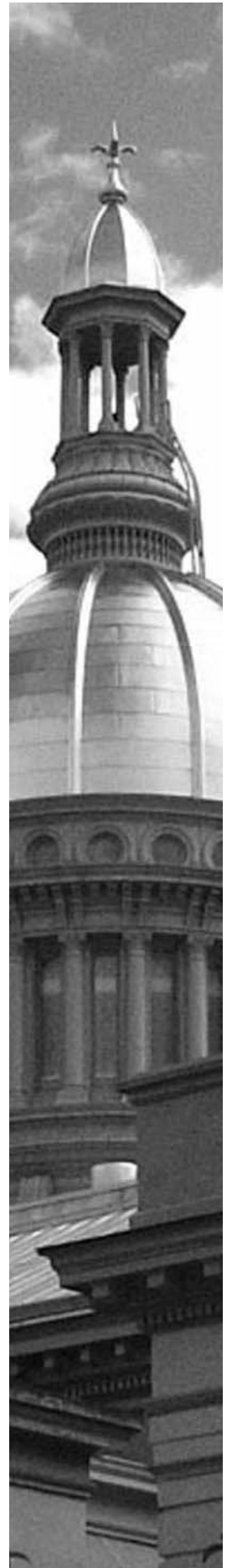


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# About Your Legislature

## **THE BRANCHES OF GOVERNMENT**

The government of the State of New Jersey, like that of the United States, is divided into three coequal branches: the legislative, the executive and the judicial. The principal function of the Legislature is to enact laws. The Executive branch (the Governor, Lieutenant Governor, and State agencies) carries out the programs established by law. The Judiciary (the Supreme Court and lower courts) punishes violators, settles controversies and disputes, and is the final authority on the meaning and constitutionality of laws.

## **LEGISLATORS**

The Legislature consists of two Houses: a 40-member Senate and an 80-member General Assembly. Senators must be at least 30 years old and residents of the state for at least four years prior to election. Members of the General Assembly must be at least 21 years old and state residents for at least two years. All legislators must live in the districts they represent.

While legislators spend a considerable amount of their time on legislative matters, service in the Legislature is considered to be part-time, and most legislators also hold other employment.

## **LEGISLATIVE DISTRICTS**

Legislators are elected from 40 legislative districts of approximately equal population. The voters in each district elect one Senator and two members of the General Assembly. Every ten years, after the Federal census, the boundaries of the 40 districts are redrawn to maintain an equal population in each district.

## **LEGISLATIVE ELECTIONS**

Legislative elections are held in November of each odd-numbered year. Members of the Assembly serve two-year terms. Senators serve four-year terms, except for the first term of a new decade, which is only two years. This 2-4-4 cycle allows for elections from new districts soon after each reapportionment.

## **LEGISLATIVE SESSIONS**

The New Jersey Constitution provides that each Legislature is constituted for a term of two years, split into two annual sessions. Because the Constitution also specifies that all business from the first year may be continued into the second year, the distinction between the two annual sessions is more ceremonial than actual. The two-year legislative term begins at noon on the second Tuesday in January of each even-numbered year. At the end of the second year, all unfinished business expires.

In recent years, each House has held an average of 40 sessions a year, usually on Mondays and Thursdays. Members typically confer in party conferences prior to the voting sessions. The members also may convene for committee meetings, public hearings or quorums calls—an organizational procedure which allows for certain administrative activity to occur. The Senate and General Assembly occasionally meet in joint session, most often for an address by the Governor. Party conferences are closed to the public, and sometimes attendance at joint sessions is by invitation only. Otherwise, all activity is open to the public with no prior arrangements necessary.

### **LEGISLATIVE ORGANIZATION**

Each House elects a presiding officer from among its members—the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the General Assembly.

The President and the Speaker have broad powers within their Houses. They decide the meeting schedules and the daily calendar of bills to be considered, preside over the sessions in their respective chambers, appoint committee chairs and members, refer bills to committees for consideration and direct the business of their Houses. The Senate elects a Secretary of the Senate and the General Assembly elects a Clerk of the General Assembly to supervise business operations.

Each party in each House also chooses party leaders: the Majority Leader, the Minority Leader, assistant leaders and whips. The party leaders help develop party policy on the issues before the Legislature.

Each House establishes a number of standing reference committees to review legislation. Much of the discussion on the merits of a bill takes place in committee. Representatives of interest groups and members of the public are generally given the opportunity to present their views at committee meetings.

