality that does not have enough of that," said Scutari, noting that Gopal has been a bipartisan person throughout his entire career." (TAP Into, 1/9/23)

***On Social Media, Gopal Has Praised Multiple Prominent Democratic Party Figures Known For Promoting Radically Liberal Beliefs Such As Barack Obama, Cory Booker, Phil Murphy, And Ruth Bader Ginsberg***

**Gopal Has Frequently Praised Former Democratic President Of The United States Barack Obama**

**In February 2022, Gopal Posted Praise For The Anniversary Of The Election Of Barack Obama As President In 2007.** (Official Profile, [Twitter](#), 2/10/22)



(Official Profile, [Twitter](#), 2/10/22)

**In November 2012, Gopal Tweeted In Favor Of Voting For The Obama-Biden.** (Official Profile, [Twitter](#), 11/6/12)



(Official Profile, [Twitter](#), 11/6/12)

**In November 2012, Gopal Tweeted In Favor Of Voting For The Obama-Biden 2012 Presidential Campaign.** (Official Profile, [Twitter](#), 11/6/12)



(Official Profile, [Twitter](#), 11/6/12)

**Gopal Has Frequently Praised New Jersey Democratic Senator Corey Booker And Was Pictured With Booker In August 2017**

**In May 2023, Gopal Posted Praise For Senator Corey Booker.** (Official Profile, [Facebook](#), 5/2/22)



(Official Profile, [Facebook](#), 5/2/22)

**In April 2020, Gopal Praised Senator Booker For All The Work He Has Done For New Jersey.** (Official Profile, [Facebook](#), 4/27/20)



(Official Profile, [Facebook](#), 4/27/20)

**In August 2017, Gopal Posted A Photo With Senator Booker.** (Official Profile, [Instagram](#), 8/5/17)



(Official Profile, [Instagram](#), 8/5/17)

**Gopal Has Praised New Jersey Democratic Governor Phil Murphy And Was Pictured With Murphy In May 2023.**

**In May 2023, Gopal Posted Touring Businesses With Governor Phil Murphy.** (Official Profile, [Facebook](#), 5/26/23)





(Official Profile, [Facebook](#), 5/26/23)

**In January 2018, Gopal Praised Governor Murphy For His Pick For Education Commissioner.** (Official Profile, [Instagram](#), 1/13/18)



(Official Profile, [Instagram](#), 1/13/18)



**In May 2023, Gopal Was Pictured With Democratic Congressman Andy Kim At A Memorial Day Parade**

**In May 2023, Gopal Posted That He Was At The Memorial Day Parade With Congressman Andy Kim.** (Personal Profile, Facebook, [Facebook](#), 5/29/23)



(Personal Profile, Facebook, [Facebook](#), 5/29/23)

**In March 2023, Gopal Praised Liberal Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg As “A Champion Of Justice And Gender Equality”**

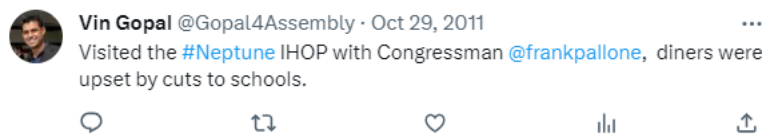
**In March 2023, Gopal Praised Justice Ginsburg As “A Champion Of Justice And Gender Equality.”** (Official Profile, [Facebook](#), 3/5/21)



(Official Profile, [Facebook](#), 3/5/21)

**In October 2011, Gopal Tweeted That He Was At IHOP With Democratic Congressman Frank Pallone**

**In October 2011, Gopal Tweeted That He Was At IHOP With Congressman Frank Pallone.** (Campaign Profile, [Twitter](#), 10/29/11)



(Campaign Profile, [Twitter](#), 10/29/11)

## **GOPAL’S NON-PROFIT HAS BEEN ACCUSED OF POSSIBLE VIOLATIONS OF FEDERAL AND STATE LAWS**

***In 2021, “Lori Annetta (R-Freehold Borough) Wrote To The New Jersey Attorney General, Election Law Enforcement Commission And Internal Revenue Service Requesting An Investigation Into Possible Violations Of Federal And State Laws” By The Vin Gopal Civic Association***

**In 2021, “Lori Annetta (R-Freehold Borough) Wrote To The New Jersey Attorney General, Election Law Enforcement Commission And Internal Revenue Service Requesting An Investigation Into Possible Violations Of Federal And State Laws” By The Vin Gopal Civic Association.** “State Senator Vin Gopal’s Republican challenger is accusing the “Vin Gopal Civic Association,” a 501(c)(3) organization, of engaging in campaign-like activities which she says warrant action of authorities in Trenton and Washington, D.C. This week, Lori Annetta (R-Freehold Borough) wrote to the New Jersey Attorney General, Election Law Enforcement Commission and Internal Revenue Service requesting an investigation into possible violations of federal and state laws. “Senator Gopal specifically added his name and title as Senator to a bulk mailing sent by this ‘charity, that landed in voters mailboxes during the first week of October just days before the start of early voting in New Jersey on October 23 and during the mail-in voting period,” Annetta alleged in a statement. The cited mailer (pictured on the right) is an invitation to a “family day” event in Ocean Township purportedly intended to support local VFWs and American Legions. Ocean lies inside Gopal’s 11th Legislative District. “This event, as well as the bulk mailing that was done by the charitable organization with not just the organization’s name, but also ‘Senator Vin Gopal’ with top billing on the flier, in the days leading up to a hotly contested election for Senator Gopal’s legislative seat, is clear evidence that Senator Gopal is utilizing the Vin Gopal Civic Association to solicit and spend ‘charitable contributions’ for the purpose of promoting himself throughout his legislative district while simultaneously operating his political reelection campaign,” Annetta charged. Copies of Annetta’s letters can be viewed here.” ([Save Jersey](#), 10/19/21)



([Save Jersey](#), 10/19/21)

**GOPAL LED AN EFFORT TO RID NEW JERSEY OF THE “FREEHOLDER” TITLE**

***Gopal Sponsored Legislation To Change The ‘Freeholder’ Title To Director Contending The Phrase “Has No Place In Modern Diverse Society”***

**Gopal’s Legislation To Abandon The Freeholder Term Was Passed In 2020**

**Gopal Sponsored Legislation To Change The ‘Freeholder’ Title To Director Contending The Phrase “Has No Place In Modern Diverse Society.”** “One of the bill's sponsors in the Senate is Sen. Vin Gopal (D-Monmouth), who said, "The term 'freeholder' has its roots in pre-Colonial England and was used to describe free, white land owning men. This archaic phrase, blemished with negative connotations, has no place in a modern, diverse society. "We have a responsibility to recognize outdated components of our government and take steps to modernize where appropriate. I believe in this instance, it is more than appropriate. By transitioning from the phrase 'freeholder' to 'commissioner' we are bringing our county government, with a budget of nearly \$450 million and over 600,000 constituents, into the 21st century. "Here in Monmouth County, the term 'freeholder' often causes confusion, leading some to believe the title is associated with Freehold Borough or Freehold Township. The title, which is only used in our state, also tends to confuse public officials outside of New Jersey who use the term 'commissioner.' This long overdue change will provide some much needed clarity to both the residents of New Jersey and the out-of-state public officials we work with on a regular basis," Gopal said. On April 12, the Senate bill was passed 27-4 with nine senators not voting. There are four senators who represent Monmouth County in the state Legislature. Gopal, who is a sponsor of the bill, voted "yes," Republican Sam Thompson voted "yes," Republican Robert Singer voted

"yes" and Republican Declan O'Scanlon voted "no." The Assembly bill was introduced on Jan. 29 and referred to the Assembly State and Local Government Committee." (*News Transcript*, 6/5/18)

- **Gopal's Legislation To Abandon The Freeholder Term Was Passed In 2020.** "A bill that would rename the title of county officials in New Jersey from freeholder to commissioner is headed to Gov. Phil Murphy's desk after passing the state Senate on Thursday. After years of debate, the bill, S855, calls for a name change because of the history of the centuries-old term that many consider racist and offensive. It was a term coined when only white, male landowners could be hold public office. The measure was approved with a vote of 31-6 and is backed by Murphy, who announced his support of the bipartisan legislation on July 10 with state Senate President Steve Sweeney and Assembly Speaker Craig Coughlin. There's been talk of abolishing the term for years. The latest push comes amid a new civil rights movement to address systemic racism in America, sparked by the police killing of George Floyd, a Black man, in Minnesota and fueled by protests across the country. "This is an outdated name that is rooted in the terminology and practices of bigotry that needs to be eliminated," Sweeney said in a statement. "As we work to bring justice and equality to all Americans we should recognize that symbolism matters and the titles we use for public offices have meaning. We should be diligent in erasing all remnants of oppression." Murphy is expected to sign the bill, which was sponsored by Sweeney and state Sens. Vin Gopal, D-Monmouth, and Joe Pennachio, R-Morris." (*Star Ledger*, 7/31/20)



## APPENDIX A: ISSUES OF NOTE (BY SUBJECT AREA)

*Below is a non-comprehensive reference section pertaining to Vin Gopal's issues and policy positions of note. Any actionable material from this section has been incorporated into the prior narrative sections.*

### FISCAL AND ECONOMIC ISSUES

#### *Taxes*

##### Overall

**2017: “Gopal Also Said He Wants To Cut Costs Of New Jersey Government And Would Oppose All Taxes Proposed By Murphy Except For A Tax On Legalized Marijuana.”**

*(Asbury Park Press, 10/12/17)*

#### *Budget*

##### Pork Projects

**In The 2022 NJ Budget,” New Items Abound, Like Half A Million Dollars To Help Maintenance At The Ocean Grove Boardwalk And \$1 Million Toward The Renovation Of The Keansburg Public Beach House, Both In Monmouth County And Sponsored By County Resident Sen. Vin Gopal”; “And Another \$500,000 Headed To Eatontown For Captain James M. Gurbisz Park, Courtesy Of Gopal.”** “While there are some hyperlocal projects with high price tags, there are also statewide programs that will see a bump in funding, such as millions toward health services at hospitals and medical care facilities, as well as funding for school security. There were also some projects that might look familiar. Sen. Teresa Ruiz is calling for \$3.5 million for the Newark Symphony Hall Infrastructure Projects, an effort that she argued needed \$5 million last year. Ruiz lives and works in Newark. Similarly, the Paramus Library will receive \$500,000 on top of the \$300,000 it received last year, thanks to Sen. Joseph Lagana. He lives in Paramus. But new items abound, like half a million dollars to help maintenance at the Ocean Grove Boardwalk and \$1 million toward the renovation of the Keansburg Public Beach House, both in Monmouth County and sponsored by county resident Sen. Vin Gopal. There's \$525,000 headed to South Plainfield for the replacement of the Police Athletic League field, thanks to Diegnan, and another \$500,000 headed to Eatontown for Captain James M. Gurbisz Park, courtesy of Gopal.” *(Daily Record, 8/23/22)*

#### *Consolidation*

**In 2017, Gopal Supported Serious Penalties For Towns That Did Not Consolidate.** “Gopal: New Jersey needs to partner with towns and school districts on consolidation. He said New Jersey needs to offer incentives to towns to consolidate, including possibly financing upfront costs. He said there are "major savings" not only strictly through consolidating neighboring towns and schools but also rolling special agencies like parking and sewer authorities into town government and allowing local government to partner on joint contracts for engineers, garbage



and health brokers. Gopal said he supports "serious penalties" for towns that don't consolidate."  
(*Asbury Park Press*, 10/12/17)

## *Labor*

### Minimum Wage

**In 2017, “Gopal: Disagrees With Murphy On \$15 Per Hour Minimum Wage. Gopal Said His Business Would Not Have Survived Its First Few Years Had That Been In Place.”**

“Gopal: Disagrees with Murphy on \$15 per hour minimum wage. Gopal said his business would not have survived its first few years had that been in place. He said New Jersey needs to focus on being business-friendly, specifically to mom-and-pop operations. "We really need to get back to Main Street," he said.” (*Asbury Park Press*, 10/12/17)

**However, In 2018, Gopal Proposed A Compromise Measure To Raise The Minimum Wage To \$12.**

“In the meantime, senior staffers from both the Legislature and governor’s office have been meeting to go over the bill, Murphy said. “I will continue to work with the members of my caucus to produce a balanced bill that is fair to workers and respects the business community,” Coughlin said in a written statement Tuesday. “I look forward to meeting with the governor and senate president this upcoming Thursday to further our discussion on minimum wage.”

