

to keep the interests of the regional tourism industry at the top of their agendas.

Polistina, an assemblyman, is challenging incumbent Melan for the Senate seat to represent the district that includes most of Atlantic County.

It has been a nasty campaign, with personal attacks from both sides.

The race also has been the most costly in the state, with candidates raising \$4 million and spending \$5 million by the end of last week. It remained a statistical dead heat, a Stockton College Zyby poll released last week by the William J. Hughes Center for Public Policy at the Richard Stockton College of New Jersey found.

Even the candidates haven't been making negative personal remarks about each other.

New Jersey's tourism business is its third largest industry, behind pharmaceuticals and chemicals. Last year, more than 6 million visitors brought in about \$1 billion. But that overall sum is up just 1 percent from the previous year, and significantly down from before the recession began in 2007. That year, 5 million visitors made tourism a \$1 billion industry in New Jersey.

Since the start of the recession, the state has taken significant steps to promote Atlantic City, including casino deregulation and the creation of the Tourism District and Atlantic City Alliance.

Industry officials did not want to take a stand against either candidate. Bob Giffin, president of the Casino Association of New Jersey, declined comment, while Jeffrey Basser, executive director of the Atlantic City Convention & Visitors Authority, said he would

There may be differences in tone and on the margins of issues between Whelan and Polistina, but he said because of those two bills, he did



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Dotty Jenkins · Top Commenter

"Business leaders expect either 2nd District state Senate candidate to support tourism".

That comment is a no-brainer. As Israel Posner stated, both candidates voted "Yes" on the deregulation bill that was suppose to bring in investors to "reinvent" Atlantic City as a Tourism District. Nine months later, no one invested. Revel received an abatement from the State of New Jersey to complete the project because no one else wanted to take the risk. The "boutique" casinos that Jim Whelan fought so long and hard for will never come to fruition. The deregulation bill that both of these "two qualified" guys fought for cost not only the CCC Inspectors to lose their jobs but also casino employees who happen to be residents of Atlantic County. These "two ... [See More](#)

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Kim White · Works at DEKBON Community Development Corp.

They are both dirty you can't do business in Trenton without getting a little Jersey dirt on your hands , feet, face but WE as the residents of District 2 have to vote on just 1. THINGS THAT MAKE YOU GO UMMM" : Whelan(public service)Tyner(attorney, public service)Cooper(public service).

Polistina(businessman)Amodeo(businessman, publicservice)Brown(businessman).

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Deacon Frank · Top Commenter

I think Jim is as clean as one can get. After all, he spends a lot of time in that big swimming pool. Even though Jim voted with the Tyrant of Trenton, I will give him another chance not to. Power belongs to the people, not to the political machines.  
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... a nasty campaign, with personal attacks from both sides. The race also has been the most costly in the state, with candidates raising \$4.4 million and spending \$3.5 million by the end of last week... | and the question remains, why spend, several months, campaigning and just spending most of that time; making noise and avoiding issues.

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I choice to vote, because neither of these candidates seemed to breach subjects; that effect residents, on a day to day basis, for neither. And just, left that column blank.

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Kimberly Hayes · Paralegal/Legal Assistant at Ackerman & Alsofrom

Senator Whelan you have my vote along with the rest of the column B Team! Lets get AC back to its glory!

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Dave Griffith · Top Commenter · Las Vegas, Nevada

But Polistina is clean. Whelan is dirty.

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