### **LEGISLATIVE POWERS**

The chief function of the Legislature is to enact laws. A proposal to make a new law, or to change or repeal an existing law, is presented to the Legislature as a bill. To become law, a bill must pass both Houses by a majority vote and be approved by the Governor.

The Legislature can also propose amendments to the New Jersey Constitution. Such an amendment must be passed by a vote of 3/5 of each House (24 votes in the Senate and 48 votes in the Assembly). No action by the Governor is required. If passed, the proposed amendment is placed on the ballot in November for a public vote. An amendment may also be presented to the voters if the Legislature passes it two years in a row by a simple majority vote.

# Just for the fun of it...

## New Jersey Firsts

1. New Jersey was the first state to ratify the --  
a. Bill of Rights   b. Emancipation Proclamation   c. Equal Rights Amendment
2. This “stop” on the “Underground Railroad” was the first African-American community to become a municipality. Can you name it?  
a. Batsto                      b. Camden                      c. Lawnside
3. Which of the following firsts happened in New Jersey? (*May be more than one.*)  
a. Baseball Game   b. Inter-collegiate Football Game   c. Pro Basketball League
4. Thomas Edison invented all of the following except --  
a. Lightbulb              b. Refrigerator              c. Moving Pictures              d. Phonograph
5. Thomas Mundy Peterson was the first African-American to cast a vote. Where did he do it?  
a. Perth Amboy              b. Elizabeth                      c. New Brunswick
6. All of these food inventions had their first home in New Jersey. Can you put them in order of the earliest to the most recent?  
a. “M&M’s”®   b. Campbell® Soup   c. Minute Steak   d. Oyster Crackers
7. Margaret Gorman was crowned as the first Miss America in Atlantic City in what year?  
a. 1908                      b. 1921                      c. 1932
8. The first trans-continental telephone call originated from --  
a. the State House (Trenton)   b. Bell Labs (Holmdel)   c. Newark City Hall
9. In 1925, New Jersey was the first state to use a traffic circle. Where was it located?  
a. Freehold                      b. Pennsauken                      c. Trenton
10. Can you put these New Jersey-based products in order of earliest to most recent according to when they first became available to the public?  
a. Colgate® Toothpaste   b. Band-Aids®   c. Pepcid® AC   d. Listerine®

*(Answers on page 16)*



# Word Search

Find the following hidden words:

Appropriations...Automobile...Business...Community...Education...Health Care  
Insurance...Investing...Gambling...Jobs...Open Space...Pensions  
Prescriptions...Property...Public Safety...Resources...Shore...Taxes...Turnpike

J P E L I B O M O T U A G T M  
B R F G A M B L I N G N L S Y  
M O B L O M P E N S I O N S T  
W P U B E D U C A T I O N E I  
R E S O U R C E S W I U Z N N  
Q R V T W B X E J T N P R I U  
H T H W T C V Q A R S W P S M  
K Y T U R N P I K E U A E U M  
L J K D I C R Z B T R X V B O  
O P E N S P A C E N A R Q M C  
H Y G H O O M R X T N S B O J  
U W O R H E A L T H C A R E O  
C R P I Q I H U Y W E G E T R  
E P R E S C R I P T I O N S Y  
A H Y T E F A S C I L B U P J

*(Answers on page 16)*

# Jersey Jumble

Unscramble the jumbled words, one letter to each square.  
Arrange the letters in the circled boxes to answer the question below.

B E S S A M L Y

○					○		
---	--	--	--	--	---	--	--

C R I T I D S T

						○	
--	--	--	--	--	--	---	--

T E A N E S

○			○		
---	--	--	---	--	--

L G D O N H I F C

		○					○	
--	--	---	--	--	--	--	---	--

N O H E Y E B E

○		○					○	
---	--	---	--	--	--	--	---	--

E R D K A O

	○				○
--	---	--	--	--	---

C L O I T I P S

						○	○
--	--	--	--	--	--	---	---

**What do banks and government have in common?**

○	○	○	○	○	○	and	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○
---	---	---	---	---	---	-----	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---

