

# Tea Party activists protest on 'unchecked' government, health care bill in N.J.

By [Matt Friedman/Statehouse Bureau](#)

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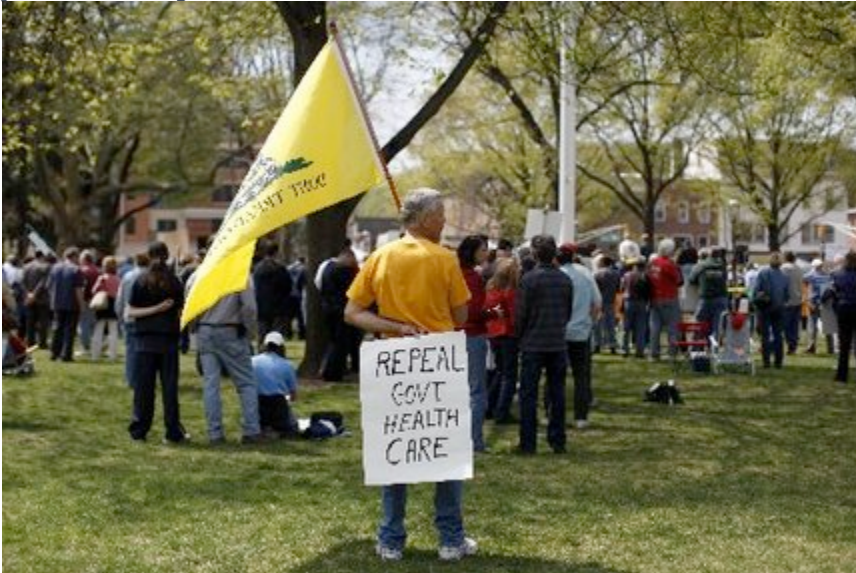
Tea party activists rally around the statehouse in Trenton

[MORRISTOWN](#) -- Tea Party activists today decried what they said was unchecked growth of the federal government during several Tax Day protests in New Jersey.

About 1,200 people gathered on the Morristown Green to hear speeches by "Obama Zombies " author Jason Mattera and conservative columnist Mychael Massie, after a mass recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance and singing of the Star-Spangled Banner.

Among the signs and banners were quotes by Thomas Jefferson and George Washington, warning about the "tyranny" of government.

In Trenton, State Police estimated 300 to 400 protesters attended a four-hour rally in front of the Statehouse. Protesters focused on the recently passed health care bill . Many wanted New Jersey to join a lawsuit against the new law.



Matt Rainey/The Star-

LedgerA Tax Day Tea Party is held on the Morristown Green this morning. Estimating more than a thousand attend the two-hour long rally.

"It's all about liberty," said Brenda Poland, 47, of Brick. "The federal government is becoming a beast."

The Trenton rally's keynote speaker was Steve Lonegan, a conservative activist and former candidate for the Republican nomination for governor who is state director for Americans for Prosperity. His group delivered a 3,000 petition signatures to Gov. Chris Christie urging him to join other states in challenging the constitutionality of the health care bill.

Anita Davis, 54, of Mount Laurel, said that she was gearing up for November, when Tea Party activists hope to elect sympathetic candidates to Congress.

"November is the most important month for this state, because if people do not go out and vote for the change, we're going to be run over," she said .

Booths sold t-shirts that read "Just say no to socialism" and bumper stickers that read "Obama – you'll get used to facism!"