



# AMERICAN LEGION JERSEY BOYS STATE

*“A WEEK THAT SHAPES THE FUTURE”*

Sponsored by THE AMERICAN LEGION, DEPARTMENT OF NEW JERSEY

JUNE 16-21, 2013; RIDER UNIVERSITY, Lawrenceville, NJ

[www.ALJBS.org](http://www.ALJBS.org)

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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## 86 Ocean County Rising-Seniors Attend American Legion Jersey Boys State *More than 325 New Jersey Communities Represented*

LAWRENCEVILLE, NJ – Today, 86 rising-seniors in high schools from Ocean County arrived at the 68<sup>th</sup> session of American Legion Jersey Boys State (ALJBS) at Rider University in Lawrenceville, NJ. The program, sponsored by the American Legion Department of New Jersey, is a practical approach for teaching civics and government at the local, county and state level, including party politics.

“This week will shape the future for 967 young leaders at Jersey Boys State,” said David Bagatelle, Director of ALJBS. “Just ask Governor Chris Christie, Senator Robert Menendez, or Mayor Cory Booker, all of whom, attended this program when they were in high school.”

Statesmen will have the opportunity to govern and interact with other top-of-the-class peers from across New Jersey as they run their own mythical 51<sup>st</sup> state of the union from June 16-21. Within 24 hours each city will divide into political parties, elect a mayor and council from within their ranks. By the end of the session, statesmen will have filled the ranks of local, county, state governments, municipal courts and will elect two senators to serve at American Legion Boys Nation in Washington, D.C. later this summer.

Throughout the week-long program, statesmen are:

- Hearing from notable speakers including US Senate candidate and Newark Mayor Cory Booker, Congressman Leonard Lance, and NJ Assemblyman Herbert Conaway, Jr.
- Participating in a robust college fair featuring top national universities;
- Attending leadership seminars and training by United States Marine Corps and New Jersey State Police;
- Electing the 68<sup>th</sup> ALJBS Governor; and
- Electing two Boys Nation Senators who will represent New Jersey at the annual American Legion Jersey Boys Nation program in Washington D.C., from July 19-26, 2013.

### Statesmen in Attendance (Alphabetical by Name)

Jason Apruzzese, Brick, Legion Post #491

Matthew Bell, Brick, Legion Post #129

Shawn Bengali, Toms River, Legion Post #129

Gunther Billhardt, Lanoka Harbor, Legion Post #517

Cullen Blair, Barnegat, Legion Post #232

Drew Borton, Cream Ridge, Legion Post #129

Jesse Campana, Brick, Legion Post #348

Andrew Cannata, Brick, Legion Post #348

David Coleman, Forked River, Legion Post #517

Nicholas Craft, Toms River, Legion Post #129

Joseph Derado, Forked River, Legion Post #129

Milap Desai, Jackson, Legion Post #504

Douglas Desimone, Whiting, Legion Post #502

Jason Diaz, Allentown, Legion Post #455

Eric Doran, Toms River, Legion Post #129

James English, Toms River, Legion Post #129

Tarek Fayed, Jackson, Legion Post #504

Christopher Foberg, Lakewood, Legion Post #166  
Lorenzo Garcia, Jackson, Legion Post #504  
Evan Gedrich, Brick, Legion Post #348  
Jacob German, New Egypt, Legion Post #455  
Sukhdeep Gill, Allentown, Legion Post #455  
Johnathan Grande, Forked River, Legion Post #517  
Chandler Hammer, Lanola Harbor, Legion Post #517  
Lance Hansen, Brick, Legion Post #348  
Dillon Heych, Jackson, Legion Post #70  
Thomas Hollingsworth, Toms River, Legion Post #129  
Kamoya Ikhofua, Brick, Legion Post #348  
Raymond Javier, Manchester, Legion Post #502  
Matthew Knigge, New Egypt, Legion Post #455  
Connor Lynch, Whiting, Legion Post #502  
Stephen Mikulak, Cream Ridge, Legion Post #455  
Sean O'Brien, Brick, Legion Post #348  
Daniel Piskowski, Toms River, Legion Post #129  
Robert Rawley, Barnegat, Legion Post #232  
Angelo Regina jr, Bayville, Legion Post #351  
Robert Salewski, Brick, Legion Post #348  
Logan Schmitz, Brick, Legion Post #348  
Cole Sousa, Millstone, Legion Post #455  
Michael Statile, Whiting, Legion Post #502  
Matthew Wernerspach, Toms River, Legion Post #129  
Steven Wetzel, New Egypt, Legion Post #455  
William Wetzel, New Egypt, Legion Post #455  
David Wintrode, Toms River, Legion Post #129  
Jared Wrath, Toms River, Legion Post #129  
Jack Zhang, Brick, Legion Post #348

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

In its 68th year, ALJBS is a week-long experience that educates, trains, and inspires New Jersey's youth so that each statesman may become a lifelong leader of character committed to service, respect, and Americanism. ALJBS is a college-level seminar that teaches citizenship, politics, and leadership to more than 1,000 rising-seniors in high school. ALJBS is among the most respected and selective educational programs of its kind in the country. All expenses 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).