*(Answers on page 17)*



# Site Seeing

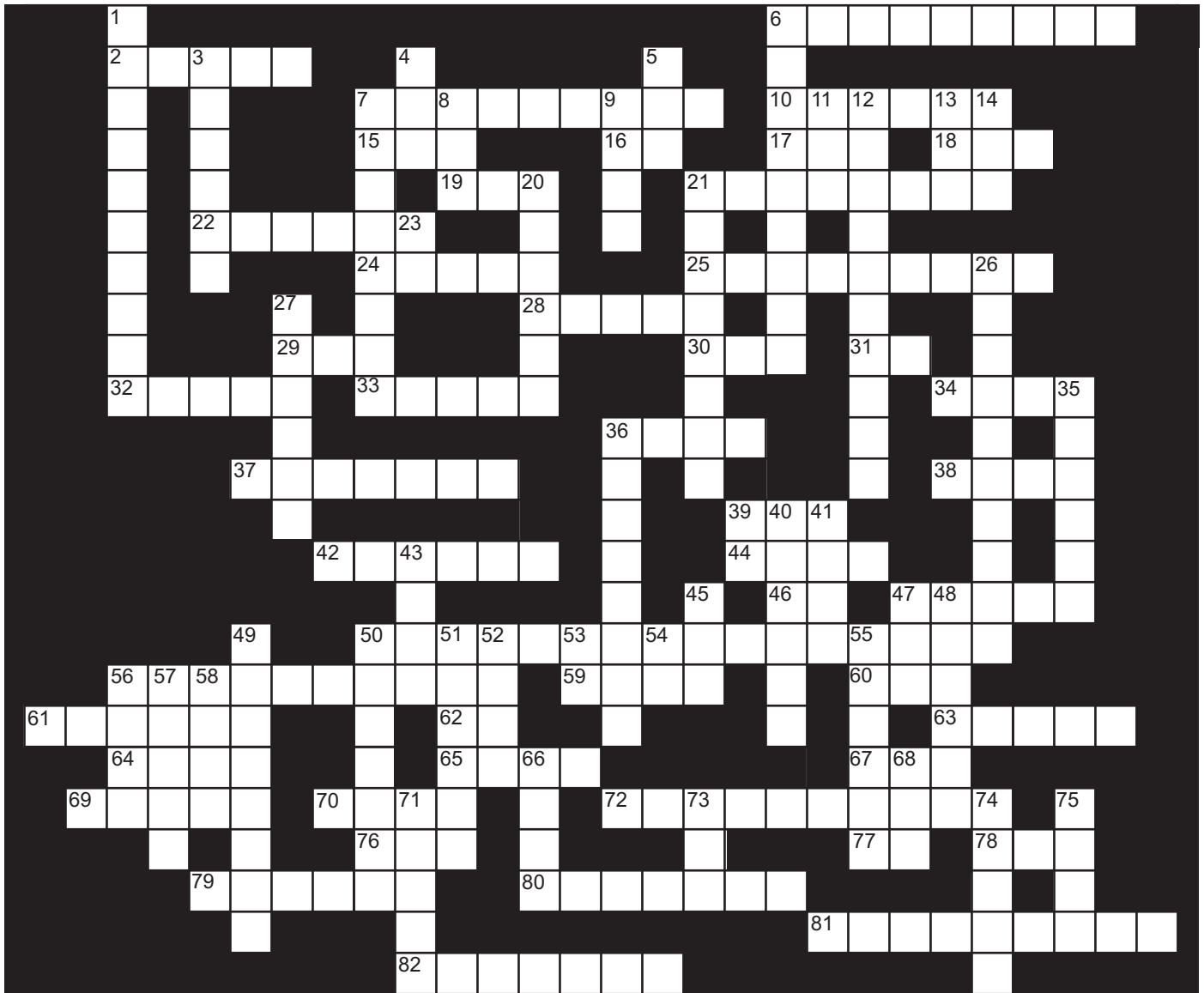
Can you name these famous New Jersey sites?



