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**NJ Immigrant Community Left Without an Advocate in Governor's Race**

**Wind of the Spirit Calls on Candidates to Meet with Immigrant Communities and Commit to True Representation**

MADISON, NJ — Following the outcome of the New Jersey gubernatorial primary, Wind of the Spirit Immigrant Resource Center expresses deep concern over the absence of a candidate who stands with immigrant communities.

Jack Ciattarelli has demonstrated a record of xenophobic rhetoric and policy positions that threaten the safety and dignity of immigrant families. On the other side of the aisle, Mikie Sherrill's opposition to the Immigrant Trust Act—a crucial protection for vulnerable New Jerseyans—makes clear that our best interests are not being represented by either party. As of now, we do not have an advocate in this race. We are calling on both Ciattarelli and Sherrill to meet directly with immigrant individuals, families, and organizations—to listen, to learn, and to recognize the full humanity and contributions of our communities.

The time is now to reflect the will of the voters. In a Quinnipiac poll released the day after the primary, 54% of registered voters nationally disapprove of Trump's handling of immigration overall, and 56% disapprove of his deportation agenda specifically. Meanwhile, the big winner of the Democratic primary was the Immigrant Trust Act; 47% of voters chose candidates who support the ITA, while the winner, who does not, got 34%.

Immigrants make up nearly a quarter of New Jersey's population, with countless others connected through work, family, caregiving, and community. We are over 43% of STEM workers, and over 36% of entrepreneurs. From farms to hospitals, schools to small (and large) businesses, immigrants are central to the economy, culture, and everyday life of the Garden State.

We will not be chased down and locked up by Republicans or run away from by Democrats. Coalitions that move New Jersey forward must be built on mutual respect, listening, and action. Wind of the Spirit invites all candidates to stand with immigrant communities—and also to sit with them, face-to-face, and listen to them as equals, not rely on the echo chamber of politicians parsing polls and talking only to each other. Those who are at risk, and all who care about them, will remember who spoke up and stepped up —on Election Day and every day. And we need them to start this TODAY.

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