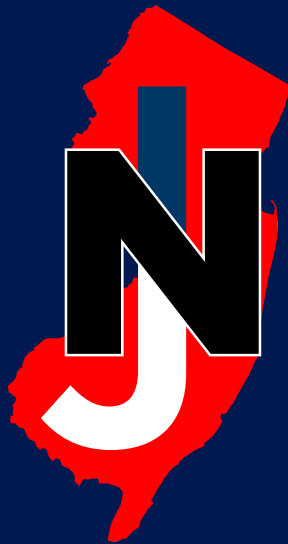


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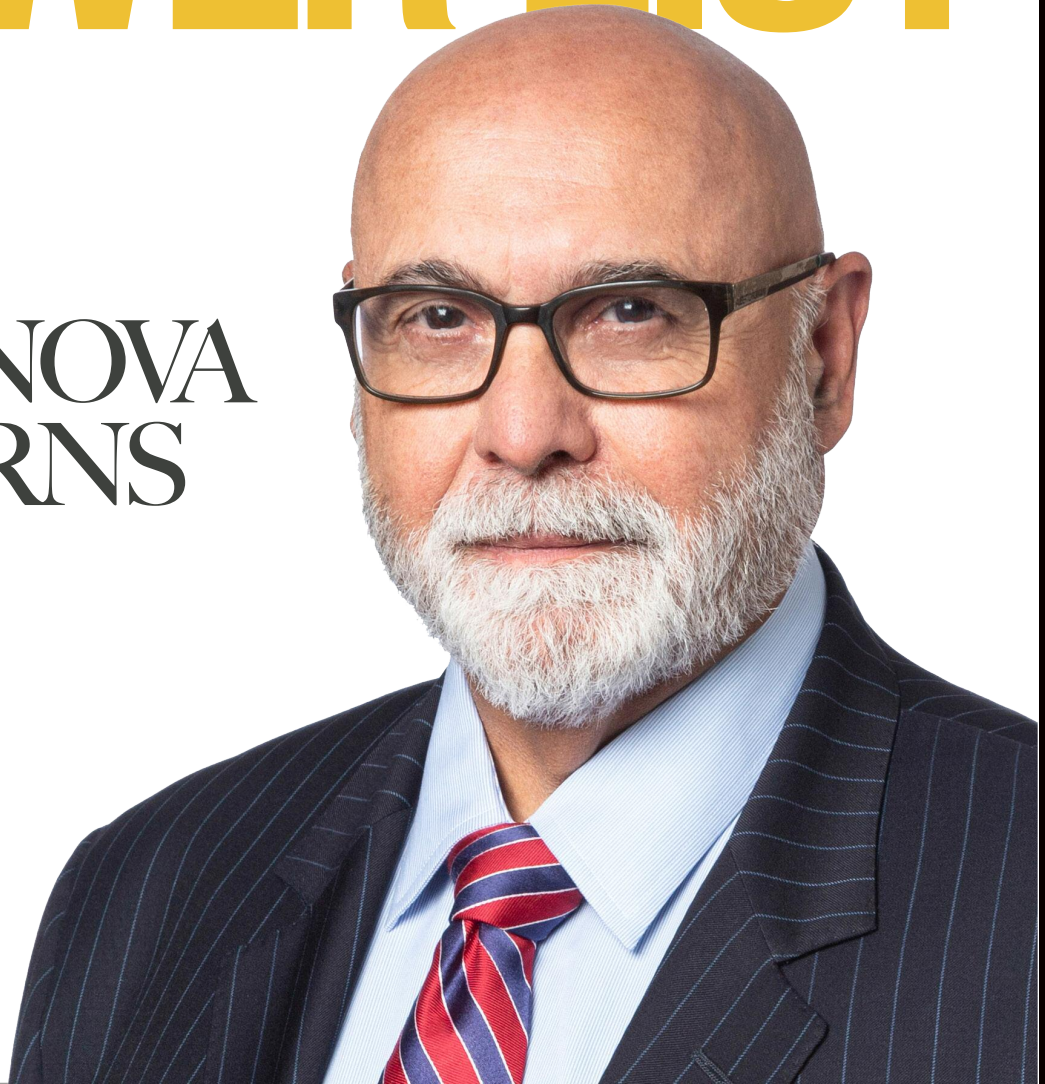
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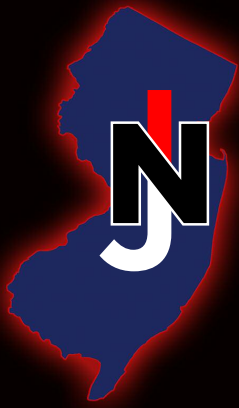
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Message from the Editor

INSIDER 100 POWER



Welcome to the 2021 InsiderNJ Power 100

When the senate reconvenes in January, the governing body will encounter the obvious absence of senators Steve Sweeney and Kip Bateman, respectively a Democrat and Republican from South Jersey and Somerset County. Perhaps ironically, Democrat Sweeney, an ironworker by trade, lost his seat at the height of the virtual era, when quasi-reality supplants brick and mortar substance. The senate president's replacement, an occupant of the far right reaches of the Republican Party, supplants the likes of Bateman, a Republican in the Tom Kean, Sr. mold, whose gravitas chops contributed to Sweeney's cross-the-aisle credibility.

It will truly be a new era without Sweeney, who attempted to get New Jersey to focus on its fiscal crisis amid myriad distractions and siren enticements; and without Bateman, whose Republican Party at its worst kowtows to anarchy sooner than project a willingness to work with the other half of America. It hurts to lose these men, allies who represented, not the extremities of a country determined to undo itself, but leaders who outleapt partisanship for a cause larger than merely party.

That said, in an historic outcome, New Jersey chose to reelect Governor Phil Murphy – even by the most slender of margins – on the strength of Murphy’s adherence to science, sooner than the angry defiance of a mob; even as Republican challenger Jack Ciattarelli, propelled in part by the pitchfork brandishing base of his party, made a compelling – and honorable – case for refocusing on core New Jersey issues like property taxes, the state budget, and schools funding.

Beyond the chest-thumping mindlessness of one side exacting a rigid measure of power over the other, we must discern the virtues in both sides, listen with the most intent ear to the message of the voters – and navigate a pathway forward and clear of the smaller manifestations of our statewide selves.

Those of us dedicated to the deeper undercurrents should pay homage to these two men in particular whose service spoke to a peculiar set of priorities close to the heart of New Jersey.

Without Sweeney and without Bateman in the state legislature, Democrats and Republicans will find it harder to honor a space not wholly usurped by the extremes of both sides. All is not lost. The men who replace them, Andrew Zwicker in LD16, Bateman’s district, and Nick Scutari, as the next senate president, deserve the respect of their respective offices. In the case of Zwicker, a Princeton plasma physicist, New Jersey gains a rigorous practitioner of the scientific method at a critical time. In Scutari, the successor to Sweeney as leader of the senate, the state gains the long-serving chair of the Senate Judiciary Committee, who will bring hyperkinetic energy to the office.

If Sweeney’s 3rd District replacement, truck driver Edward Durr, lacks the finesse and knowledge of a veteran like Bateman, he nonetheless serves to remind all parties involved of the crucial old Roman maxim, whispered in the ear of power, “All Glory is fleeting.”

With that, we welcome you to another edition of the InsiderNJ Power 100, wherein we attempt to encapsulate some of the players most responsible for the current climes of New Jersey politics, adhering to our longstanding rules of eliminating from contention elected officials, former governors, and judges, but reserving the right to break those rules sooner than commit, to paraphrase the great George Orwell, an act of barbarism. We hope it captures some of the shifts evident on Election Day, in addition to that core of creation sustained by relationships stronger even than the continuing parry of partisan politics, and even in the midst of cynicism ever threatening to capsize the symbolism of the dome itself, something of the best of the spirit in the careers of Sweeney and Bateman.