Photos courtesy of New Jersey Office of Travel and Tourism

(Answers on page 17)

# County Crossword



## ACROSS

- |   |                                      |  |
|---|--------------------------------------|--|
| 2. The 1664 Elizabethtown Purchase in this county led to the first English settlement in America. | 10. County home of the State capital | inspired board game  |
| 6. County home of Rutgers University  | 15. Old-fashioned word for "over"    | 22. County named for a revolutionary war hero and doctor   |
| 7. County made famous by the Lindbergh Case   | 16. Opposite of "out"                | 24. Letter closing: Sincerely -----                        |
|   | 17. Cleaving tool                    | 25. Lapel item of identification                           |
|   | 18. Hearing aid                      | 28. County name same as site of Massachusetts witch trials |
|   | 19. Newspaper classifieds            | 29. Center of a storm                                      |
|   | 21. 1930s Atlantic City              | 30. Possess  |



31. Contraction meaning "I am"
32. Nudged aside
33. County where Newark Liberty Airport is located
34. In a hurry
36. State cultural organization: Council on the ----
37. Victorian seashore resort
38. ---- money: start-up funds
39. Consumed
42. County home of AT&T
44. Reposition
46. Myself
47. County by the sea
50. War of US independence
56. US form of government
59. Famous pirate captain who visited Northern NJ
60. Common shade tree
61. Minimum number of members present to conduct business
62. Abbr. for overtime
63. NJ folklore character: The Jersey -----
64. Husband or wife
65. Not found
67. Landmark abortion rights case: --- v. Wade
69. Taxi fare calculator
70. Expression of preference in an election
72. County home of NJ's historic glassmaking industry
76. A player on NJ's NBA basketball team
77. Abbreviation for year
78. Computer memory abbr.
79. One of the four original counties in colonial NJ
80. County name derived from Native American word meaning "valley"
81. Official State bird
82. Capital of NJ
- DOWN**
1. County home of Clara Barton and James Fenimore Cooper
3. Frequent source of family discord
4. Expected birth time: --- date
5. Home state candidate: favorite ---
6. 1973 Assemblyman Francis ----- introduced legislation to establish the State bug
7. Official NJ insect that uses flowers to make a syrup
8. Powerful gun association
9. Coin collected to restore the State House dome
11. "Outer" in anatomy
12. One of the two major political parties
13. Slippery fish
14. Beam of light
20. Northernmost county
21. Shore county home of the Sandy Hook lighthouse
23. Opposite of "yes"
26. Southwestern county and NJ's chief food producers
27. Official State tree
35. County named after a colonial explorer
36. County home to a famous gaming destination
39. Descartes' quote: "I think, therefore I --".
40. Famous red NJ "fruit"
41. Eternity: for----
43. Abbr. for rhetorical
45. --- off: sleep
47. Bird: A symbol of wisdom
48. County home of the WWII New York shipyards
49. County location of the Duke Estate
50. Evaluate as superior
51. Official State flower
52. Prefix: eight
53. Abbr. for Britain
54. Form of validation
55. Term for annually
56. NJ State House golden topper
57. Greek muse of lyric poetry and mime
58. Unable to vocalize
66. Cease
68. Paddle
71. Doctrine widely held to be true
73. Military abbr. for missing person
74. Write legislation
75. End to a Christian prayer

*(Answers on page 17)*

# Trivia and Teasers

- Captain Kidd's treasure is rumored to be buried in the marsh areas near --
  - Belmar
  - Cape May
  - Sandy Hook
- The site of General George Washington's two winter encampments during the Revolutionary War is located in --
  - Morristown
  - Titusville
  - Stanhope
- The official residence of the Governor of NJ is located in Princeton and called --
  - Trent House
  - Drumthwacket
  - Stockton Hall
- All of these writers were born in New Jersey. Can you match them to their famous works?
  - Dorothy Parker
  - James Fenimore Cooper
  - Allen Ginsberg
  - Joyce Kilmer
  - Howl*
  - The Last of the Mohicans*
  - Trees*
  - Big Blonde*
- Where is the home of the "New Jersey Devil?"
  - the Meadowlands
  - the Pine Barrens
  - the Watchung Mountains
- The Monopoly® game board uses street names from --
  - Ocean City
  - Atlantic City
  - Sea Isle City
- Can you match these famous New Jersey performers with their nickname?
  - Bill Basie
  - Sarah Vaughan
  - Frank Sinatra
  - Bruce Springsteen
  - The Boss
  - Old Blue Eyes
  - Sassy
  - The Count
- In Margate, you can climb inside Lucy, a 65-foot, 100-year-old house, built to look like --
  - an elephant
  - a seashell
  - a whale
- How many exits are there on the New Jersey Turnpike?
  - 16
  - 24
  - 32
- All of these celebrities are from New Jersey. Can you match them to their famous works?
  - Jack Nicholson
  - Meryl Streep
  - Susan Sarandon
  - Danny DeVito
  - Sophie's Choice*
  - Taxi*
  - Five Easy Pieces*
  - Thelma and Louise*
- What is the State motto?
  - The Jewel is Jersey
  - Goodness from the Land
  - Liberty and Prosperity
- New Jersey has an official one of each of the following except --
  - Dinosaur
  - Animal
  - Song
  - Dance

(Answers on page 18)

# State House Word Builder

Use only the letters S T A T E H O U S E to make as many words as you can. Put each word in the column with other words beginning with the same letter.