Meanwhile, Sen. Vin Gopal, D-11th District, unveiled his own proposed “compromise” increase to \$12 an hour over three years, starting with an increase to \$10.10 on Jan. 1, followed by a study on the impact of a wage increase on small businesses.” (NJBIZ, 12/12/18)

**In 2019, Amid Progressive Outcry, Gopal Pulled His Bill To Delay Implementation Of a \$15 Minimum Wage During Economic Downturns.**

“Lawmakers are pulling a vote Thursday on a controversial bill to suspend the state’s yearly minimum wage increases now \$10 an hour, and slated to rise to \$15 an hour by 2024 in the event of an economic recession, according to the bill’s main sponsor Sen. Vin Gopal, D-11th District. The measure met opposition from U.S. Rep. Don Norcross, D-1st District, who in a Tuesday afternoon statement called the proposal “irresponsible” and said that it would “harm both workers and businesses.” “I’ve asked Chairman Madden to pull my bills tomorrow and he said OK,” Gopal tweeted Wednesday morning. “There will be no discussion. I look forward to meeting with stakeholders in the weeks and months ahead on the positives and negatives of both bills.” Under the first measure, Senate Bill 3607, the state-mandated pay increase schedule would be suspended in the event of a decline in employment and sales tax, at which point the suspension would be instituted on a year-by-year basis. The second scenario laid out in the bill would suspend the wage increase until the state regains revenue past 2 percent. Senate Bill 3608, meanwhile, would create a task force to study the effect the minimum wage increase has on businesses including the ability to hire new workers, whether they needed to cut hours or lay off workers to make ends meet, and whether they switched to automation.” (NJBIZ, 11/13/19)

### Pensions

**In 2023, “Gov. Phil Murphy On Monday Rejected A Proposal To Immediately Allow All Police And Firefighters Enrolled In New Jersey's Pension System To Retire Early With A Reduced Pension After 20 Years Of Service.”** “Gov. Phil Murphy on Monday rejected a

proposal to immediately allow all police and firefighters enrolled in New Jersey's pension system to retire early with a reduced pension after 20 years of service. But the Democratic governor didn't rule out the idea completely as he issued a conditional veto of the measure, dubbed the "burnout bill." Instead, Murphy suggested extending a law he signed temporarily providing the 20-and-out benefit by another three years and reassess its impact after that. If it still makes financial sense, he said, the pension system's board can make the benefit permanent. This all relates to a complicated issue that has changed a few times in recent decades. State law requires members of the state's Police and Firemen's Retirement System to retire at 65 with their full pension. But a 1999 state law allowed people with 20 years of service to retire, albeit at half their final compensation. That was later changed during then-Gov. Chris Christie's administration so anyone hired after January 2000 has to be at least 55 years old or have 25 years of service to retire early. Murphy, though, signed a law in 2021 allowing nearly 8,000 police officers and firefighters about to reach 20 years of service a two-year window to retire early, regardless of their age or enrollment date, with half their final compensation. The unions who advocated for the change said the law was not creating a new benefit, but bringing workers in line with those hired before 2000 to correct what they argued was a misrepresentation of the 1999 law by Christie's administration." (*Express Times*, 5/16/23)

- **“State Sen. Vin Gopal, D-Monmouth, A Main Sponsor Of The Bill, Declined To Comment Monday.”** “After that, he said, if the system's board of trustees finds the benefit "does not result in increased employer contributions or impact the long-term viability" of the system, the board "can then permanently institute" a 20-and-out benefit "without the need for additional legislation." That, Murphy said, is because of a 2018 bill that gave the board "certain functions, powers, and duties relating to the management" of the system. "I have full confidence that the Board would make such a decision responsibly, based on the facts and data that are developed during the five-year trial period," Murphy wrote. State Sen. Vin Gopal, D-Monmouth, a main sponsor of the bill, declined to comment Monday.” (*Express Times*, 5/16/23)

### Unionization

**In 2022, 26 Elected Officials Including Gopal “Signed A Letter Of Support For The Recent Unionization Efforts At Starbucks Stores In The State, Urging CEO Howard Schultz To Adhere To, And Sign, The Fair Election Principles.”** “Twenty-six New Jersey elected officials signed a letter of support for the recent unionization efforts at Starbucks stores in the state, urging CEO Howard Schultz to adhere to, and sign, the Fair Election Principles. Starbucks workers organizing a union drive gathered at the Hopewell store on Monday with legislators to support their campaign and other Starbucks union drives across the state. U.S. Rep. Bonnie Watson Coleman (D-12th Dist.) spoke at the event in solidarity with the workers, who launched their unionization effort in January, as the first New Jersey Starbucks to do so. "We stand in solidarity with Starbucks workers seeking to organize in our state and our communities," Watson Coleman said. "New Jersey is stronger when workers have a collective voice in their pay and working conditions." Watson Coleman was also one of the 26 New Jersey lawmakers who signed the letter addressed to Schultz. The letter lists nine fair election principles, including not making any implicit or explicit threats and giving equal space for pro-union materials if anti-union materials are posted on the premises. "All workers have the right to a union and to a

collective voice in the conditions of their own employment," part of the letter reads. "We believe that these organizing efforts will ultimately lead to a stronger and more sustainable future for Starbucks, the workers, and our State." The signatories also include: Donald Norcross (D-1st Dist.); Andy Kim (D-3rd Dist.); Frank Pallone (D- 6th Dist.); Bill Pascrell (D-9th Dist.); Donald Payne Jr. (D-10th Dist.); Mikie Sherrill (D-11th Dist.); Teresa Ruiz (D-Essex); Fred Madden (D-Gloucester); Troy Singleton (D-Burlington); Vin Gopal (D-Monmouth); Shirley Turner (D-Mercer); Andrew Zwicker (D-Middlesex); Patrick Diegnan (D-Middlesex); Joseph Cryan (D-Union); Richard Codey (D-Essex); Brian Stack (D-Hudson); Daniel Benson (D-Mercer); Joseph Egan (D-Middlesex) Herb Conaway (D-Burlington); Assembly Speaker Craig Coughlin (D-Woodbridge); Robert Karabinchak (D-Middlesex); Angela McKnight (D-Hudson); Ellen Park (D-Bergen), Anthony Verrelli (D-Mercer); and Thomas Giblin (D-Essex)." (*Star Ledger*, 4/4/22)

### Union Associations

**NOTE:** *Additional union associations can be provided upon request.*

**2023: “The New Jersey State Council Of The Service Employees International Union (Seiu) Endorsed Six Democratic State Legislators For The 2023 Elections Today – Two Of Whom, State Sens. Vin Gopal (D-Long Branch) And Andrew Zwicker (D-South Brunswick), Are Running For Re-Election In Two Of The State’s Most Competitive Districts.”** “The New Jersey State Council of the Service Employees International Union (SEIU) endorsed six Democratic state legislators for the 2023 elections today – two of whom, State Sens. Vin Gopal (D-Long Branch) and Andrew Zwicker (D-South Brunswick), are running for re-election in two of the state’s most competitive districts. Also getting the support of the union are State Sen. Linda Greenstein (D-Plainsboro), State Sen. Joe Vitale (D-Woodbridge), Assemblywoman Annette Quijano (D-Elizabeth), and Assemblywoman Britnee Timberlake (D-East Orange), who is running unopposed for her district’s Senate seat. “These legislators have stood with us in the statehouse and in the streets,” SEIU NJ Council President Megan Chambers said in a statement. “They have shown up for our members and for working people, and they deserve our strong support.” Of the six endorsees, only Vitale and Quijano face a contested primary next month. Vitale is the heavy favorite against solo off-the-line candidate Michelle Burwell, while Quijano and her running mates are being challenged by a slate associated with former Assemblyman Jamel Holley (D-Roselle), who seemingly recruited candidates to boost his mayoral comeback campaign in Roselle. In November, the political limelight will be on Gopal and Zwicker, each of whom holds a competitive seat that Republicans hope to flip this year. The same could be true of Greenstein, though she is unlikely to be at serious risk of losing unless the GOP has a very strong year.” ([NJ Globe](#), 5/12/23)

**In 2023, The NJEA Endorsed Zwicker, Gopal, Lagana, And Others.** “Early endorsements from New Jersey’s largest public employee union went to Democrats in some of the state’s most politically competitive legislative districts – and in some Democrats in safe districts — allowing the New Jersey Education Association PAC to make early financial contributions. The NJEA is backing State Sen. Vin Gopal (D-Long Branch), the chairman of the Senate Education Committee, for re-election to a third term in the 11th district, along with two Democratic Assembly challengers: Ocean Township Councilwoman Margie Donlon and former Asbury Park

Municipal Court Judge Luanne Peterpaul, who are seeing to unseat GOP incumbents Marilyn Piperno (R-Colts Neck) and Kim Eulner (R-Shrewsbury). The influential union also endorsed State Sen. Andrew Zwicker (D-South Brunswick), Assemblyman Roy Freiman (D-Hillsborough), and Democrat Mitchell Drulis in the 16th, and State Sen. Joseph Lagana (D-Paramus), Assembly Appropriations Committee Chair Lisa Swain (D-Fair Lawn) and Assemblyman Christopher Tully (D-Bergenfield) in the 38th. “By acting early in these key races, we will have more time to do the grassroots work needed to elect our endorsed candidates. And our endorsement comes with our commitment to do that work,” said NJEA President Sean Spiller in a joint statement with his union leadership. “Every candidate endorsed in this first round has proven they deserve the support of NJEA members.” Endorsements from the NJEA also went to nine Democrats in Hudson County, including Senate Judiciary Committee Chairman Brian P. Stack (D-Union City) in the 33rd, Assemblyman Raj Mukherji (D-Jersey City) in the 32nd, and Assemblywoman Angela McKnight (D-Jersey City) in the 31st. Stack and Mukherji are unopposed; McKnight faces a minimal primary challenger. The NJEA is backing two Middlesex County state senators with nominal primary opponents, Patrick Diegnan (D-South Plainfield) and Joseph Vitale (D-Woodbridge).” ([NJ Globe](#), 4/26/23)

- **NOTE:** *Gopal has been endorsed previously by the NJEA.*

**In 2023, The New Jersey State Building & Construction Trades Council Endorsed Gopal.**

“The New Jersey State Building & Construction Trades Council has endorsed Democrats in most of the state’s competitive legislative races, but is not taking sides in the 11th district State Assembly race, where two freshman Republicans are seeking re-election. The labor group is backing Democrat John Burzichelli (D-Paulsboro) in the 3rd district against State Sen. Ed Durr (R-Logan) and Democrat Paul Moriarty (D-Washington Township) against Republican Christopher Del Borrello for the open Senate seat in the 4th district. But in the contest for two open Assembly seats in the 4th, the building trades council passed over Republican Matt Walker, an Operating Engineers Local 825 board member, and is backing Democrats Dan Hutchison and Codey Miller. In the 11th, the group endorsed State Sen. Vin Gopal (D-Long Branch) for re-election but passed on his two running mates. That’s good news for Republican Assemblywomen Marilyn Piperno (R-Colts Neck) and Kim Eulner (R-Shrewsbury), who want to return to Trenton for second terms. The state building trades, which has strong ties to South Jersey Democrats, are staying out of the 1st and 2nd districts, where six Republican incumbents are seeing re-election, but are supporting Republican Latham Tiver, an Operating Engineers Local 825 official, for the open 8th district Senate seat; Republican Assemblymen Michael Torrisi (R-Hammonton) and Brandon Umba (R-Medford) were also endorsed. The endorsements largely favor sitting legislators, regardless of ideology: the building trades are backing some of the state’s most liberal Democrats, like Britnee Timberlake (D-East Orange) and Shavonda Sumter (D-Paterson), and the most conservative Republicans, like Parker Space (R-Wantage), Joseph Pennacchio (R-Montville), and Doug Steinhardt (R-Lopatcong).” ([NJ Globe](#), 6/8/23)

**In 2023, Gopal, Donlon And Peterpaul Were Backed By The CWA.** “The CWA made no Assembly endorsements in South Jersey, except for Majority Whip Carol Murphy (D-Mount Laurel), who is in the safely Democratic 7th district. A previous announcement listed

endorsements for Democratic State Sen. Vin Gopal (D-Long Branch) and his running mates, Luanne Peterpaul and Margie Donlon. Peterpaul and Donlon face incumbents Marilyn Piperno (R-Colts Neck) and Kim Eulner (R-Shrewsbury). Four Democratic incumbents don't have CWA endorsements: Richard Codey (D-Roseland), Renee Burgess (D-Irvington), Teresa Ruiz (D-Newark), and Brian P. Stack (D-Union City). "Everyone deserves the opportunity to work in a safe, respectful environment with fair wages and benefits," said Dennis Trainor, Vice President for CWA District 1. "We are extremely proud to back these Assembly and Senate candidates, because we know they'll be steadfast, strong supporters of working families and the labor movement here in New Jersey." ([NJ Globe](#), 6/15/23)

**In 2023, Donlon, Peterpaul, And Gopal Were Backed By The AFL-CIO.** "The AFL-CIO endorsed three Republican incumbents for re-election: State Sen. Vince Polistina (R-Egg Harbor Township), Assemblyman Don Guardian (R-Atlantic City), and Assemblywoman Claire Swift (R-Margate). The building trades declined to support anyone in the 2nd district. The endorsements in the 3rd district went to Democrat John Burzichelli, a former ten-term assemblyman who is challenging State Sen. Ed Durr (R-Logan); for the Assembly, the union is backing Democrats Heather Simmons, a Gloucester County freeholder, and Dave Bailey, Jr. against Assemblywoman Bethanne McCarthy Patrick (R-Mannington) and her running mate, Hopewell Township Committeeman Thomas Tedesco. In the 8th district, the AFL-CIO went Republican: Latham Tiver, a business agent for Operating Engineers Local 825 for Senate, and incumbents Brandon Umba (R-Medford) and Michael Torrissi, Jr. for Assembly. No endorsement was made for State Senate in the 1st district, where Republican Michael Testa, Jr. (R-Vineland) is seeking a third term, but AFL-CIO endorsements went to his running mates, Assemblymen Antwan McClellan (R-Ocean City) and Erik Simonson (R-Lower Township). The AFL-CIO went with Democratic challengers Luanne Peterpaul, a former municipal court judge, and Ocean Township Councilwoman Margie Donlon, in their bids to unseat freshmen Republican Assemblywoman Marilyn Piperno (R-Colts Neck) and Kim Eulner (R-Shrewsbury) in the 11th. State Sen. Vin Gopal (D-Long Branch) also won the union endorsement." ([NJ Globe](#), 6/14/23)

**In 2023, The Monmouth-Ocean County Building and Construction Trades Council Backed Donlon, Peterpaul, And Gopal.** "The Monmouth-Ocean County Building and Construction Trades Council has endorsed two Democratic challengers for State Assembly in the 11th district and is asking the state building trades council to do the same. "The Monmouth-Ocean County Building Trades gives our full endorsement to Senator Vin Gopal's running mates: Assembly candidates Dr. Margie Donlon and former Judge Luanne Peterpaul," said Tom DeBartolo, the president of the local building trades council. The New Jersey Building and Construction Trades Council had endorsed only Gopal (D-Long Branch) last week; they didn't take sides in the Assembly race, where Republicans Marilyn Piperno (R-Colts Neck) and Kim Eulner (R-Shrewsbury) are seeking second terms. "We are confident in speaking with them, they will join Senator Gopal as ardent supporters for the men and women of our building trades," DeBartolo said. "We have sent a request to the state building trades to endorse both at their next council meeting." Bill Mullen, the president of the New Jersey Building and Construction Trades, has been taking heat from both parties since he announced his legislative endorsements last week,



with some union leaders telling the New Jersey Globe that Mullen botched the process. A new meeting is set for July.” ([NJ Globe](#), 6/13/23)

