



# AMERICAN LEGION JERSEY BOYS STATE

*"A WEEK THAT SHAPES THE FUTURE"*

Sponsored by THE AMERICAN LEGION, DEPARTMENT OF NEW JERSEY

JUNE 18—23, 2017; RIDER UNIVERSITY, Lawrence Twp., NJ

[www.ALJBS.org](http://www.ALJBS.org) @ALJBS [f.com/ALJBS](https://www.facebook.com/ALJBS)

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

June 19, 2017

CONTACT: James Lynch

[jlynch@aljbs.org](mailto:jlynch@aljbs.org), 609-560-8066

## **TWELVE HUDSON COUNTY STUDENTS PARTICIPATE IN AMERICAN LEGION JERSEY BOYS STATE**

*More than 325 communities represented at weeklong "government-in-action" program*

LAWRENCEVILLE, NJ - Twelve rising high school seniors from Hudson county are attending the 72nd session of American Legion Jersey Boys State (ALJBS) held every year at Rider University. The college credit-qualified conference, sponsored by the American Legion Department of New Jersey, is one of the leading "government-in-action" program in the country. Statesmen are typically chosen and sponsored by local American Legion Posts and other community-based organizations.

"It's our honor to welcome 953 statesmen to Jersey Boys State," ALJBS Director David Bagatelle said. "American Legion Jersey Boys State shapes the future for so many young students, each year, who become our political, community, military, and business leaders."

Statesmen are afforded the opportunity to govern and interact with their peers from across New Jersey as they run their own mythical 51st state from June 18-23. Within 24 hours of their arrival to ALJBS, statesmen will have formed 18 mythical cities and two political parties to elect a mayor and city council to guide their city throughout the week. Each student has an opportunity to participate in the political party process by running for office, participating in friendly debate and voting in elections, among many other events. By the end of the week, the delegation will elect a new ALJBS Governor, Lieutenant Governor and two Boys Nation Senators, who will attend a national program in Washington, D.C. this summer.

### **Highlights include:**

- Notable speakers this year include Lt. Gov. and Republican gubernatorial candidate Kim Guadagno, Sens. Bob Menendez and Cory Booker, U.S. Rep Leonard Lance, former Gov. Christie Whitman and ESPN analyst/NBA star Jay Williams
- Leadership and career seminars taught by business executives, military representatives, political consultants, law experts, journalists, and other professional experts;
- A college fair featuring more than 90 institutions from across the country;
- Election of the 72nd ALJBS Governor on Thursday, June 22; and
- Election of two Boys Nation Senators on Friday, June 23, who will represent New Jersey at the annual American Legion Boys Nation program in Washington D.C. this summer.

Notable ALJBS alumni include Gov. Chris Christie (Boys Nation Senator, 1979), Sen. Bob Menendez (1971), Sen. Cory Booker (1986), Supreme Court Justice Samuel Alito (1967), Rep. Leonard Lance (1969) and Assemblyman Herbert Conaway (ALJBS Governor, 1980).

## **2017 Hudson County Delegation**

Cristian Da Silva, Kearny, Legion Post #99  
Patrick Dunne, Kearny, Legion Post #19  
Michael Fitzpatrick, Kearny, Legion Post #99  
Patrick Grimm, Kearny, Legion Post #99  
Robert Lee, Bayonne, Legion Post #165  
Felix Luciano, North Bergen, Legion Post #33  
Thomas McAndrew, Kearny, Legion Post #99  
John Mezquita, North Bergen, Legion Post #33  
Brian O'Connell, Secaucus, Legion Post #118  
Javian Pereira, Kearny, Legion Post #99  
Kenneth Ramos, North Bergen, Legion Post #33  
Zepheniah Ramos, Bayonne, Legion Post #165

### **About American Legion Jersey Boys State (ALJBS)**

In its 72nd year, ALJBS is a week-long experience that educates and motivates New Jersey's youth so that each statesman may become a citizen leader dedicated to service, respect, and Americanism. Together, the statesmen form a mythical "51st" state of the union each year, where they elect their own local, state and national representatives. Activities at ALJBS include legislative sessions, general assemblies, court proceedings, athletics, band and career seminars, among many others. All expenses associated with attending ALJBS are typically donated by a sponsoring American Legion Post, a local business, or a community-based organization. To learn more, please visit [aljbs.org](http://aljbs.org).