## S

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_
6. \_\_\_\_\_
7. \_\_\_\_\_
8. \_\_\_\_\_
9. \_\_\_\_\_
10. \_\_\_\_\_
11. \_\_\_\_\_
12. \_\_\_\_\_

## T

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_
6. \_\_\_\_\_
7. \_\_\_\_\_
8. \_\_\_\_\_
9. \_\_\_\_\_
10. \_\_\_\_\_
11. \_\_\_\_\_
12. \_\_\_\_\_

## A

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_

## T

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_

## E

## H

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_
6. \_\_\_\_\_
7. \_\_\_\_\_
8. \_\_\_\_\_
9. \_\_\_\_\_
10. \_\_\_\_\_
11. \_\_\_\_\_
12. \_\_\_\_\_

## O

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_

## U

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_

## S

## E

*(Answers on page 18)*







# Help "Bill" Become A Law

**START HERE**

**Proposal:**  a law begins with an idea

**Bill Draft:** the idea is written in proper form

**First Reading:**  the bill is introduced  in the sponsor's  House during a  session and sent to  a committee

**Committee Action:**  the committee approves the bill and sends it on

**Second Reading:** after committee approval, the bill is given a second reading

**Committee Review:** the committee studies the bill and may make changes

**Third Reading and Final Passage:** the bill passes if  a majority votes for it

**Governor's Action:**  the governor may sign the bill into law or veto it

**Veto Override:** if the bill is vetoed, it may still become law by two-thirds vote of the Senate and the Assembly

**Final Passage:** the  bill passes the second House in the same form

**Second House:**  the bill must go through  the same process here

**Bill Becomes A Law!**

**FINISH**

(Answers on page 18)

# Get Involved!

Your legislators represent you, and the laws enacted by them are intended to foster the health, safety and welfare of all New Jersey citizens. As active participants in the legislative process, we can truly make State government one for and by the people. Here's what you can do:

## **LOOK, LISTEN AND LEARN**

Stay informed of public policy issues. Read the papers. Watch the news. Legislative sessions and major speeches are often televised. Check out weekly television shows on State issues. Hear other opinions -- there are always two sides to an issue. Start or join a current events discussion group.

## **GET SPECIFICS**

The New Jersey Legislature makes its information available free of charge. Even the call is free for residents! The non-partisan staff of the Legislative Information and Bill Room can answer questions about legislative activity and supply copies of bills, a legislative calendar and many helpful publications. Legislative information also is available from the Legislature's web site. [www.njleg.state.nj.us](http://www.njleg.state.nj.us)

## **WRITE A LETTER, CALL OR E-MAIL**

Your legislators value your opinions, but it's up to you to contact them. Phone numbers and addresses for your three representatives are available from the Legislative Information and Bill Room and the Legislature's web site. Address letters to "Honorable (first and last name)." The salutation should read "Dear Senator (last name)," or "Dear Assemblyman/Assemblywoman (last name)."

## **JOIN FORCES**

Join a group with similar concerns as yours. If none exists, start one! Sign or start a petition. Attend rallies and public demonstrations to show support.

## **VISIT THE SITE OF LEGISLATIVE ACTIVITY**

Public hearings and committee meetings are the best opportunities to observe and participate in public policy debates. Most bills are reviewed by a legislative committee during an open meeting at the State House Annex. You can learn more about the lawmaking process during a free State House tour. Get a group together and come visit. Call 609-633-2709 for scheduling help.

## **VOTE!**

Elections are a chance to express approval or dissatisfaction. Contact your county election office for registration and absentee ballot information.

