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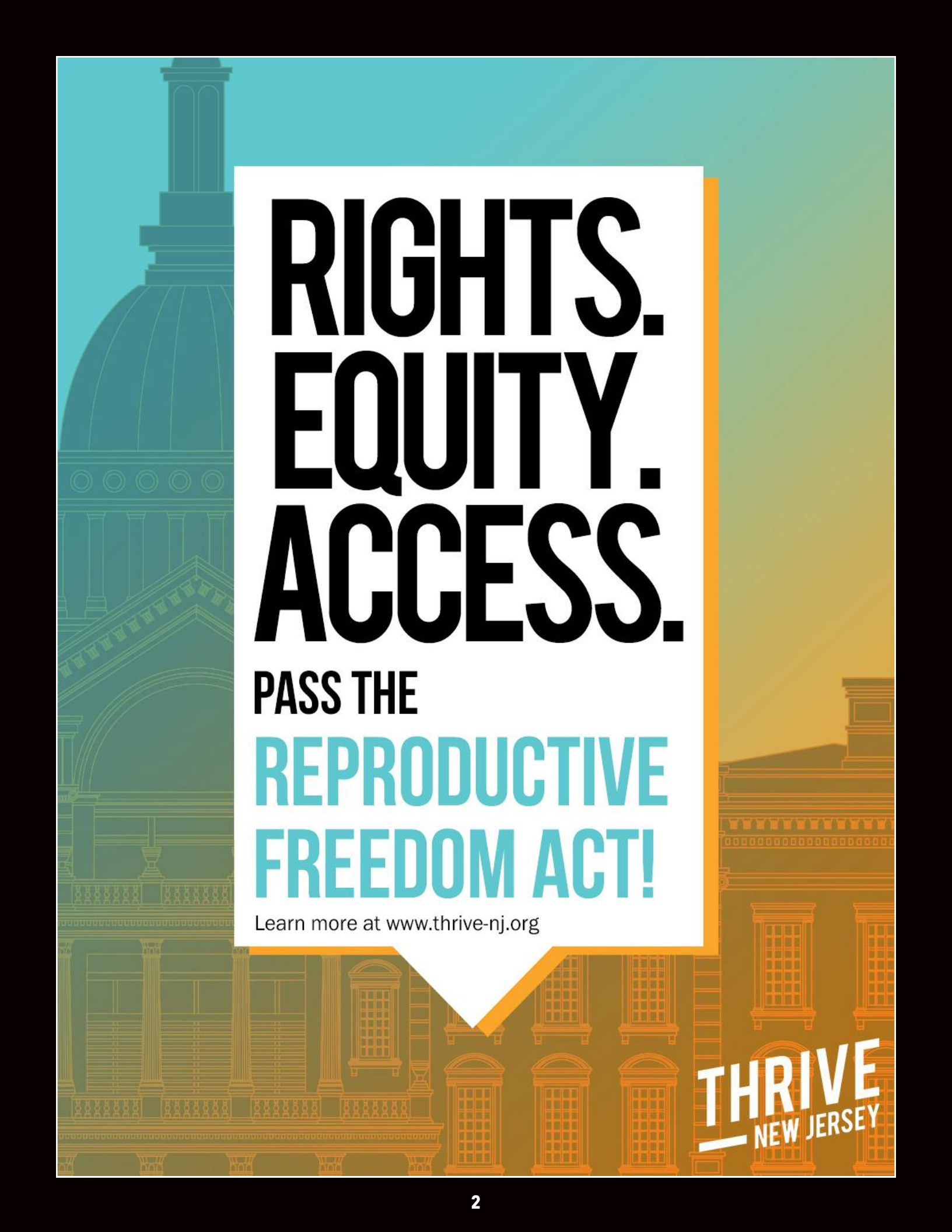
## 2021 **INSIDER 100**

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**INSIDER NJ**

*Message from the Editor*

**INSIDER 100** POLICYMAKERS

## In honor of Abigail “Abbie” Fair

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In honor of policy-grounded activists, we'd like to dedicate this year's InsiderNJ Policymaker's List to the late Abigail “Abbie” Fair of Chatham Township, who worked during her life to preserve the mighty natural resources of North Jersey.

As co-founder off the Great Swamp Watershed Association and as a longtime member of the local township committee, Ms. Fair carried on the work of Helen Fenske, who saved the Great Swamp – the origin of the Passaic and Raritan rivers - from development.

An advocate on water-related issues for the Association of New Jersey Environmental Commissions (ANJEC) for more than two decades. Ms. Fair died on May 17 at the age of 81 in Massachusetts.

I wrote this is 2005:

*Appointed to the Township Planning Board in 1977, Ms. Fair retired from the Township Committee at the end of 2004, having served five, three-year*





*terms in elected office. She spent her public career identifying and seeking to preserve the connection between residents and natural resources, seeing quality of life... as fundamentally tied to the Great Swamp Watershed. Whether it was a proposed four-lane highway on Shunpike Road, the original Sterling Properties project of more than 125 units at Shunpike and Green Village Road, or residential housing units in Green Village, from her earliest days on the Planning Board, Ms. Fair confronted development projects that would have substantially changed the character of the township and the region.*

Friendly with the press, eager to educate, and always substantive, Pennsylvania native Abigail Fair left behind the legacy of a policymaker so strong in her chosen area – so intellectually unbeatable – that she continually won reelection against the odds.

The English architect Christopher Wren once said, “If you seek a monument to me, just look around,” and in the case of Abigail Fair, that monument to her impassioned and scientific is her beloved Green Village, and that life-providing wonder of New Jersey otherwise known as the Great Swamp.

May she rest in peace.

And to those others top minds of this state who labor for the public good in the endless tug of war in a restless domain called New Jersey politics, we salute you with this year’s 2021 list.

*—Max Pizarro, Editor, InsiderNJ*





# CONGRATS *to the* INSIDER 100 POLICYMAKERS!

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# 1 LORETTA WEINBERG

To paraphrase former Assemblyman John Wisniewski, it will be difficult to picture the legislature without Weinberg, who will retire at the end of her current term at the end of 2021. A sharp elbowed political operative, she knew how to use the system to advance her policy interests, which of course include equal rights and opportunity for women and the LGBTQ community. The occasion of the feisty Bergen senator's requirement merits a revisiting here of Wisniewski's insight into his co-chair of the Bridgegate Committee:



“She was respectful of the institution of which she was a part, for that is what enables us to give our constituents a voice. A dark side, and an unfortunate part of politics today is some progressives will say ‘she went over to the dark side’ because she worked, for example, with [Senate President Steve Sweeney]. This notion of qualitative litmus tests, that you are not a progressive unless you do x, y and z and sometimes in that order – the fact is, if you want to accomplish something in a legislative body, there is a time to be Jimmy Stewart in *Mr. Smith Goes to Washington*, standing on a desk, and a time to pick up the phone to have a conversation with someone you’re railing against publicly, to get something done.