Max Pizarro

Max Pizarro

Editor, InsiderNJ



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1. JOHN WALLACE AND PHILIP S. CARCHMAN

Redistricting Tiebreakers

We do not usually put judges or retired judges on this list but make an exception in the case of this power-sharing entry. If the voters gave a signal of what will come in 2022, 2021 redistricting – ongoing right now - will shape political fortunes for the next decade. Wallace and Carchman have the responsibility of picking maps submitted by representatives of the two major parties in their untimely jockey for control.

A retired state Supreme Court Judge, Wallace occupies that critical position as the tiebreaking chairman of the congressional redistricting commission. Charged with the same duty on the separate legislative apportionment commission sits Phillip S. Carchman, a former county prosecutor and state Superior Court Judge. Each commission contains an equal number of competing Democratic and Republican representatives, and these two powerful men will hear the arguments from both sides and render judgement for those New Jersey congressional and legislative districts that will stand for the next ten years.





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2. LEROY JONES

It wasn't pretty. But the Democratic State Party Chairman who had insisted on grabbing the job without South Jersey, could celebrate the reelection of the Democratic Governor on his watch (the first reelection of a Democrat to the office since 1977) while simultaneously presiding over the political demise of Senator Steve Sweeney, a Governor Phil Murphy impediment. Deliverer of 125,617 votes for Murphy to Ciattarelli's 43,864, Essex gave the incumbent Democrat a plurality of nearly 82K in a statewide election that Murphy won by 73,000 votes. There's work to do, but the released grip of South Jersey on party power ultimately enhanced Jones, who also occupies a chairman's seat on the legislative reapportionment committee. In addition, with the senate presidency going to Union and the speakership staying with Middlesex, Jones commands a strong position to choose New Jersey's next governor, presumably in 2025.



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3. KEVIN McCABE

The Middlesex County Democratic Committee's home county underperformed for Governor Phil Murphy, but then so did a lot of people – with the possible monster exception of state Senator Brian P. Stack. Critically, though, McCabe augmented his power with the pickup of a senate seat, which makes him the only county chair who controls at least five votes, and maybe as many as seven: Senator Joe Vitale, Senator Pat Diegnan, Senator Linda Greenstein, Senator Andrew Zwicker, Senator Bob Smith, and Senator Joe Cryan (Union) and Senator Vin Gopal (Monmouth). Unlike the past several cycles, Middlesex – not South Jersey – offered the lion's share of votes to catapult Nick Scutari to the senate presidency to succeed the ousted Sweeney.



4. DOMINIC CONENNA

Tired of the cost of doing business in New Jersey, crushing taxes, and the strains of state-down government policies, the workaholic patriarch of Luca's Pizza in the Cumberland Mall in Vineland and his determined troops nonetheless worked through the constraints of the COVID era. Coming out only briefly from behind the hot ovens they've manned since 1973, they expressed their resistance in droves on Election Day, flipping two Cumberland commissioner seats and nearly throwing Governor Phil Murphy out of office in a state with a million more Democrats than Republicans. As they dealt defeat or near defeat to establishment Democrats grown soft in office, blue collar and working strong South Jersey sent a message to the message-muddled party-in-power operatives and their bosses: N.J. government needs to work for people instead of against them – or else.



“However beautiful the strategy, you should
occasionally look at the results.”

-Winston Churchill

***Congratulations to our very own
Patrizia Zita and Jeannine LaRue
and to all those named to
Insider NJ's 2021 Power List!***



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5. TAMMY MURPHY

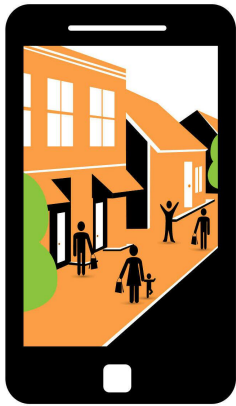
It wasn't a double-digit win – far from it - but the First Lady didn't have to fake a smile on election night. She had watched Steve Sweeney and his cronies attempt to destroy Murphy, and listened to George Norcross tell the press to expect a 2021 primary, a development perhaps preempted only by the COVID pandemic. Seeing her husband make history for the Democratic Party and Sweeney stretched off the field had to have felt good. That said, the state of New Jersey is still mad, and traction toward a run for president, which the First Lady craves for her husband – will be tough for the sitting Governor of New Jersey, even with his luck.



6. PHIL SELLINGER, Nominee, U.S. Attorney for the District of New Jersey

This fall, President Joe Biden announced his affirmation of the North Jersey lawyer as his choice, on the recommendation of Senators Bob Menendez and Cory Booker, for United States Attorney for the District of New Jersey, making Sellinger New Jersey's top cop on the beat. Sellinger is a former assistant U.S. Attorney, the Co-Managing Shareholder of Greenberg Traurig LLP's New Jersey office and former co-Chair of the firm's Global Litigation Practice.



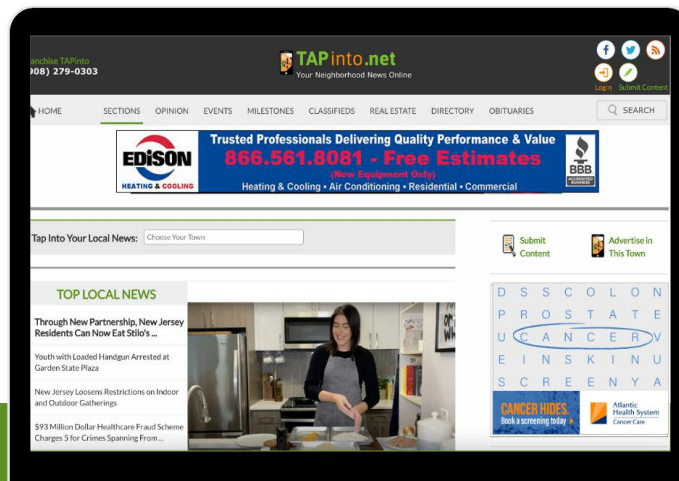


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7. JACK CIATTARELLI, **2021 Republican candidate** **for Governor**



In a state with one million more registered Democrats than Republicans, the statewide GOP pizza parlor and bowling alley hopper from Hillsborough – a former assemblyman – gained 1,219,398 votes at last count and came within 3 percentage points of dethroning Democratic incumbent Governor Murphy. His secret to success? He spoke plain English to the people.

8. JANICE FULLER, **Democratic Chair of the** **Congressional Reapportionment** **Committee**



The mid-Atlantic president of Anbaric Development Partners, a leading developer of electric transmission projects, Fuller formerly served as chief-of-staff to U.S. Rep. Frank Pallone (D-6), as director of cabinet affairs in the administration of Gov. Jon Corzine (2006-09) and executive director of the New Jersey Democratic State Committee (2003-06). This year she will play a critical role for Democrats as the quarterback of the party's congressional redistricting committee.

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9. ANDREW BRUCK, **Acting Attorney General of** **New Jersey**

Appointed earlier this year following the departure of Gurbir Grewal, the acting Attorney General of New Jersey, a Princeton university graduate, serves as one of the youngest AGs in the nation and in New Jersey history.



10. CHARLIE WOWKANECH, **President of the New Jersey AFL-CIO**

A second-generation member of International Union of Operating Engineers Local 68, Wowkanech worked on a start-up crew at Newark airport. Elected AFL-CIO President in 1997, he leads an organization that serves one million members. Tasked with trying to hold together a labor movement bifurcated by the public and private sectors, Wowkanech may have gained a measure of power with the public dethroning of Sweeney, who occupied – as a matter of professional affiliation – the private sector side of the equation.