*(Phone numbers are on the last page.)*

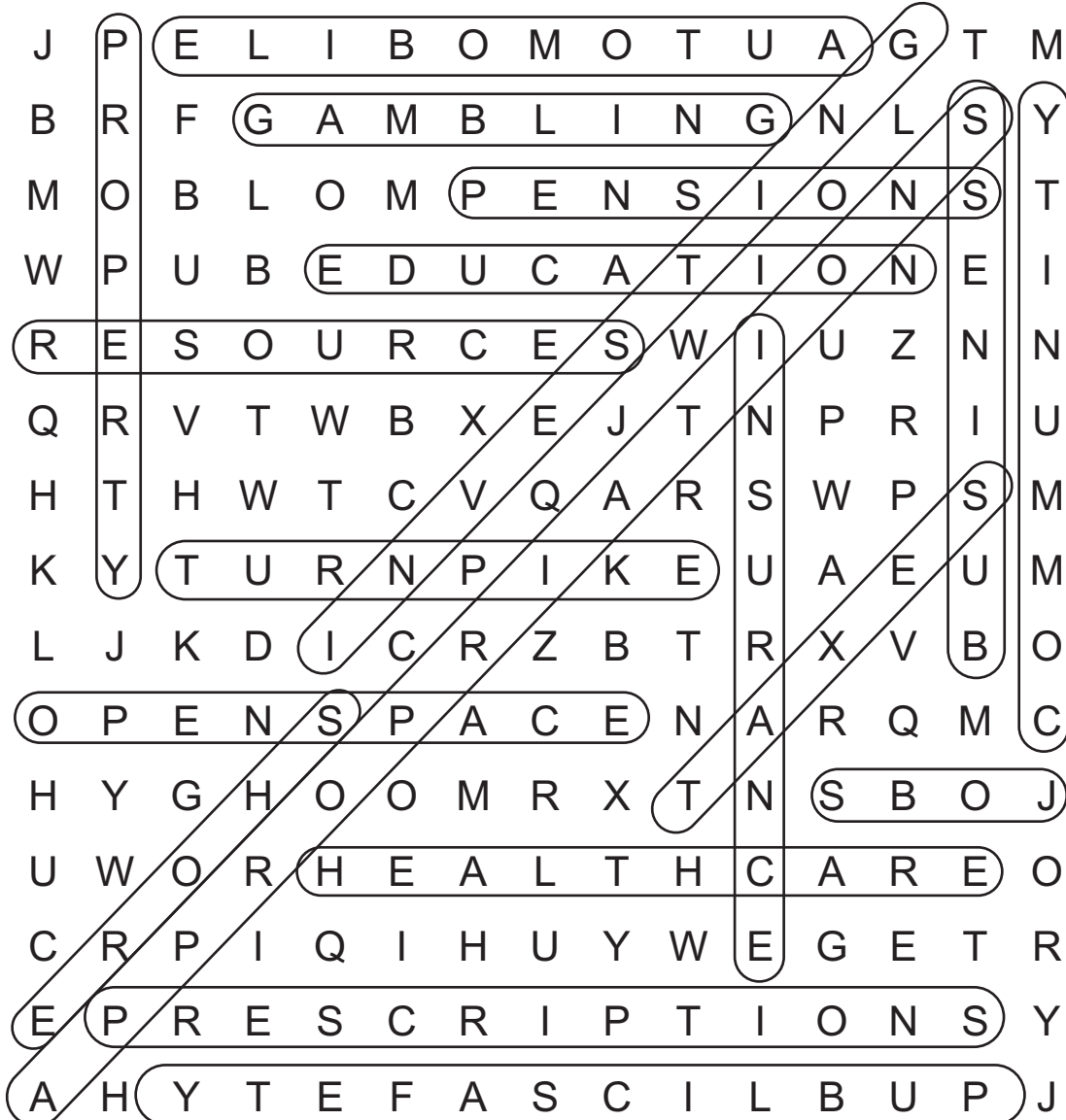


# Answer Pages

## New Jersey Firsts (pg. 4)

- |             |                    |                     |
|-------------|--------------------|---------------------|
| 1. a        | 5. a               | 8. a                |
| 2. c        | 6. d-1848, b-1895, | 9. b                |
| 3. a, b & c | a-1941, c-1946     | 10. a-1873, d-1914, |
| 4. b        | 7. b               | b-1921, c-1995      |