“That is something in short supply, but not in the case of Loretta Weinberg, who learned from old school pols, who were relentlessly liberal and made deals – like O’Connor and [former LD37 Senator] Byron Baer. While I think of her in that way, I mourn the loss of experience in the legislative chamber. When you think about the last couple of years, you’re looking at 200 years of legislative experience that has walked out the door. And in these times, when there is a reticence to undertake the risk to stand up and say, ‘I disagree with you,’ a New Jersey Senate without Loretta Weinberg in it leaves you catching your breath.

“What’s that going to be like?”





## 2 SHEILA OLIVER

The state's Lieutenant Governor and Commissioner of the Department of Community Affairs – a former Speaker of the Assembly – has one of the most extensive policy backgrounds in the state. She's also not afraid to dive into the fray, as she proved this year when she wrote a letter resisting Camden County's efforts to assume responsibility for the City of Camden's finances. "Our ultimate goal in Camden is to build capacity so they can be locally governed," Oliver told InsiderNJ. "We're not interested in stripping municipalities of local control. That is not the best thing for Camden."



## 3 BILL MULLEN

Head of the state's Building Trades, Mullen is not only a fierce labor advocate but an expert on labor issues – and he has – as always – the ear of Senate President Steve Sweeney (D-3).





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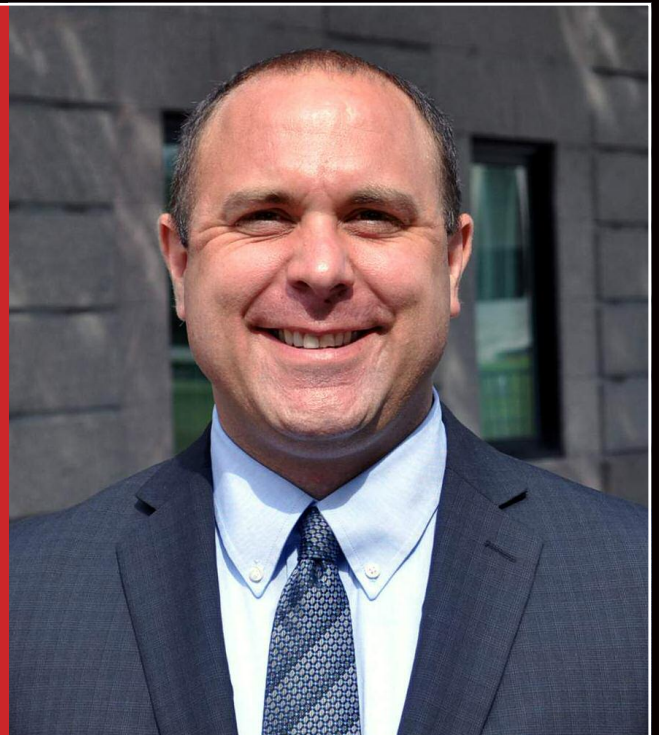
# 4 DIANA HOUEYOU

Chair of the New Jersey Cannabis Regulatory Commission. Appointed by Governor Murphy, Houenou works with other members of the commission to regulate newly legalized cannabis in the state of New Jersey. Fun fact: She speaks fluent French.



# 5 KEVIN DRENNAN

Executive Director at New Jersey Senate Democrats and Office of the Senate President at New Jersey Senate Democrats. Originally from Bayonne, the long-serving right-hand operator at the side of Senate President Sweeney remains one of the most policy-grounded individuals in the state.





# 6 JUDITH PERSICILLI

Commissioner of the Department of Health. Maybe you've heard of her. Murphy came to his job of governor with money, but without any experience, which at the height of the COVID-19 crisis in particular made his reliance on Persichilli – a nurse by trade with years of experience as a healthcare executive – crucial.



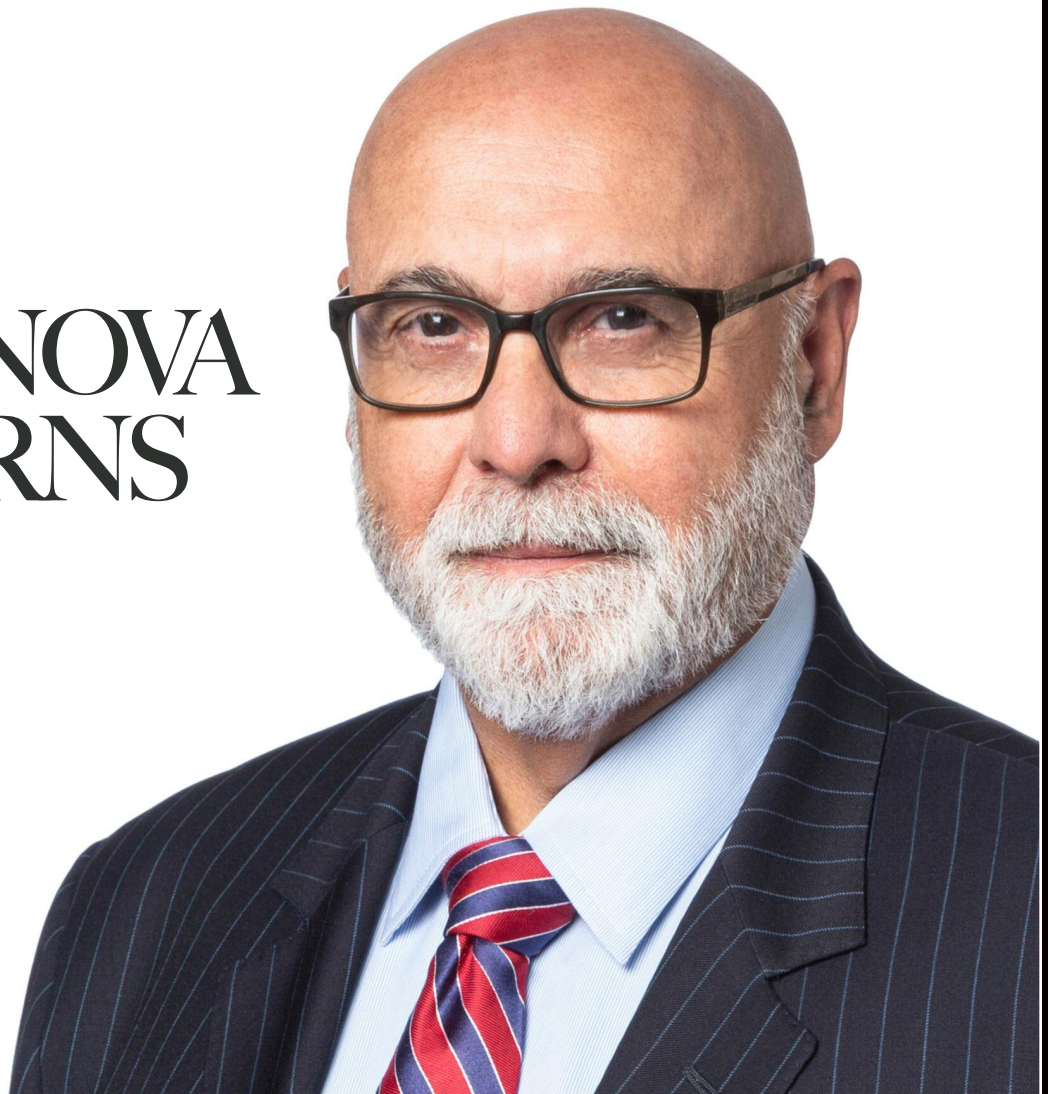
# 7 ED LISFSHIFTZ

The private practice Rutgers University veteran serves as medical director of the New Jersey Department of Health and Senior Services, Communicable Disease Service, a critical forward position player during the COVID-19 crisis.





