



State nominee wants changes to group homes

YOUR REGION, 5A

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A man rides an e-bike east on Newark Avenue in Jersey City in October 2025. KEVIN R. WEXLER/NORTHJERSEY.COM

Are we making it easier or harder for carless residents?

Colleen Wilson
NorthJersey.com
USA TODAY NETWORK

Navigating New Jersey without a car is not new for Seton Hall University student Jasai Howard-Wright, who grew up without one, but the 19-year-old said in the past few years it's become much more difficult — and expensive — to do so.

He recently had to take a \$50 Uber ride to Montclair State University because NJ Transit doesn't run trains there on weekends.

For a class research project at the Metropolitan Museum of Art in Manhattan, Howard-Wright planned to take the train, but it was going to cost nearly \$20 one way. He decided to take a bus to Newark Penn Station and took the PATH, which cost less but took more than double the time.



Murphy

"The schedules are still the same, the weekend schedules are still horrible, fares have actually gone up, and we haven't seen any good experiences or good benefits with the service," he said.

His complaints are not unique. Former Gov. Phil Murphy and the Legislature enacted historic — and onerous — policies in recent years that directly impact people without cars. This is a big deal in New Jersey, where more than 1 in 10 residents don't have a car — the third highest rate of households without a vehicle of any state.

On his last day in office, Jan. 19, Murphy signed the most restrictive cycling legislation in the country, requiring all e-bike users to obtain a license and

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Kim talks Trump, ICE, Gateway at town hall

Katie Sobko
NorthJersey.com
USA TODAY NETWORK — NEW JERSEY

U.S. Sen. Andy Kim stressed the importance of standing up for democracy and the idea of elected officials being public servants instead of benefiting from the policies they implement during a nearly two-hour town hall at St. Stephen AME Zion Church in Asbury Park on Feb. 19.

Kim acknowledged that there are a "lot of different issues that we are struggling through as a country right now" before delving into the hottest-button topics, like the immigration enforcement actions being taken by the Trump administration, cuts to Gateway funding and the reputation of America on the international stage.

"A couple of weeks have passed since we saw the horrific shootings of Alex Pretti and Renee Good, but I know it still feels very recent. It still feels very fresh to us because we are seeing a level of violence, a level of challenges that we're seeing as a country that's shaking us to core in so many ways," he said.

The senator spoke of the inflammatory rhetoric of Trump officials after their own immigration and customs officers killed the two Americans in Minnesota last month and said that as someone who has been to Delaney Hall, the detention center in Newark, where "for-profit companies are making millions of dollars on the industrialization of human misery."

He said part of the problem is that there is an ecosystem of corruption, such as the ties between Delaney Hall owners the Geo Group and Trump official Tom Homan.

Kim said that ICE is trying to purchase a warehouse in Roxbury to "further enable the type of actions" they've taken in other parts of the country and that if that comes to pass, what is happening in Minneapolis could happen here. He called White House deputy chief of staff for policy and homeland security Stephen Miller the "most dangerous person

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Kean wants 'workable solution' for ICE warehouse

William Westhoven
Morristown Daily Record
USA TODAY NETWORK — NEW JERSEY

Rep. Tom Kean Jr. is responding to criticism from the Roxbury council and others who say he failed to support their efforts to resist the purchase of a massive local warehouse by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement for use as a detention facility.

"I understand the frustration and emotion this situation has created," Kean wrote in an email to the Daily Record. "We need to, and will, keep a level head as we continue to work constructively to deliver results."

The statement from Kean, a Republican representing Roxbury in New Jersey's 7th District, comes the morning after the Roxbury council confirmed that ICE

had closed on the 470,000-square-foot facility, long-rumored to be on its list of proposed detention facilities around the country.

The scathing statement from the all-Republican council expressed its frustration that "Throughout this process, Roxbury officials communicated our legitimate concerns to every level of government."

"Despite repeated outreach, our federal representative, Congressman Tom Kean Jr., did not engage to the level we had hoped to provide the advocacy our residents deserved," the council wrote.

Kean disputed that accusation, writing, "We worked closely with officials in Roxbury and engaged directly with the highest levels of DHS on their behalf,"

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An ICE facility has been proposed for a vacant warehouse on Route 46 in Roxbury. The building is shown on Feb. 5. THOMAS P. COSTELLO/ASBURY PARK PRESS

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