## Word Search (pg. 5)





# Answer Page

## Trivia and Teasers (pg. 10)

- |        |        |         |       |
|--------|--------|---------|-------|
| 1. a   | 5. b   | 8. a    | 11. c |
| 2. a   | 6. b   | 9. b    | 12. c |
| 3. b   | 7. a-4 | 10. a-3 |       |
| 4. a-4 | b-3    | b-1     |       |
| b-2    | c-2    | c-4     |       |
| c-1    | d-1    | d-2     |       |
| d-3    |        |         |       |

## State House Word Builder (pg. 11)

### S

sat	she	shout/shouts	stash
seat/seats	sheet/sheets	shut/shuts	stout
see/sees	shoe/shoes	so	
set/sets	shot/shots	south	

### T

taste/tastes	test/tests	thou	tot/tots
tea/teas	that	thus	tote/totes
tease/teases	the	to	
tee/tees	thee	toast/toasts	
teeth	those	toe/toes	

### A

as	ash/ashes	at	ate
----	-----------	----	-----

### E

ease/eases	eat/eats	estate/estates
------------	----------	----------------

### H

has	hate/hates	hoe/hoes	hot
haste	he	hose/hoses	hue/hues
hat/hats	heat/heats	host/hosts	hut/huts

### O

oat/oats	oh	oust/ousts	out
----------	----	------------	-----

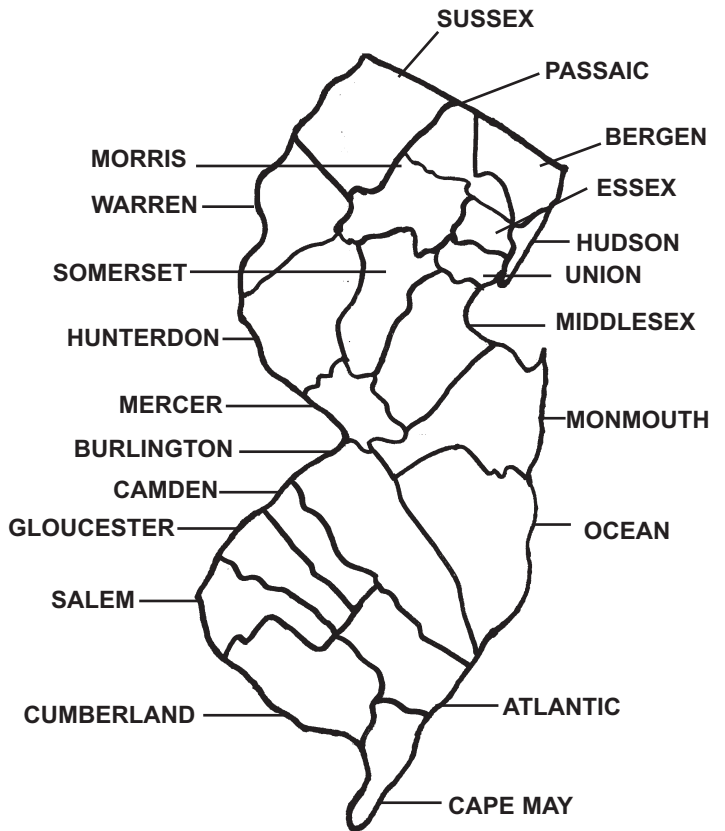
### U

us	use/uses
----	----------

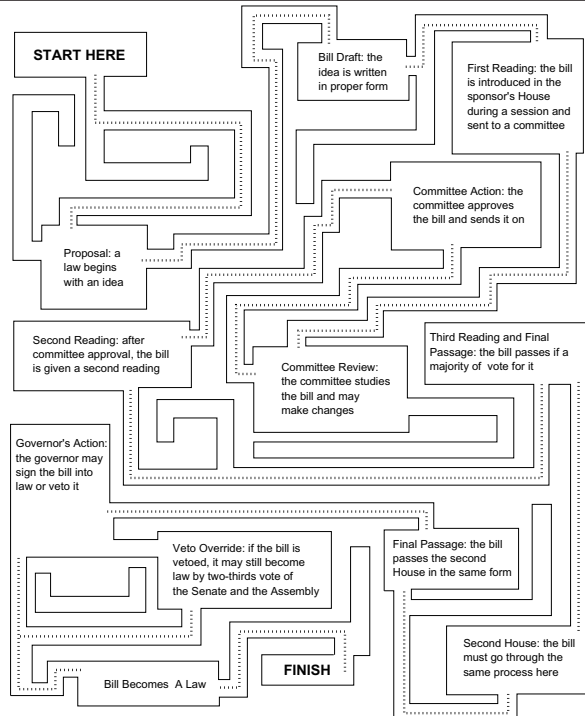
## Big News (pg. 13)