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# 8 ANDREW BRUCK

Acting Attorney General for the State of New Jersey. The successor to AG Gurbir Grewal, Bruck spent five years at the U.S. Department of Justice, where he served as an Assistant U.S. Attorney at the U.S. Attorney's Office for the District of New Jersey, and held several roles in the office of Deputy Attorney General Sally Yates, including Senior Counsel, Deputy Chief of Staff, and Acting Chief of Staff.

Before joining the Department of Justice, Bruck worked as a litigation associate in the New York office of Davis Polk & Wardwell and clerked for Chief Justice Stuart Rabner of the New Jersey Supreme Court. He is a graduate of Princeton University and Stanford Law School.







# 9 BOB HENNELLY

One of journalism's prized possessions, investigative reporter Bob Hennelly has occupied a relentless forward position on every major issue of our time: from housing to healthcare, from education, economics, and social justice, to voting rights and labor. A specialist in drilling down into the core of where real people live and work, Hennelly gathers his materials on the ground, to unleash the toughest, most uncomfortable questions on those at the top of the ivory tower power chain. While much of our contemporary media protects the status quo, Hennelly can be found rummaging through the back alleys and ravaged, foreclosed-on, job and food-deprived neighborhoods of Newark and New York City, using his own reporting as the brick and mortar to ram the complacent underpinnings of the country on behalf of working-class people. To those who have long depended on his pieces, his new book, *StuckNation* gathers the marrow of Hennelly's work into one sustained, impassioned, and always detail-oriented argument, and serves as a primer for those who will no doubt find themselves returning often for more from the workshop of a master.

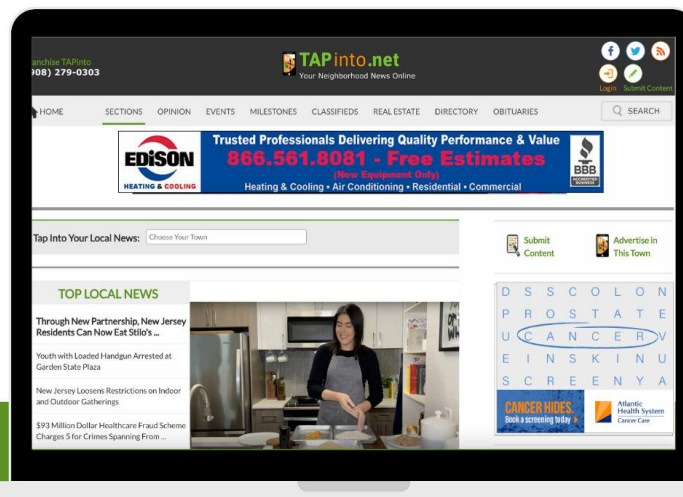




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# 10 CHRISTINA TAN

The State's Epidemiologist is among the handful of individuals in the vicinity of New Jersey politics who actually radiates "educated." How's this for an academic resume: -A.B. in History from Princeton University in 1992; MD from Icahn School of Medicine at Mt. Sinai; MS in Public Health from Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health; Residency in Internal Medicine/Primary Care at New York University Medical Center.



# 11 GEORGE HELMY

Chief of Staff, Governor Phil Murphy. The Harvard-educated wonk deserves credit for dumbing himself down enough to convince long-serving legislative leadership staffers that they're smarter than he is, which has had the supposedly public-interest effect of soothing egos and unruffling a sufficient number of feathers in time for the governor's (and the legislature's) 2021 reelection effort.





# 12 SHIRLEY TILGHMAN

Co-Chair (with Merck CEO Kenneth Frazier) of Murphy's Restart and Recovery Commission. The former Princeton University President (2001-2013) teaches molecular biology and public policy at Princeton.



# 13 MARCIA MARLEY

Head of the state's progressive movement, Marley – who has a PhD in economics from the University of California at Berkeley – serves as president of BlueWaveNJ, occupies a position on the New Jersey Policy Perspective Board of Trustees, and, critically, a seat on the revitalized Economic Development Authority (EDA), which needed some policy – and moral – authority after getting run into the ground during the Christie years.







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LATINA CIVIC PAC PRESIDENT



# 14 JEFF BRINDLE

A true public servant, the Executive Director of the Election Law Enforcement Commission (ELEC) spends as much time teaching and explaining the nuances of election law as he does enforcing it, accomplishing the double impact of chastising thugs *and* making better citizens.



# 15 PARIMAL GARG

When Matt Platkin left the Murphy Administration last year, Garg stepped up to become the governor's new chief counsel. Formerly having clerked for state Supreme Court Justice Stuart Rabner, Garg received his B.A. from Georgetown University, magna cum laude, and J.D. from Harvard Law School, cum laude.







# 16 DR. ZAKIYA SMITH ELLIS

Chief Policy Advisor to the Governor, Smith Ellis holds a bachelor's degree in political science and secondary education from Vanderbilt University, a master's degree in education policy and management from the Harvard Graduate School of Education, and a doctorate in higher education management from the University of Pennsylvania.



# 17 EVAN WEISS

He's in the policy shop at the governor's office and a go-to person on finance and budgeting.