## ***Regulations***

### **Nursing Homes**

**In 2019, Gopal Wrote In Support Of Legislation To Increase CNA Staffing Levels At Nursing Homes.** “If there ever comes a day when my parents need the comfort and security of a nursing home, I want to know that they’re receiving the best care possible — not that they’re being shortchanged, stressed and ignored by a flawed and broken system. This isn’t a new problem. Just two years ago, the Senate and Assembly passed legislation to bolster the ranks of CNAs in New Jersey’s nursing homes, putting us in the perfect position to finally address this mounting problem. And then — like in so many other cases — Gov. Chris Christie vetoed it, forcing us back into a dangerous and unsustainable reality. Last year, the Senate picked this issue up again, passing legislation to increase the number of CNAs in each nursing home, improving the ratio of aides-to-patients and spreading out the work over a greater number of bodies. This bill — which prescribed one caregiver per eight patients during the day, one per 10 residents in the evening, and one per 16 residents at night — was a clear and commonsense reform. If we make these changes, we can breathe new life into a battered and exhausted industry. We can create more personal time for each aide to care for the seniors in their service, and more opportunities to see to their individual needs. We can cut down on emotional burnout, injuries and accidents, and transform these nursing homes into the sanctuaries that they were always meant to be. These reforms add up to a safer, more robust system that’s not only better-equipped to help the seniors with disabilities already living there, but the aging generation that will soon follow. And at the end of the day, that goal — improving the lives of our seniors — needs to be our No. 1 priority. Our hardworking and dedicated CNAs have held the line for our seniors against overwhelming odds and impossible challenges. It’s time to give them the support they need to keep going.” (*Eastern Express Times*, 8/16/19)

### **Costco**

**In 2022, Gopal Noted His Support For Legislation To Ban Membership From Restricting Gasoline Sales To Only Paid Members.** “Not a Costco member? The warehouse club would be forced to once again allow you to buy gas at their stores in New Jersey if a pair of state lawmakers get their way. State Sens. Richard Codey, D-Essex, and Vin Gopal, D-Monmouth, have introduced nearly identical bills (S3000 and S3029) that would ban membership clubs from restricting gasoline sales only to paid members in the Garden State. The measures don't mention Costco by name, but they come three months after the company's gas stations in New Jersey switched to permitting only store members to purchase the often-cheaper gasoline at their pumps. That ended a longstanding policy letting everyone fill up there, whether they had a membership card or not. "Last time I checked, that's a commodity," Codey, a former New Jersey governor, said of gasoline. "What's going on here?" Gopal said this is especially an issue as people continue to deal with high gas prices, even though they've begun to drop. The average price for a gallon of regular gas in New Jersey as of Friday was \$3.44, according to AAA -- higher than it was a year ago (\$3.22) but lower than it was a month ago (\$3.93). "I do believe gas is a public



commodity, just like food and energy," Gopal said. "I don't believe there should be membership costs to get things generally in the public good." The lawmaker stressed he is not telling businesses what to charge for gas, just that "it shouldn't be done as a club." "I don't think adding an additional barrier is great," Gopal said." (*The Times*, 10/1/22)

### *Federal Issues*

#### **2022: "Lawmakers From The New Jersey Congressional Delegation And The New Jersey Legislature This Week Called On Members Of Congress To Commit To Funding From The "Build Back Better Act" That Would Expand Rental Assistance, Fund Public Housing Repairs, And Grow The National Housing Trust Fund To Build More Affordable Homes."**

"Lawmakers from the New Jersey Congressional Delegation and the New Jersey Legislature this week called on members of Congress to commit to funding from the "Build Back Better Act" that would expand rental assistance, fund public housing repairs, and grow the national Housing Trust Fund to build more affordable homes. The announcements were part of an event hosted by the Housing and Community Development Network of NJ (the Network) in support of the Network's HouseNJ campaign, which calls for federal- and state-level housing investments. With the "Build Back Better Act" stalled in the U.S. Senate, state and national housing advocates are urging lawmakers to support essential Build Back Better Act investments in any upcoming budget reconciliation bill. "It took us years to build back from the foreclosure crisis and now we run the risk of seeing all of our hard fought progress erased," said U.S. Senator Bob Menendez (D-NJ). "That's why we must make the transformative investments in the President's 'Build Back Better' plan to address our country's affordable housing crisis. If this pandemic has taught us anything it's that housing is healthcare and at a time like this we should be doing everything we can to help families find a safe and affordable place to call home." "It is time for us to make long overdue investments to create, preserve and improve our affordable housing infrastructure," said U.S. Senator Cory Booker (D-NJ). "We must use this opportunity to build back better and bring down the cost of housing, improve housing conditions, and remove historic barriers to housing access." The Network's HouseNJ campaign urges the Biden Administration and Congress to include the housing investments from the House-passed Build Back Better Act in any reconciliation deal, which is the expected path for the bill's final passage. These investments will provide rental assistance to additional extremely low-income households, increase the National Housing Trust Fund, as well as repair and preserve public housing. If the House version of the "Build Back Better Act" were enacted, NJ would receive 21,000 new rental vouchers. The state would also receive \$545.3 million from the National Housing Trust Fund for 5,000 new homes affordable to households at extremely low incomes. In comparison, NJ received \$24.3 million in 2021." ([Insider NJ](#), 2/25/22)

- **Gopal Was Among The Lawmakers Listed In The Release.** "“We need to make sure that every resident who needs housing has the opportunity to get it,” said Senator Vin Gopal (D-Monmouth). “We’re seeing a dramatic increase of mental health cases after the pandemic. Not having a stable home or a roof over their head, things we take for granted, creates that cycle of stress.” Berger noted that grassroots leaders and housing advocates from around the state will be organizing in their communities to secure support for these investments from all members of the NJ Congressional delegation. Senator Gopal and

Assemblywoman Timberlake said they would be introducing legislative resolutions that call for the inclusion of these housing investments in the reconciliation bill.” ([Insider NJ](#), 2/25/22)

### *Miscellaneous*

#### Horse Racing

**In 2018, Gopal Praised Passage Of A \$20 Million Annual Subsidy For The NJ Horse Racing Industry.** “New Jersey lawmakers are considering doling out \$100 million over five years to prop up the state's financially-strapped horse racing industry, which has continued to struggle despite beginning to offer sports betting this summer. The money would be used for "purses," the name for the award money paid out to race winners. "This will be a huge help for the horse racing industry that is an important part of New Jersey's heritage and culture and a key source of jobs and economic activity," said state Sen. Vin Gopal (D-Monmouth), who co-sponsored the bill. New Jersey racetracks used to get an annual \$17 million subsidy from Atlantic City casinos in return for not having slot machines, as is common at many tracks around the country. But former Republican Gov. Chris Christie ended the subsidy for racetracks in 2011 when he privatized the industry in an attempt to make it self-sustaining.” (*Philadelphia Business Journal*, 12/11/18)

## ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT

### *Clean Energy*

#### Overall

**In 2021, Gopal Noted His Support For The Biden Infrastructure Plan And Specifically Noted His Support For Offshore Wind.** “A group of New Jersey elected officials, green business groups and civil rights leaders applauded Rep. Frank Pallone (D-Monmouth) for introducing legislation that would ban offshore drilling off the state’s coastline and called on Congress to wean itself from Big Oil and instead make transformative investments to create clean energy jobs. Rep. Pallone’s legislation comes as President Biden is pushing the American Jobs Plan, which would invest trillions of dollars in clean energy, creating millions of new jobs replacing 100 percent of the nation’s lead drinking water lines, weatherizing 2 million aging homes and offices, building new solar panels and wind turbines and other major national infrastructure needs. “Rep. Pallone’s bold leadership highlights the choice ahead of New Jersey and our nation,” said Alex Taurel, Conservation Program Director for League of Conservation Voters. “Are we going to continue to dig the hole deeper and put more communities’ health and safety at risk from offshore oil? Or are we going to invest in a clean energy future that creates good paying union jobs, and centers environmental justice? Congress has the chance to take us down the right path with the American Jobs Plan and we are so thankful New Jerseyans have leaders like Representative Pallone putting their future first.” “Congressman Pallone’s bill will help ensure that visitors will be able to come down the Jersey Shore to enjoy our clean waters for generations to come,” said state Sen. Vin Gopal (D-Mercer). “Rather than doubling down on polluting industries that threaten our coastline, we need to be investing in growing green energy industries, including offshore wind, that will enable us to provide union jobs to New Jersey

families while also helping us fight climate change. New Jersey has been a leader in both environmental protection and clean energy, and I look forward to working with our congressional representatives to turbocharge these efforts by working to pass the American Jobs Plan.” ([Insider NJ](#), 5/7/21)

### **RGGI**

**In 2018, “Senator Vin Gopal released the following statement in support of Governor Murphy’s Executive Order to rejoin the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative.”** “Senator Vin Gopal released the following statement in support of Governor Murphy’s Executive Order to rejoin the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative: “Today is a day future generations of New Jerseyans will thank us for. I am excited to see Governor Murphy taking swift action to support our environment and there is no better place to do it than right here in Monmouth County. Readmission to the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative will put us on a path toward a cleaner environment for our children and help drive green innovation throughout the state of New Jersey. “Here in Monmouth County, every environmental issue is an economic issue. Along our boardwalks and beaches, our mom and pop shops help drive the state’s \$44 billion tourism industry. Today’s action should provide those business owners with further assurance that New Jersey is working to ensure they don’t just survive, but thrive. Beyond our tourism industry, New Jersey has an opportunity to lead the way in the renewable energy economy. By 2023, solar energy alone is expected to account for an additional 220,000 jobs across the United States, with wind and other forms of renewable energy adding thousands more. Many of these are high paying jobs that cannot be outsourced. We need to be sure New Jerseyans are filling those roles and readmission to RGGI takes us in that direction. “It’s time for New Jersey to be an environmental leader again and the Governor’s decision to rejoin the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative is the right first step.” ([Insider NJ](#), 1/29/18)

### **Wind Energy**

**In 2023, Gopal Has Been Criticized By Republicans For His Support Of Murphy’s Energy Plan And Its Controversial Use Of Wind Power, Which May Have Harmful Effects On Ocean Life.** “A new effort to save the humpback whales in the North Atlantic Ocean has been launched to stop offshore wind energy farms in places like New Jersey. The commercial aims at New Jersey Democrat Senator Vin Gopal, who has fallen in line with Governor Phil Murphy and his radical clean energy plan that could once again put the species in danger. The video, sponsored by the Republican State Leadership Committee, portrays offshore wind energy projects as the next great threat to the whales after decades-long conservation efforts brought them from the brink of extinction. “During a television interview last week, Gopal unequivocally dismissed any possible connection between sonar mapping of the ocean floor and the tragic deaths of dolphins and whales up and down the Jersey shore,” said Steve Dnistrian, the Republican candidate for state senate in LD-11. “Gopal called anyone who believes in such a connection – including dozens of elected officials from both parties, advocates and concerned citizens – conspiracy theorists, which is inappropriate, insulting and callous. I stand with the bipartisan coalition of elected official, advocates and citizens calling for a moratorium on all offshore wind activity. Implementing a moratorium is perfectly reasonable to everyone, except

the governor, Gopal and those who stand ready to make billions of dollars off of the Murphy's master energy plan. Clearly, they could care less about 40 dead dolphins and countless whales washing up on our beaches." The plight of the humpback whale was so dire in the 1980s that in the 1986 Star Trek film *The Voyage Home*, whales had become extinct by the 23rd century. The movie was credited for bringing the plight of the endangered species to the public spotlight."

([Shore News Network](#), 8/2/23)

**January 2023: "New Jersey State Sen. Vin Gopal, Who Represents Part Of Coastal Monmouth County, Said He's "Very Concerned" About Any Ties Between Wind And The Whales."** "Murphy, like the president, has made offshore wind a key component of his clean energy plans. At least one moderate Democrat is expressing hesitation, too. New Jersey state Sen. Vin Gopal, who represents part of coastal Monmouth County, said he's "very concerned" about any ties between wind and the whales. The political headache couldn't come at a worse time for the offshore wind industry, which is already struggling to finance wind farms, including Ocean Wind 1, which would be New Jersey's first." (*Politico*, 1/29/23)

**NOTE: However, Gopal Is Known To Have Opposed Legislation Allowing An Offshore Wind Company To Access Federal Tax Credits.** "Republicans in the 4th legislative district have begun attacking Assemblyman Paul Moriarty (D-Washington), who is running for the district's Senate seat this year, over his recent vote for a bill allowing the offshore wind company Ørsted to access substantial federal tax credits. "This is a classic 'Robin Hood in Reverse' scheme that screws local ratepayers to bail out a multi-billion-dollar company," said Chris Del Borrello, a former Washington Township Councilman and the Republican Senate nominee in the 4th district. "What was Paul Moriarty thinking? Or better yet, follow the money." The offshore wind farms currently in the early stages of construction along the Jersey Shore have long been the subject of intense debate in New Jersey politics. Democrats, most prominently Gov. Phil Murphy, have said offshore wind development is a necessary part of the fight against climate change; Republicans have responded that wind farms would harm tourism along the Shore, and have connected the development to a spate of whale deaths earlier this year. The battle came to a head in the state legislature over the Ørsted bill, which essentially gives the company federal tax credits that would have instead gone to ratepayers in New Jersey. Murphy signed the bill last week, shortly after it passed the legislature on a near-party line vote. Only one Democrat voted against the bill: State Sen. Vin Gopal (D-Long Branch), who faces a competitive fight for re-election in a Monmouth County district that covers some of the most iconic parts of the Jersey Shore." ([NJ Globe](#), 7/17/23)

### Clean Energy Fund

**In 2022, Gopal Sponsored Legislation To End Diverting Clean Energy Funds To NJ Transit's Operating Budget.** "Environment New Jersey issued the following joint news release with 36 organizations: The Jersey Renews coalition, representing 37 labor, environmental, community and faith organizations, greatly appreciates the efforts of over 10 legislators who support ending the raids on the Clean Energy Fund in the FY '23 Budget. Led by Senator Zwicker, the prime sponsor of Senate Budget Resolution S. 373, these legislators seek to end the diversion of \$83.6 million in the FY'23 Budget, which is more than 23% of the total Clean Energy Fund. The raiding of the Clean Energy Funds is apparently to support New Jersey

