



# AMERICAN LEGION JERSEY BOYS STATE

*"A WEEK THAT SHAPES THE FUTURE"*

Sponsored by THE AMERICAN LEGION, DEPARTMENT OF NEW JERSEY

JUNE 22-27, 2014; RIDER UNIVERSITY, Lawrenceville, NJ

www.ALJBS.org @ALJBS f.com/ALJBS

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **53 Passaic County Students Attend American Legion Jersey Boys State** *More than 325 New Jersey Communities Sent Delegates*

LAWRENCEVILLE, NJ – This week, 53 rising-seniors in high schools from Passaic County arrived at the 69<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 an action-oriented approach for teaching civics and government at the local, county and state level.

"It's our honor to welcome 924 statesmen to Jersey Boys State," said David Bagatelle, Director of ALJBS. "The Jersey Boys State record of producing our state's leaders is strong including our current governor, Chris Christie, our senators, Robert Menendez and Cory Booker, and many other political leaders."

Statesmen will have the opportunity to govern and interact with their peers from across New Jersey as they run their own mythical 51<sup>st</sup> state of the union from June 22-27. 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, the state legislature, municipal courts and will elect two senators to serve at American Legion Boys Nation in Washington, D.C. later this summer.

### **Highlights throughout the week include:**

- Notable speakers including Senator Robert Menendez, Congressman Leonard Lance, CBS 3 Philadelphia's Jessica Dean, US Senate candidate Jeffrey Bell, former Congressman Bob Inglis (SC), among many others;
- A college fair featuring nearly 100 institutions from across the country;
- Leadership and career seminars featuring business executives, military representatives, political consultants, law experts and journalists, among other professional experts;
- Election of the 69<sup>th</sup> ALJBS Governor on Thursday, June 26; and
- Election of two Boys Nation Senators on Friday June 27, who will represent New Jersey at the annual American Legion Boys Nation program in Washington D.C., from July 18-26, 2014.

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

### **Statesmen in Attendance (Alphabetical by Name)**

Kemal Abayhan, Little Falls, Legion Post #108  
Levi Abenis, Passaic, Legion Post #359  
Matthew Amador, Totowa, Legion Post #227  
Julio Aybar, Hawthorne, Legion Post #199  
Jabari Brown, Paterson, Legion Post #289  
Paul Bury, Clifton, Legion Post #8  
Jared Calise, Hewitt, Legion Post #289  
Fernando Calixto, Passaic, Legion Post #359  
Juan Daniel Chavarria, Paterson, Legion Post #360  
Roman Chyshkevych, Clifton, Legion Post #8  
Alex D'Aloia, Totowa, Legion Post #227

Michael Dacanay, Haskell, Legion Post #246  
Shamel Dishack, Hawthorne, Legion Post #199  
Lance Gabriel Domingo, Passaic, Legion Post #438  
Christian Duffy, Clifton, Legion Post #174  
Christian Duffy, Clifton, Legion Post #174  
Marshall Fabian, Ringwood, Legion Post #246  
Eddie Filipovic, Clifton, Legion Post #438  
Ronak Gandhi, Clifton, Legion Post #347  
Rushil Gandhi, Passaic, Legion Post #161  
John Michael Gomez, Hewitt, Legion Post #289  
Calvin Graham, Hawthorne, Legion Post #199  
Alexander Guthrie, Totowa, Legion Post #227  
Oscar Gutierrez, Passaic, Legion Post #359  
Nihal Hussain, Clifton, Legion Post #438  
Anton Kazakov, Wayne, Legion Post #174  
Hadi Khezam, Woodland Park, Legion Post #238  
Frank Kleinsorge, Totowa, Legion Post #227  
Michal Kobylarz, Clifton, Legion Post #347  
Aakash Lad, Clifton, Legion Post #8  
Francis Ledesma, Clifton, Legion Post #8  
Dominic Luciani, Wanaque, Legion Post #246  
Henry Mendoza, Passaic, Legion Post #174  
Russell Monte, Totowa, Legion Post #227  
Cristian Montecinos, Passaic, Legion Post #438  
Jordan Novak, Little Falls, Legion Post #108  
Giancarlo Osnato, Clifton, Legion Post #8  
Thomas Papa, Totowa, Legion Post #227  
Het Patel, Passaic, Legion Post #359  
Ever Perez, Passaic, Legion Post #359  
Michael Portelli, Wayne, Legion Post #174  
Janmesh Rana, Passaic, Legion Post #161  
Yash Rana, Passaic, Legion Post #359  
Joseph Rivera, Haskell, Legion Post #246  
William Santoro, Totowa, Legion Post #227  
Nicolas Soto, Clifton, Legion Post #347  
Steven Sutphin, Hawthorne, Legion Post #199  
Jonathan Toxtle, Passaic, Legion Post #438  
Ricardo Vargas-Mora, Passaic, Legion Post #289  
Aaron Varghese, Haledon, Legion Post #360  
Ted Wagner, Hawthorne, Legion Post #199  
Justin Winfrey, Paterson, Legion Post #289  
Arlind Zuna, Clifton, Legion Post #347

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

In its 69<sup>th</sup> 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 delegates form the 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).