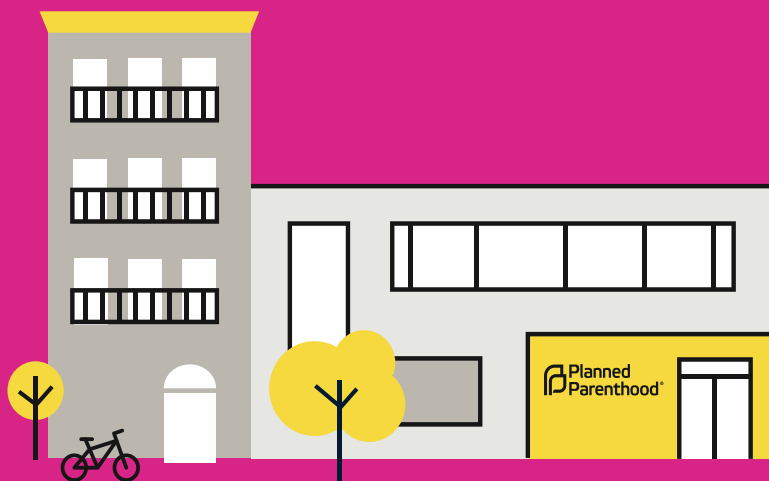


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# 18 DEBORAH CORNAVACA

Governor Murphy's Deputy Chief of Staff of Outreach clearly channels policy more than politics, which probably makes her incomprehensible to most of the political insiders with whom she has to communicate. But she's done the time, both as a community organizer and as lobbyist, for nearly two decades, with the academic credentials to back it up: cum laude from Dartmouth College, and a masters and Ph.D. from UCLA in Anthropological Archaeology with a specialization in Latin American cultures prior to Spanish contact, where she was a Fulbright scholar.



# 19 KATE MCDONELL

The highly valued Deputy Chief Counsel for Governor Murphy served as General Counsel to the Assembly Majority Office for eight years, and before that worked as Associate General Counsel in the Majority Office.





# 20 MICHELE SIEKERKA

The President of the New Jersey Business and Industry Association serves the state's private sector employee and business sector base. Tough, brainy, and effective.



# 21 SKIP CIMINO

The Executive Director of the Assembly Majority Office – a former Assemblyman from Hamilton – knows where the policy bodies are buried, a key step up from the usual New Jersey expertise in Trenton.



# 22 JENNIFER TAYLOR

The lead Democratic aide for the Assembly Appropriations Committee is New Jersey's go-to person for all budget-related issues in Trenton.





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# 23 JOE FIORDALISO

The President of the Board of Public Utilities had a contender for line of the year in 2020 when he said in the aftermath of Hurricane Isaias, “New Jersey got literally whacked.”



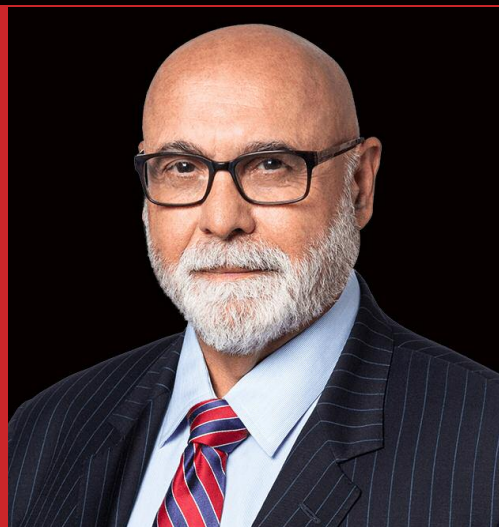
# 24 LIZ MUOIO

New Jersey’s Treasurer served as an LD15 assemblywoman from Pennington prior to going to the Murphy Administration. Cogent, clear-headed, professional.



# 25 ANGELO GENOVA

The state’s foremost election law attorney, look for the veteran legal mind to engage as the crisis of the current elections intensify. Just pray you don’t find the courtroom pitbull on the other side of a battle line.





# 26 JOHN REITMEYER

Lowkey, but with a hockey player's brooding intensity under the supposedly nerdy exterior, the veteran reporter for NJ Spotlight is the state's fourth estate expert on all New Jersey budget issues.



# 27 RENEE STEINHAGEN

A fierce, public interest advocate with a relentless pressure game short on nonsense and long on policy. The Executive Director at New Jersey Appleseed Public Interest Law Center played an aggressive role in ferreting out the details of the non-transparently legislative leadership-rammed Horizon restricting bill.



# 28 JANE COHEN

Governor Phil Murphy's Maplewood-based Senior Policy Advisor has her roots in government, international affairs and human rights, with expert focal points in energy, environment and climate policy, international relations, and investigative research. Proficient in Mandarin Chinese and French.



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# 29 DIANE GUTTIERREZ SCACCETTI

Well-respected as an infrastructure expert at precisely the time when New Jersey must spread around federal infrastructure rescue monies. New Jersey's Department of Transportation commissioner has the distinction of being a real policy expert and rip-roaring wonk, as opposed to merely a political operative plugging a position.



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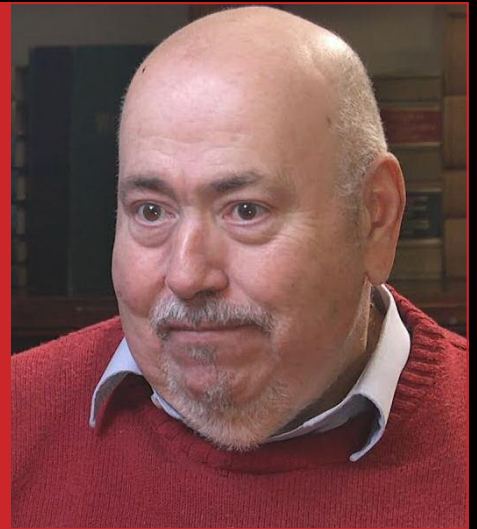
# 30 BRANDON MCKOY

Established for progressive politics as a go-to thought-leader, the President and chief executive of NJPP has also emerged as the state's leading millennial voice in the shaping of progressive policy.



# 31 JOE DORIA

Along with state senator Bernard "Bernie" Kenny, the former Speaker, former Department of Community Affairs Commissioner, and former Mayor of Bayonne is Hudson's leading intellectual light on policy matters. He's got that Jesuit vibe about him, which combines book-learning and missionary zeal.



# 32 RYAN HAYGOOD

The president and CEO of the New Jersey Institute for Social Justice (the "Institute") seeks the empowerment of at-risk urban communities, and can be found with a finger in the chest of power on any number of fronts.





# 33 STACI BERGER

The President of Housing Community Development Network, has the respect of her peers for her work on all housing issues, including saving the Affordable Housing Trust fund money for the last three years, her partnership with the Legislative Black Caucus, and work on the People's Bill and all tenant and landlord relief bills. She's also a bonified progressive resistance leader in her hometown of Piscataway.



