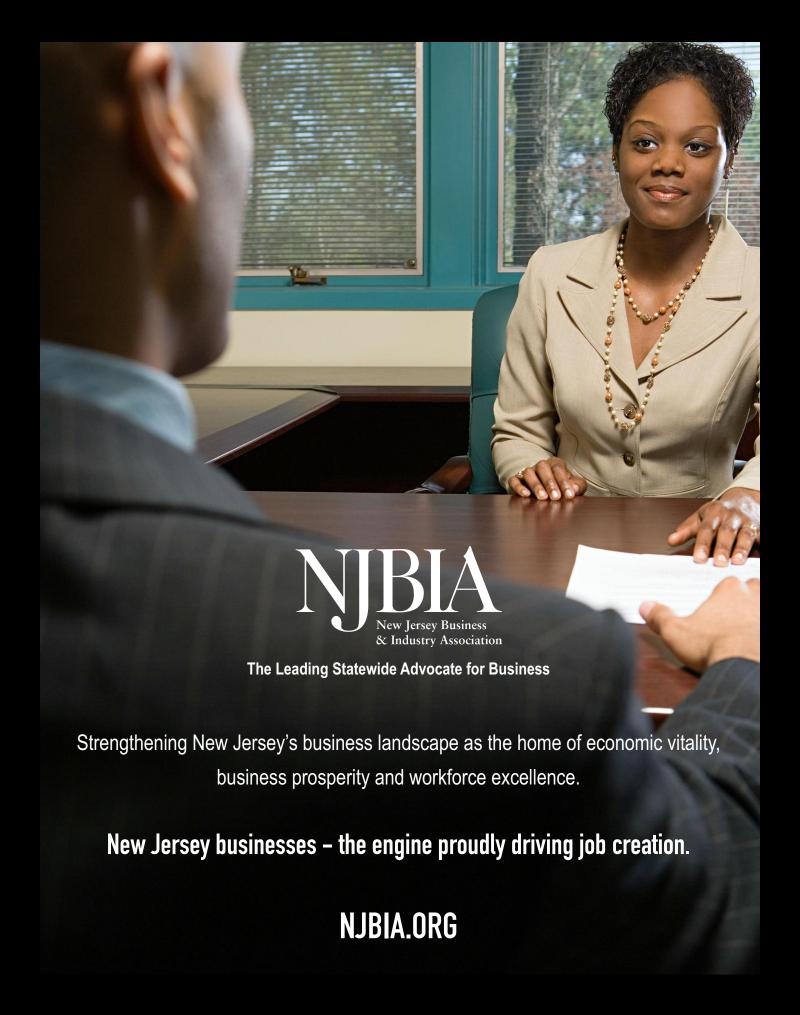




# POWER 2022

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### **WELCOME TO THE 2022**

**INSIDERNJ POWER 100** 

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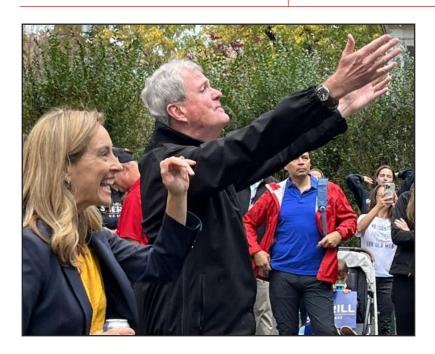


There was a little something for everyone this year. The map won, and so the establishment could gloat about that. The two Republicans who cochaired the redistricting committees ended up in elected office (Doug Steinhardt in the state Senate; and Al Barlas, by the looks of how 2023 is coming together, in the Assembly).

Then there was Tom Kean, Jr. After years of failing to knock the ball off the tee, the map gave him 17,000 additional Republicans to work with, which he did, knocking off Democratic incumbent Tim Malinowski in CD-7.