Transit's operating budget, and the Department of Corrections, despite the State's budgetary surplus, which exceeds \$6.75 billion. Diverting these legislatively dedicated monies will stymie New Jersey's ability to meet climate policy goals, create good well-paying jobs, and protect vulnerable communities. Protecting these legislatively dedicated funds will tackle air pollution, develop clean and renewable sources of energy, lower rates for New Jerseyans, and improve public health, so Jersey Renews thanks the leaders below who seek to end these raids. Sen. Zwicker's Senate Budget Resolution S. 373 is co-primed by Sen. Vin Gopal (D-11); and co-sponsored by Sen. Linda Greenstein (D-14), Sen. Shirley Turner (D-15), Sen. Bob Smith (D-17), Sen. Gordon Johnson (D-38), Asm. John McKeon (D-27), Asm. Dan Benson (D-14), Asm. James Kennedy (D-22) and Asm. Clinton Calabrese (D-36). At the time of this press release, several other legislators also expressed support for this resolution to put an end to the raids. "It is time to end the Clean Energy Fund raids. Now is the time to commit the full \$344 million contributed by ratepayers into the Clean Energy Fund. Doing so will invest in the health of the State's residents, and promote a more affordable, reliable, and cleaner energy future," said Senator Andrew Zwicker, (D-16)." (Environment NJ, 6/24/22)

### *Emissions*

**2018: "The New Jersey Sierra Club Is Joining Congressman Frank Pallone, State Senator Vin Gopal, Assemblywoman Joann Downey, Assemblyman Eric Houghtaling And Mayor John Pallone To Speak Out On The Importance Of Clean Cars. These Elected Officials, Along With Other Community Leaders And Environmental Groups, Are Joining Together To Oppose Proposed Changes To The Federal Standards."** "The New Jersey Sierra Club is joining Congressman Frank Pallone, State Senator Vin Gopal, Assemblywoman Joann Downey, Assemblyman Eric Houghtaling and Mayor John Pallone to speak out on the importance of clean cars. These elected officials, along with other community leaders and environmental groups, are joining together to oppose proposed changes to the federal standards. These changes are an attack on state's authority under the Clean Air Act to protect citizens from tailpipe pollution. The clean car standards will limit carbon pollution by 6 billion tons, save consumers \$1.7 trillion dollars in fuel costs, and reduce oil consumption by up to 4 million barrels every day. "We're here today to stand up for clean cars, the environment, and our economy. We must grab the technology of future, creating new jobs and more importantly protect public health. We're telling the EPA to keep their hands off clean cars and not to repeal this important waiver. There are currently more than 20 fully electric and plug-in hybrid vehicles available at US dealerships. GM is discussing new models and some states want to phase out gasoline-cars altogether. Embracing clean cars is embracing our future. One of New Jersey's biggest source of air pollution is from cars and trucks. Our region is particularly at risk from air pollution from the transportation sector and surrounding states exacerbate these problems. This new technology will create new, green jobs," said Jeff Tittel, Director of the New Jersey Sierra Club. "We'll have to stand up to the EPA and Trump Administration to stop any rollbacks on clean car technology. We're telling them not to side with Big Oil against the environment and our future!" California's stricter emissions that New Jersey follows forces automakers to build passenger cars that achieve an average of 54.5 miles per gallon by 2025, compared with about 36 miles per gallon today. Eventually achieving those targets would have drastically reduced the nation's vehicle tailpipe



pollution, which accounts for about a third of the United States' total greenhouse gas emissions.”  
[\(Insider NJ, 7/20/18\)](#)

### ***Environmentalist Associations***

**NOTE:** *Additional environmentalist associations can be provided upon request.*

**In 2021, Gopal Was Endorsed By Environment NJ.** “Environment New Jersey issued the following news release on Oct. 13, 2021: Environment New Jersey today released its full slate of endorsements for the state legislative and mayoral elections and the gubernatorial race, as it prepares to launch a get out the vote and voter education push state-wide and in key legislative races leading up to Election Day on Tuesday, November 2. Environment New Jersey, on behalf of their more than 20,000 dues-paying citizen members, released its full slate of legislative and mayoral endorsements, as well as its support for the re-election of Governor Phil Murphy. Receiving the group's endorsements are 13 State Assembly and Senate legislative champions spanning 11 legislative districts across the state. The organization endorsed six State Senators and Senate candidates with a record of marked environmental leadership, including Senator Bob Smith (D-17), Senator Linda Greenstein (D-14) and Senator Vin Gopal (D-11). The organization also endorsed the Senate candidacy of Asm. Andrew Zwicker (D-16), Asm. Vince Mazzeo (D-2) and Christine Clarke, the Democratic challenger in the 26th District.” (Environment NJ, 10/14/21)

**In 2023, Zwicker, Gopal, Burzichelli, And Moriarty Were Endorsed By The NJ LCV.** “The New Jersey League of Conservation Voters has endorsed Democrats in four competitive legislative districts but skipped over 22 Democratic incumbents and all but one Republican lawmaker. The 53,000-member grassroots environmental group is backing John Burzichelli against State Sen. Edward Durr (R-Logan) in the 3rd district, Assemblyman Paul Moriarty (D-Washington Township) for the open Senate seat in the 4th, and State Sens. Vin Gopal (D-Long Branch) and Andrew Zwicker (D-South Brunswick) in the 11th and 16th districts, respectively. In addition to Durr, the organization endorsed challengers against six Assembly incumbents: Bethanne McCarthy-Patrick (R-Mannington) in District 3; Michael Torrissi (R-Hammonton) and Brandon Umba (R-Medford) in District 8; Brian Rumpf (R-Little Egg Harbor) in District 9; and Marilyn Piperno (R-Colts Neck) and Kim Eulner (R-Shrewsbury) in District 11. The LCV is backing Christine Clarke for Senate in the 25th against Senate Minority Leader Anthony Bucco (R-Boonton), and Evesham Councilwoman Heather Cooper, a Democrat, for the open GOP Senate seat in the 8th. The lone Republican statewide to capture a League of Conservation Voters endorsement is Assemblyman Rob Clifton (R-Matawan) in District 12. “We could not be prouder of the dedicated, pro-environment leaders in this round of legislative endorsements, and we look forward to electing them to office and working together to build a more equitable and sustainable clean energy future for our children and grandchildren,” said Allison McLeod, the group’s senior policy director. “Codifying 100% clean energy by 2035, advancing offshore wind, and strengthening our democracy are all on the ballot.” It’s not clear how impactful the LCV endorsement is, although in low-turnout elections, every little bit helps.” [\(NJ Globe, 7/6/23\)](#)

**In 2017, “The New Jersey Sierra Club Called Gopal’s Win A “Victory For The Environment.”** “Gopal accused Beck of being a “foot soldier” for Christie and a political insider who lost touch with her constituents in Monmouth County. The New Jersey Sierra Club



called Gopal's win a "victory for the environment." "He will fight to deal with climate change and support New Jersey getting back into the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative," Jeff Tittel, director of the Sierra Club, said in a statement. "It is really time for a change in the 11th district and Vin will bring that change." (*Star Ledger*, 11/8/17)

## HEALTHCARE AND PUBLIC HEALTH

### COVID

#### Restrictions And Enforcement

**In April 2020, Gopal Planned To Introduced Legislation To Impose Severe Fines And/ Or Jail Party Goers Who Violated Social Distancing Orders.** "Despite daily reminders that verge on begging for public compliance, gatherings continue. "It angers us," Murphy said Tuesday. "We believe the more swift, visible action that is taken such as you saw in Newark last night ... the more quickly we can bring this non-compliant behavior to zero." Lawmakers are proposing their own ways to crack down. Sen. Vin Gopal, D-Monmouth, says partygoers should be penalized, too. He plans to introduce a bill that will direct law enforcement to cite attendees, potentially resulting in a fine of \$1,000 or six months in jail. "Proper social distancing is essential for keeping our hospitals from being overwhelmed, and these arrogant and shortsighted gatherings are putting every one of us at risk," Gopal said in a statement. A group of Ocean County Republican lawmakers want to give the health commissioner power to collect a \$10,000 to \$15,000 fine if anyone hosts a party in violation of the governor's order." (*Asbury Park Press*, 4/2/20)

**In Late April 2020, Gopal Wrote In Support Of Closing Public Parks.** "Living near a public park — whether state, local or county — is one of the many upsides of residing in the Garden State. Whether it's walking through Seven Presidents Oceanfront Park or hiking in South Mountain Reservation, New Jersey's open spaces often provide a welcome respite to our lives. We know that Gov. Phil Murphy and New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection Commissioner Catherine R. McCabe also treasure our open spaces and recognize their importance to people across our state. That's why we understand how difficult it must have been to close New Jersey's state and county parks as part of our statewide response to COVID-19. Unfortunately, we do not live in a time of easy decisions. And we support the decision to temporarily close New Jersey's parks. As of Monday, more than 88,000 of our fellow New Jerseyans have tested positive for COVID-19. Sadly, more than 4,300 have passed away. Statewide, we owe it to them — and to their families and loved ones — to take an aggressive approach to protect public health, especially when it comes to social distancing. Over 14,000 New Yorkers have also died so far from COVID-19. Between, New Jersey and New York, we are averaging nearly 1,000 deaths per day this past week. This is a horrific statistic. As Murphy and state health experts have said on many occasions, we must do everything we can to flatten the curve and slow the rate of new COVID-19 infections. Unfortunately, just as the COVID-19 outbreak was surging, so were the crowds at state parks and forests. Just prior to closing state and county parks, visitation numbers to state parks were at unusually high levels. And so were the behaviors that threaten public health." (Vin Gopal, Op-Ed, *Star-Ledger*, 4/21/20)

**In June 2020, Gopal Noted His Request To Have State Officials Investigate Donovan's Reef Bar For Social Distancing Violations.** "Lewis contacted both Sen. Vin Gopal, D-Monmouth, and Gov. Phil Murphy, asking for action to be taken against Donovan's Reef. Gopal said Monday that after hearing from Lewis he contacted James Graziano, acting director of the state's Division of Alcoholic Beverage Control, who said he would investigate. There was no immediate word from the division or from the state Attorney General's Office on whether any action has been taken. "That's where you're seeing the spikes (in coronavirus infections) in Texas and Florida coming from, the bars and clubs," Gopal said. "So this is unacceptable." Donovan's Reef lists on its website the precautions the bar says it is taking during the pandemic. They include "hygiene hand washing stations located throughout the venue," social distance markers and signs, and "practicing safe staff social distancing and continual education." The website reads "We will have dedicated hygiene specialists on staff during all operating hours. PPE (personal protective equipment) i.e.: gloves and masks will be available to all our staff at all times, and to customers upon request." Phil Murphy mentioned the out-of-state spikes when he announced at his daily press briefing that he was canceling a plan to reopen indoor dining in restaurants." (*Asbury Park Press*, 6/30/20)

**In July 2020, Gopal Called For Shore Towns To Impose Capacity Restrictions.** "According to Murphy's May executive order, towns are required to implement "reasonable restrictions," including non-discriminatory capacity restrictions. Those capacity limits, determined by local officials, could be achieved through limiting beach badge sales or monitoring the crowds with technology. "I think both are good options," says state Sen. Vin Gopal, D-Monmouth. "I think the towns have got to handle this on their own. "They know their beaches, they know their entry points, they know their populations, and I think the state has to enforce it." Which option are Shore towns choosing for limiting capacity?" (*The Times*, 7/15/20)

**In August 2021, "State Sen. Vin Gopal (D-Long Branch), The Chair Of The Senate Military And Veterans' Affairs Committee, Announced On Tuesday That He Supports Gov. Phil Murphy's New Vaccination And Testing Requirements For Employees Of Health Care And Congregate Living Facilities."** "State Sen. Vin Gopal (D-Long Branch), the chair of the Senate Military and Veterans' Affairs Committee, announced on Tuesday that he supports Gov. Phil Murphy's new vaccination and testing requirements for employees of health care and congregate living facilities. The requirements, which Murphy unveiled at a press briefing yesterday, mandates that all workers in such facilities will either need to show proof of vaccination or get a minimum of one Covid test per week beginning September 7. "The state-run veterans homes were among some of the hardest facilities hit in the beginning of the global COVID-19 pandemic," Gopal said. "This mandate to either have state health care employees get vaccinated or be tested every two weeks means we can give some assurance to our veterans and other community members that they are safe, and their health will continue to be a priority in this state." Several of the state's veterans' homes were horrifically impacted by Covid in 2020, with at least 102 residents of the Veterans Memorial Home in Menlo Park dying of the virus, and at least 89 deaths at another facility in Paramus. The catastrophes have been subject to a statewide grand jury investigation, and Murphy announced the appointment of new CEOs at both devastated facilities in March." ([NJ Globe](#), 8/3/11)

**Of Note, In 2022, Gopal Signed Onto Legislation To Curb Murphy’s Emergency Powers.**

“Republican state lawmakers have repeatedly pushed bills aiming to curb the sweeping emergency powers Democratic Gov. Phil Murphy has used to combat the coronavirus pandemic in New Jersey. None of the measures have gone anywhere in the Democratic-controlled state Legislature. But their latest effort has something notable: the support of at least one Democrat. The proposal would limit the length a New Jersey governor could declare a state of emergency and public-health emergency to 60 days, unless the Legislature approves an extension. Under current state law, a state of emergency lasts until the governor lifts it, while a public-health emergency expires after 30 days, though the governor can keep issuing renewals every 30 days. The bill (S1200) would also give lawmakers the authority to terminate either emergency declaration if two-thirds of the Legislature vote to do so. State Sen. Declan O’Scanlon, R-Monmouth, a main sponsor, said state Sen. Vin Gopal, D-Monmouth, has signed on as a co-sponsor of the measure.” *(Star Ledger, 1/31/22)*

