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

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

I has been a nasty campaign, it personal attack from both sides.

The race also has been the most costly in the state, it candidates raising #million and spending #million by the end of last well remained a statistical dead heat, a Stockon College#gby poll released last welby the Wiam J. Highes Center for Public Policy at The Rhard Stockon College of NewJersey found.

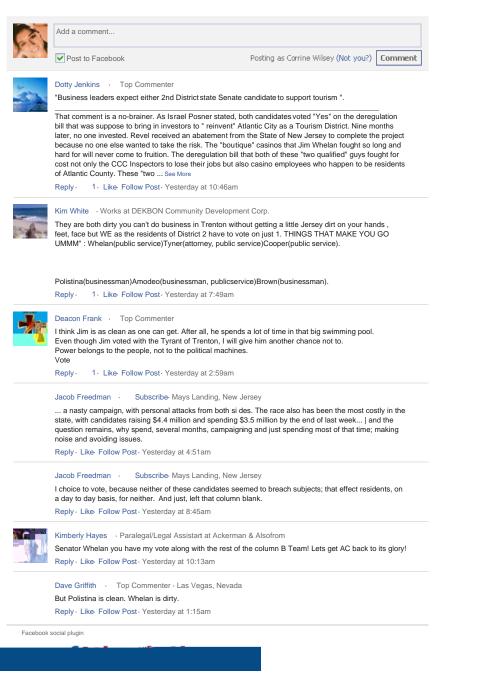
teen the candidates -been they ere not making negative personal remark about each other -erection e

Newfersey's tourism business is its third largest industry, behind pharmaceuticals and chemicals. Ast year, more than a million visitors brought in about billion. But that overall sum is up just 1 percent from the previous year, and significantly dow from bore the recession began in 2007 Wat year, finilion visitors made tourism a billion industry in Newfersey.

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

Industry officials did not wint to tak a stand against either candidate. Bob Effin, president of the Casino Association of Mersey, declined comment, while Jeffrey Asser, executive director of the Atlantic City Convention Asitors Authority, said he wild

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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