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The Democrats got rid of Malinowski to assist Mikie Sherrill and Josh Gottheimer, whose victories, when coupled with Andy Kim, enabled the party in power to fulfill the promise of the map by shaving just one congressperson out of the delegation to go from 10-2 to 9-3.

In what was supposed to be a red wave backlash against Joe Biden, Democrats had come out of the year with just a single casualty, and promptly set about high fiving one another with abandon.

They got what they wanted, and Steinhardt, Barlas and Kean got what they wanted.

Everyone was happy.

And, oh, yeah, the people, they felt like they got what they wanted, too, which in New Jersey, included some gratuitous roughing up of Donald Trump and his merry band of anarchists, who himself appeared to be gratuitously hanging around, prompting routine backroom cries of "Where's Merrick Garland?"

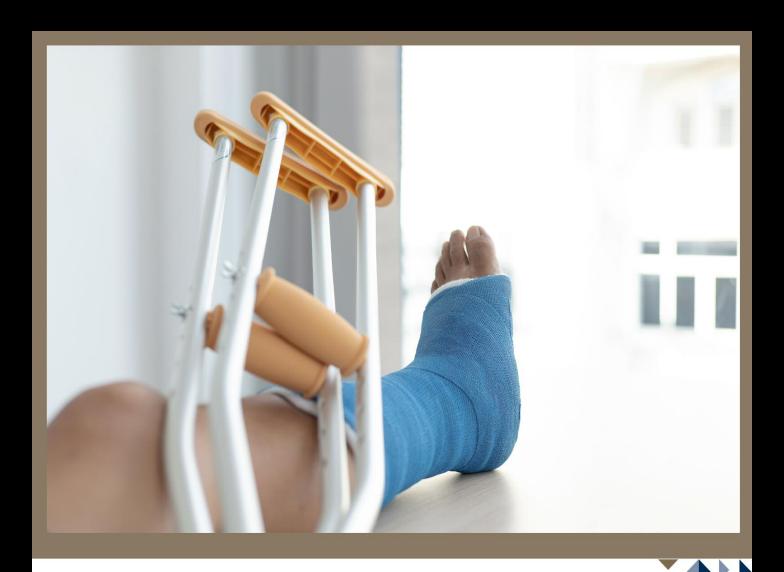
Of course, what Democrats here don't want to acknowledge is the role they played in making Trump, ramrodding his Samuel Taylor Coleridge vision of reality right here on the boardwalk, where what comes to Atlantic City, and what happens in Atlantic City, doesn't stay in Atlantic City, but might someday become President, and an ongoing national embarrassment.

See you on the slot machines, everybody and GO JETS!

Max Pizarro

Max Pizarro

Editor, InsiderNJ





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## 1. LeRoy Jones Democratic State Party Chairman

**Essex County Democratic Chairman** 

Jones derives his stature from stacking totem poles of political power, starting with what he built as the chairman of the East Orange Democratic Party, a position he still maintains, even as he fulfills his duties as leader of the state party. An active and gutsy chairman who wields his power with authority. Jones showed no compunction

power with authority, Jones showed no compunction about slapping around South Jersey, canning Steve Sweeney from the congressional redistricting commission, as he presided over a winning Democratic Party map. The end result of Jones' backroom engineering produced a 9-3 general election result for Democrats, more than respectable given the temper of the times. The former Assemblyman is also partner of the Trenton-based 1868 Public Affairs.





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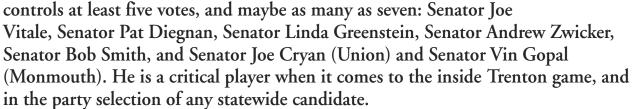
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### 2. Kevin McCabe

### Middlesex County Democratic Committee Chairman

No one else in the state brings the atmospherics of Celtic chieftain to the role of chairman quite like McCabe. Less William Wallace face paint, more decorous attention to political detail, right down to the Italian eateries, put McCabe in a rarified old school orbit. In 2021, he augmented his power with the pickup of a senate seat, which makes him the only county chair who





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### 3. Matt Platkin New Jersey Attorney General

Boy Wonder to Phil Murphy's Batman, Platkin took a hiatus from state government in time for the Murphy Administration to offload Gurbir Grewal, who offended key players in the Murphy political orbit. Platkin returned, certainly not as an unoffending Igor (most people peg him as the smartest man in state government) but because the early Murphy kitchen cabinet player (and COVID-19 era counsel) earned the governor's rough weather trust. Indeed, when Murphy unveiled his choice as New Jersey's next attorney general earlier this year, he appeared positively giddy.