11. BILL MULLEN, **President of the NJ Building Trades** **Council**

Senate President Steve Sweeney (D-3) went down on Election Night, but his close friend Mullen still wields considerable power – and wisdom. “Don’t get involved in special interest causes,” he told his members in Atlantic City ahead of Election Day, as the frayed Democratic Party – ill served by its barge loads of patty cake playing insiders – failed to hammer out a mature, relevant and convincing messaging for voters.





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12. FRAN EHRET, **New Jersey State Director for the** **Communications Workers of** **America, District 1**



Leader of one of the most powerful unions in the state, former toll collector Ehret stands at the head of an organization that represents more than 70,000 working families in the Garden State – including 40,000 state workers, 15,000 county and municipal workers, and thousands of workers in the telecommunications, airlines, health care, and direct care industries.

13. GARY TAFFET, **Middlesex County Democratic** **Party Power Broker**



The insurance broker and former Chief-of-Staff to then-Governor James McGreevey sits on the Legislative Reapportionment Committee as the Middlesex representative. A critical whisperer in the ear of power, he enjoys Murphy's and Helmy's political affection and attention, and as stock rose with McCabe as the pair of influencers gained a state senate seat to put Middlesex in a backroom league of influence all its own.

14. GEORGE HELMY **Chief of Staff to Governor Phil Murphy**



Murphy's COS nearly got run over by a Republican bus when he left State Street to take over his boss's campaign. But VBMs gave the campaign a measure of respect, as the front office strategy of isolating Sweeney and bearhugging Speaker Craig Coughlin worked almost to perfection.



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15. BILL CASTNER, Partner, Connell Foley



The consummate backroom spiderman leaped clear of the South Jersey machine before it cracked up on Election Night 2021, resurfacing as a key advisor to Governor Phil Murphy, who narrowly escaped his own political demise. Inevitably the smartest man in any room, he has the uncanny political ability of convincing the dumber people in the room that *they're* the smartest.

16. DALE FLORIO




The President and CEO of Princeton Public Affairs, Florio possesses a calm, in-control and results-driven demeanor, which makes him stand out as a leader in a state so often conditioned by hyperactivity – and little progress. He's like the David Carradine character in the old *Kung Fu* television series, and that in and of itself is a spiritual accomplishment in a trough of epicurean transgressions. A longtime Somerset County ally of statewide candidate Ciattarelli, Florio played a critical inner circle role this year in rebuilding the GOP around his chosen – and very respectable – candidate in the aftermath of Trump's Godzilla-like ravaging of the party.

17. GEORGE NORCROSS, South Jersey Democratic Party Power Broker



The Democratic Party Power Broker had a great 20-year run, expanding his empire in South Jersey while northern counties killed one another with excessive individual egos run amok. If Norcross himself suffered from hubris, that quality prevented anyone else in his orbit from playing the role of Caesar, and helped him expand power. This last election truly ran his chariot into the ditch, though, as three straight years of incremental losses contained the last and most injurious, when Steve Sweeney fell spectacularly from power. That said, Norcross made sure to nudge South Jersey's four Democratic senators into anointing Scutari as senate president, while under Middlesex's final auspices. Scutari's reign will test Norcross' power as never before in the last two decades. Will the energetic Union Senator dutifully do as he's told, lest an avalanche of dirt engulf him, or expose and outrun an outmoded boss system helmed by Norcross and a Middlesex political team still sporting Norcross training wheels?

A man with a beard and a woman are smiling and looking towards the camera. They are outdoors, with a body of water and trees in the background. The man is wearing a maroon polo shirt, and the woman is wearing a light blue button-down shirt.

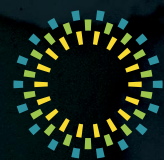
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18. JOE AND MICHAEL DECOTIIS,

**Partners at DeCotiis, FitzPatrick,
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Co-managing partners, the pair represent one of the most politically influential law firms in New Jersey, which boasts a roster of government and political affairs specialists in the public and private sectors, including the cannabis industry, transportation, and labor. Recognized for their impressive roster of national clients, they routinely back the movers and shakers in New Jersey politics.



19. FRANK HOLMAN, **Ocean County GOP Chair**

Holman, an accountant and the son of former mayor of Jackson, occupies the party throne in New Jersey Republicans' most important county, where pluralities for Ciattarelli nearly had Democrats nearly diving into the Atlantic Ocean. In a county to county head-to-head, Ocean recorded more Republican votes for Ciattarelli than Essex pulled for Murphy (145,756 to 125,617), numbers that lacked the plurality Murphy enjoyed courtesy of Essex Democrats (Essex: 74% PM -26% JC versus Ocean: 67% JC -32% PM). Holman had to take some pride in those numbers, particularly going into the next cycle. 2022 will be a big test for the chairman, who will have a second crack at trying to rid CD-3 of U.S. Rep. Andy Kim (D-3).



20. BOB HUGIN, **Chairman of the Republican State Committee**

In his first election cycle test since assuming the oath of office to lead his party's political arm in June, Hugin had reason to celebrate, as Ciattarelli nearly dethroned Murphy, and the GOP positioned itself for 2022 midterm election wins. Only time will tell if Hugin, himself a 2018 candidate for the U.S. senate, will go out of his way to build the party around Ciattarelli and his allies, insist on maintaining a Christie-centric base of operations, or quietly harbor his own ambitions for elected office.





23

21. MIDDY BARAKA, Chief of staff to Mayor Ras Baraka

Highly regarded as the political brains of the outfit, Middy Baraka will face another election year test in 2022 that already looks very advantageous to his brother. So far, no one has stepped forward to challenge Baraka's place on the throne, while ward contests around the city – especially in the west and central – will test the Baraka organization.



22. PAUL JULIANO, Bergen County Democratic Committee Chairman

He had a bad season. Bergen put up impressive numbers for Ciattarelli as it ultimately pulled it for Murphy. It should never have been that close. Moreover, a fractured caucus all but took Juliano out of the backroom brawl for senate president. True, he did successfully get Senator-elect Gordon Johnson into the Democratic Primary endzone against Assembly-woman Valerie Vainieri Huttel, but the fact that it got to the primary point at all showed a disengaged and tin-eared political strategy.



23. AMY DEGISE, Hudson County Democratic Committee Chair

Union City Mayor Brian P. Stack, the man she conquered for the chairmanship ended up being the hero of the night in Hudson, saving Frank Hague country from total ignominy, along with Jersey City Steve Fulop, whose local election also drove turnout for Murphy. Fulop, incidentally, infamously backed Stack over DeGise, only to prove himself – along with the always animated Stack – more of a voter turnout hound than much of the rest of Hudson, which looked flat (87,381 PM to 30,282 JC) alongside its less than stellar neighbor Essex.



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24. PEG SCHAFFER, **Somerset County Democratic** **Committee Chair**



She lost a fight to keep the LD16 senate seat in Somerset County, but held onto two assembly seats (Freiman in Hillsborough and Jaffer in Montgomery) and – with Ciattarelli of Hillsborough running against her countywide candidates at the top of the GOP ticket, kept two incumbent county commissioners in her column to maintain a 5-0 advantage on the Board of Commissioners.

25. SADAF JAFFER, **Assemblywoman-elect, LD16** **SHAMA HAIDER,** **Assemblywoman-elect, LD37**



The history-making first Muslim Woman Mayor in the United States, Jaffer, a Democrat, won a competitive general election battleground contest in Ciattarelli's old legislative district, with the former assemblyman at the top of the Republican ticket. A Postdoctoral Research Associate in South Asian Studies at Princeton University, Jaffer joins Haider – who won an assembly seat in LD37 in a competitive Democratic Primary – as the first two women Muslim members of the New Jersey Legislature.