***Smoking***

**In 2019, Gopal Sponsored Legislation Banning Smoking On New Jersey Beaches.** “New Jersey’s beaches will soon be smoke free. A state law banning smoking on beaches will go into effect this month, with the onus on towns to figure out how to enforce the rule. Gov. Phil Murphy signed a measure in July prohibiting smoking on public beaches and parks, though municipalities can create small sections for smokers. The goal is to keep cigarettes off the sand and out of the ocean, where marine life could ingest them. “We can now breathe easier because the new ban on smoking in beaches and parks will go into effect,” said New Jersey Sierra Club Director Jeff Tittel. Those who violate the law are subject to a \$250 fine for their first offense, \$500 for a second offense and \$1,000 for each subsequent offense. The bill doesn’t specify which government body is responsible for enforcing the ban, leaving it up to towns to decide. State legislators Steve Sweeney, Vin Gopal, Bob Smith, Vincent Mazzeo, Clinton Calabrese, Valerie Vainieri Huttel and Paul Moriarty were primary sponsors of the bill.” *(Press Of Atlantic City, 1/7/19)*

**EDUCATION*****Content And Curriculum*****LGBT Content And Equity Plans**

**In 2019, Gopal Voted In Favor Of A Bill Requiring “Middle School And High School Students To Be Taught The Political, Economic And Social Contributions Of Notable Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual And Transgender People Throughout History.”** “The bill requires middle school and high school students to be taught the political, economic and social contributions of notable lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people throughout history. New Jersey is the second state to do so. If you guessed California was first, you guessed right. What’s wrong with teaching students about the contributions of the LGBT community? Maybe nothing. But what and how will it be taught? And what is the process for developing a curriculum that will benefit the students and the community? Those questions are left unaddressed in the one-page bill. The Legislature provided no framework or guidelines for what the curriculum should contain. It will be left to local school boards to determine exactly what to include in the lesson

plans. That exercise isn't likely to be an easy one. Will the lessons be weaved into a broader curriculum? Will the lessons the LGBT community and lawmakers who supported the bill be confined to a single, self-contained unit? How will it be tailored differently for middle school and high school students? Will the contributions of lesbians, gays and transsexuals be featured if their sexual orientation had nothing to do with their historical legacy? Will it focus more heavily on LGBT activists and their contributions to moving the LGBT agenda forward? How will the curriculum deal with gay historical figures such as Socrates and Michelangelo? What about 20th-century figures such as Susan B. Anthony, Eleanor Roosevelt and astronaut Sally Ride? How about more modern-day figures? Ellen DeGeneres? Rachel Maddow? Former New Jersey Gov. Jim McGreevey? Where will the line be drawn? Anything related to the LGBT community and education is inherently sensitive. That helps explain why so many legislators in Trenton refused to vote yes or no on the bill. In the Assembly, 15 lawmakers abstained, including several who represent Ocean and Monmouth counties: Anne Gove, Ronald Dancer, Amy Handlin, Serena DiMaso and Edward Thomson. Most Ocean County legislators voted against the bill. In the Senate, Vin Gopal was the only one of the six Ocean or Monmouth legislators to support it.”  
*(Asbury Park Press, 2/5/19)*

**“Gopal And Lagana, While Chiding The School Board For Its Move To Speed The Timeline For School Districts To Pass Their Equity Plans, Also Denounced “The Misinformation And Politicizing Campaigns” Pushed By Politicians “More Interested In Scaring Parents Instead Of Being Truthful.”** “Gopal and Lagana, while chiding the school board for its move to speed the timeline for school districts to pass their equity plans, also denounced “the misinformation and politicizing campaigns” pushed by politicians “more interested in scaring parents instead of being truthful.” “There is a continual attempt by these politicians to mislead parents with outlandish accusations of schools teaching children inappropriate things with zero evidence of that taking place across over 600 school districts throughout the state,” they said. Gopal is facing a tough reelection bid in November — he represents the only New Jersey legislative district where different parties hold upper and lower chamber seats — and Lagana’s district is expected to host a close race as well. Schepisi charged the criticism of the board from Scutari and Coughlin is itself rooted in electoral politics. “I think they understand how upset parents are at the moment, so in trying to protect their vulnerable members, they now have to take these positions,” she said.” [\(NJ Monitor, 8/4/23\)](#)

### **Sex Ed Standards**

**In 2022, “Gopal -- The Senate Education Chairman Who Was Re-Elected By A Close Margin In November -- Stressed That Most Of What He's Read In Articles About The Controversy Is Not Included In The Guidelines”; He Claimed The Standards Were Just General Recommendations.** “In a Facebook post Tuesday morning, Gopal -- the Senate education chairman who was re-elected by a close margin in November -- stressed that most of what he's read in articles about the controversy is not included in the guidelines. "There is generic language on identifying gender roles and treating all kids, regardless or their gender, with respect," Gopal said. "Anything that is more specific than that is coming from a specific Board of Education locally." Gopal also said the guidelines are simply recommendations from the state. "It is up to a local board of education to use them if they want but they don't have to," he said.

The senator also said parents can opt their students out of the lessons. Other critics focused their comments generally on when it's appropriate to teach children about sex.” (*Star Ledger*, 4/13/22)

**In May 2022, Gopal’s “Senate Education Committee Voted Along Party Lines To Move Forward With A Democratic-Sponsored Bill That Doesn't Undo The Standards But Aims To Allay Concerns By Mandating School Districts Publish Their Sex Ed Curriculums Online In The Summer, Ensuring Parents Can Ask Questions About The Lessons, And Reinforcing Their Right To Opt Children Out Of The Classes.”** “For about two hours Monday, a state Senate panel heard often-heated testimony from some parents, conservative groups, and religious leaders who voiced fear about children being exposed to what they see as inappropriate or even pornographic material under New Jersey's new sex education standards. At the same time, Republican lawmakers repeated their calls to repeal the incoming guidelines -- despite Democrats, education officials, and progressive advocates who insist the issue is being twisted and blown out of proportion. In the end, the Senate Education Committee voted along party lines to move forward with a Democratic-sponsored bill that doesn't undo the standards but aims to allay concerns by mandating school districts publish their sex ed curriculums online in the summer, ensuring parents can ask questions about the lessons, and reinforcing their right to opt children out of the classes. "If this becomes law ... we will know what's going on in our curricula in all of our school districts," state Sen. Vin Gopal, D-Monmouth, the committee's chairman and bill's main sponsor, said during the hearing at the Statehouse in Trenton. "And if we see bad actors out there, this will be how we can try to correct that -- if we do see things being taught that shouldn't be taught." New Jersey's updated health and physical education standards, adopted by the state Board of Education in June 2020, outline when students should learn about topics such as sexual orientation, gender identity, and anatomy. It's up to individual school districts to implement their own curricula based on the guidelines starting in the 2022-23 school year.” (*Star Ledger*, 5/9/22)

**“Gopal -- Who Narrowly Won Re-Election Last Year -- Said He Sponsored The Bill That Advanced Monday (S2481) To Give Parents A Greater Say In The Matter, Even Though He Has Said Critics Are Spreading Misinformation About The Standards.”** “Gopal -- who narrowly won re-election last year -- said he sponsored the bill that advanced Monday (S2481) to give parents a greater say in the matter, even though he has said critics are spreading misinformation about the standards. The measure would require school boards in the state to offer an annual opportunity for parents, guardians, and other residents to publicly comment on any curriculum using the standards. It would also require districts to post curricula to their websites at least two weeks before classes start, while also reiterating parents' rights to opt their child out of sex education at school. The latter part is already guaranteed by a 1980 state law. This was the first time Gopal's measure received a public hearing. The result was less a debate on the bill and more a forum for Republicans and opponents of the standards to keep pressing Democrats to repeal them completely and start over.” (*Star Ledger*, 5/9/22)

**In 2022, Gopal Claimed Republican Opposition And Rhetoric Against The Sex Ed Standards Was A “Dangerous Game.”** “Senate Education chairman Vin Gopal (D-Monmouth) reminds us that his bill requiring districts to post their sex ed curriculum was blocked by Republicans, even though it echoed legislation pushed by that party's lawmakers for years.



"These are politicians trying to mislead parents, and win votes with fear," Gopal said. "To this day, they haven't pointed to a single one of our 600-plus districts teaching inappropriate material to school age children, and they continue to attack the teaching profession as a whole -- advocating cameras in classrooms, using loaded terms like 'groomers.' They are playing a dangerous game." Elected officials genuinely care about children, but some have been co-opted by a cynical political movement that believes the protection of a child is best achieved by banning books and not guns. Their culture war, however, doesn't factor in the potential damage to kids, and it ignores the evidence that we actually need more expansive sex education in New Jersey's schools, not less." (*Star Ledger*, 8/25/22)

**“What Started As A Worthy Debate On Educational Standards, Gopal Said, Was Hijacked, Manipulated And Distorted By GOP Operatives.”** “So why is a Democrat backing what seems to be a popular conservative talking point? What started as a worthy debate on educational standards, Gopal said, was hijacked, manipulated and distorted by GOP operatives. The purpose of his bill is simply to strengthen and clarify transparency and public access to the curriculum process, said Gopal, who narrowly won reelection last year in a competitive district. “Politicians and political consultants ... are trying to mislead well-meaning very reasonable parents who want to know what’s in their child’s classroom,” Gopal told NJ Spotlight News. “The state Republican Party is doing a lot of it. They’re doing paid ads and ... trying to mislead people and drive up votes.” In a written response to NJ Spotlight News, Brad Schnure, communications director for the state Senate Republican Office, said “These concerns are being driven first and foremost by parents who were shocked by the explicit and age-inappropriate nature of some of the sample teaching materials they were provided to demonstrate how school districts might teach the new state mandated sex education standards this fall.” No one is disputing Schnure’s assertion that Westfield parents brought the debate into public view. But what was a local debate in Westfield was quickly weaponized for political reasons and then refracted through the lens of biased media platforms. Along the way, facts give way to erroneous spin and a debate devolved into a tribal fight. That was on display during Monday’s committee hearing on Gopal’s bill. Some parents, religious officials and conservative advocates said these sex-education standards are “sexualizing” and “grooming” children.” ([NJ Spotlight News](#), 5/11/22)

**In October 2022, Gopal Praised Murphy’s Nominees To Replace Three State Board Of Education Members Who Protested The Murphy Administration’s Changes To Sex Ed Standards.** “Gov. Phil Murphy has nominated three women to serve on the state Board of Education, a group made up of 13 unelected members who approve rules and regulations and advise the state on educational policy. Mary Bennett, Kwanghee Jung and Claudine Keenan, who all hold credentials in the field of education, will replace current board members Mary Elizabeth Gazi, Mary Beth Berry and Vice President Andrew Mulvihill. This is the first group of nominations Murphy has made to the board since his reelection in 2021, even though most of the current members' terms are nearly ended and four board members' terms expired several years ago. State board members serve for six-year terms and without compensation. Mulvihill, Berry and Gazi, all had expired terms and were serving in holdover status. The three outgoing board members broke with protocol when they protested the Murphy administration's changes to the state's sex education standards, which have continued to fuel controversy in school districts and have become a rallying point for November's school board elections. The three members, along



with Jack Fornaro, wrote an unofficial letter, leaked to the press in May, asking state Department of Education acting Commissioner Angelica Allen-McMillan to reopen and examine the 2020 Comprehensive Health and Physical Education standards and make "potential adjustments" to the language. Fornaro remains on the board. The letter also asked Allen-McMillan to permit districts to continue teaching the older 2014 standards until a review of the already-adopted 2020 standards could be completed. In the state Board of Education meeting that followed the letter, Allen-McMillan also went off script and made an opening statement not on the agenda in which she said she would not change the standards. Instead, she said, she "wholeheartedly disagrees" with anyone who suggests changing the standards and that retracting them would be "a disservice" to students. At the time, outgoing board member Mulvihill said the standards should be revisited because they offended some people's moral and religious beliefs. Board President Kathy Goldenberg tabled the discussion, saying changing the standards, which the board approved in 2020, wasn't "even a remote possibility." The three nominees must now be approved by their district senators before they can be confirmed to join the board by a vote in the Senate. The nominees were selected by Murphy with the consent of Allen-McMillan, and with some support from legislators. "I read and researched their biographies. I didn't talk to them directly, but they all seem to have excellent qualifications and a lot of public education experience," said Sen. Vin Gopal, D-Monmouth, chair of the Senate Education Committee. He commended Murphy for selecting individuals who show "steadfast commitment to public education in their careers." Not all lawmakers were aware of the nominations." (*Asbury Park Press*, 10/2/22)

### **Environment**

#### **2020: "First Lady Tammy Murphy Today Announced That The New Jersey State Board Of Education Has Adopted Her Initiative To Make New Jersey The First State In The Nation To Incorporate Climate Change Education Across Its K-12 Learning Standards."**

"TRENTON – First Lady Tammy Murphy today announced that the New Jersey State Board of Education has adopted her initiative to make New Jersey the first state in the nation to incorporate climate change education across its K-12 learning standards. The New Jersey Student Learning Standards (NJSLS) outline what is taught in New Jersey's public schools and set the foundation for school districts to craft instruction and curricula. With this adoption, climate change education will be incorporated across seven content areas—21st Century Life and Careers, Comprehensive Health and Physical Education, Science, Social Studies, Technology, Visual and Performing Arts, and World Languages. Climate change standards have also been added to the appendices of the Mathematics and English Language Arts guidelines, which are up for review in 2022. "In New Jersey, we have already begun to experience the effects of climate change, from our disappearing shorelines, to harmful algal blooms in our lakes, super storms producing torrential rain, and summers that are blazing hot," said First Lady Murphy. "The adoption of these standards is much more than an added educational requirement; it is a symbol of a partnership between generations. Decades of short-sighted decision-making has fueled this crisis and now we must do all we can to help our children solve it. This generation of students will feel the effects of climate change more than any other, and it is critical that every student is provided an opportunity to study and understand the climate crisis through a comprehensive, interdisciplinary lens." ([Insider NJ](#), 6/3/20)

- **Gopal Praised The Climate Standards.** ““It’s unfortunate that climate change has been turned into such a divisive political tool. In reality, it is a scientific fact, and human activity is a major contributing factor,” said Senator Vin Gopal. “While we cannot control how the politics is played on the federal level, through the First Lady’s first-in-the-nation initiative we can ensure our students understand the real world causes, effects and strategies to mitigate the future damage. For the students set to inherit this warming world, properly educating them is the most responsible thing we can do.”” ([Insider NJ](#), 6/3/20)

