



**PRESS RELEASE**  
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**ASSEMBLYMEN JOHN AMODEO AND VINCE POLISTINA ANNOUNCE 10-POINT PLAN TO  
REVITALIZE ATLANTIC CITY REGION**

(Atlantic County)—Today Assemblymen John Amodeo and Vince Polistina unveiled a 10-point plan to revitalize the Atlantic City region. The Assemblymen were joined by Chris Christie, Republican candidate for Governor, for the announcement on the boardwalk outside Showboat Casino.

The comprehensive plan, ranging from the use of CRDA funds to better market Atlantic City as an international travel destination to declaring Casino Control Commission employees essential in the event the state must shutdown due to a budget impasse, addresses several roadblocks to success for both the city and the region.

“We need to do more to spur economic development in the region and keep Atlantic County residents working,” said Assemblyman John Amodeo. “The gaming industry is an important key to our success—but casinos are not the only thing Atlantic City has to offer. We have an outstanding location and doing things like lowering the dunes will flaunt one of our greatest assets.”

“Atlantic City can and should be an international travel destination,” noted Polistina. The problem is that we are competing in a world-wide market with regional funding. CRDA funds should be used to bridge the gap. Tourists would not only spend dollars in the casinos but at the hotels, restaurants and shops up and down this boardwalk.”

“Our efforts cannot stop at the end of the boardwalk though,” said Amodeo. “We all recognize that there are many areas in the city that need improvement. We are fighting to extend the Neighborhood Revitalization Tax Credit Program eligibility to Atlantic City. This would greatly improve conditions throughout the entire city.”

“There are many things that need to be done but, most importantly, Atlantic City needs a true partnership with the State of New Jersey. Governor Corzine sat idly by and watched as casinos lost millions of dollars due to a government shut down over the July 4<sup>th</sup> holiday weekend in 2006,” said Polistina. “Chris Christie understands the gaming industry. He knows Atlantic City is an economic engine, not just for Atlantic County, but for the entire state. He is committed to doing everything he can to help solve our problems, rather than create them.”

**Paid for by Amodeo and Polistina for Assembly, Manny Aponte, Treasurer.  
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## ***Amodeo-Polistina 10 Point Plan to Revitalize the Atlantic City Region***

1. Declare Casino Control Commission employees “essential” in the event the state must shutdown due to a budget impasse. In 2006, the casinos had to shut down for the July 4<sup>th</sup> weekend because they could not operate without Casino Control Commission supervision. Including these employees in the Governor’s executive order would have kept the casinos open during the busiest weekend in the summer.
2. Lower the dunes in Atlantic City. As the market for gaming dollars gets more competitive, Atlantic City needs to flaunt the best asset it has over casinos in other states— an ocean view. The current height of the dunes obstructs visitors’ view from the boardwalk. The Boardwalk Committee of Atlantic City, a bi-partisan group merchants, city officials, and citizens, recommended that the dunes be lowered and they be made wider rather than higher to preserve their protective character.
3. No VLTs at horse racing tracks and an end to purse subsidies. Atlantic City is already suffering from out of state competition. In-state competition would severely undermine the 30 years of investment made to economic development in Atlantic City and the entire state through the CRDA and would jeopardize the funding for numerous programs for seniors and disabled citizens, including PAAD. The state needs to get the 15 off-track wagering facilities operation in order to support the horse racing industry
4. Streamline casino regulations. New Jersey has three times the regulation cost per square footage of casino space as compared to Mississippi and Nevada. The Casino Control Commission is currently reviewing a wish list of regulatory reforms from the Casino Association. New Jersey needs a regulatory environment that helps business. For example, the DEP needs to show flexibility in allowing casinos to erect beach bars, again a sound business idea that takes advantage of our ocean view. Currently, casinos have to remove their beach bars at the end of the season at great expense.
5. Petition the federal government to allow sports betting. New Jersey will soon see the loss of more patrons once sports betting becomes operational in Delaware. While Atlantic City offers more amenities than Delaware, it would need to offer this form of gaming to stay competitive.
6. Identify ways to increase funding for marketing. Atlantic City is an international destination with a regional advertising budget. While the CRDA has plenty of money for bricks and mortar, we need to find additional dollars to promote Atlantic City.
7. A firm commitment from state government to support the development of the Revel site. The Revel resort is part of the next wave of development in Atlantic City. Despite the global tightening of the credit market, Revel continues to move forward as best as possible. With proper support from New Jersey, Revel can continue to pursue investors. A completed Revel resort would be the best incentive to lure back Pinnacle and MGM to Atlantic City and resume their plans for resorts.
8. Support A-3598. This bill would extend Neighborhood Revitalization Tax Credit Program eligibility to Atlantic City. The act currently offers business entities tax credits of up to 100 percent of the approved assistance provided to a nonprofit organization to implement a qualified neighborhood preservation and revitalization project. The program is designed to improve the housing and economic conditions of neighborhoods and foster the rehabilitation and construction of housing affordable to low and moderate income households within the neighborhood, as well as provide for related activities. At the present time, program eligibility is limited to neighborhoods located in municipalities eligible to receive aid under the “Special Municipal Aid Act.”

9. Support A-4177. This bill would provide for off-site public access and setback waivers for certain coastal developments and establish a standard for determining filled water's edge. Coastal communities need regulatory flexibility to develop distressed areas. Current DEP regulations make sensible development difficult.

10. Ensure the CRDA supports regional economic development projects like Atlantic City Regional Transportation Plan, Workforce Housing Investment/Development Plan, Atlantic City International Airport, the Aviation Research and Technology Park, and the Atlantic City Expressway Corridor and allow CRDA funds to be used to market and promote Atlantic City.