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26. PAT COLLIGAN, **President, New Jersey State Police** **Benevolent Association (NJPBA)**



A veteran of Franklin Township Local 154, the PBA Prez oversees the labor organizing activities of more 33,000 officers in the State of New Jersey.

27. AL GABURO, **Lobbyist, Princeton Public Affairs**



The former chairman of the Somerset County GOP proved a capable ally of his longtime friend – and fellow Raritan Borough product – Republican nominee Jack Ciattarelli. Ciattarelli underperformed in Somerset, perhaps the consequence of unresolved fractures in the GOP, but Gaburo showed wisdom when he hung up his county party leadership spurs in favor of lobbying – instead of trying to do both simultaneously. The result was a cowboy-up effort at Ciattarelli's shoulder as the Republican nominee for Governor nearly crossed the frontier into Trenton.

28. ED OATMAN, **Union County Manager**



Formerly Senator Nick Scutari's chief of staff, Oatman will have his hands on the controls in the Senator Nick Scutari inner circle when the Union County Democratic Chairman assumes the oath of office to become senate president.

29. TONY TEIXEIRA, **Chief of Staff, Nick Scutari**



It's real. If Scutari becomes senate president (and certainly the November 12th vote by his caucus colleagues puts him in position to assume the oath come January) the Elizabeth operator – former chief-of-staff to Senator Ray Lesniak – will elevate to backroom operative elite status.

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30. DOUG STEINHARDT, **Attorney, Florio Perrucci Steinhardt** **Cappelli Tipton & Taylor, LLC**



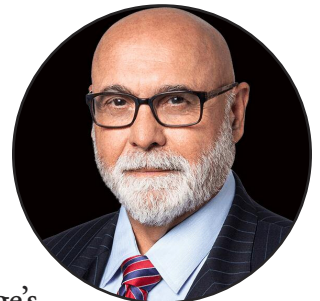
The former Republican State Party Chairman chairs the GOP Committee for Congressional Apportionment, and in that capacity will determine his own future as a statewide leader in the party. Briefly a 2021 candidate for governor on the right, he imploded in the aftermath of the Jan. 6th desecration of the United States Capitol, succeeding only in nudging Jack Ciattarelli to the right before he pulled the plug on his statewide candidacy. As he assumes a seat on the dais of apportionment, Steinhardt enters a rebuilding phase.

31. AL BARLAS, **Essex County Republican Chairman**



The veteran former chief-of-staff to then-state Senator Kevin O'Toole chairs the Republican Redistricting Committee for Legislative Reapportionment.

32. ANGELO GENOVA, **Partner, Genova Burns LLC**



You don't want to be caught in town with the sun going down. The same story applies here, only this variation changes the scene to a courtroom. You don't want to be caught on the opposing side of power attorney Genova with the judge's gavel dropping. Just ask the legal team of Steve Rothman, which in 2012 found itself blandly teleconferencing in to a rainy pre-Election Day Passaic County courtroom where Genova showed up in person looking like a U.S. Marine ready to storm Normandy Beach.

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33. GREG LALEVEE, **Business Manager, International Union** **of Operating Engineers Local 825**



Started working as a crane operator in 1984, elected business manager of the 7K-strong men and women in 2010. Maintains strong political ties around the state of New Jersey; prevailed on Governor Murphy to include roads and bridges in PLA agreements totaling over \$5 million, a boon to his union.

34. MICHELE SIEKERKA, **President and CEO of the New Jersey** **Business and Industry Association**



A routine critic of Governor Phil Murphy, Siekerka champions what she calls an economic plan seen through the lens of regional competitiveness and affordability. Through the COVID crisis, Siekerka – like Tom Bracken – served as that voice of clarity on the economic engine front, pressuring Murphy not to lose sight of suffering New Jersey businesses. In an election year, with the interests of suffering businesses on the ballot, Siekerka proved to have had not only her ear to the ground – but her voice leading a choir of resistance.

35. ED DURR, **Senator-elect, LD3**



As the vessel of a fed-up South Jersey electorate, the non-union truck driver dealt a stunning loss to state Senate President Steve Sweeney. Just how unprepared was Sweeney for Durr? Only in the aftermath of the election did media reports reveal a cavalcade of xenophobic, sexist and generally wrenchingly ignorant social media posts zinged into cyberspace by the self-described “passionate” GOP candidate. Still, the “Red Wave Republican” brought with him the story of a working class hero, who displaced a Democratic Party icon.



LATINA CIVIC CONGRATULATES OUR BOARD MEMBERS, DR. PATRICIA CAMPOS-MEDINA, LAURA MATOS, ARLENE QUIÑONES PEREZ, AND SONIA DELGADO, AND ALL OTHERS NAMED IN THE INSIDER 100: POWER LIST.

**LATINA CIVIC ACTION PRESIDENT
PATRICIA CAMPOS-MEDINA**

**LATINA CIVIC FOUNDATION PRESIDENT
ANDREA MARTINEZ-MEJIA**

**LATINA CIVIC PAC PRESIDENT
LAURA MATOS**

36. TOM BRACKEN, **President of the NJ Chamber of Commerce**

Bracken (along with Siekerka) remains the state's leading business advocate, and proponent of a stronger state economy through implementation of the Chamber's Plan for an Affordable New Jersey. As politics devolves into pitched tribal camps of general wretchedness, Bracken offers that Tom Kean-era school gravitas that most people are starved for, without even knowing what they lack.



37. ERIC ARPERT, **Campaign Manager Ciattarelli for Governor**

Not only did Arpert's charge come within three percentage points of toppling the sitting Democratic governor, but Ciattarelli's campaign manager performed well under considerable professional pressure, imposing a mature, thorough and detail-oriented message on the discussion.



38. JOHN CURRIE, **Passaic County Democratic Committee Chairman**

What an awful night and aftermath for the former long-serving Democratic State Committee Chairman, a Passaic County party icon. He lost at least one commission seat in the Ciattarelli swamping, and maybe more, then appeared sidelined as party members rushed to install the next senate president. But whatever the future holds, Currie still possesses gifts the younger generation lacks: a way with people, and sharp enough elbows to have lasted eight years as state party chairman. He could also quietly celebrate the political demise of Sweeney, who had personally undertaken to punish the former state party char for being a loyal Murphy ally.



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39. SKIP CIMINO, **Executive Director and Assembly** **Majority Office**



Mild-mannered Assembly Speaker Craig Coughlin (D-19) benefits from having a guy with a stick behind him, and that's the Hamilton-based former Assemblyman Cimino, himself a former assemblyman and trains-on-time taskmaster.

40. PHIL ALAGIA, **Chief-of-Staff Essex County Executive** **Joe Divincenzo**



Known as a Steve Aduato GOTV acolyte, Alagia has lately impressed more than ever in his 20-year career in county power, with clutch oversight of COVID-19 vaccinations, and park beautification (the Turtle Back Zoo and environs stands as one of the few government-partnered wonders of New Jersey). He obviously retains a hand in North Ward Newark politics, and a little in the East Ward, too, and that should again prove handy next year when Newark voters again size up citywide power.

41. RAY GREAVES, **Chairman of the New Jersey** **Amalgamated Transit Union, Vice** **President of the ATU International**



Greaves joined ATU Local 819-Newark, NJ in 1985 after hired on to the NJ Transit Newark Shops Maintenance Department. Serving as Shop Steward from 1989 to 1994, he later served as Recording Secretary, Legislative Representative, and an Executive Board member. In 2011, he was elected Chair of the ATU New Jersey State Council and served until 2019, when he became International Vice President. Former Bayonne Councilman. Represents over 7500 New Jersey Transit workers, and over 30,000 between New York and New Jersey.

