



The Jersey Statesman



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Gubernatorial Candidates Discuss Issues, Campaign for Office

Emmett Laurie

The gubernatorial debate is the pinnacle of the political process at Boys State. Packed into the Alumni Gym, the statesmen watched the two candidates give their platform and stances on various hot-button issues. This year Jordon DeGroot and Matt Weiss, the Federalist and Nationalist candidates respectively, focused on issues such as the Graduated License Program, education reform, such as PARCC-related issues, and the energy crisis.



To a room full of teenagers, almost nothing is as important as driving. Matt Weiss, capitalizing on the interest, brought the issue into the limelight in his opening statement, taking a staunch stance against the GDL restrictions such as the 11 pm curfew and the red stickers that the driver must place on his or her car. He continued his fight against the restrictions in his answers to a question about the driving program, citing the laws in states such as Florida to argue that New Jersey should follow suit and enact more lenient restrictions. In response to the question relating to the GDL program, DeGroot came out in support of the restrictions currently in place. DeGroot mentioned accident rates for teenagers as support for his argument in favor of the restrictions, and subsequently argued for a more legitimate Drivers Ed curriculum. In the end, both candidates agreed that regardless of the restrictions a more strenuous and informative curriculum was necessary.

Another issue that took center stage was whether or not PARCC should be repealed as part of a greater education reform agenda. While both candidates opposed PARCC testing, they approached the rest of the education reform agenda differently. Matt Weiss took a strong stand against tenure and Common Core and proposed a new system of qualitative assessments. He also began his answer by opposing DeGroot's self-evaluation for administrators proposal. That proposal was part of DeGroot's greater reform agenda that included state funding to schools in struggling communities as well as an evaluation process composed of three parts: self-evaluation, student surveys, and state evaluation.

Amid an ongoing world-wide energy crisis, the candidates were asked what energy source they preferred, short and long term. DeGroot, answering first, opposed the idea of a specific energy source being relied on, instead arguing for the diversification of energy sources. DeGroot, citing past catastrophes such as Hurricane Sandy, warned of what an over-reliance on one energy source could do. Weiss fired back however, arguing that while he believed diversification was important, DeGroot had failed to answer the question sufficiently. He then promoted hydroelectric and wind energy in a state he felt, with the long coast and windy cities, could provide those sources of energy in copious amounts.

The debate, featuring disagreement and rallying unlike all other elections, served to educate the statesmen on their candidates' positions. Encompassing all of the pressing issues, the debate saw the proposition of many solutions to the issues. In their closing remarks, Weiss appealed to the riled up crowd and individual freedoms while DeGroot asked the crowd to exercise their right to vote, regardless of their opinion. The candidates, smiling alongside their lieutenant governors and state party chairmen, then stepped down with the outcome of the election sitting squarely on the shoulders of the statesmen.

Today's Weather

Low of 63
High of 82
Morning Showers

American Legion Jersey Boys State Social Media



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Search for "ALJBS"



#Seventy #aljbs
#aljbs2015

Quote of the Day

"As we express our gratitude, we must never forget that the highest appreciation is not to utter words, but to live by them."

John F. Kennedy

News

Honoring Our Heritage

Joe Breen



Today delegates, families, and friends will enjoy what has been a tradition here at Boys State for the past thirteen years: the annual flag ceremony. Each

graduation day, selected delegates will hold various flags as they proceed through the aisles of the assembly. Mr. Joseph Demyon Jr., one of the organizers of the ceremony, explains: "All of the flags are flags that contributed to the development of our flag." Ranging from European colonial flags to the banners of different militia regiments during the Revolutionary War, the various flags represent the different periods of American history, according to Mr. Demyon. This display of honor, pride, and integrity is meant to remind the delegates of their American heritage and celebrate what it means to not only be a Boys State delegate, but also a citizen of the United States of America.

Family Day

Junlan Lu

In the beginning, we were all excited to leave our families to hang out with a bunch of dudes. But as Boys State comes to an end, we start to yearn to see anyone that's not a 16 or 17 year-old guy. It's apparent in the Yik Yaks too. Today is Family Day, the time to see our moms, dads, grandparents, uncles, and annoying siblings.

Although some might feel that their parents are embarrassing, it is important not to neglect them during the picnic; they are here for you after all! I had the chance to sit down with the President of the Jersey Boys State Foundation Dominic Santillo, the sponsor of Family Day and graduation. He said, "it's a great opportunity to come down and see what this program is about... the camaraderie throughout the week as well as learning what our volunteer staff does... and why we [the Jersey Boys State Foundation] gives back to the program year after year." Skeptical that many people are excited to see their parents in front of their newly made friends again, I asked him how well Family Day has been received. He replied that everyone loves it every year. He also noted how the championship race, helicopter demonstration, and band all contribute to the Family Day experience. Get excited!

Director Bagatelle: Lifetime Volunteer

Shea Neuner

During this session, which is the 70th of American Legion Jersey Boys State, delegates have constantly been busy with seminars, sports, and political elections. Many of the statesmen have been enjoying these activities and they have the volunteer staff members to thank for that. One volunteer in particular is especially vital to the program: ALJBS Director David Bagatelle.

Bagatelle started his Jersey Boys State career as a delegate in 1981 when he was elected the Nationalist Party Minority Leader. Since then, Bagatelle has been a Boys State volunteer for 34 years. This year he is also in a milestone tenth year as Director.

Bagatelle works year-round in order to plan for Boys State. He said, "[Boys State volunteers] will start planning for the 2016 session essentially the day this program ends."

His dedication is especially important to a group of delegates such as this one. When asked how this year's statesmen compare to those of other years, Bagatelle said, "I have seen thirty-three other groups come through. This is one of the most engaged groups I have seen."

