

From the Desk of LeRoy J. Jones, Jr.

December 19, 2019

Dear Democrats:

There is nothing more important to the democratic party than its values, principles, and unity, all necessary to accomplish the agenda of the people we represent. It is with that in mind that my friend, State and Passaic County Chairman John Currie and I stand unified by reaching an agreement about the future of the New Jersey State Democratic Party.

Chairman Currie and I have a longstanding respect for one another. Together we have established a northern alliance, both uphold democratic values through supporting democratic candidates, and organize with campaigns across New Jersey at every level of government.

While State Chairman John Currie led New Jersey in many of victory, as Essex County Chairman I led in partnership with him and the Essex Democratic County Committee to deliver the largest democratic plurality in the state. It was this effort that Essex majorly contributed to successfully electing Governor Phil Murphy against Republican Kim Guadagno, United States Senator Robert Menendez instead of Republican Bob Hugin, and actively participated in flipping red Congressional districts to blue. Even today, we are proud to have a candidate hailing from Essex who is now running for President of the United States.

It is in the same spirit of teamwork that Chairman Currie and I decided to put personal ambitions aside and unite the party to defeat Donald Trump in 2020. New Jersey is a national example of a strong blue state. Together we will continue promoting diversity, inclusion, and progressive policies to move this state forward. By putting my campaign for Democratic State Chair on hold, I am supporting Chairman John Currie to continue as chair until the end of his new term in 2021; it will be at this time Chairman Currie has agreed to pass the baton by endorsing me to succeed him.

There is enough divisiveness coming from the white house; as a husband, father, former elected official, current municipal and county democratic chair person, I refuse to see our democratic party follow that trend. If there is anyone disappointed in this decision to unite instead of divide, I ask them to remember why we all initially entered this arena called public service. It was and will always be for me about the greater good of the citizens of this great state, the health and progression of the democratic party, and putting the agenda of the people before our own.

I thank Governor Phil Murphy for his leadership and also those supporters of mine who thought enough of me to lead the State Party by way of their public endorsements: Lt. Governor Sheila Oliver; Congressman Donald M. Payne, Jr.; Senate President Steve Sweeney; Assembly Speaker Craig Coughlin; Senator Joe Cryan; Senator Vin Gopal; Senator Teresa Ruiz; Chairman Kevin McCabe, Middlesex; Chairman Nick Scutari, Union; Chairman Dave Brown, Monmouth; Chairman Wyatt Earp, Ocean; Chairman Mike Suleiman, Atlantic; Chairman; Brendan Sciarra, Cape May; Chairman Jim Beach, Camden; Chairman Fred Madden, Gloucester; Chairman Joe Andl, Burlington; Chairman Steve Erickson, Cumberland; Chairman Steve Caltabiano, Salem; State Committee, my running mate Marta Harrison, Ocean County; Essex County Executive Joe DiVincenzo; Essex County family of Freeholders, Mayors and Council, Members of the Essex Legislative Delegation, Municipal Chairs, Members of the Essex and East Orange Democratic Committees.

In unity,

LeRoy J. Jones, Jr.

"We come to reason, not to dominate. We do not seek to have our way, but to find a common way."

-President Lyndon B. Johnson