42. LARRY HAMM, Founder and Director of the People's Organization for Progress (POP)

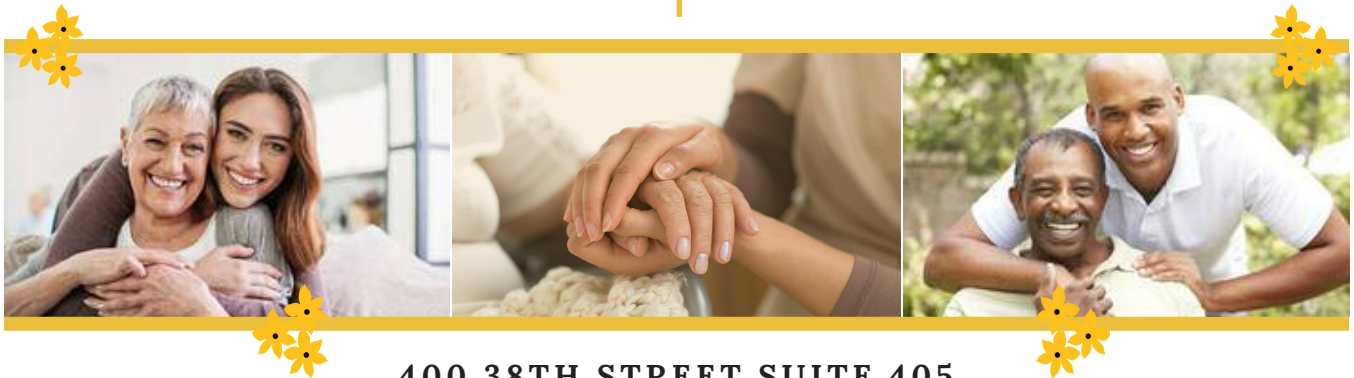


Bernie Sanders champion Hamm got blown out in his 2020 bid for U.S. Senate, but proved so much more along the way, as he used his candidacy to campaign against police brutality in the aftermath of the police killing of George Floyd. This year, as others took a break from street activism, Hamm intensified, leading an historic march from Montclair to Trenton to demand the enabling of civilian complaint review boards with full subpoena power.



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ActNowFoundation.org

43. CHARLES BOYER, **Founding Director of the Salvation** **and Social Justice**



Boyer also serves as the pastor of Greater Mount Zion AME Church in Trenton and has the ears of some of the most powerful politicians in the state, including Governor Phil Murphy. He made sure to use his megaphone to send some of the early marijuana legalization drafts back to the drawing board until they beefed up – at least somewhat – the social justice component.

44. PARIMAL GARG, **Chief Counsel**



At his press conferences and COVID-19 information updates, the Governor never hesitates to lean on Garg when he fears entanglement on a thorny legal question.

45. RAY FERRAIOLI, **Democratic Party Operative**



The North Jersey Democratic operative plays a key role as adviser to Essex County Democratic Committee Chairman Jones and as a fundraiser for multiple North Jersey Democrats, including rising star state Senator Joe Lagana (D-38). Has the ear of multiple key power players, including the speaker and many county party chairs.

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Executive Director

Kevin Kelleher
Deputy Executive Director

46. CHRISTIAN FUSCARINO, Executive Director of Garden State Equality



Fuscarino professionalized the outfit to make it indisputably the premier LGBTQ rights advocacy organization in New Jersey. Tough, vigilant and speedy in his response to the needs of his statewide constituency. He upholds a fine political tradition in the spirit of GSE founder Steven Goldstein.

47. DEB CORNAVACA, The Governor's Deputy COS



How many Fulbright scholars are running around the State House? Masters and PHD from UCLA. Tough as nails and Governor Murphy's strongest governmental connective tissue to New Jersey's reform community.

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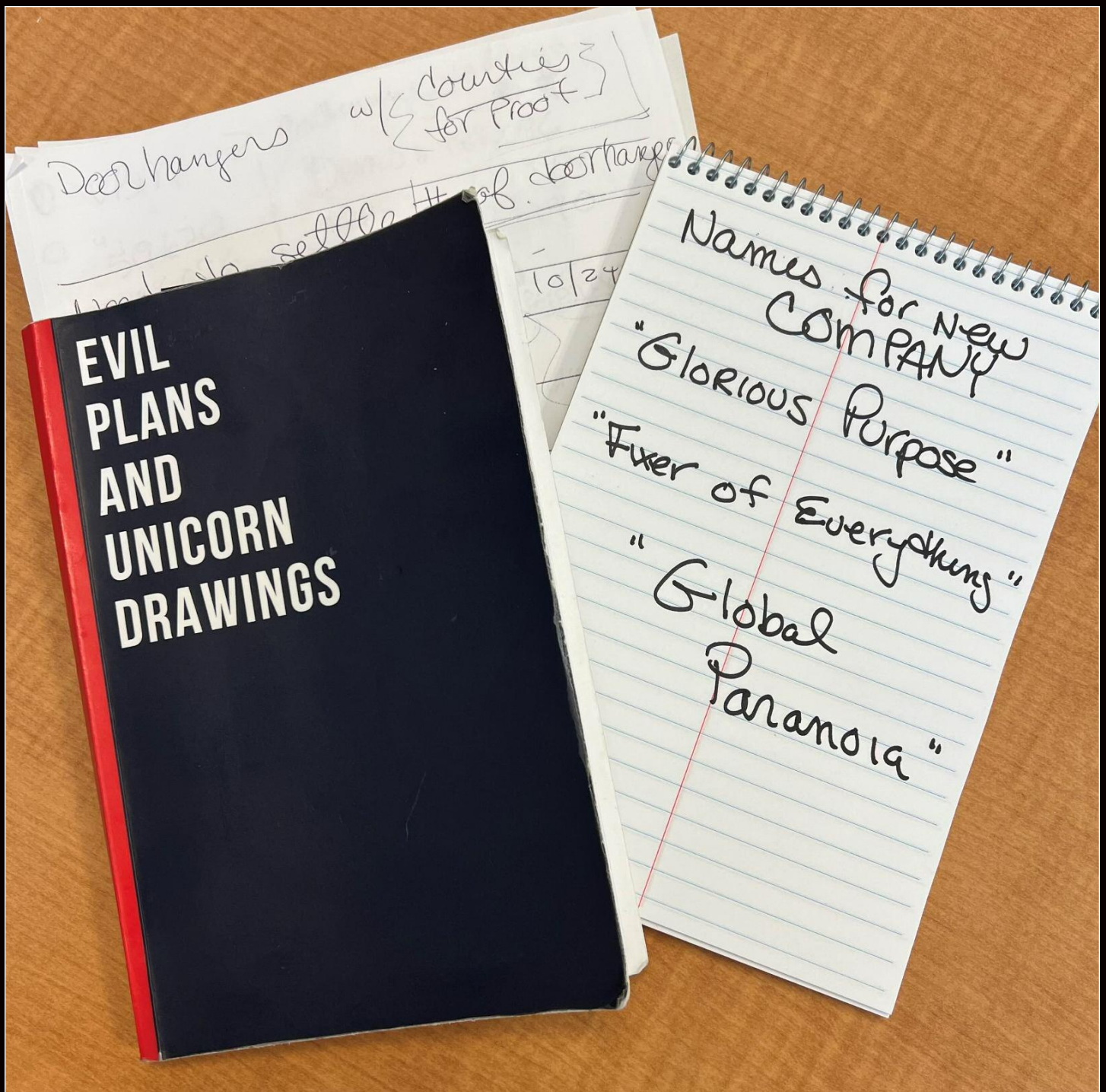
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Congrats to all on this year's power list!

Also, a small announcement... It's time for a change...

Parano & Associates has had a tremendous run...

but it's always good to reinvent yourself

Stay tuned in 2022 for a brand new company with the same bold vision!