## ***Funding***

### **State Aid**

**In 2023, ‘Monmouth And Ocean Counties Are Proposed To Lose Nearly \$46 Million In State Education Funding Despite A State Budget That Increases Spending On Schools Overall.’** “Several Shore schools have suffered drastic cutbacks in state aid dating back to 2018 when state Senate Bill 2, or S2, realigned the school funding formula in the state. Monmouth and Ocean counties are proposed to lose nearly \$46 million in state education funding despite a state budget that increases spending on schools overall. The New Jersey Department of Education released its proposed state aid funding the 2023-24 school year Thursday afternoon. That data shows 43 districts in Monmouth and Ocean counties would lose a combined \$60.4 million next school year, with Toms River Regional, Asbury Park, Freehold Regional and Jackson school districts poised to take some of the biggest hits. Those losses are offset by 39 school districts that expected to gain about \$14.5 million in state aid. Proposed funding for the counties' vocational school districts remained flat. The cuts to the Jersey Shore school districts come despite Gov. Phil Murphy's proposed budget adding more than \$834 million in K-12 education statewide.” (*Asbury Park Press*, 3/9/23)

**In 2023, Under A Legislative Compromise Between Murphy And Legislators, A Bill Would Restore \$102.7 Million In State Aid, Reducing Originally Proposed State Aid Cuts By Two-Thirds In The NJ State Budget.** “A host of New Jersey school districts slated to have their state aid cut in Gov. Phil Murphy's new state budget proposal would see smaller reductions than originally planned under a deal the governor's administration just reached with top Democratic lawmakers. The bill would restore about \$102.7 million in state aid for districts in Murphy's budget plan for the fiscal year that begins in July. That means affected districts would ultimately see only one-third of the decreases they were originally scheduled to get. State Sen. Vin Gopal, D-Monmouth, said this will help several districts across the state help avoid layoffs and program cuts. “Hundreds of thousands of teachers have their jobs on the line,” Gopal told NJ Advance Media. “These districts have higher inflation costs, mental health costs, technology costs. The state is sitting on a surplus right now. We should be helping these districts.” Murphy said in a statement released late Friday that his administration “remains committed to providing New Jersey students with a world-class education, which is why we continue to dedicate historic levels of aid for our schools in each year's budget.”” (*Star-Ledger*, 3/18/23)

- **“The Bill's Two Sponsors, Gopal And State Sen. Andrew Zwicker, D-Middlesex, Are Both Running For Reelection In Competitive Districts.”** “Republicans have hammered Murphy in recent weeks for the cuts to some school districts. This comes in a

big legislative election year. All 120 seats in the Legislature are up for grabs in November, with Democrats hoping to retain control as Republicans aim to take at least one house for the first time in 20 years. The bill's two sponsors, Gopal and state Sen. Andrew Zwicker, D-Middlesex, are both running for reelection in competitive districts. The allocation of state school aid is based on a series of formulas designed to bridge the gap between the amount of money a district can take in and the amount of money it needs to provide a good education. Factors like property tax revenues, enrollment size and number of students who need higher levels of support, like those from low-income families or English language learners, are taken into account when determining how much aid a district needs. Despite the current funding formula being developed in 2008, a provision that prevented any districts from losing aid stayed in place until 2017. The 2008 formula is on track to be fully funded by 2025, the governor's office has said." (*Star-Ledger*, 3/18/23)

- **The School Aid Restoration Bill Passed In Late March 2023.** "Lawmakers have fast-tracked a bill that would restore two-thirds of the state aid that school districts were set to lose in the upcoming year. Schools throughout the state were collectively preparing for a loss of about \$157 million. The proposed legislation would restore \$102.8 million and provide a one-time payment to districts that were losing funding for the 2023-24 school year. The bill cleared committee Monday morning and unanimously passed the Senate on Monday afternoon. It is expected to move through the Assembly later this month. Gov. Phil Murphy has said he will sign the legislation. Although the bill garnered unanimous support, some said it did not go far enough. Sen. Declan O'Scanlon, R-Monmouth, proposed an amendment to increase the amount of aid to restore it completely. That was tabled. O'Scanlon called the process "policy malfeasance" and said it doesn't matter "where your district is or what your circumstances are," because "further cuts like this are a problem." "It's a shame we can't simply do the right thing," he said. "We have to continue to torture these districts for some reason. It's one percent of our overall surplus that could make these districts whole this year when we have agreed, apparently, that we are going to revisit this formula and fix this. And we do need to it. We cannot continue down this path." To qualify, districts will have to send the commissioner of education a written plan explaining how they plan to use the funds and how they will fund operations in future school years." (*Daily Record*, 3/22/23)
- **School Leaders Described The Relief Funding Bill As Only A "Band Aid."** "More than 160 New Jersey school districts that have suffered through six years of state aid cuts will receive one-time payments totaling \$102 million this year through a last-minute bill signed last week in Trenton. But many of those districts' leaders say the extra money, which is separate from Gov. Phil Murphy's budgeted school funding, is just a "Band-Aid" and they need a sustainable solution to keep serving their students. Many of the districts face dropping enrollment, but the aid cuts are driving them to cut programs, increase class sizes, and lay off teachers and staff. For instance, 40 faculty and staff members in Sussex County's Vernon Township school district were informed March 23 that they would not be returning to their jobs this fall. The district lost \$8.5 million over six years, school officials said. The additional aid from last week's legislation provides a one-time payment of \$211,000. "We need a long-term systemic solution ... this is a Band-Aid. It's only a one-time allocation," said Jeanne Howe, superintendent of Jefferson Township

Public Schools in Morris County, another affected district. Jefferson will receive \$1 million through the legislation, more than most other school districts in Passaic, Morris and Sussex counties receiving the payments. The Jefferson district's enrollment dropped 29% since 2010 but its state aid has fallen by 60%, she said. Jefferson Township will likely spend its \$1 million on district technology needs. It is "a one-year source of money, so it's not as though we can build this into our regular budget account," Howe said." (North Jersey, 5/4/23)

### **Securing Our Children's Future Bond Referendum (2018)**

**Gopal: “The Proposed \$500 Million Securing Our Children's Future Bond Referendum Will Enable Us To Make The Critical Capital Investments In Career And Technical Education Facilities To Prepare Young People For Well-Paying, 21st Century Careers, While Providing School Districts With Grants For Security Infrastructure And Drinking Water Improvements. This Bond Issue Is An Investment We Need To Make.”** “Voters Tuesday can take an important step in fixing our economy, improving school safety and protecting our drinking water by approving the bipartisan Securing Our Children's Future referendum. As the Democratic and Republican leaders of the Legislative Manufacturing Caucus, we hear over and over again from employers that our state is facing a serious skills gap. In fact, McKinsey & Company's 2017 report, "Reseeding Our Garden State's Economic Growth," identified a shortage of middle-skilled, technically trained workers as one of the biggest drags preventing New Jersey from regaining its former status as an economic powerhouse. The proposed \$500 million Securing Our Children's Future bond referendum will enable us to make the critical capital investments in career and technical education facilities to prepare young people for well-paying, 21st century careers, while providing school districts with grants for security infrastructure and drinking water improvements. This bond issue is an investment we need to make. While manufacturers and other employers in fields from health sciences to construction trades to automotive to engine technology cannot find technically skilled people to fill current vacancies and anticipated retirements. Our county vocational-technical schools and county colleges are at capacity. Last year alone, 17,000 qualified applicants were turned away from county vo-tech programs because there just wasn't any room for them in the schools. Vo-tech schools receive 2.3 applications for every seat. Ironically, this comes at a time when there is growing concern about the high cost of a four-year college degree and burdensome student loan debt, and an increasing demand for other educational options. Many young people are looking for family-sustaining careers that can be launched with technical credentials and perhaps an associate's degree or an industry certificate. This investment in county vocational schools and county colleges will build the high-tech shops and labs needed to prepare young people with the skills, certifications and degrees needed to fill critical jobs in New Jersey's emerging and growing industries, like distribution and logistics, health care, advanced manufacturing, construction and clean energy.” (Vin Gopal, Op-Ed, *Daily Journal*, 11/3/18)

### ***Consolidation***

**“Two Monmouth County State Senators And The State Senate President From Southern New Jersey Have Announced They Are Introducing Legislation To Encourage The Creation Of K-12 Regional And County-Wide School Districts In An Effort To Improve**

**Educational Quality And Efficiency. Senate President Steve Sweeney (D-Gloucester, Salem, Cumberland), Sen. Vin Gopal (D-Monmouth) And Sen. Declan O'Scanlon (R-Monmouth) Made The Bipartisan Announcement In A Feb. 22 Press Release.** “Two Monmouth County state senators and the state Senate president from southern New Jersey have announced they are introducing legislation to encourage the creation of K-12 regional and county-wide school districts in an effort to improve educational quality and efficiency. Senate President Steve Sweeney (D-Gloucester, Salem, Cumberland), Sen. Vin Gopal (D-Monmouth) and Sen. Declan O'Scanlon (R-Monmouth) made the bipartisan announcement in a Feb. 22 press release. The legislation establishes criteria for state-funded regionalization studies, increases flexibility on regionalization cost apportionment, bars any regionalization that would have a segregative effect, and provides financial incentives for districts losing state aid because of declining enrollment to regionalize by extending the schedule for their Adjustment Aid cuts from four years to eight years, according to the press release. The three state legislators weighed in on the proposal. All were quoted in the press release. "This will be the first major overhaul of New Jersey's school regionalization statute in over 25 years," Sweeney said. "It is designed to improve the quality of education by ensuring coordination of curriculum from K to 12, provide the enriched educational experience smaller districts cannot offer, and generate long-term savings that can be used to hold down property taxes or reinvest in expanded educational programs.” (Examiner, 2/24/21)

### ***Affirmative Action***

**In June 2023, The AAPI Caucus, Led By Gopal, Issued A Joint Statement Criticizing The Supreme Court’s Ruling Rolling Back Affirmative Action.** “The members of the New Jersey Legislative Latino, Black and Asian-American and Pacific Islander Caucuses issued the following statement on the Supreme Court decision that rolls back race-based Affirmative Action measures at American universities: “Once again, the U.S. Supreme Court has delivered a shattering blow to our democracy with a recent decision that strikes down decades of legal precedent. Laws are enacted to help right a wrong, provide direction to ensure we move society toward equality and justice, protect citizens and give, regardless of race or heritage, access to opportunities once closed off to them. “This is not only just a setback for the country’s higher education institutions. Corporate diversity programs promoting equity are also at risk. The systemic unequal treatment and discrimination people of color experienced in corporate America was brought to light through the discussions taking place around affirmative action and businesses had to find a solution to answering the call for diversity. “Racial inequalities still persist and pervade our educational and business spaces. We cannot simply turn a blind eye and pretend they will go away. Diversity, equity and inclusion programs make access to higher education possible for everyone. Preserving and protecting DEI programs and ensuring access for all people of color remains a steadfast priority for our caucuses. We did not come this far to turn the clocks back now.” (Insider NJ, 6/20/23)

## **IMMIGRATION**

### ***Overall***

**In 2020, Gopal Criticized The Trump Administration’s Immigration Policies, Especially Its Restrictions On H-1B Visas.** “Gopal talked about the immigration policy of President Donald

Trump and its implications for the South Asian community. He mentioned he would seriously doubt whether his parents or other immigrants like them would have been legally allowed to immigrate to this country under a Trump administration, according to the statement. He pointed out that while "our country is supposed to represent diversity and inclusion, there are many policies under the Trump administration which are not good for South Asians, like restrictions on H-1B visas, according to the statement." (*The Independent*, 8/10/20)

## LAW AND ORDER

### *Law Enforcement*

#### Reform

**In 2020, "Gopal Said He Was Encouraged To See More Localities Push For Police Reform."** "This year the holiday has come to increased prominence with some of the racial tensions present in the United States. State Sen. Vin Gopal, D-Monmouth, said the lessons of Juneteenth are relevant today. "It's good to see Juneteenth, one of the most important dates of the year, celebrated," Gopal said. Gopal said he was encouraged to see more localities push for police reform. Asbury Park Police Chief David Kelso, who attended the rally, said body cameras were being introduced to the department's street crime unit and members would now be wearing the traditional blue uniforms. The rest of the department rolled out body cameras starting in 2016." (*Asbury Park Press*, 6/20/20)

### *Drugs*

#### Marijuana

**Gopal Supported The Legalization Of Marijuana.** "Legalize marijuana? Beck: No. New Jersey is already suffering from an opioid epidemic, which started off as a legal drug on the market that was abused. She could support decriminalizing small amounts of marijuana, but that limit would need to be clearly defined to prevent unintended protections for drug dealers. Gopal: Yes, but New Jersey should also take its time doing so to learn how to combat ill effects that cropped up in other states that have legalized marijuana." (*Asbury Park Press*, 10/12/17)

**"Monmouth County Freeholders Are Wrong In Their Outright Opposition To Legalizing Recreational Marijuana, The County's Newest State Lawmaker Said. "My Message To The Freeholders Would Be To Slow Down. There's No Rush," Said State Sen. Vin Gopal, D-Monmouth, Who Represents The 11th District. "Let's Try To Work Together And See What Works And What Doesn't For Us."** "Monmouth County freeholders are wrong in their outright opposition to legalizing recreational marijuana, the county's newest state lawmaker said. "My message to the freeholders would be to slow down. There's no rush," said state Sen. Vin Gopal, D-Monmouth, who represents the 11th district. "Let's try to work together and see what works and what doesn't for us." The freeholders last week approved a resolution saying the all-Republican board is against legalizing recreational weed. The resolution wouldn't stop towns from allowing weed sales, but the freeholders have said they hope towns will follow the county's lead. The freeholders came out early with their opposition in part because of a fear Gov. Phil Murphy, a Democrat, would push to legalize marijuana within his first 100 days in office. Yet,



legal weed is not a purely Democrat vs. Republican issue. State Sen. Declan O'Scanlon, R-Monmouth, who recently took the senate seat in the 13th district, said he is still researching issues surrounding marijuana." (*Asbury Park Press*, 1/31/18)