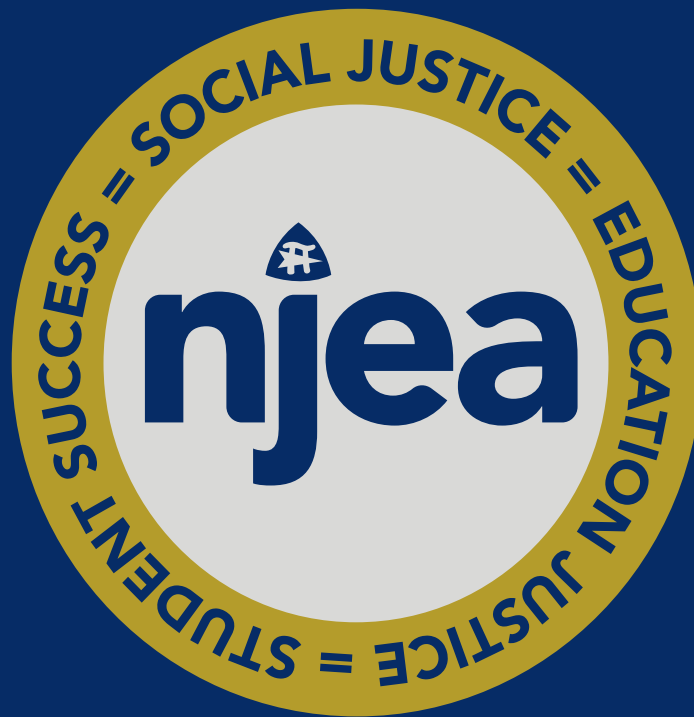
# 34 SEAN SPILLER

The Vice President of the powerful New Jersey Education Association (NJEA) this year added Mayor of Montclair to his considerable body of political and government work. He's also waiting in the wings to succeed Marie Blistan, who ended up making peace with Senate President Sweeney. Will the war start all over again under Spiller's leadership?





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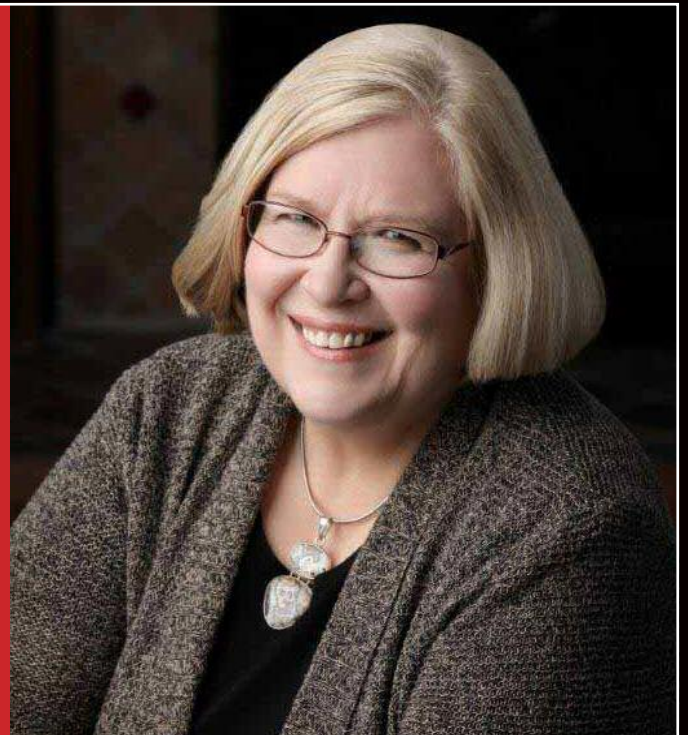
# 35 TIM SULLIVAN

The Chief Executive Officer of the New Jersey Economic Development Authority (NJEDA) comes from New York, where he served as Chief of Staff to the New York City Deputy Mayor for Economic Development. Since then, he's worked in New Jersey, as we try to get out from under the neighboring economic engine of New York.



# 36 CECILIA ZALKIND

The President and Chief Executive Officer of Advocates for Children of New Jersey stands at the forefront of key policy advances in child welfare, early care and education and health care in New Jersey.





# 37 CHARLES BOYER

The founding director of Salvation and Social Justice had the state's attention during the cannabis legalization debacle, commanding his position at the pulpit to ensure the legislature's handiwork didn't merely fill up the coffers of the legislature.



# 38 SONIA DELGADO

A former policy analyst with the New Jersey Senate Majority Office, Delgado is one of the state's healthcare systems experts. Prior to joining PPAG—Princeton Public Affairs Group in 1999, Delgado held senior executive positions at HIP Health Plan, UMDNJ-University Hospital, and Mercy Health Plan of New Jersey.

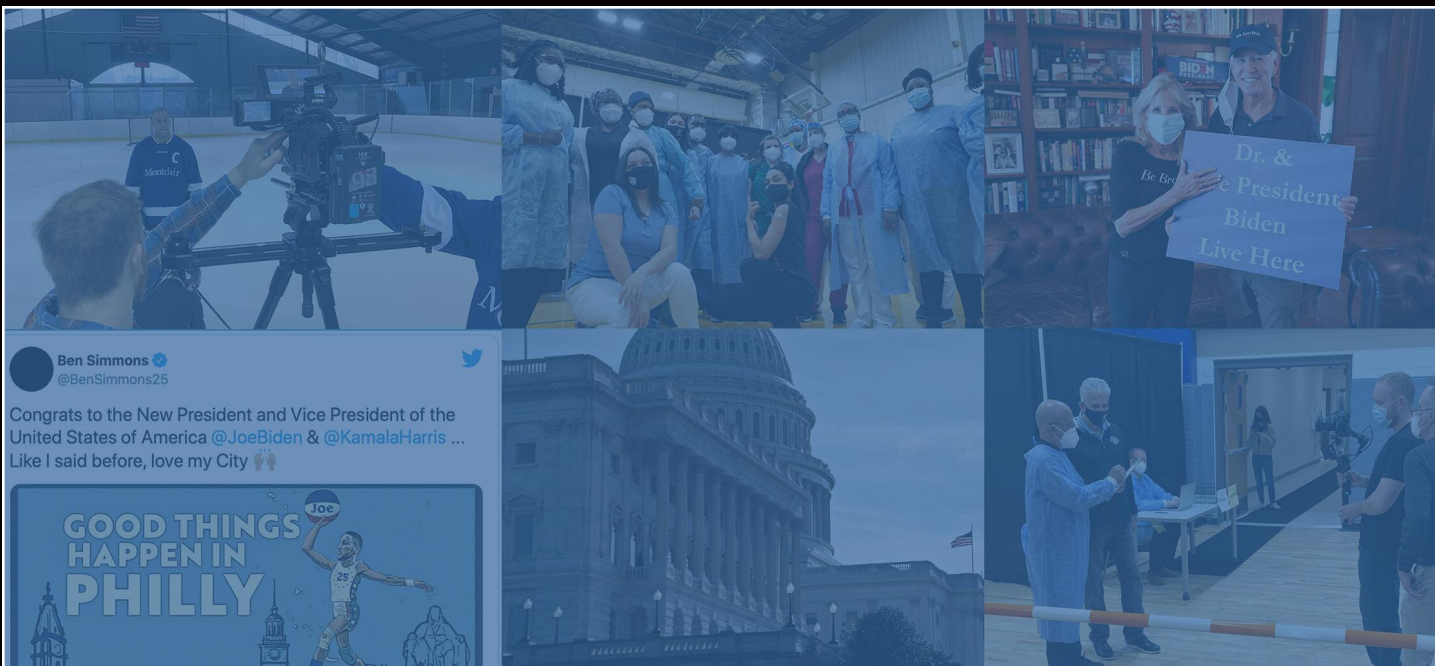


# 39 JEH JOHNSON

The former Secretary of Homeland Security occupies a seat on Governor Murphy's Restart and Recovery Commission.