Dave Parano

48. LAURA ALI, **Morris County GOP Chair**



Ali had a great year. She created the Republican Party line, which enabled the Republican chair to wield more influence, and resulted in Assemblywoman BettyLou DeCroce getting pushed under the bus. The GOP won back Parsippany, and returned Chatham Twp. to condition red. Republican assembly people and commissioners won much more comfortably this year than in the Trump era, and a year after Joe Biden won Morris County, Republican gubernatorial nominee Jack Ciattarelli carried it by more than 20,000 votes.

49. RAHAMAN MUHAMMAD, **Deputy Mayor for Employment,** **City of Newark**



An organizer out of the South Ward for SEIU, Muhammad operated with a central principle when it came to Newark: “You need five votes on the city council, and who’s the mayor.” His union work led him to forge a close relationship with fellow South Warder Ras Baraka, and when Baraka became mayor in 2014, Muhammad went to the cabinet to head workforce development. He’s been there ever since.

50. CHARLIE STILE, **Columnist, The Bergen Record**



The disappearance of the English Language in the American political experience would appear to consign the likes of Stile to a floating island of ice, like a polar bear cast adrift. But Stile has refused to go away, and remains the most eloquent, acerbic and politically astute chronicler of the game.



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51. CALVIN SOUDER, **Principal, Souder Shabazz and** **Woolridge**

The powerful attorney from Newark is the go-to legal contact for the City of Newark. Close to the administration of Mayor (and statewide progressive power player) Ras Baraka.



52. PAT COUNCIL, **South Ward Democratic Committee** **Chairman**

Part of Newark Mayor Baraka's kitchen cabinet, Council also oversees the mayor's political base in Baraka's home ward, and heads up the recreation department. In short, a player.



53. KEVIN BROWN, **New Jersey State Director of 32BJ** **Service Employees International Union** **(SEIU), and Vice President of the union**

Brown began his organizing career with SEIU in 1987, when he helped organize cleaners in Washington, D.C. Moving to New Jersey in 2001 after a successful organizing run in Connecticut, Brown worked to organize and expand to 13,000 the ranks of unionized commercial, residential, public school-contracted, and airport private sector service workers throughout New Jersey. Significantly, successfully spearheaded the moment to land a \$19-per-hour by 2023 for half of all Newark International Airport workers. Now organizing security workers in Hudson County.



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54. DAVID CRUZ, **NJTV Chief Political Correspondent**

Consummate professional Cruz has done an admirable of taking over Reporters Roundtable duties from his friend, the legendary Michael Aron, who retired last year to assume part-time duties at the public television network.



55. BRIANNA VANNOZZI, **Anchor of NJTV News**

A former Statehouse Bureau Chief, Vannozzi brings competence and class to her work, highlighted this year by her job as moderator of the second gubernatorial debate. Exhibiting enduring professionalism, Vannuzzi very nearly single handedly exposed the idiocy of an angry mob.



56. HARRY HURLEY, **Host of the Harry Hurley Show,** **WPG Talk Radio**

No other radio host show in New Jersey covers politics as hyperactively as Hurley, who has earned the trust of key players in both parties while amplifying the concerns and troubles of regular voters. An asset to the state.





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Local Union #24

UA International Representative

David J. Donato
724-972-8907
davidd@uanet.org



Best Wishes!

57. REV. STEFFIE BARTLEY, **Senior Pastor of The New Hope** **Memorial Baptist Church**



The Newark native oversees his flock in the City of Elizabeth, and routinely jumps into thorny issues, like he did in the aftermath of the 2021 election when he offered his opinion about the next senate president. CEO of The New Hope Memorial Community Development Corporation and The New Hope Memorial Childcare Center.

58. ESTHER SUAREZ, **Hudson County Prosecutor**



Close to U.S. Senator Bob Menendez (D-NJ), Suarez has survived attacks on her integrity that would have long ago toppled lesser mortals.

59. A.J. SABATH, **Co-Founder of Advocacy and** **Management Group**



The former Department of Labor Commissioner and chief of staff to Senate President Codey advises Building Trades President Mullen and maintains an influential State Street presence.

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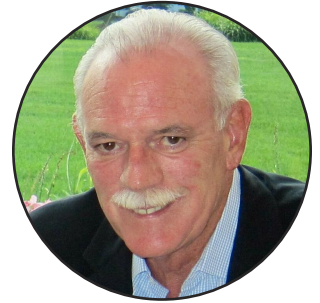
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60. TOM BARRETT, **Democratic State Committeeman**



The Irishman from Millburn remains one of the smartest political strategists in the State of New Jersey, and a close ally of Essex County Democratic Committee Chairman Jones. In the midst of the intensifying redistricting debate, Barrett's hometown will play a critical role as maps retract and unfurl heading into the 2022 midterm season.

61. IDIDA RODRIGUEZ, **Partner at 1868 Public Affairs**



Professional partner of Democratic State Party Chairman LeRoy Jones, veteran operative Rodriguez – a native of Paterson – has ties everywhere to political nerve centers, among them LD35 and Senator Nellie Pou.

62. ALLISON MURPHY, **Chief of staff to U.S. Rep. Jeff Van Drew (R-2)**



As South Jersey Democrats try to squirm like the Egyptian Army out of the Red Sea that swallowed them, Murphy and her boss, former Democratic Congressman Van Drew, appear to have changed chariots right in the nick of time.



Planned Parenthood Action Fund of New Jersey

Rights, without access, are meaningless. We should all have the right to make our own personal health care decisions, *and* we should all have access to the care we need to have a healthy pregnancy, plan our families using contraceptives, or end a pregnancy in a way that respects our freedom and autonomy.

Politicians in other states – like Texas – have been racing to push reproductive health care out of reach for years. Now, the U.S. Supreme Court is weighing in on a Mississippi abortion ban that could effectively reverse its landmark *Roe v. Wade* decision, which recognized the constitutional right to abortion and has been the law of the land for nearly 50 years.

The future of *Roe* is deeply uncertain – but *Roe* was never enough. We need to not only protect our rights in New Jersey state law, but we must also work to expand access. It is time for New Jersey legislators to step up and ensure that everyone who needs birth control, prenatal care, and abortion is able to access it.

It's time to pass the full Reproductive Freedom Act.



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Cory M. Neering'.

Cory M. Neering
Board Member,
Planned Parenthood Action
Fund of New Jersey



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Roslyn Y. Rogers Collins'.

Roslyn Y. Rogers Collins
Board Member,
Planned Parenthood Action
Fund of New Jersey

Planned Parenthood Action Fund of New Jersey is a nonprofit, non-partisan group advocating on behalf of the tens of thousands of New Jerseyans who rely on Planned Parenthood health centers for high-quality, affordable reproductive health care.

www.PPActionNJ.org

63. TRISH ZITA AND JEANNINE LARUE, Kaufman Zita



A one-two punch combination at Kaufman Zita, Zita and LaRue are two of the most policy-grounded people in the state of New Jersey.

64. GENE MULROY AND GERRY GIBBS Capitol Impact Group



The two longtime principals at the go-to lobbying shop, known for its diversity, are respected on both sides of aisle for their political and policy chops and go back-to-back in the halls of Trenton. In a world of shrinking personalities, Mulroy and Gibbs stand forth like a pair of caped crusaders.

65. DAVE PARANO, CEO of Parano and Associates



Murphy almost got his clock cleaned on Election Night. But that would discount the fact that Murphy depended on Parano's vote-by-mail operations that trickled in and not only secured the Governor's win, but ultimately lengthened Murphy's lead to over 80,000 votes and a far less pitiful three or four percentage points than Tuesday originally indicated.

