



NEWS RELEASE



Route 9, New Gretna, NJ 08224
Phone 609-296-6000
Fax 609-296-4762

Contact: Chris Landry
609-296-6000; extension 1438
clandry@vikingyachts.com

Viking, New Jersey Marine Industry Endorse Jack Ciattarelli for Governor

NEW GRETNA, N.J. – Oct. 17, 2025 – Led by Viking, New Jersey marine businesses are backing Jack Ciattarelli for governor, citing his leadership, policy decisions and support for working families, manufacturers and the state's boating and fishing industries.

"He's an incredible leader who truly understands what it takes to keep manufacturing strong in New Jersey," said Viking President and CEO Pat Healey. "Jack will stand behind our boatbuilders and their families so they can live, work and thrive right here in this great state."

During a visit this week to the Viking plant, Ciattarelli greeted hundreds of boatbuilders as they left for the day. He then toured the production lines and discussed key issues to protect manufacturing, fight for working families and keep jobs in New Jersey.

Healey showed Ciattarelli the production lines, noting that Viking's New Gretna facility is comprised of nearly 1 million square feet of manufacturing space, stretching a quarter mile. He explained that building one of Viking's large yachts takes close to a year from start to finish, involving hundreds of skilled craftsmen across multiple disciplines.

Healey also highlighted the strength and diversity of Viking's workforce, noting that many of its boatbuilders are second- and third-generation employees from Hispanic American and Vietnamese American families. "These men and women are the heart of Viking," Healey said. "Their craftsmanship and pride are what make our boats the best in the world."

"For over six decades, the Viking Yacht Company and the Healey family have been the gold standard for a successful, recreational boatbuilding business, employing thousands of hard-working New Jerseyans," said Ciattarelli. "In doing so, they have helped these talented men and women create their own American Dream

right here in the Garden State. It was my honor to tour their facility and meet and speak with employees. I am eager to help Viking - and other manufacturers - grow and thrive in New Jersey as governor.”

One of the key topics of discussion was the sharp rise in commercial energy costs that have driven up Viking’s utility expenses. Ciattarelli pledged to fight for lower electric and utility bills for residents and businesses, promoting affordable, reliable energy that keeps manufacturers competitive and helps working families make ends meet.

With housing, property taxes and everyday expenses escalating, Healey emphasized the need for policies that allow working families to stay in New Jersey rather than seek opportunity in lower-cost states. Both leaders agreed that keeping the state affordable is essential to maintaining a skilled workforce. Ciattarelli reiterated his commitment to cutting income and property taxes and improving the state’s overall business climate.

Healey and Ciattarelli discussed the importance of sustaining New Jersey’s manufacturing base. Healey noted that Viking’s success depends on a stable, skilled workforce and business-friendly leadership that supports growth. “Our company has been here for 61 years,” Healey said. “We want to keep growing here, and that takes leadership that understands what manufacturers need to succeed.”

Ciattarelli has also stood with Viking on several key issues affecting the marine industry. He has opposed offshore wind farm development along the New Jersey coast and joined Viking in its fight against the proposed federal vessel speed rule along the Eastern Seaboard. He weighed in on pending striped bass regulation changes and spoke out against the closure of the bluefin tuna fishery. He also understands Viking’s culture and the sportfishing community, having attended the MidAtlantic tournament in Cape May to support the company and its owners.

“From the Delaware River and Bay to the Atlantic Ocean to the Hudson River, New Jersey is nearly surrounded by water,” said Rick Weber, owner of South Jersey Marina and the MidAtlantic tournament. “Jack understands the marine industry’s importance to the state’s economy and quality of life – and the millions of boaters and anglers who depend on these waters. We’re proud to join Viking Yachts in endorsing him.”

Ciattarelli’s record on marine industry issues has drawn praise from the Marine Trades Association of New Jersey.

“The boating industry in New Jersey supports thousands of jobs, generates billions in revenue and enriches the quality of life for residents and visitors who depend on and cherish our beautiful waterways,” said Melissa Danko, the association’s executive director. “We need a governor who not only supports the industry but also recognizes the unique challenges faced by our businesses. Jack Ciattarelli has proven himself a steadfast ally, committed to advancing policies that strengthen our businesses, support our workforce and protect New Jersey’s waterways, fisheries and infrastructure. With Jack as governor, we can chart a course toward a stronger future for New Jersey’s marine trades.”

Other marine industry companies also support Ciattarelli, including George Robinson, owner of Chart House Marine Electronics & Outfitting, South Jersey Yacht Sales & Service Center and Atlantic Horizon Capital. “Mr. Ciattarelli recognizes the vital role that waterfront tourism and the recreational marine industry play in our state’s economy,” said Robinson. “His commitment to supporting and promoting this sector aligns with the values and mission of our businesses.”

Robinson added: “The yacht sales and marine service industries support countless family-owned businesses across New Jersey, from restaurants and tackle shops to service centers and more. With Jack Ciattarelli’s leadership, we are confident that New Jersey will see improved access to waterways, better support for our

fisheries and a revitalization of our coastal economy. We believe that with Jack's vision, New Jersey's marine tourism industry will thrive."

That sentiment is shared by Greg Cudnik, owner of Fisherman's Headquarters on Long Beach Island (LBI). "From jobs and the economy to energy policy, overdevelopment and especially our fisheries, Jack understands the challenges we face here in New Jersey," said Cudnik. "He recognizes the critical issues impacting our state and has a clear plan to address them. It feels like just yesterday I was riding the bus with him to the starting point of the LBI Bridge Walk to raise awareness about the offshore wind boondoggle. He was on the right side of it from the beginning – and he's been along for the entire hard, bumpy ride. It shows his true character."

A lifelong New Jersey resident, Jack Ciattarelli was born in Somerville and raised in Raritan. A small business owner and experienced legislator, he understands the challenges facing working families and manufacturers across the state. Ciattarelli earned both a bachelor's degree in accounting and an MBA in finance from Seton Hall University before founding two Main Street businesses in New Jersey. He later served three terms in the New Jersey General Assembly, where he built a reputation for fiscal responsibility and pragmatic leadership. His proven commitment to lowering taxes, reducing energy costs and fostering a business-friendly environment make him the candidate best positioned to revitalize New Jersey's economy and support its skilled workforce.

Founded in 1964, Viking Yachts employs about 1,800 people across its New Gretna and Egg Harbor City facilities, as well as in Florida. The vast majority of every Viking yacht is built in-house – a testament to the company's commitment to quality, American manufacturing and its long-standing mantra of building a better boat every day. Viking remains a family-owned and operated business, now in its 61st year.