**Gopal Voted For Legislation Codifying The Legalization Of Marijuana.** "In previous comments about S-3454, Arnone said, "Not only does this (law) keep parents in the dark about what may be happening in their child's life, it also shows children there are no major consequences if they are found using marijuana or alcohol for the first time. "Parents should have the right to know if their child is using or in possession of marijuana from the first encounter and be given the chance to discuss its consequences before it potentially becomes a larger issue." In a press release addressing the issue, state Sen. Robert Singer (R-Monmouth and Ocean) was quoted as saying, "People are starting to realize some of the concerning provisions of New Jersey's new marijuana laws that will cause real problems if we don't address them now. "Parents are worried that parental notification is now prohibited when kids are caught with drugs or alcohol. They have a right to know if their 12-year-old is smoking pot. "Police officers are concerned the new laws treat them like criminals. They are not the enemy and we should not hamstringing their efforts to keep kids away from drugs and alcohol," Singer said. In the Senate vote on S-3454, Sen. Vin Gopal (D-Monmouth) voted "yes," Sen. Declan O'Scanlon (R-Monmouth) voted "no," Sen. Sam Thompson (R-Monmouth, Ocean, Middlesex and Burlington) voted "no" and Singer voted "no." (*News Transcript*, 3/12/21)

**In 2021, "Sen. Vin Gopal, D-Monmouth, Introduced A Bill, S3582, Monday That Would Allow Anyone 21 And Older To Grow Up To Six Marijuana Plants At Home, With A Maximum Of 12 Plants Per Household. Medical Patients Could Grow Up To 10 Plants."** "Another lawmaker is taking a shot at letting people grow their own marijuana now that New Jersey has legalized the drug. Sen. Vin Gopal, D-Monmouth, introduced a bill, S3582, Monday that would allow anyone 21 and older to grow up to six marijuana plants at home, with a maximum of 12 plants per household. Medical patients could grow up to 10 plants. Currently, growing five plants or less can result in three to five years in prison and a \$25,000 fine. Gopal's bill is the latest to touch on home grow for recreational use. Another was introduced in February by the late Sen. Gerald Cardinale, R-Bergen. He died before the bill made its way through Legislative committees. Sen. Troy Singleton, D-Burlington, also introduced a bill last month to allow the state's medical marijuana patients to grow up to four plants. That could help patients circumvent high prices and supply limitations that have hampered patient access. Many states with medical cannabis programs allow patients to grow their own medicine at home, but New Jersey lawmakers have shied away from the idea, saying it may come down the line, but for now will is likely to remain banned." (*South Jersey Times*, 3/25/21)

## SOCIAL ISSUES

### *Abortion*

**In 2021, Gopal Wrote In Opposition To Abortion Restrictions Passed In Texas.** "First, to fully understand what is at stake, we need to know what the Texas abortion law does exactly. This law contains three major points of horror. New Jerseyans need to understand that this isn't just a simple abortion law, this law turns upside down the safety and security of every woman in

Texas. First, this law bans abortions after an ultrasound can detect what lawmakers defined as a fetal "heartbeat," which can be as early as six weeks into pregnancy. However, as medical and legal experts explain, this term is misleading as embryos at this stage of development do not yet possess a heart. Second, this particular bill does not even make an exemption for pregnancies resulting from rape or incest. Third, and the main difference from all other bills relating to abortion law, this bill allows private citizens to sue abortion providers or anyone else who helps someone get an abortion, even if they have no direct relation to the person receiving the abortion. For example, if a woman were to request a car from a ride-sharing app such as Uber, Lyft, or taxi, the individual who drove the patient to the appointment could get sued for helping even though the individual had no idea what the appointment was for. The ensuing rush of private citizens now allowed to sue aims to put advocacy groups, doctors, clinics, and other pro-choice organizations out of business by taking up all of their time and money fighting against these suits. Furthermore, people who sued would be awarded at least \$10,000 as well as costs for attorney's fees, if they won their case. So what does this mean for New Jersey? Despite being legal, access to abortion has always been fragile and limited. In New Jersey, there exists strong case law that provides additional protections beyond the federal law for the right to access abortion care. But court cases may not be sufficient to fully protect and ensure New Jerseyans access to abortion, particularly if the U.S. Supreme Court follows their inaction on Texas by gutting Roe when they rule on the Mississippi case next year. New Jerseyans will be vulnerable to the same uncertainties that we now face at the federal level." (Vin Gopal, Op-Ed, *Star Ledger*, 10/4/21)

**Gopal: "To Protect New Jerseyans, And Ensure Access To Comprehensive Reproductive Healthcare Including Abortion Care For All, New Jersey Should Enact The Reproductive Freedom Act."** "To protect New Jerseyans, and ensure access to comprehensive reproductive healthcare including abortion care for all, New Jersey should enact the Reproductive Freedom Act. We must make a commitment to creating communities where residents are able to receive the care they need — whenever they need it — and decide for themselves if, when, and how to grow their families. Depriving anyone of their constitutional rights and criminalizing private citizens who help, is not only dangerous for this country but a giant step backward. New Jersey can send the message that we are not going back. When the legislature returns this November, New Jersey needs to pass the Reproductive Freedom Act as one of its first acts, ensuring that what happened in Texas can never happen here in New Jersey. (Vin Gopal, Op-Ed, *Star Ledger*, 10/4/21)

- **"State Senator Vin Gopal Is A Prime Sponsor Of The Reproductive Freedom Act."** (Vin Gopal, Op-Ed, *Star Ledger*, 10/4/21)

**In 2022, Gopal Criticized The Overturning Of Roe V. Wade.** "The following is a statement from NJ Senate Majority Conference Leader Vin Gopal: This is a sad day for Americans. Today's decision by the US Supreme Court represents a very extreme position which is not the position of the overwhelming majority of New Jerseyans or Americans. This will have a horrific effect on millions of women and Americans – with some states going as far to ban a woman's right to her body even in the case of rape or incest. The time is now for New Jerseyans and Americans to mobilize, organize and most importantly – vote." ([Insider NJ](#), 6/24/22)

**In 2023, Gopal Participated In A Rally Jointly Organized By Planned Parenthood Criticizing A Texas Ruling Pulling An Abortion Drug.** “Planned Parenthood Action Fund of New Jersey (PPAFNJ) and Garden State Equality ask the community to stand in solidarity on Sunday, April 16, where a rally is planned to protest against a Texas court ruling to pull the medication abortion drug Mifepristone from the U.S. market after being available for more than 20 years. The rally for abortion access will be held at Garden State Equality, located at 1408 Main St., from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. U.S. Congressman Frank Pallone, State Senator Vin Gopal, Justine Evyn Saliski, Project Manager and Trainer with Garden State Equality and Jackie Cornell, Executive Director for Planned Parenthood Action Fund of New Jersey will be speaking during the program portion of the rally which will begin at noon, rain or shine. “We are looking forward to having a strong turnout of voices, especially with Congressman Pallone and Senator Gopal joining us to rally together and demand equitable abortion access for all,” Justine Evyn Saliski told TAPinto “Garden State Equality wants to amplify the fact that the Texas abortion pill ruling is a dangerous precedent and one that is a clear setback for LGBTQ equality as it further impedes on the right to bodily autonomy for all people,” Saliski noted.” (TAP Into, 4/15/23)

**In June 2023, Gopal, Donlon, And Peterpaul Held A Rally Criticizing The Supreme Court’s Dobbs Decision.** “New Jersey State Sen. Vin Gopal, who is running for reelection, and State Assembly candidates Margie Donlon and Luanne Peterpaul hold a rally marking one year since the U.S. Supreme Court 'Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization' decision.” (*The Associated Press*, 6/23/23)

**March 2022: “Planned Parenthood Action Fund Of New Jersey Joins With Nine New Jersey State Legislators Who Celebrate And Thank The Abortion Providers Who Provide Care In Our State: Former Governor Richard Codey, Senator Vin Gopal, Assemblyman Clinton Calabrese, Assemblywoman Annette Chaparro, Assemblywoman Shama Haider, Assemblywoman Mila Jasey, Assemblywoman Saddaf Jaffer, Assemblywoman Angela Mcknight, And Assemblywoman Shanique Speight.”** “March 10 marks the National Day for the Appreciation of Abortion Providers. This day is commemorated annually in honor of Dr. David Gunn, an abortion provider who was murdered in Florida on this date in 1993. Abortion providers are steadfastly committed to ensuring their patients can exercise their right to make personal medical decisions and access the full range of reproductive health care, including abortion. Today, Planned Parenthood Action Fund of New Jersey joins with nine New Jersey state legislators who celebrate and thank the abortion providers who provide care in our state: former Governor Richard Codey, Senator Vin Gopal, Assemblyman Clinton Calabrese, Assemblywoman Annette Chaparro, Assemblywoman Shama Haider, Assemblywoman Mila Jasey, Assemblywoman Saddaf Jaffer, Assemblywoman Angela McKnight, and Assemblywoman Shanique Speight. Earlier this year, we celebrated as Governor Murphy signed the Freedom of Reproductive Choice Act into law, ensuring that all New Jerseyans have the right to access abortion care. But as we draw nearer to a Supreme Court decision that could overturn *Roe v. Wade* or render it meaningless, abortion rights across the country are at risk. Despite this, abortion providers continue to show up for their patients each and every day. Below, you will find the text of an open letter written in gratitude to New Jersey’s abortion providers, and the members of our state legislature who proudly add their names.” ([Insider NJ](#), 3/10/22)

## ***LGBTQ***

**In 2017, Gopal Was Endorsed By Garden State Equality.** ‘Garden State Equality, the state’s largest and most active gay and lesbian rights advocacy organization, today plans to formally back Democrat Vin Gopal for state senate in the battleground 11th District. “We consider Vin Gopal a friend, and we know he will have our back with Phil Murphy in Trenton,” Christian Fuscarino, executive director of Garden State Equality, told InsiderNJ. “We know we will have two allies.” Gopal is seeking to oust long-serving state Senator Jennifer Beck (R-11) in New Jersey’s most-watched senate election this year. “It came down to Senator Beck having told us she would support issues and then reversing her decision, and with what is happening federally, we cant have that uncertainty,” Fuscarino said. He noted a birth certificate bill that Beck sponsored, which she ultimately opposed; and pointed out that she first opposed the marriage quality bill and then later voted for it, after redistricting rearranged Asbury Park into the 11th District. “Vin Gopal is someone we can count on, and we know we can take him at his word,” Fuscarino said.” ([Insider NJ](#), 9/7/17)

**In 2021, Gopal Sponsored Legislation Codifying Gay Marriage Rights Into Law.** “Marriage equality may soon be better protected in New Jersey as a bill moves on to votes in the state Senate and Assembly. A 2013 court ruling legalized same-sex marriage in New Jersey, but it has not been cemented in a statute. The New Jersey Senate Budget and Appropriations Committee on Thursday voted almost unanimously to move the bill forward that would codify marriage equality into law. Legislators will consider the bill on Monday. If it passes both chambers, it heads to Gov. Phil Murphy for his likely approval. He has vocally supported LGBTQ rights during his tenure. The momentum in Trenton arrives at an important time, explained Christian Fuscarino, executive director of Asbury Park-based Garden State Equality. "With a conservative-leaning Supreme Court, we cannot afford to sit by in hopes the Justices will leave Obergefell v. Hodges intact," Fuscarino said, referring to the 2015 ruling that legalized marriage equality at a national level. "Our Legislature must act now to preserve this sacred right." When marriage equality got the all-clear from New Jersey courts, Amy Quinn and her partner of 10 years, Heather Jensen, were among the first to be wed, exchanging vows in a ceremony on Asbury Park Boardwalk. Nearly a decade later, Quinn is now deputy mayor of Asbury Park and the fight for marriage equality in New Jersey continues. "I can't believe we're still fighting for this, but here we are," Quinn said. LGBTQ couples worry that without protections granted by a law, "the rights given ... could change with a different court," said former state Sen. Bill Baroni, who was the first person to vote "yes" to marriage equality in 2013. "I envy one of you because one of you could be the last person to vote 'yes' on marriage equality and put it in our law forever and say to the people of New Jersey, no matter who you love we value you, we honor you, you are equal," Baroni said during Thursday's committee meeting. The last "yes" vote on Thursday came from state Sen. Dawn Marie Addiego, D- Burlington. State Sen. Steven Oroho, R-Sussex, cast the sole opposing vote, citing concerns over "a lack of religious exemption" in the bill. Quinn said the effort is "really smart" of the bill's lead sponsors: state Sens. Loretta Weinberg, D-Bergen; Vin Gopal, D-Monmouth; and Stephen Sweeney, D-Camden, the outgoing president of the Senate.” (*Asbury Park Press*, 12/18/21)

### *Race*

**Gopal, In 2020: “We Cannot Solve The Problem Of Systemic Racism Overnight, But We Can And Must Come Together As A Nation To Agree That It Exists, To Heal The Wounds In Our Nation’s Psyche, And To Make Sure That This Kind Of Tragedy Never Happens Again.”** “I cannot, and should not pretend that I have ever experienced the plight or experiences of America’s black community—but I want to understand, and I stand with our black community in their fight for justice. Watching this video was sickening, inhumane, disgusting and horrifying. Point blank – it was murder sanctioned by individuals sworn to protect us. The officers involved in the murder of George Floyd without a doubt failed to uphold their oath to protect and serve. This should not discount the tens of thousands of officers who risk their lives each day upholding their oath and protecting their communities, but we must also understand that benevolent words and apologies from upstanding members of law enforcement will not undo the pain of generations of pain, anguish, and oppression. We need action. We cannot afford to let this tragedy pass into yesterday’s headlines. America needs healing, and our black community deserves justice for the bigotry and systematic prejudice that many black Americans face every day. Abusive and prejudiced police officers must be held accountable for their actions, and good police officers must be empowered to speak up if they see something wrong—not pressured or shamed into staying silent. This incident is not an isolated one, nor does the violent policing of black Americans exist in a vacuum. Today’s conflicts grew from seeds first planted four hundred years ago, and have been nurtured and twisted by decades of segregation and prejudice. Addressing this problem will take accountability, proper bias training, support for community policing, and the installation of a culture that punishes abuse and rewards integrity. We cannot solve the problem of systemic racism overnight, but we can and must come together as a nation to agree that it exists, to heal the wounds in our nation’s psyche, and to make sure that this kind of tragedy never happens again.” ([NJ Globe](#), 5/30/20)