66. SUE ALTMAN, **Executive Director, New Jersey** **Working Families**



The Camden-based political activist had a good year, as she could pose like Teddy Roosevelt over the remains of the South Jersey Democratic Organization.

67. BILL MAER, **Senior Partner, Public Strategies** **Impact Group**



A longtime pro in the business, partner at a growing firm, with close personal and professional ties to U.S. Rep. Bill Pascrell and adviser to sitting Democratic State Party Chairman Currie.

68. 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. As always, she maintains close ties to the political culture and goings-on of her hometown, Newark.



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69. ARLENE QUINONES PEREZ, **Hunterdon County Democratic** **Committee Chair**



A full partner at the DeCotiis Law Firm, Quinones Perez also possesses ties to that inner sanctum of Latina power players in the state, which includes Julie Diaz (chief of staff at the Department of Labor), Idida Rodriguez, and electeds like Senator Nellie Pou and Senator M. Teresa Ruiz.

70. RUDY GARCIA , **President of MBI Public Affairs Firm**



Garcia – the former mayor of Union City – oversees a team of veteran professionals that includes Michele Jaker (formerly Director of Government Affairs at Horizon Blue Cross Blue Shield of New Jersey), and former Republican Assemblyman Dick Kamin.

71. SAMMY GONZALEZ, **Newark North Ward Democratic** **Chairman**



Gonzalez holds on his shoulders the local political organizing tradition of the late Steve Aduato, Sr. Married to powerhouse state Senator M. Teresa Ruiz (D-29), chair of the Senate Education Committee, and politically close to DiVincenzo COS Alagia, North Ward Councilman Anibal Ramos and Essex County Executive Joe DiVincenzo, Gonzalez has a reputation as one of the guys you call when you actually want results.

72. SEAN DARCY AND LAURA MATOS, Power Couple



A shoreline power couple. Matos serves as general manager for Kivvit New Jersey, while Darcy, the consummate operative's operative, runs Round World Consulting, which has a history of key wins, including campaigns Darcy worked on for U.S. Rep. Bill Pascrell and U.S. Rep. Bonnie Watson Coleman.

DR. PATRICIA CAMPOS-MEDINA
Host & Executive Producer

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73. MARCIA MARLEY, **President of BlueWaveNJ**

The North Jersey Democratic operative plays a key role as adviser to Essex County Democratic Committee Chairman Jones and as a fundraiser for multiple North Jersey Democrats, including rising star state Senator Joe Lagana (D-38).



74. MICHAEL TESTA SR., **Partner at Testa Heck Testa and White**

Son of the late Judge and Vineland Mayor Frank Testa, father of state Senator Mike Testa, Jr., and husband of Buena Councilwoman-elect Ellen Testa, the elegant, erudite and eminently professionally successful Testa, Sr. stands in stark contrast to some of the regional and often dimwitted thugs who have wielded South Jersey regional influence. The elder Testa possesses strong statewide ties going back to the Kean era.



75. SONIA DELGADO, **Princeton Public Affairs**

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.





Planned Parenthood Action Fund of New Jersey

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Planned Parenthood Action Fund of New Jersey thanks all of the decision makers, advocates, and activists who work to protect and expand access to reproductive health care services.

For more information on ways you can take action to support legislation that advances this goal, such as the Reproductive Freedom Act, visit our website at www.PPActionNJ.org.



Planned Parenthood Action Fund of New Jersey is a nonprofit, non-partisan group advocating on behalf of the tens of thousands of New Jerseyans who rely on Planned Parenthood health centers for high-quality, affordable reproductive health care.

www.PPActionNJ.org

76. DR. PATRICIA CAMPOS-MEDINA, **Activist**



The top-notch academic, nationally recognized as a labor and political leader with real world organizing experience, is an expert in Hispanic and immigrant issues, and is a key influencer within Governor Murphy's political orbit. Her distinctive and powerful presence is not intimidated or silenced by the ever-changing dynamics of political convenience of Trenton insiders.

77. AL KOMJATHY AND **EILEEN KEAN** **Partners, Komjathy and Kean**

A popular and avuncular Statehouse veteran, lobbyist Komjathy has a client roster consisting of Fortune 500 companies and various statewide associations, and also sits on the Delaware River Joint Toll Bridge Commission. Kean, a member of the Monmouth Board of Elections, serves as the State Director of NFIB. Alongside the NJ Chamber and NJBIA, they form a powerful political trio of advocates for pro-business policies in the state.



78. CHRIS RUSSELL, **Principal Checkmate Strategies**

The longtime GOP consultant occupied a forward position on the main competitive legislative battleground elections and in Jack Ciattarelli's gubernatorial campaign.



79. MILLY SILVA, President, SEIU State Council, Executive Vice President 1199 SEIU United Healthcare Workers East, New Jersey Region



Bronx native, Columbia University graduate Silva stepped forward in 2013 to run on the statewide Democratic ticket with Barbara Buono, largely in defiance of the public pensions and benefits overhaul ramrodded by Governor Chris Christie and Senate President Steve Sweeney. Silva's statewide run against the 2013 version of Christie – largely viewed as unbeatable – endeared her to those who would have wished others in the party stood up on behalf of public sector labor with as much gumption, even as Christie infamously unraveled.

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ELEC825 is the labor management fund of Operating Engineers Local 825

80. JOEL SHAIN, **Principal at Shain Schaffer**



The former Mayor of Orange has strong ties to old friend Democratic State Party Chairman LeRoy Jones (who also serves as chair of the Essex County Democratic Committee) – and to the party’s vice chair, Peg Schaffer (who also serves as chair of the Somerset Democratic Committee). The elder statesman of Somerset politics and a sparkling wit, Shain, a retired Army captain, is a veteran of the Tet Offensive in the Vietnam War, and an enlivening presence to the besieged political fortunes of friends everywhere.

81. ANDRE SPEIGHT, **Newark Central Ward Democratic Committee Chairman**



Essex Democrats will rely on Speight to do some of the house-to-house work in the developing contest for Central Ward council, always a torque point in every citywide election.

82. STEVE ADUBATO, JR., **Host of NJTV’s State of Affairs**



Son of the late Steve Adubato, Sr., the television host possesses that rarest of rarified qualities in New Jersey politics: an intellect. If you truly crave policy, you need to tune into Adubato’s show, preferably often. While the media world has gone for loud, garish and dumb, Adubato has quietly but insistently carved out a substantive space for himself. That’s leadership.

83. ANNETTE ROMANO, **Chair of the Millburn Democratic** **Committee**



Consistent, indefatigable and talented party leader who wrote the book on how to win low budget campaigns by large margins using guile and hard work. The leader of a particularly relevant Democratic town as the parties undertake redistricting in taffy pull CD7.



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Aladar G. Komjathy
Eileen Kean, Esq

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84. KATIE CERICOLA, **Waldwick Borough** **Councilwoman-elect**

Newly elected GOP member of the local council. Staunch environmentalist who chaired the Bergen County Young Republicans. Skilled in both finance and politics.



85. ELNARDO WEBSTER, **Partner, Ingelsino Webster Wyciskala and Taylor**

The powerful attorney has close ties to U.S. Senator Cory Booker (D-NJ) and to the administration of the City of Newark.