### 4. Tammy Murphy First Lady of New Jersey

As Governor Phil Murphy segues to full-time presidential possibility, Tammy Murphy will be there with an ever upwardly mobile guiding hand. First Lady Murphy remains engaged on her issues, as she did earlier this month when she helped formally kick off the N.J. Child Care Facilities Improvement Grant Program — a part of Governor Phil Murphy's comprehensive approach to supporting the child care sector.

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## 5. Phil Sellinger U.S. Attorney for the District of New Jersey

The former assistant U.S. Attorney, the former Co-Managing Shareholder of Greenberg Traurig LLP's New Jersey office and former co-Chair of the firm's Global Litigation Practice, Sellinger came to the position in late 2021 with a deep resume.



## 6. 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 at the start of his long career. Elected AFL-CIO President in 1997, he leads an organization that serves one million members. This year, he jumped feet first into a labor battle at the side of the Health Professionals Allied Employees (HPAE) in their fight with Rutgers University. "This has been going on for over two years now and the erosion of union-contracted jobs continues apace at Rutgers," Wowkanech said. "I can only

conclude that Mr. [Rutgers President Jonathan] Holloway and Rutgers' leaders have no interest in saving these union jobs. Gov. Murphy needs to show our members that he would not stand by for union busting and allow thousands of union jobs to be phased out."

## Next time you have a meeting, count how many LGBTQ+ people are at the table.

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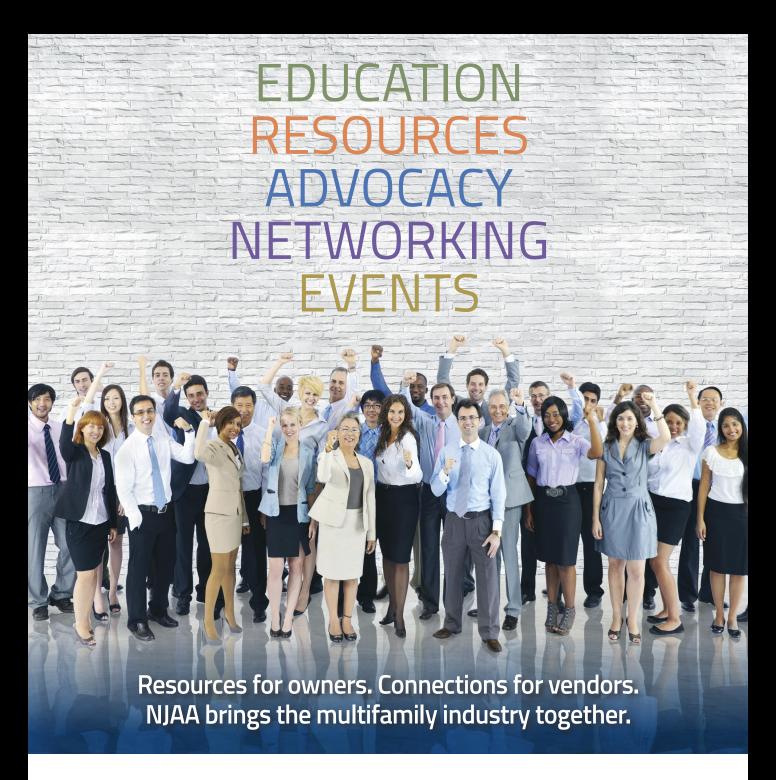
## 7. Bill Mullen President of the New Jersey Building Trades Council

Senate President Steve Sweeney (D-3) went down in 2021, 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 fragged Democratic Party – ill served by its barge loads of pattycake playing insiders – failed to hammer out a mature, relevant and convincing message for voters. Democrats somewhat suffered that fate once again this year, as voters connected with the Republican message on inflation and the economy in swing district 7 (with the aid of redistricting, of course).