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# 40 LISA JACKSON

Another bigshot from the Obama Administration reanimated in Murphy World, Jackson served as administrator of the national Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). Now she also sits on Murphy's Restart and Recovery Commission.



# 41 DAVID BANDER

The bow-tied policy office Executive Director at the Department of Labor and Workforce Development – former chief of staff to Senator Linda Greenstein – offers the whole package of policy and political expertise. One of the brightest minds in the state.



# 42 PAT COLLIGAN

The NJ State Police Benevolent Association President is an in-the-trenches trained expert on public pensions and benefits, and provides critical overarching insight to power players into police reform issues at a critical time in law enforcement history.





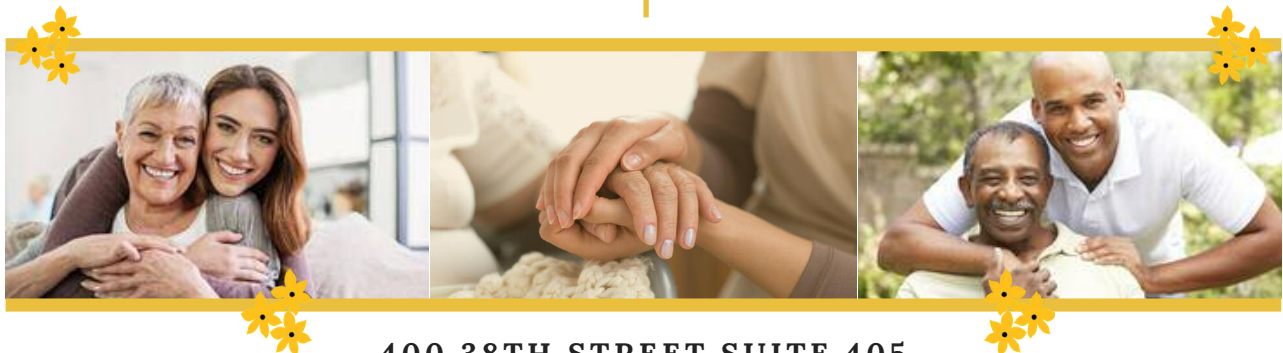
# 43 TERESA RUIZ

No one knows more – or expresses righteous indignation more vociferously – about the gulf of opportunity between urban and suburban schools than the chair of the state Senate Education Committee. Keep an eye on Ruiz as a future U.S. Senator.



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# 44 SHIRLEY TURNER

What were you doing as insurrectionists tried to bury the country? While idiots wrapped in Confederate flags and wearing minotaur headdresses stormed the U.S. Capitol in 2020, the former chair of the Senate Education Committee continued to press forward with legislation to prioritize civics education.

Governor Murphy signed (S854), requiring civics instruction at the middle school level. Currently, New Jersey is one of a minority of states which does not require civics instruction for middle school students.

Under the legislation, the New Jersey Center for Civic Education at Rutgers University will be directed to prepare civics curriculum guidelines for local school boards, ensuring that middle and high school students study the values and principles underlying the American system of constitutional democracy, the function of government, and the role of a citizen in a democratic society. Now we can be just like those other states, hopefully not the ones who dispatched the bulk of Constitution-waving morons to the capitol.





# 45 PATRICK MURRAY

The head of the Monmouth University Polling Institute built his seaside operation into one of the country's most discussed and respected polling institutions.



# 46 LARRY HAMM

The indefatigable Princeton University-educated Hamm took it to the streets (again, and again and again) this year to press the legislature to enable municipalities to create civilian review boards with subpoena power. Under pressure from law enforcement, lawmakers backed away from posting the bill – but they won't be able to control Hamm, who won't let the issue die.



# 47 CATHERINE TUNG

Senior Policy Analyst at the New Jersey Assembly Majority Office. She staffs a few committees for the Assembly Majority Office (Commerce and Economic Development; Science, Innovation, and Technology; and Infrastructure and Natural Resources), and this past year really focused on economic development and recovery. She worked on the tax incentive bill that was designed to diversify EDA's economic development toolkit to support sustainable growth, as well as many business assistance bills to ensure small business well-being during and after the pandemic.





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# 48 JOHN MCKEON

A legal brain and the natural heir to intellectual heavy hitters from another era like Wilfredo Caraballo and Joe Doria, the Assemblyman from the 27th District automatically enters any discussion about attorney general whenever a vacancy occurs.



# 49 BRITNEE TIMBERLAKE

Routinely talked about as a successor to U.S. Rep. Donald Payne, Jr. (D-10), the East Orange-based Assemblywoman from the 34th District took the lead on landlord-tenant justice issues in the COVID-19 era.



# 50 SHEREEF ELNAHAL

The 21st Commissioner of the New Jersey Department of Health in the State of New Jersey in July 2019 he became president/CEO of University Hospital in Newark. And he's only 36.





# 51 SHOSHANNA PAGE

Senior policy adviser to Newark Mayor Ras Baraka. The son of the legendary Amiri Baraka, the mayor basically speaks in Walt Whitman-like free verse poetic phrases, which requires someone like Page – not a typically grunting under dweller of the NJ political scene – to interpret as policy.



# 52 AMOL SINHA

The Executive Director of the ACLU-NJ, Sinha touts a background in journalism and law and is regarded by his peers as a constitutional rights expert.



# 53 BRIAN P. STACK

The state senator from the 33rd District had one of the biggest policy victories of his legislative career this year when he successfully shepherded legislation that would allow municipalities to prohibit evictions due to renters being unable to pay during the COVID-19 pandemic. Now he can finally say he's all about politics and policy.







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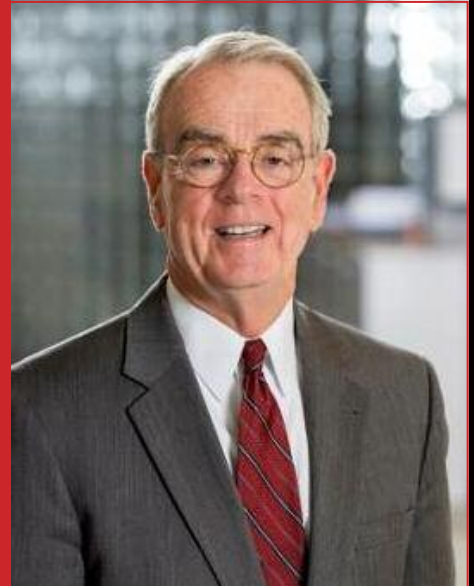






# 54 JOE HAYDEN

We're biased – Hayden serves as InsiderNJ's legal adviser – but the celebrated criminal defense attorney possesses one of the best legal – and lethal – minds in the state and has the moral foundation to match. During the Civil Rights era, Hayden drove down to Alabama to march at the side of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.



