



# 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 @ALJBS .com/ALJBS

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

June 19, 2017

CONTACT: James Lynch

jlynch@aljbs.org, 609-560-8066

## **SIXTY-FIVE PASSAIC COUNTY STUDENTS PARTICIPATE IN AMERICAN LEGION JERSEY BOYS STATE**

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

LAWRENCEVILLE, NJ - Sixty-five rising high school seniors from Passaic 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 Passaic County Delegation**

Mahmoud Ajaj, Clifton, Legion Post #8  
Nassim Amro, Clifton, Legion Post #347  
Jordany Arias, Passaic, Legion Post #359  
Jake Bejarano, Little Falls, Legion Post #108  
Connor Boorse, Ringwood, Legion Post #246  
Andrew Bove, Totowa, Legion Post #227  
Nomar Caceres Baez, Passaic, Legion Post #359  
Michael Canzone, Haskell, Legion Post #246  
Ziare Clark, Clifton, Legion Post #8  
Luigi Curcio, Totowa, Legion Post #227  
Shyam Desai, Woodland Park, Legion Post #238  
Vincent DiNardo, Totowa, Legion Post #227  
Max Dubac, Clifton, Legion Post #8  
Daniel DuBois, Wayne, Legion Post #531  
Juan Escudero, Paterson, Legion Post #359  
Jesus Estrada, Clifton, Legion Post #8  
Angel Gonzalez, Passaic, Legion Post #174  
Kelvin Gonzalez, Wanaque, Legion Post #246  
George Guanga, Clifton, Legion Post #347  
Erwin Guerrero, Passaic, Legion Post #359  
Santiago Guiran, Clifton, Legion Post #8  
Tahrim Imon, Paterson, Legion Post #360  
Jared Jankowski, Clifton, Legion Post #8  
Abe Jaramillo, Passaic, Legion Post #359  
Ryan Jordan, West Milford, Legion Post #289  
Przemyslaw Juniewicz, North Haledon, Legion Post #121  
Theofil Kadela, Wayne, Legion Post #359  
Matthew Kania, Woodland Park, Legion Post #238  
Kyle La Spisa, Hawthorne, Legion Post #199  
Nicholas Ligosh, West Milford, Legion Post #289  
Jose Malcolm, Passaic, Legion Post #5000  
Thomas Marretta, Totowa, Legion Post #227  
Jacob Martin, Ringwood, Legion Post #246  
Nicholas Martinelli, Little Falls, Legion Post #108  
Gavin McDonnell, West Milford, Legion Post #390  
Matthew Mistretta, North Haledon, Legion Post #360  
Ryan Mitchell, Woodland Park, Legion Post #238  
Vincent Montesano, West Milford, Legion Post #289  
Patrick Moorhouse, Hawthorne, Legion Post #199  
Mohammed Mutaher, Clifton, Legion Post #8  
Nicholas Nosal, Clifton, Legion Post #8  
Andre Papasavas, Woodland Park, Legion Post #238  
Karan Patel, Passaic, Legion Post #359  
Rocco Pecoraro, Hawthorne, Legion Post #199  
Carmine Pelosi, Totowa, Legion Post #227  
Jonathan Portilla, Passaic, Legion Post #359  
Stephen Rampolla, West Milford, Legion Post #289  
Akash Rana, Clifton, Legion Post #347  
Christian Rodrigues, Bloomingdale, Legion Post #154  
Mark Rodriguez, Passaic, Legion Post #359  
Jinay Shah, Clifton, Legion Post #8  
Sundeep Singh, Woodland Park, Legion Post #121  
Alexander Swetlitschnyj, Totowa, Legion Post #227  
Jacob Szczecina, Clifton, Legion Post #8  
Francesco Terranova, Wayne, Legion Post #174  
Edward Usinowicz, West Milford, Legion Post #289  
Giorgos Valsamis, Paterson, Legion Post #174  
Noah Vazquez, Totowa, Legion Post #227  
Juan Vidals, Passaic, Legion Post #238  
Robert Voli, Bloomingdale, Legion Post #154  
Kevin Wall, Little Falls, Legion Post #108  
Charles Weisse, Wanaque, Legion Post #246  
Karim Yakoub, Hawthorne, Legion Post #199  
Takashi Yuasa, Clifton, Legion Post #8

**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).