### 8. 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.



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## 9. 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 his front office strategy of isolating Sweeney and bearhugging Speaker Craig Coughlin worked almost to perfection, as the clock now appears to be running down on Helmy's time as helmsman of the front office. Look for a retirement from public service and mega millions landing, maybe as soon as this year.



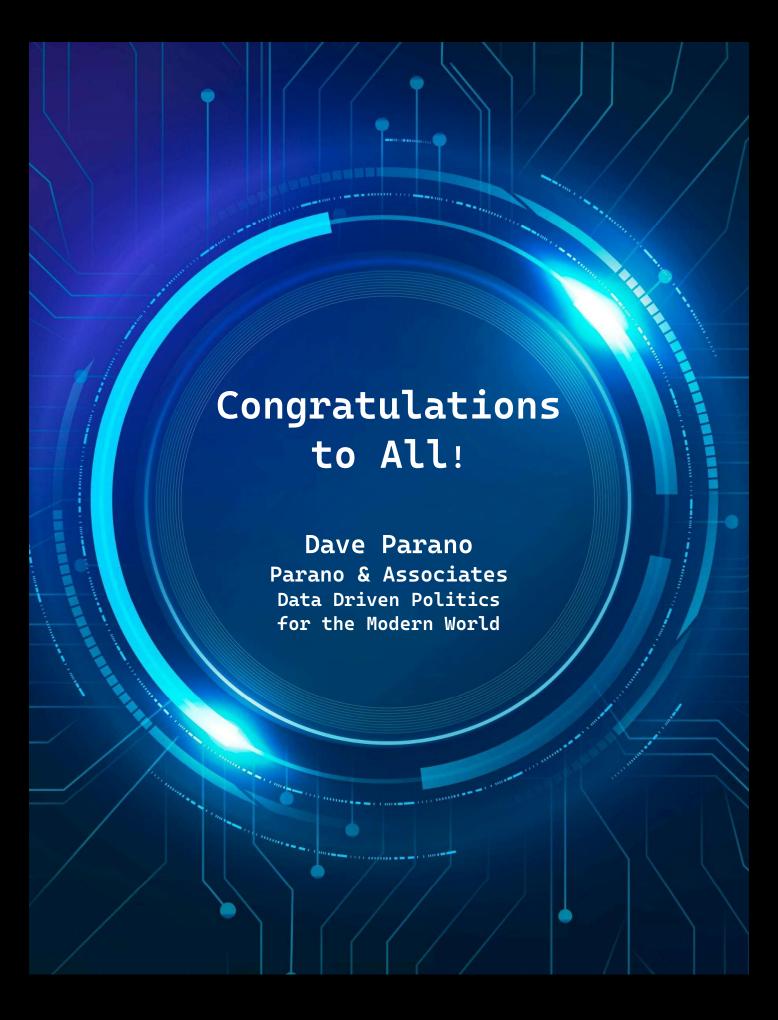
### 10. Bill Castner Partner, Connell Foley

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 and primary craftsman on New Jersey's gun reform legislation.



### 11. Dale Florio Princeton Public Affairs Group

David Carradine lookalike 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. A longtime Somerset County ally of statewide candidate Jack Ciattarelli, Florio played a critical inner circle role this year in rebuilding the GOP in the aftermath of Trump's Godzilla-like ravaging of the party, and will serve as a critical Ciattarelli ally as the Chris Christie wing of the party tries to bury Ciattarelli in favor of an non-independent statewide contractor.



