

From: Jim Devine <lisa@njdems.com>
Date: May 28, 2019 at 5:01:29 AM EDT
To: Daniel Sullivan <SULLYDC@AOL.COM>
Subject: Do Column A pay hikes make Daniel angry?

One Column A candidate gave a \$24,000 pay increase to another Column A candidate!

Dear Daniel

Column A candidate Assemblyman Jim Kennedy voted for a law sponsored by Senator Nick Scutari, that spent \$15 million a year of **tax money on politician pay hikes**.

Column A candidate Kennedy gave a **\$24,000 pay increase** to another Column A candidate, Union County Surrogate James Lacorte, plus **up to \$34,000 pay hikes to other politicians** who already had six figure salaries but the minimum wage in New Jersey is still just \$8.85 an hour.

Jared Maples, a 36-year old who was appointed director of Homeland Security by Governor Phil Murphy in January 2018 at a salary of \$141,000, got a **\$34,000 pay hike** to bring his salary up to \$175,000 under legislation that every Column A lawmaker supported. He was on the job less than five months!

Union County Superior Court Judge Joseph Donohue -- whose brother-in-law is a Column A state senator -- got a \$24,000 pay hike. So did the Union County Clerk & Union County Sheriff, two other members of Scutari's Column A team. Also, so did almost 400 over judges and many more politicians, prosecutors and other top level government officials.

Column A candidates support exorbitant taxpayer-funded salaries while **New Jersey's minimum wage is still just \$8.85 per hour**, but they only complain when certain people earn enough to live on. Don't take my word for it: Google this term: "[S1229 Increases annual salary of Governor's cabinet officers, judges, county prosecutors, and certain other public employees.](#)"

For the record, Mayor John Gregorio was paid \$169,000 and Mayor Richard Grebounka's combined pension + paycheck was \$158,000 while Mayor Derek Armstead's salary was set at just \$100,000. **He is the mayor of a city with a \$100 million budget**, but Scutari wants you to be mad about one man's salary. The olitical boss does not mention that he **saddled taxpayers with a \$15 million a year expense while neglecting workers who earn the lowest pay**.

The minimum wage in New Jersey is still just \$8.85 an hour. It will not go up to \$10 an hour until June 1. Column A candidate Jim Kennedy's Assembly salary is \$49,000 plus he gets a taxpayer funded pension that puts his total income over \$75,000, or the amount a minimum wage worker would earn in 4 years.

Go ahead and be angry. Then vote **Democratic Column C on Tuesday, June 4**. If you live in a town where there are candidates for Democratic County Committee on Column D, give them your support too. They are more independent minded than the government employees and others on Column A, who are beholden to the corrupt leadership that runs the political establishment.

Best regards,

James Devine

PS/ I was Jim Kennedy's campaign consultant from 1994 to 2006, and I have always believed pay hikes for politicians should not take effect unless they are proposed before candidates must file to run and an election has taken place.