86. SADE BADERINWA, **WABC TV Gubernatorial Debate Moderator**

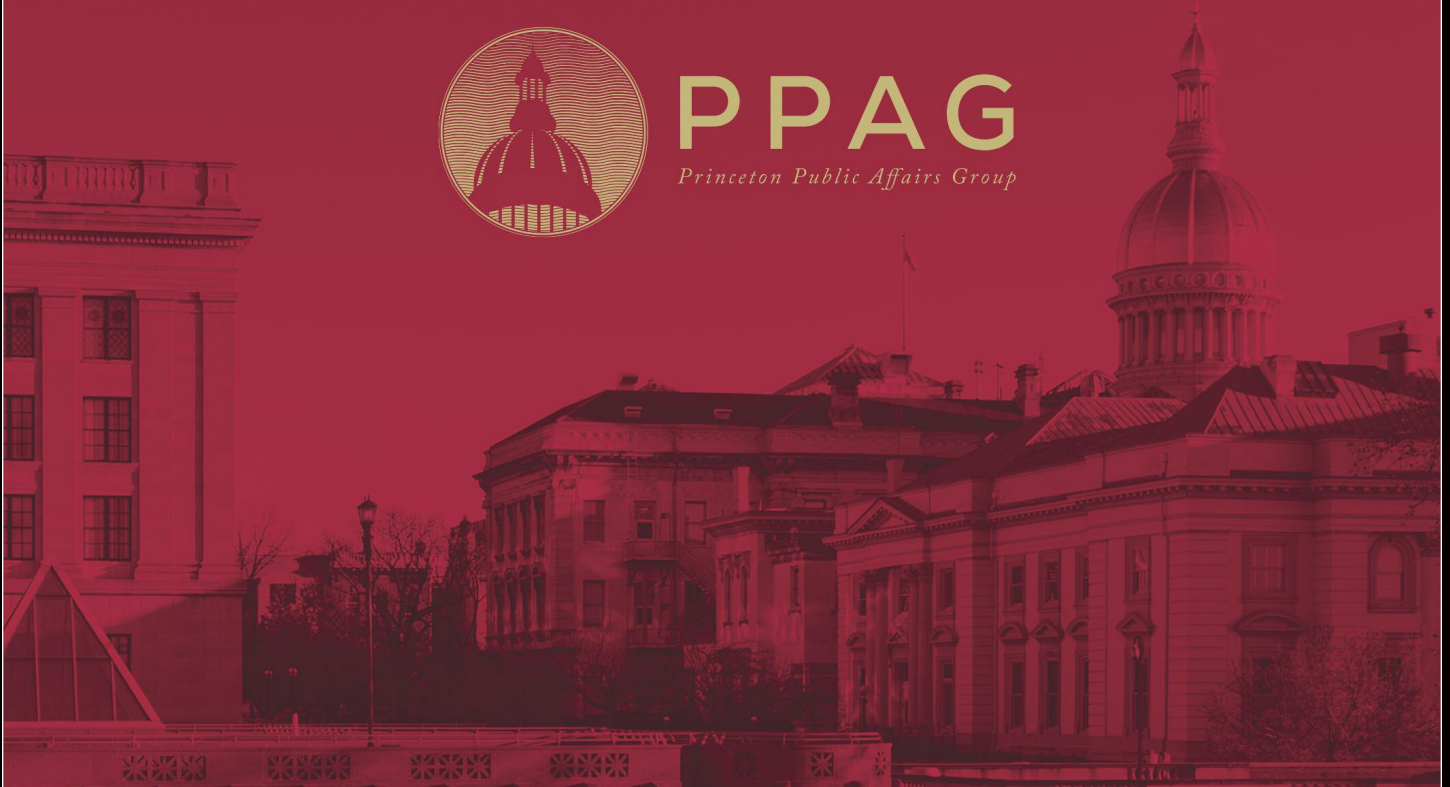
She only dropped in for a cameo but proceeded to karate chop both candidates around the stage with no-nonsense questions and unsparing follow-ups that even kept the unruly crowd shut up – for the most part.



CONGRATULATIONS TO
Dale Florio, Al Gaburo,
and Sonia Delgado
Named to Insider NJ Power List



PPAG
Princeton Public Affairs Group



87. BOB AND GAIL GORDON,

Former Bergen Senator Gordon, a Democrat, serves as a Murphy-appointed commissioner at the Board of Public Utilities (BPU), while Gail Gordon, a Republican, is a politically-connected attorney at Florio Perruci Steinhardt and Cappelli.



88. DARRYL ISHERWOOD, Senior Advisor for Economic Development Communications, Governor Murphy

Former Trenton-Times reporter and editor of PolitickerNJ, gifted communicator Isherwood will play an expanded role in the administration if Murphy chooses to do something obviously lacking in his 2021 campaign: transmit more ideas and less profanity.



89. AMIR KHAN, Camden-based progressive activist

Khan put himself on the frontline at Sue Altman's side in the ongoing waterfront war between Murphy's allies and the South Jersey establishment run by real estate developer/powerbroker Norcross. Future mayoral candidate.



90. EDWARD KOLOGI, Attorney Kologi Simitz

Close to Senator Nick Scutari, the Union County-centric Kologi possesses one of the more deft courtroom minds in the state of New Jersey.



91. AMOL SINHA, 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.



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92. EDDIE DONNELLY, **President, New Jersey Firefighters** **Mutual Benevolent Association**



A firefighter for the Union Fire Department for 21 years, Donnelly took on the role of leading the FMBA in October of 2013. Also the chairman of the Police Firemen's Retirement System (PERS), Donnelly briefly flirted with a 2021 run for the state senate.

93. DEBBIE WHITE, **President, Health Professional Allied** **Employees HPAEA**



A registered nurse at Virtua Memorial Hospital for 27 years and a long-term Med-Surg nurse, White took over from HPAE founder Ann Twomey.

94. SUSAN DECARAVA, **President of the NewsGuild of New York**



Gannett reporters from the Bergen Record, the Daily Record, NJ Herald, Courier News, Asbury Park Press and Home News Tribune this year announced they are unionizing. The new unit, which is called APP-MCJ Guild, is affiliated with DeCarava's NewsGuild. "These workers are fighting to safeguard the legacy of local news in northern New Jersey and justly advocating for stronger, more diverse newsrooms that can continue to be a critical lifeline, celebrated storyteller, and most importantly, a necessary watchdog for our communities," DeCarava said. "We call on Gannett for swift recognition so that we can get to the table to ensure that the collective voice of these workers, and the interest of our readers, are heard, and respected." Gannet has declined to recognize them.

A portrait of Rhonda Schaffler, a woman with long dark hair, smiling. She is wearing a dark blazer over a purple top. The background is a teal color with a subtle wavy pattern and a grid of dots on the right side.

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95. SAMANTHA DEALMEIDA, President of the Associated Builders and Contractors



With Statehouse credibility, DeAlmeida made a mark on the 2021 election cycle in her endorsement of Ciattarelli over Murphy in the closest contest for governor since 2009. In 2019, she made the case for the GOP to appeal to younger voters when she screened for the LD10 Assembly nomination.



96. JOE HAYDEN, **Attorney, Pashman Stein Walder** **Hayden PC**



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.

97. VIDA NEIL, **Camden Agitator**



The retired Department of Public Works employee has a kind of Donna Jackson fearlessness when it comes to challenging power, and while she lost her school board contest this year, the wider dimensions of sagging Camden County Democratic fortunes, including the evaporation of Steve Sweeney, breathe life into her local cause.

98. RENEE STEINHAGEN, **Executive Director at New Jersey Appleseed** **Public Interest Law Center**



A fierce, public interest advocate with a relentless pressure game short on nonsense and long on policy, Steinhagen played an aggressive role in ferreting out the details of the non-transparently legislative leadership-rammed Horizon restricting bill.

99. KEITH DAVIS, **Chairman, Atlantic County GOP**

The long-serving veteran chair has an agile legal mind and good political instincts. His battleground LD2 candidates swept in the November election, ensuring the district's senate seat remains in Republican control.



100. AMANDA WOLOSHEN, **GOP Operative**

Having cut her teeth at the office of former U.S. Rep. Leonard Lance, Woloshen now works with Russell at Checkmate Strategies. A key Republican campaigns and elections mind.