## 12. 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 it helped him expand power. The 2021 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, setting Norcross up as the Democrats' number one Eagles tailgate party organizer. His organization submerged deeper beneath into red ebb this year as Cumberland went to the GOP.

## 13. Joe and Michael DeCotiis

### Partners at DeCotiis, FitzPatrick, Cole and Giblin, LLP

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.





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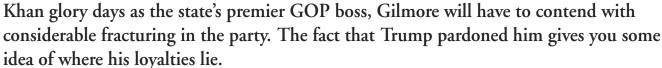


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### 14. George Gilmore Ocean County GOP Chairman

Pardoned by then-President Trump after getting jammed up on tax evasion charges, the Vivaldi-loving kingmaker Gilmore returned – by the skin of his teeth – to the chairmanship he wielded for over two decades in New Jersey's biggest Republican county. Looking to return to his Genghis



## 15. Bob Hugin Chairman of the Republican State Committee

Look for the Marine Corps veteran and successful businessman to begin pawing at the turf with reanimated vigor if his nemesis, U.S. Senator Bob Menendez (D-NJ), demonstrates any deep-cut cracks in his political armor. Routinely discussed as a statewide GOP option to run for either governor or senate (again), Hugin retains a fairly convincing perch as the chairman of a pretty divided party in New Jersey, but Republicans underwhelmed this year, with the exception of some local races, and Tom Kean, Jr's Democratic Party map-ordained win over Tom Malinowski.



### 16. Middy Baraka Chief of staff to Mayor Ras Baraka

Highly regarded as the political brains of the outfit, Middy
Baraka had a very good 2022, as he ramrodded his brother into
a third term over token opposition, and helped candidates
prevail in the critical West, Central and South ward contests. The
West proved an especially impressive win for Baraka charge Dupre
"DoItAll" Kelly. Having contributed significantly to Mayor Baraka's
success in the brothers' hometown, the Bobby Kennedy of Baraka world will turn his attention statewide as the mayor lays the groundwork for a 2025 gubernatorial bid.

## 17. Paul Juliano Bergen County Democratic Committee Chairman

Unlike other counties that would never feel the impact of red wave weather, Julian actually had to sweat it out a little this year in a big, complex county where Republicans never operate entirely out of the running. Primarily tasked with ensuring the reelection of Bergen County Executive Jim Tedesco, Juliano accomplished that in 2022 to reassert the power of his chairmanship. Throw in victories by the commissioners and incumbent U.S. Rep. Josh Gotheimer (D-5) and the Bergen Dems' Chair had a good year. As the state heads toward a possible post Menendez statewide environment and life after Phil Murphy, keep an eye on Juliano, who figures to occupy a short list of party chairs determining critical party standard-bearers. Juliano knows that, but he's also a granular-level chair, driven by local levels contests in Bergen.















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# 18. Peg Schaffer Somerset County Democratic Committee Chair, Vice Chair of the Democratic State Committee