### *Second Amendment*

**2018: “State Sen. Vin Gopal, D 11th District, Plans To Introduce A Bill Barring New Jersey Public Employee Pension Funds Or Annuities From Investing In Gun Manufacturer Companies.”** “State Sen. Vin Gopal, D 11th District, plans to introduce a bill barring New Jersey public employee pension funds or annuities from investing in gun manufacturer companies. Assemblyman Eric Houghtalin, D-11th District, and Assemblywoman Joan Downey, D-11 District, will co-sponsor similar legislation at the assemblys next quorum. We cannot stand by and let gun manufacturers that profit by producing weapons benefit from the investment of our pension funds, Gopal said in a news release. With this bill we are sending a message that New Jersey is making a conscious decision about the type of companies the state should invest in. The bill also would require the State Investment Council and the director of the Division of Investments to submit an initial report on its prohibited investments and to submit annual reports on its progress towards compliance with the prohibition. The pension funds from public employees should not in any way serve to help these firearms companies become richer at the expense of the lives of many innocent people who are being murdered with firearms throughout the country, Houghtalin said.” (NJBIZ, 2/22/18)



**In 2022, Gopal Was Among The Legislators To Vote For A 4769, Which Imposed Additional Restrictions On Concealed Carry.** “The legislation (A4769) comes after the U.S. Supreme Court in June effectively invalidated tough concealed-carry restrictions in states like New York and New Jersey and made it easier to obtain carry permits there. Democrats introduced this bill in response to the decision. It would require gun owners in New Jersey seeking to get a carry permit to purchase liability insurance and take training courses, while increasing permit fees and prohibiting people from carrying firearms in a wide range of "sensitive places" in the state -- including schools, public parks, courthouses, and bars. It would also prohibit carrying guns on private property unless the property owner allows it. Supporters say the measure would help protect residents if the court ruling leads to more guns being carried in public. Critics counter that it's unconstitutional and unfair, essentially barring law-abiding gun owners from carrying in most public places once they leave home, while criminals would simply ignore the rules. The state Assembly voted narrowly along party lines, 42-29, last month to pass the measure. The state Senate voted narrowly largely along party lines, 21-16, on Monday.” (*Star Ledger*, 12/20/22)

- **NOTE:** *Gopal's support for the measure is listed later in the piece.*

## POLITICAL

### *Democratic Associations*

**In 2017, Gopal Received Significant Support From Democratic Party Boss George Norcross.** “Gopal, 32, is the former chairman of the Monmouth County Democrats. He fundraised at a steady pace all year and got some last-minute help from a super PAC aligned with South Jersey power broker George Norcross, which dropped more than \$876,000 on the race in the last days. On the campaign trail, Gopal repeatedly tied Beck to Gov. Chris Christie, who has become deeply unpopular in New Jersey. "I'm a lifelong resident of Monmouth County. I love this county," he said earlier Tuesday. "I watched taxes go up each and every day. I think both parties have been responsible, whether its [Gov. Jon] Corzine or Christie. We need a new direction." More than \$4 million had been poured into the district as of Oct. 27, making it among the most expensive legislative races this year. Beck had tried to link Gopal to Norcross, calling him "Camden County Vin" and accusing him of being beholden to outside interests.” (*New York Observer*, 11/8/17)

**In 2017, Al Gore Helped Rally Democrats To Support Gopal And Other Candidates.** “Former Vice President Al Gore told a crowd of hundreds on Sunday that Democrats and progressive voters must send a message to Washington and Trenton, one that rejects Republican policies and makes New Jersey's environment a priority. At the Ocean Township Municipal Gym, Gore endorsed gubernatorial candidate Phil Murphy and took aim at Republican policies, and by extension President Donald Trump. Gore criticized environmental records, values, hurricane response and the economic policies of both Trump and Gov. Chris Christie - and by extension, Lt. Gov. Kim Guadagno, the Republican gubernatorial candidate. "This is a time when the people of the United States of America have to say 'we've got to have our common sense back'," Gore said to enthusiastic applause. "This country is worth fighting for. The state is worth fighting for." Gore was the last speaker at the rally designed to drive support behind



Murphy, the re-election bids of Assemblyman Eric Houghtaling and Assemblywoman Joann Downey, and state Senate candidate Vin Gopal, who is challenging incumbent Republican Sen. Jennifer Beck in the 11th Legislative District, among Democrats seeking office.” (*Asbury Park Press*, 10/16/17)

**2020: “Gopal Added That Biden “Is Really Going To Be Somebody Who Would Unite Our Country Which Is Currently Divisive.”** “Gopal added that Biden “is really going to be somebody who would unite our country which is currently divisive.” He urged all South Asian Americans to participate in the political process and ensure that people vote. He also requested South Asian Americans to ensure that “our friends and neighbors in other states understand how important this election is, not only for a few policy changes or change a few Supreme Court justices,” this election is “about the fabric of our diverse country which we all love,” according to the statement.” (*The Independent*, 8/10/20)

**In 2023, Gov. Phil Murphy Attended Gopal’s Campaign Kickoff To Endorse Him And Noted “There’s No One I Know Who Gets More Stuff Done Than This Guy.”** “State Senator Vin Gopal, D-Long Branch, announced Monday that he is running for re-election in November in hopes of continuing to represent Monmouth County in the 11th Legislative District in the New Jersey Senate. Senator Gopal made the announcement at the iPlay America event center in Freehold Township where a crowd of more than 800 people gathered in support of his campaign along with Gov. Phil Murphy as well as elected officials throughout the state from both parties including former Republican Governor nominee and Senate nominee Doug Forrester. “I’m here first and foremost actually not as Governor, I’m here as a resident of Monmouth County,” said Gov. Murphy. “There’s no one I know who gets more stuff done than this guy. He checks the partisan politics at the door and focuses on things like mental health and women’s healthcare,” said Gov. Murphy, adding, “No one has the backs of our Veterans more than Vin Gopal. No one has the back of our members of law enforcement and first responders more than Senator Gopal.” Senator Gopal was elected in 2017 and re-elected in 2021. He has since sponsored dozens of pieces of legislation that have become laws including increasing access to services and programs for people with mental and behavioral disabilities. If elected this November, Senator Gopal will become the first Democrat in Monmouth County to serve a third term in the state senate. **\*\*BULLSEYE** Senate President Nick Scutari, D-Linden, who was the evening’s emcee, expressed his support for Senator Gopal. “Vin has been an amazing voice for civil discourse in a political reality that does not have enough of that,” said Scutari, noting that Gopal has been a bipartisan person throughout his entire career.” (TAP Into, 1/9/23)

### *Ethics Issues*

#### **Vin Gopal Civic Association**

**In 2021, “Lori Annetta (R-Freehold Borough) wrote to the New Jersey Attorney General, Election Law Enforcement Commission and Internal Revenue Service requesting an investigation into possible violations of federal and state laws” By The Vin Gopal Civic Association.** “State Senator Vin Gopal’s Republican challenger is accusing the “Vin Gopal Civic Association,” a 501(c)(3) organization, of engaging in campaign-like activities which she says warrant action of authorities in Trenton and Washington, D.C. This week, Lori Annetta (R-

Freehold Borough) wrote to the New Jersey Attorney General, Election Law Enforcement Commission and Internal Revenue Service requesting an investigation into possible violations of federal and state laws. “Senator Gopal specifically added his name and title as Senator to a bulk mailing sent by this ‘charity, that landed in voters mailboxes during the first week of October just days before the start of early voting in New Jersey on October 23 and during the mail-in voting period,” Annetta alleged in a statement. The cited mailer (pictured on the right) is an invitation to a “family day” event in Ocean Township purportedly intended to support local VFWs and American Legions. Ocean lies inside Gopal’s 11th Legislative District. “This event, as well as the bulk mailing that was done by the charitable organization with not just the organization’s name, but also ‘Senator Vin Gopal’ with top billing on the flier, in the days leading up to a hotly contested election for Senator Gopal’s legislative seat, is clear evidence that Senator Gopal is utilizing the Vin Gopal Civic Association to solicit and spend ‘charitable contributions’ for the purpose of promoting himself throughout his legislative district while simultaneously operating his political reelection campaign,” Annetta charged. Copies of Annetta’s letters can be viewed here.” ([Save Jersey](#), 10/19/21)



([Save Jersey](#), 10/19/21)

***Miscellaneous***

**Freeholder Title**

**Gopal Sponsored Legislation To Change The ‘Freeholder’ Title To Director Contending The Phrase “Has No Place In Modern Diverse Society.”** “One of the bill's sponsors in the Senate is Sen. Vin Gopal (D-Monmouth), who said, "The term 'freeholder' has its roots in pre-Colonial England and was used to describe free, white land owning men. This archaic phrase, blemished with negative connotations, has no place in a modern, diverse society. "We have a responsibility to recognize outdated components of our government and take steps to modernize

where appropriate. I believe in this instance, it is more than appropriate. By transitioning from the phrase 'freeholder' to 'commissioner' we are bringing our county government, with a budget of nearly \$450 million and over 600,000 constituents, into the 21st century. "Here in Monmouth County, the term 'freeholder' often causes confusion, leading some to believe the title is associated with Freehold Borough or Freehold Township. The title, which is only used in our state, also tends to confuse public officials outside of New Jersey who use the term 'commissioner.' This long overdue change will provide some much needed clarity to both the residents of New Jersey and the out-of-state public officials we work with on a regular basis," Gopal said. On April 12, the Senate bill was passed 27-4 with nine senators not voting. There are four senators who represent Monmouth County in the state Legislature. Gopal, who is a sponsor of the bill, voted "yes," Republican Sam Thompson voted "yes," Republican Robert Singer voted "yes" and Republican Declan O'Scanlon voted "no." The Assembly bill was introduced on Jan. 29 and referred to the Assembly State and Local Government Committee." (*News Transcript*, 6/5/18)

- Gopal's Legislation To Abandon The Freeholder Term Was Passed In 2020.** "A bill that would rename the title of county officials in New Jersey from freeholder to commissioner is headed to Gov. Phil Murphy's desk after passing the state Senate on Thursday. After years of debate, the bill, S855, calls for a name change because of the history of the centuries-old term that many consider racist and offensive. It was a term coined when only white, male landowners could be hold public office. The measure was approved with a vote of 31-6 and is backed by Murphy, who announced his support of the bipartisan legislation on July 10 with state Senate President Steve Sweeney and Assembly Speaker Craig Coughlin. There's been talk of abolishing the term for years. The latest push comes amid a new civil rights movement to address systemic racism in America, sparked by the police killing of George Floyd, a Black man, in Minnesota and fueled by protests across the country. "This is an outdated name that is rooted in the terminology and practices of bigotry that needs to be eliminated," Sweeney said in a statement. "As we work to bring justice and equality to all Americans we should recognize that symbolism matters and the titles we use for public offices have meaning. We should be diligent in erasing all remnants of oppression." Murphy is expected to sign the bill, which was sponsored by Sweeney and state Sens. Vin Gopal, D-Monmouth, and Joe Pennachio, R-Morris." (*Star Ledger*, 7/31/20)

### Party Bosses

**In May 2023, Republicans Criticized Gopal's "Legislation prohibiting county constitutional officers from serving as political party bosses in New Jersey."** "Legislation prohibiting county constitutional officers from serving as political party bosses in New Jersey is on its way to the full state Senate. The bill, introduced last week by state Sen. Vin Gopal, D-Monmouth, was approved along party lines in the state Senate Judiciary Committee on Thursday after a half-hour of intense opposition from Republican party leaders in Gopal's home district. The legislation would prevent county clerks, sheriffs and surrogates from serving as chairpersons, co-chairpersons and vice-chairpersons of county committees within political parties. Gopal called the bill "common sense" and a "no-brainer" because of the partisan implications political leadership could have on sensitive topics. "When you enter the judiciary, you have sheriff's officers there. When you handle an election matter, there are sheriff's officers

there. Clerks run the elections and surrogates, who are also affected by this bill, are also quasi-judges," Gopal said. "I don't understand how any rational person should think they could be political bosses." But as state Sen. Jon Bramnick pointed out, the roles are already partisan because many constitutional officers in New Jersey are elected and there are already systems in place to ensure that they don't exert undue influence." (*The Record*, 5/22/23)

**“In Response To Backlash Over The Bill, Seen By Many As Using The State’s Legislature As A Political Payback Machine, Gopal Pulled The Bill.”**

“It was reportedly a coordinated effort between New Jersey Democrat Senator Vin Gopal and Ocean County Chairman George Gilmore to try to unseat a mutual enemy, Monmouth County Sheriff Shawn Golden. Golden, who also serves as the Monmouth County GOP Chairman, is a mutual foe of both Gopal and Gilmore, two unlikely political allies brought together out of political necessity. Gopal’s bill sought to disqualify constitutional officers such as sheriffs from becoming political party chairmen. However, the only person the law would have affected would have been Golden, thus dubbing Gopal’s legislation as the “Golden Rule”. In response to backlash over the bill, seen by many as using the state’s legislature as a political payback machine, Gopal pulled the bill. Golden himself testified at the Assembly Judiciary Committee, saying the bill targets him and was a political attack on his freedom of association and freedom of speech. Gilmore and Golden have been feuding since Gilmore’s arrest and sentencing on federal charges. Upset that Golden sided with Gilmore’s successor, Frank B. Holman, a political feud ensued for the next four years that continues today as Golden’s operatives are now operating against Gilmore in Ocean County. The once untouchable chairman, losing the fear and respect he once wielded statewide, is seeing challenges to his own agenda in Ocean County elections each cycle, often by candidates with affiliations with the Monmouth GOP. Gopal and Gilmore are close allies and friends, according to Gopal. Both have been seen meeting with each other and with Governor Phil Murphy in recent months. Gilmore, the Ocean County GOP Chairman, now works for a lobbying firm owned by the brother of the state’s most powerful political figure, George Norcross causing many insiders in Ocean County to question Gilmore’s loyalty to the Republican party. Gopal said he may reintroduce the bill at some point in the future.” ([Shore News Network](#), 5/20/23)