

# Views on ethanol evolve as food issues, others crop up

investigated and shows some promise. Completely different types of alternative fuel vehicles, such as those using fuel cells, are also coming into their own. Ethanol fuel of any kind may prove to be the most efficient alternative and too costly to produce because of high energy requirements.

By **SETH GROSSMAN**  
Political Columnist

*T. L. ... New Jersey State Constitution VIII, 2.3.*

Last June, 21 of 40 New Jersey Senators and 42 of 80 Assembly members voted to borrow \$3.9 billion without voter approval. This was to build new schools that were supposed to be built with \$8.6 billion borrowed by the state six years ago. (Atlantic County Democratic Sen. James Whelan voted to borrow the money. Cape May County Democrats Senator Van Drew and Assemblymen Albano and Mylam voted no. Atlantic County Republican Assemblymen Amodeo and Polistina abstained.)

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That debt will be added to New Jersey's previous borrowings totaling \$40 billion. And don't forget the \$25 billion worth of unfunded pensions and \$58 billion obligation for "free" health care benefits for retired public school teachers and government employees. That will give New Jersey \$123 billion of "liabilities" with no money set aside to pay for them.

Only \$3 billion was submitted and approved by voters pursuant to New Jersey's Constitution. The rest was not. Because of this, even New Jersey's left-leaning Supreme Court admits that the legislature can repudiate, or refuse to make payments on, that \$120 billion and 7s 0.034 Tc0.1249 rep that will make the subprime mortgage crisis seem mild. Hundreds of thousands of private investors and dozens of mutual and pension funds will see money. Voters loved getting something for nothing, and had no problem re-electing politicians they knew were corrupt.

But with a few exceptions (like the Erie Canal), government-financed, "no money down" debt, and the borrowed money never got paid around the nation, and nearly a dozen states refused to pay their debts. Five years of unemployment and economic depression became so angry at their politicians changed most state constitutions so this could happen again. New Jersey was the only one to change.

New Jersey's new Constitution of 1947, which politicians could no longer borrow money without voter approval; local governments could no longer take gifts, loans, "investments" or tax money from any selected groups or individuals; and government favors would be equally distributed to everybody, or offered to nobody; state and local governments were prohibited from investing public money in private enterprises.

These basic reforms of New Jersey's Constitution of 1844 worked brilliantly in other states and most states for more than 120 years, minimizing corruption in government and made our country prosperous. Since 1968, New Jersey's Supreme Court has destroyed the words of 1844 Constitution. They created loopholes that have destroyed its effectiveness. Thanks to them, the disaster of 1837 can now happen

By **SHARON SCHULMAN**

*B. ... W. ... J. H. ... C. ... R. ... S. ... C. ... N. ... J. ... O. ... O.*

Though prices at the pump have eased a bit in recent weeks, fuel surcharges are showing up on many of the products we use in our jobs and daily life. Reports of food price increases and shortages keep cropping up (excuse the pun). The traffic count on state highways is down, and so are Jersey Shore visitors. Talk of alternative fuels and vehicles continues to abound. Using ethanol as an alternative fuel continues to be discussed. Ethanol plants are proposed for southern New Jersey.

Where do our presumptive presidential candidates stand on using ethanol as the biofuel of the future? The answer is: it depends on what kind of ethanol and who produces it.

A couple of months ago the positions of Senator

Obama and Senator McCain were opposite and clear: McCain wanted sugarcane-based ethanol.

McCain favors cane-based ethanol because it burns more efficiently and does not divert 25 percent of the country's corn production away from corn grown for the table and into a type that is used only for fuel. McCain is against the tariff that makes it expensive to get cane-based ethanol from South America and is against "isolationist tariffs and wasteful special interest subsidies" ([www.johnmccain.com](http://www.johnmccain.com), June 30, 2008).

Usually, McCain is critical of government support of the ethanol industry, but hedged a bit while campaigning for the Iowa

Both McCain and Obama have modified their positions on ethanol. McCain is not just the one idea of cane- or corn-based ethanol and now encourage the development of cellulosic ethanol and other promising alternative vehicles. However, their economic stances have not changed: Obama remains supportive of incentives, and McCain remains supportive of a free market developing the right fuels and vehicles.

And here is where they continue to agree: both take strong positions that would improve fuel economy by the automakers and encourage the development of alternate fuels and alternate means of transportation.

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