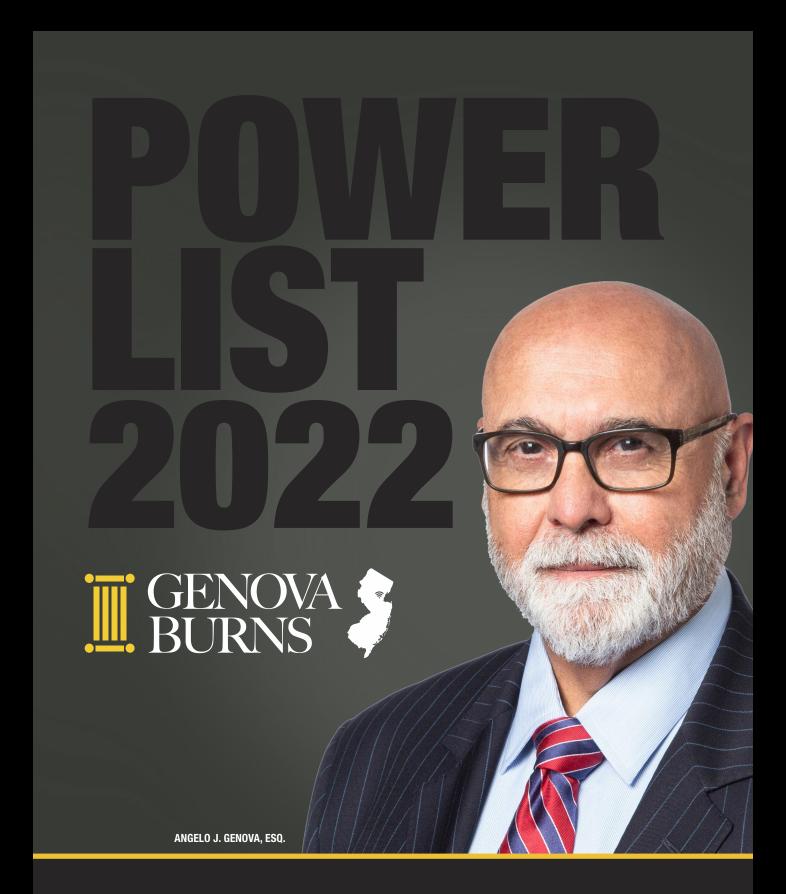
A critical testing year for Schaffer without President Trump to push around anymore, the longtime veteran chair held the machine together in Somerset, where her Democratic Party incumbents swept, despite Kean snipping incumbent Democrat Malinowski at the top of the ticket. Schaffer counts among her chief allies her law partner, Joel Shain, the former Mayor of Orange, who himself has an intergenerational connection to old friend Democratic State Party Chairman Jones. 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.

### 19. 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. As of press time, the House could be decided by crime in NYC, where five incumbent

Democrats from Long Island through the Central Valley could go down. That outcome reasserts the political role of cops in a significant way.



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## 20. Gary Taffat Middlesex County Democratic Party Power Broker

A critical whisperer in the ear of power, the insurance broker and former chief-of-staff to then-Governor James McGreevey enjoys Murphy's and George Helmy's political affection and attention, and his stock rose with McCabe as the pair of influencers in 2021 gained a state senate seat to put Middlesex in a backroom league of influence all its own.

### 21. 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 – came within three percentage points of dethroning Democratic incumbent Governor Murphy. His secret to success? He spoke plain English to the people.

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## 22. Al Gaburo Lobbyist, Princeton Public Affairs Group

The former chairman of the Somerset County GOP continues to prove a capable ally of his longtime friend – and fellow Raritan Borough product – Republican nominee Jack Ciattarelli, who kept a brisk 2022 schedule in advance of the next statewide Republican primary.

### 23. Joseph Tobin Cardinal, Archdiocese of Newark

Five years on the job as the senior-most Catholic cleric in New Jersey, Cardinal Tobin received critical appointments by Pope Francis as a member of the Joint International Commission for Theological Dialogue between the Catholic Church and the Orthodox Church, Congregation for Institutes of Consecrated Life and Societies of Apostolic Life, Synod of Bishops, Congregation for Catholic Education, Pontifical Council for Culture, Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity, Council for the Economy, and Congregation for Bishops. Political, he famously walked the Chamber of Commerce Train to Washington, D.C. in the first year of his installment, and got down with New Jersey's elected officials and assorted Trenton chattering classes.

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# 24. Doug Steinhardt Senator-elect, LD-23 Attorney, Florio Perrucci Steinhardt Cappelli Tipton & Taylor, LLC

Keep an eye on operator Steinhardt, former Republican State
Party Chairman, who just won a contest for the LD-23 seat to
replace legendary movement conservative Mike Doherty. Very connected, he stuck his
head up out of the ground on a 2021 gubernatorial bid, only to quickly withdraw, and
he could resurface on the statewide front come 2025.