# 55 JEANNINE LARUE

A former elected official, lobbyist, educator, healthcare executive, and government official, she lives at the nexus of NJ politics. LaRue has served as one of Senate Majority Leader Loretta Weinberg's go-to people.



# 56 JENNIFER SCIORTINO

Former Statehouse veteran Sciortino, an active community member with years of government experience, who currently serves as Communications Director for the NJ Department of the Treasury, this year scored a seat on the Bordentown City Commission.





# 57 SABEEN MASIH

Vice President of Public Affairs, proved a critical voice on Senator Weinberg's working group to improve the workplace for women in New Jersey.



# 58 SHANE MITCHELL

Senate Majority Leader Weinberg's legislative director commands respect as a quiet but detail-oriented insider.



# 59 LUKE WOLFF

A frontline staffer on the budget – a go-to guy on Senate Budget and Appropriations - he's so good that people have taken to just having him explain it to them rather than labor through the numbers.





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# 60 TARA COLTON

Executive Vice President for Special Projects at the New Jersey Economic Development Authority (NJEDA). As the system absconds with people's tax dollars, and Legislative leadership attempts to figure out how to keep its dream of domination alive, Colton's actually doing something substantive and humane. She's acting to eliminate New Jersey's urban food desert crisis in cities like Camden, which coincidentally serves as the epicenter of political power in the state.



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# 61 MEDINAH MUHAMMAD

Chief of Staff to Assemblywoman Britnee Timberlake. East Orange-based, Muhammad studied politics at Rutgers-Newark and proved a critical policy resource for Timberlake, as the assemblywoman rammed COVID-19 era legislation providing rental and mortgage relief to at-risk New Jerseyans.



# 62 TAI COOPER

Chief Community Development Officer for the New Jersey Economic Development Authority, Cooper in the aftermath of the COVID tsunami finds herself focused on small business recovery and the equitable dispersal of EDA opportunity zone resources.



# 63 HENAL PATEL

The former clerk for Justice Stuart Rabner directs the Democracy and Justice Program at the New Jersey Institute for Social Justice.





# 64 PHYLLIS SALOWE-KAYE

In an era of diminished trustworthy media sources, the Executive Director of New Jersey Citizen Action leads a staff of public-minded commandos, including Maura Collinsgru, who played a significant role in trying to bring to light a Legislative leadership-rammed, nontransparent restructuring of Horizon.



# 65 SHAUN GOLDEN

In addition to the political edge he gives those who stand on his good side, Golden, the veteran chairman of the Monmouth County GOP – also possesses legitimate policy credentials in the arena of law enforcement. In the era of cannabis legalization impact, the county sheriff provides critical insight to party lawmakers and other elected officials eager to be armed in resistance to Murphy Administration policies.



# 66 MICHAEL MASTRONARDY

Formerly chief of the Toms River Police Department, the Ocean County Sheriff provides a sturdy policy basis for GOP allies doubtful of the law and order ramifications of marijuana legalization among other Democratic Party reforms.

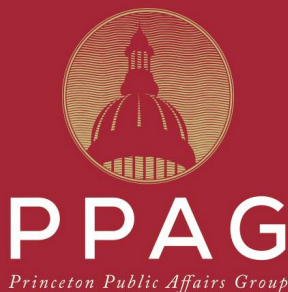






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# 67 KATHLEEN LONG

Chief Operating Officer for the City of Paterson in the Administration of Mayor Andre Sayegh, Long prides herself on paying special attention to urban, grassroots, and faith-based institutions. In her own words, this includes operations, budgets, strategic planning, project management, government/foundation/corporate relations, communications and marketing, social media engagement, and strategic fundraising (major gift solicitation, special event management, capital campaign design, grant writing, planned giving). She will prove a critical resource to Sayegh as the mayor prepares for his reelection campaign next year.



# 68 MICHAEL POWELL

Director of Economic Development for the City of Paterson. Powell has on his plate the reestablishment of former silk factory town Paterson as a North Jersey economic engine.



# 69 KEN FRAZIER

The Chief Executive Officer of Merck and Co., Inc. co-chairs Governor Phil Murphy's Restart and Recovery Commission.







# 70 JIM SCHULTZ JR.

Director of Government & Public Affairs for the NJ Dental Association.



# 71 RICHARD SMITH

The President of the New Jersey chapter of the NAACP served as a bridge between the more social justice-minded cannabis reformers and a legislature led by the ever-cautious Senate President Sweeney.




# 72 ERIC DOBSON

A major lowkey force, the deputy director of the Fair Share Housing Center – an ordained minister – possesses deep powers of coalition building, the result of interfaith outreach.







# **BLACK *TRANS* LIVES MATTER**





# 73 JESSELY DE LA CRUZ

The research interests of the Executive Director at Latino Action Network Foundation focus on systemic approaches to the prevention and treatment of sexual abuse, and the healing of intergenerational trauma in families through the use of mindfulness based psychotherapies, play therapy and multi-systemic family therapy.



# 74 PATRICIA CAMPOS-MEDINA

No critical Latino issue moves in New Jersey without the input of the good doctor, who proved a particularly potent force in securing drivers' licenses for noncitizens.



# 75 ALEA COUCH

A research associate for the New Jersey Senate Office, Couch covers the waterfront on Senate Community and Urban Affairs and Senate Military and Veterans Affairs Committee.





# 76 KATE MILLSAPS

The Senate Commerce Committee basically can't function without Millsaps.



# 77 LIZ MAHN

Mahn handles the delicate policy research for the Senate Education Committee.



# 78 HUGH O'BEIRNE

The New Jersey Cannabis Industry Association President, skilled in Cannabis Regulation and Policy, Government Relations, Legal Writing, Cannabis Licensing, Mergers & Acquisitions (M&A), Corporate Governance, Risk Management and Securities transactions.





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# 79 KRIS KRANE

Founder and Managing Partner at 4Front Ventures, a medical cannabis dispensary consulting firm, Krane helps clients navigate the complex regulatory process necessary to obtain medical cannabis business permits in state-regulated markets.



# 80 ALANA HANS COHEN

The attorney with Capehart and Scatchard focuses her practice on cannabis law and policy, regulatory compliance, and – in her own words – “how this new, highly regulated industry intersects business, real estate, government, social justice and public policy.”



# 81 MICCI WEISS

Another new era expert, Weiss serves as Chief Cannabis Attorney in the Cannabis Practice Group for Cleary Jacobbe Alfieri Jacobs LLC. Are you seeing a policy pattern in these entries?