Boys State itself is important to Director Bagatelle because he had a great delegate year and felt that he owed it to the program to volunteer. Bagatelle said that he stays with Boys State to see the young men involved mature as well as create, as he said, "hundreds of new friendships." This aspect of the program is currently his favorite part.

"I think it [Boys State] has a big impact, in only a week, on the delegates," Bagatelle said.

One way or another, the program often does have a positive effect on the statesmen and ALJBS Director David Bagatelle's dedication to planning Boys State each year is a critical part of the delegates' experiences.

Opinion

Partisanship on the Rise

Caleb Herbst

When the mayoral candidates from opposing parties first pitched their ideas to their cities on Monday, the opinions were usually similar. In Johnson City, workers at Gloria's Glorious Blueberry Company were threatening to stage a lock-out when they were not allowed to unionize. The candidates from both the Nationalist Party and the Federalist Party both expressed the same idea to allow the workers to unionize but to give the Blueberry Company an incentive to stay in Johnson City. Similarly, in Hayes City, the political parties were again mostly in unison when they both stated that they believed that Lemon Incorporated should receive tax breaks for employing 80% of the city.

However, as the city elections turned into county elections, a more diverse range of opinions began to surface in both parties. The partisanship grew during the party conventions, and climaxed yesterday when Matt Weiss (Nat) squared off against Jordon DeGroote (Fed) in the gubernatorial elections. Weiss was shushed by Federalists when shouting about an issue in the debate. The act shows the culmination of the growing divide between the two parties. I don't know about other people, but after the mayoral election, I thought that the political parties would keep the same ideals for the entire week. However, after the gubernatorial election, the partisanship struck me as very true to life, and the difference between local partisanship and state partisanship was clearly seen.

It Seems We Can't Handle the Truth

Liam Quinn

As an aspiring journalist, I have to ask a lot of questions. Due to that fact, six Statesmen editors and I were tasked with writing and presenting questions for the gubernatorial debate. Politicians have been known for dodging questions (e.g. Sarah Palin in 2008) and it was not much different at the debate yesterday.

Even in the primaries it was evident that the candidates were either dodging or just not properly answering the question, as many questions seemed to lead the candidates to talk about marijuana. Going into the gubernatorial debate, my fellow editors and I tried to prepare questions that were clear, but also challenged the candidates and made them share their beliefs on issues. However, some of the answers given were not exactly up to par.

The question I asked regarded the upcoming expiration of the health care of public workers. The question asked if they would advocate for raising the rates for workers or raising taxes to pay for the medical coverage. The answers given did involve health care coverage for state employees but did not address how to pay for it. Instead the answers shifted towards pension and for one candidate even the Affordable Care Act.

The answers were not in any way bad for my question, but they were answers to a different question. It is a long running political tradition for politicians and lawmakers to sneak around questions and it is a bit frustrating because it can be seen as the candidates not telling the truth. And I want the truth.

A Farewell to Boys State

J.T. Murphy

As I type my final news article, I think about the first day I arrived at this campus. I think about that fateful Sunday bus ride from the American Legion post of Union and the very first interactions I had with individuals from all across the state. None of us had a clue about what the next few days would hold.

Many delegates can agree that their first day at Boys State was one that was unlike any other day they had previously experienced. I for one could not have anticipated the time spent in the basement of my building, surrounded by other teens just like me. These first few assigned city positions are now reflected upon by the entirety of my city of Jackson. Our boisterous guide-on bearer, our ambitious EBOs, even our postmaster have all shown their value to the city, as well as Boys State as a whole. As individuals from both my city and my sister city, Monroe, ascended the rankings of the county, I was able to successfully run as a County Freeholder, a position I feel very proud of holding. Like many other individuals involved in politics during the time spent here, I am very happy that I had the chance to see democracy in action.

The great experience I had here would be nothing without the hard work of the all-volunteer staff members. I will always be grateful for the excellent experience I had at this event, whether it be singing Top 40 hits with the Boys State band or playing cards late at night with my neighbors. Thanks for the memories American Legion Jersey Boys State.

Sports



1. Minnesota Timberwolves

Karl-Anthony Towns
(Kentucky)

Center

NBA Draft 2015 Top 5 Picks



5. Orlando Magic

Mario Hezonja
(Croatia)

Small Forward



2. Los Angeles Lakers

D'Angelo Russell
(Ohio State)

Point Guard



3. Philadelphia 76ers

Jahlil Okafor
(Duke)

Center



4. New York Knicks

Kristaps Porzingis
(Latvia)

Power Forward

The Governing County of Sports

Ethan Bell

One of the most anticipated results has nothing to do with Governor, Boys State Senator, or any other position available at ALJBS. With some of the most active participation, the sports results are near and dear to every statesmen. The winner will be announced following the final event of the 2015 ALJBS, the 5k warm-up. Runners should report to the campus mall at 11:45 A.M.



Important Events on Friday

7:45 am-8:30 am	8:45 am-10:00 am
General Assembly:	ALJBS Exam
Senatorial Debate	
11:00 am-1:00 pm	1:15 pm-4:00 pm
Family Day	Graduation
	Assembly

The Blood Drive collected approximately 80 units of blood.

Around the Sports World:

Friday, June 26th

Franklin Pavon

Chile beats Uruguay to advance to Copa America semifinals

University of Virginia beats Vanderbilt to capture first ever College World Series

Portland Trailblazers trade Nicolas Batum to Charlotte Hornets; Portland get Gerald Henderson and Noah Vonleh in exchange

Mets vs. Reds (Syndergaard vs Cueto)

Yankees vs. Astros (Eovaldi vs. Velasquez)

Phillies vs. Nationals (Harang vs. Scherzer)

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