### 25. Angelo Genova Partner, Genova Burns LLC

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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### 26. 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. His members this year began to work on those long-term projects created by President Joe Biden's federal infrastructure act, including the Gateway Tunnel, and the Portal Bridge.

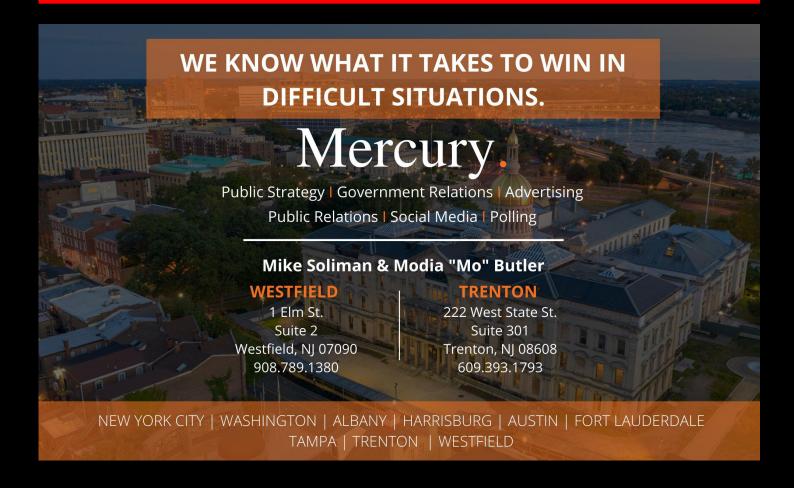
### 27. Michele Siekerka

## 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.

## 28. 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.



## 29. John Currie Passaic County Democratic Committee Chairman

The Passaic County party icon has had a tough couple of years, but, true to form, he has stood tall in the saddle. He lost a commission seat in the 2021 Ciattarelli swamping, then appeared sidelined as party members rushed to install the next senate president. But he came back this year on a couple of critical fronts, including assisting the reelection of incumbent Paterson Mayor Andre Sayegh to maintain a critical big city power point, and engineering a countywide sweep for Democrats.

## 30. Phil Alagia Chief-of-Staff Essex County Executive Joe Divincenzo

Known as a Steve Adubato GOTV acolyte, Alagia obviously retains a hand in North Ward Newark politics, and keeps his hand on the lever of engine room power in New Jersey's most populous Democratic Party county. Once again part of the winning team, this year he helped wage a backroom war for the LD-28 seat when Senator Ronald L. Rice retired and assisted in creating an opportunity for county ally Senator Renee Burgess.



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#### 31. 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 he was 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.

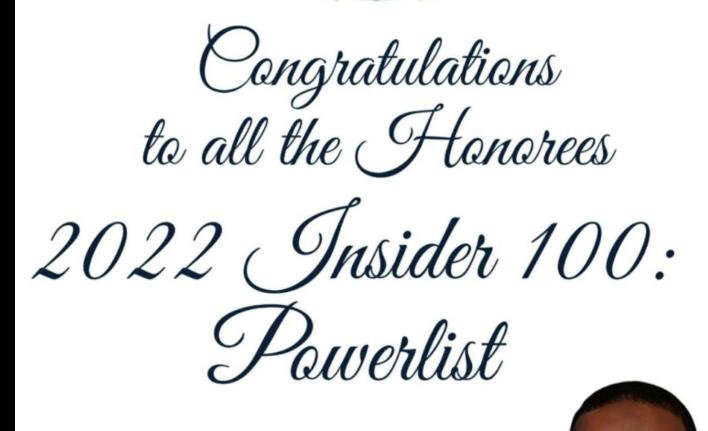
#### **32.** Mike Soliman and Mo Butler

#### Mercury Public Affairs

The pair of veteran power players respectively represent the broader interests of Senator Bob Menendez and Senator Cory Booker. Both served as state directors for the senators before they partnered in private professional life.