# 82 JACQUELINE FERRARO

Managing Director and Founder of the Cannabis Advisory Group (CAG), advocate, strategic advisor and business professional.



# 83 DR. BRIGID HARRISON

Professor of Political Science and Law at Montclair State University, Harrison authored *American Democracy Now* (McGraw-Hill Publishers, now in its fourth edition), one of the leading introductory political science textbooks in the United States. Not an ivory tower dweller, she rushed into action in defense of her country during the Trump era by running for Congress in South Jersey.



# 84 SHAYA BRODCHANDEL

Harmony Foundation CEO Brodchandel says he's dedicated to creating a superior medicinal cannabis product for the patients of New Jersey.





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# 85 ELIZABETH STAVOLA

Regarded as one of the key origin story pioneers of the cannabis industry in New Jersey.



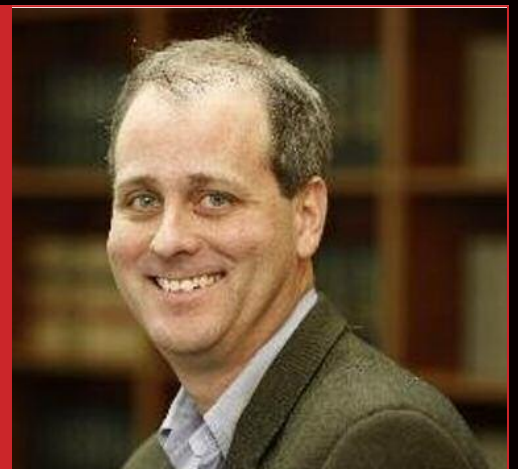
# 86 COLLEEN MAHR

The long-serving Fanwood Mayor doubles as the Deputy County Administrator for Somerset, and is regarded as a highly policy-grounded presence on Main Street in Somerville, who also has a knack for politics.



# 87 MATT HALE

Associate Professor and MPA Program Chair for the Department of Political Science and Public Affairs at Seton Hall University.





# 88 KEVIN KELLEHER

Deputy Executive Director of the New Jersey Education Association and formerly the labor organization's director of the Division of Research and Economic Services. Regarded as a policy heavyweight.



# 89 MICHELLENE DAVIS

CEO of National Medical Fellowships The former executive vice president and chief corporate affairs officers for RWJ Barnabas Health left her job this summer to become the CEO of NMF, focused on eradicating inequities in America's healthcare system.



# 90 ROB ASARO-ANGELO

The commissioner of the New Jersey Department of Labor and Workforce Development fought through criticism over his department's handling of massive unemployment claims at the height of the COVID-19 crisis, but had the public support of Governor Murphy.

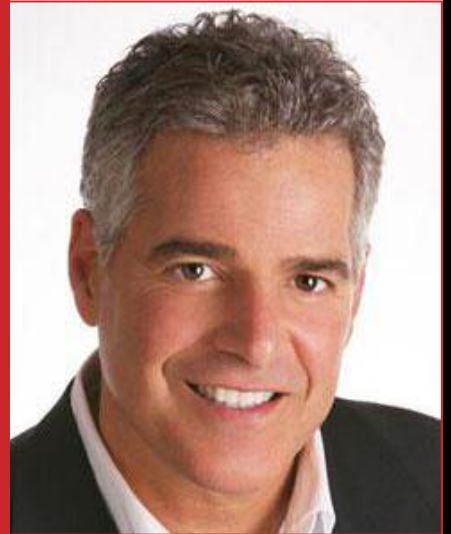






# 91 STEVE ADUBATO, JR.

Himself a former legislator, the host of NJTV's State of Affairs possesses one of the most nimble policy minds in the state. If you don't feel like wading through reams of public policy, you should watch State of Affairs for the no less substantive but much more accessible version.



# Be proud

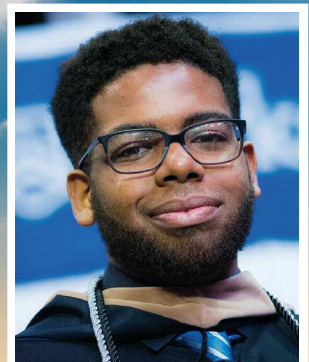
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**Michelle Dunn-Dawes**  
Manager of Laboratory Services,  
MTA New York City Transit



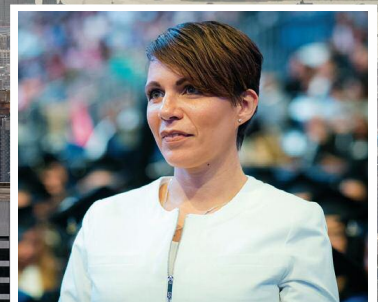
**Diana Jordan**  
Certified Surgical Technologist  
University Hospital, Newark, NJ



**Edwin Fleurant**  
Cloud Engineer, Google



**David Brown**  
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DBTS Trucking Services Inc.



**Nancy Robles-Guess**  
Executive Vice President, Operations  
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# 92 MARIA LOPEZ-NUÑEZ

Deputy Director, Organizing and Advocacy for the Ironbound Community Corporation. She led the way on forging the strongest environmental bill in the country and organizing Compassion NJ for grassroots advocacy policy work on all tenant and landlord relief bills, including the People's Bill.



# 93 SAM PESIN

If you want to develop a golf course on public lands, you better make sure the Friends of Liberty State Park prez doesn't hear about it. He'll run a policy-specific, bullhorn chant-induced bulldozer over you.



# 94 BEVERLY BROWN RUGGIA

The New Jersey Citizen Action icon has distinguished herself with work on consumer protections and tenant landlord relief bills, including the People's Bill.





# 95 JODY STEWART

Organizer, New Jersey Resource Project II New Jersey Organizing Project who started policy work after Superstorm Sandy, and also played a significant role during COVID-19 on tenant landlord relief bills, including the People's Bill. Stewart helped whip bi-partisan support for each housing bill that made it to the floor.



# 96 PAULA ROGOVIN

The Teaneck activist has played a critical environmental protection role in North Jersey. The key to her success? Not just political passion, but policy precision.



# 97 JOE DONOHUE

The former storied Star-Ledger reporter serves as the deputy director of ELEC and a careful reader can detect his detail-oriented excellence on many – if not all – of the enforcement agency's work, in support of Director Brindle.





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-Winston Churchill

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# 98 DAN HARRIS

Legislative Director for Speaker Craig Coughlin, with real world grounding as a member of the Woodbridge Board of Education.



# 99 CHRISTOPHER EMIGHOLZ

The Vice President of the New Jersey Business and Government Affairs, he's a quick study and a whiz on the state budget.



# 100 REGINA EGEA

Former Chief of Staff to Governor Chris Christie and now President of the Garden State Initiative (GSI), an independent research and educational organization dedicated to promoting new investment, innovation and economic growth in New Jersey, Egea serves as a go-to for policy-eager lawmakers.