- |          |      |       |
|----------|------|-------|
| 1. b     | 5. a | 9. b  |
| 2. a     | 6. a | 10. c |
| 3. c     | 7. b | 11. a |
| 4. a & c | 8. a | 12. c |

## County Lines (pg. 12)



## Help "Bill" Become A Law (pg. 14)

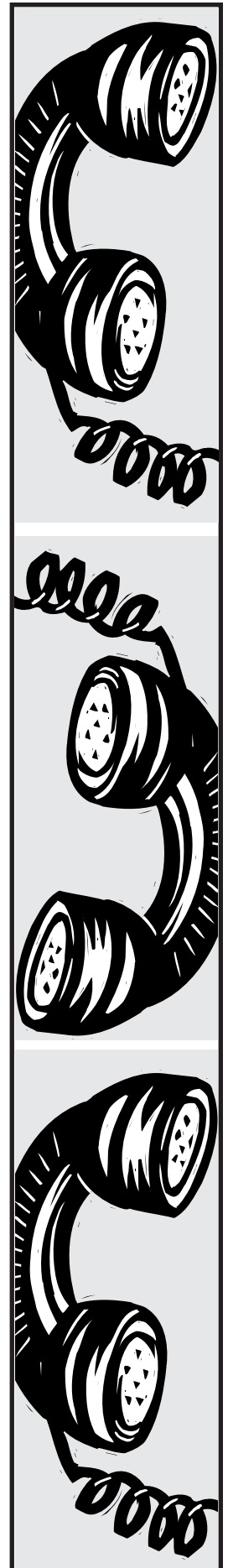




# Hotlines

<b>Legislative Information</b> (toll-free in NJ)	1-800-792-8630 609-292-4840
Hearing Impaired Users (TDD) (toll-free in NJ)	1-800-257-7490 609-777-2744
<b>State House Tour Office</b>	609-633-2709
<b>Office of Travel and Tourism</b>	1-800-847-4865
<b>NJ Department of Military and Veterans' Affairs</b>	609-530-6957
<b>NJ Higher Education Student Assistance Authority</b> (Information on Financial Aid, Student Loans or Scholarships)	1-800-792-8670
<b>NJ Veterans' Benefits Information Hotline</b>	1-888-865-8387
<b>Taxpayer Hotline</b> (Assistance concerning State taxes)	609-292-6400
Hearing Impaired Users (TDD) (toll-free in NJ, NY, PA)	1-800-286-6613 609-984-7300
<b>TAXFAX for forms</b>	609-826-4500
<b>Property Tax Reimbursement Infoline</b>	1-800-882-6597
<b>Automated Tax Information System</b> (toll-free in NJ)	1-800-323-4400 609-826-4400
<b>Motor Vehicle Commission</b> (General information)	609-292-6500 609-292-7500
<b>NJ Transit</b> (Schedules and general information)	973-275-5555
<b>Governor's Office of Volunteerism</b>	1-800-286-6528
<b>NJ Division of Elections</b> (Voter registration information)	609-292-3760
Atlantic County	609-343-2246
Bergen County	201-336-6100
Burlington County	609-265-5062
Camden County	856-661-3555
Cape May County	609-465-1050
Cumberland County	856-453-5801
Gloucester County	856-384-4500
Essex County	973-621-5061
Hudson County	201-369-3470
Hunterdon County	908-788-1190

*(continued on the next page)*



Mercer County . . . . .	609-989-6769
Middlesex County . . . . .	732-745-3471
Monmouth County . . . . .	732-431-7785
Morris County . . . . .	973-285-6715
Ocean County . . . . .	732-929-2167
Passaic County . . . . .	973-881-4515
Salem County . . . . .	856-935-7510
Somerset County . . . . .	908-231-7084
Sussex County . . . . .	973-579-0950
Union County . . . . .	908-527-4123
Warren County . . . . .	908-475-6313

**Web sites:**

The New Jersey State Legislature: [www.njleg.state.nj.us](http://www.njleg.state.nj.us)

New Jersey Online, Executive Branch Information: [www.state.nj.us](http://www.state.nj.us)

New Jersey Courts Online: [www.judiciary.state.nj.us](http://www.judiciary.state.nj.us)