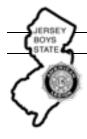
### AMERICAN LEGION JERSEY BOYS STATE



### "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

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## FIFTY-SIX OCEAN COUNTY STUDENTS PARTICIPATE IN AMERICAN LEGION JERSEY BOYS STATE

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

LAWRENCEVILLE, NJ - Fifty-six rising high school seniors from Ocean 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. Statesman 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 Ocean County Delegation**

James Barbour, Brick, Legion Post #348 George Bersin-Daly, Bay Head, Legion Post #493 Zackary Bliss, Brick, Legion Post #348 Christian Brando, Brick, Legion Post #348 Dylan Breese, Little Egg Harbor, Legion Post #493 Conor Callaghan, New Egypt, Legion Post #455 Jackson Coles, Toms River, Legion Post #166 Nicholas Conforti, Brick, Legion Post #166 Gabriel Corbet, Toms River, Legion Post #129 James Cuber, Manchester, Legion Post #346 Nicholas D'Eufemia, Brick, Legion Post #348 Jesus Davila, Manchester, Legion Post #502 Montgomery Davis, Jackson, Legion Post #390 Alexander Dehner, Toms River, Legion Post #129 Joe Demateis, Jackson, Legion Post #455 Ryan Exner, New Egypt, Legion Post #455 Cody Fairbanks, Toms River, Legion Post #502 Peter Ferri, New Egypt, Legion Post #455 Callum Foley, Point Pleasant Beach, Legion Post #196 Brian Gerard, Brick, Legion Post #328 James Geresy, Beachwood, Legion Post #129 Trevor Haefner, New Egypt, Legion Post #455 Michael Hennicke, Manchester, Legion Post #1013 Ethan Jaravata, Point Pleasant Beach, Legion Post #196 Jason Jozefick, Lakehurst, Legion Post #502 Jude Lovgren, Point Pleasant Beach, Legion Post #517 Paul Lund, Little Egg Harbor, Legion Post #493 Matthew Marks, Toms River, Legion Post #129 Michael Mattei, Forked River, Legion Post #517 Ryan McGuckin, Jackson, Legion Post #504 Justin Melchionne, Little Egg Harbor, Legion Post #493 Christopher Melillo, Waretown, Legion Post #517 Ashton Millman, Forked River, Legion Post #517 Dawson Narby, Brick, Legion Post #339 Daniel O'Brien, Little Egg Harbor, Legion Post #493 Logan O'Donnell, Brick, Legion Post #348 Matthew Orlando, Bayville, Legion Post #129 Michael Vincent Pagdatoon, Manchester, Legion Post #502 Parth Patel, JACKSON, Legion Post #504 Owen Peclet, Manchester, Legion Post #502 Joseph Pender, Toms River, Legion Post #502 Elijah Pirl, Toms River, Legion Post #129 Zachary Reeves, Jackson, Legion Post #504 Matias Reinoso, Brick, Legion Post #348 Kyle Rembach, Whiting, Legion Post #502 Vincent Rubio, Jackson, Legion Post #504 Sean Ryan, Beachwood, Legion Post #129 Angel Sanches, Seaside Heights, Legion Post #351 Maxwell Smith, Toms River, Legion Post #502 Troy Stevenson, Brick, Legion Post #348 Caden Sunderman, Little Egg Harbor, Legion Post #493 Bryce Troncone, Brick, Legion Post #348 Jeffrey Varrone, Jackson, Legion Post #504 Daniel Venezia, Brick, Legion Post #348 Matthew Walsh, Forked River/Lacey Township, Legion Post #129 Matthew Wojcik, Jackson, Legion Post #504

### **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 <u>aljbs.org</u> .