FROM MAYOR HECTOR C. LORA
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## **33. Larry Hamm**Founder and Director of the People's Organization for Progress (POP)

Hamm isn't so much a permanently public unreconstructed rebel as he is a defender of the republic for – of all things – the actual public. Having learned his trade on the streets of his native Newark during the 1967 troubles, Hamm shows no signs of slowing down. If anything, he's more active now than ever.

## **34. 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.



## **35. Parimal Garg**Chief Counsel for Governor Murphy

When Platkin left the Murphy Administration last year (only to later return to become the state's new Attorney General, see above), 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.

### 36. Marcia Marley President of Blue Wave NJ

The Montclair-based Marley leads one of the state's most potent progressive groups, which this year reassumed defensive positions to help reelect U.S. Rep. Mikie Sherrill (D-11) in 2022. In announcing her support this fall for Protecting Our Democracy, a New Jersey-based 501(c)(4), a self-described robust campaign to defend against attacks on personal freedoms, restore confidence in government and unity in our country, Marley said, "We can't assume that our right to vote will remain intact, that we will continue to enjoy free and fair elections where the winner is the individual who received the most votes, or that we will be afforded the right to personal freedoms."

## 37. 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.

## **38. Joshua Henne** Founder, CEO, Whitehorse Strategies

Spokesman for mammoth labor organization CWA, Henne possesses granular level institutional knowledge of the state's political game, and TV studio savvy for the message war. The whole package.



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## **39. Joe Andl**Burlington County Democratic Committee Chairman

Andl had the biggest test of his chairmanship this year when he helped propel U.S. Rep. Andy Kim (D-3) back into office in a tough political environment. Of course, Kim had the advantage of a redistricting map that separated him from Republican leviathan Ocean, but his victory required him to lean that much more heavily on Andl. In stormy political weather, Andl's Democratic ticket swept.

## 40. Jackie Cornell Executive Director of the Planned Parenthood Action Fund of NJ

Also the Chief Government Relations Officer of the Planned Parenthood of Northern, Central and Southern NJ (PPNCSNJ),

Cornell oversees a refuge for people without health insurance, including patients keen to continue their pregnancies. "There is no more essential place to be, in this moment, than at Planned Parenthood," Cornell said in a statement this year when she assumed command of the organization. "Reproductive health and rights are foundational to strong public health and to thriving communities, which is something I've carried with me since my first position at Planned Parenthood nearly 20 years ago. I'm delighted to return to the Planned Parenthood team to ensure that every New Jerseyan has access to the reproductive health care they need — no matter what."

#### 41. Adam Malamut

#### Managing Attorney, Malamut and **Associates**

Close to Andl and a behind the scenes player based in Burlington, Malamut has helped build the riverside county into a legitimate political powerhouse for the Democratic Party. Savvy.





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## **42. John Minella**Chief of Staff, Jersey City Mayor Steven Fulop

As the veteran mayor eyeballs another foray into statewide politics ahead of the 2025 gubernatorial contest, he will lean on trusted advisor Minella to continue to play a major role in overseeing citywide activities and tending to Hudson politics.

### 43. Peter Murphy Passaic County Republican Chairman

Murphy has what a lot of other Republican operations lack in this state: a machine. In his case, he runs it in old school fashion, right out of his Totowa-based bar. Murphy knows what he's doing, and this year helped Frank Pallotta and Paul DeGroot win their GOP primaries in CD-5 and CD-11 respectively.



### 44. Kenyetta Stewart Newark Corporation Counsel

A savvy big city player, Stewart remains a close ally to Newark Mayor Ras Baraka, and a vital part of the mayor's operation – particularly important as Baraka continues to make moves toward a 2025 gubernatorial bid.





2022 Insider 100 Power List









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### 45. Steve Adubato, Jr. Host of 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.



## 46. Erica Daughtrey Hudson County Democratic Operative

The communications director for retiring U.S. Rep. Albio Sires (D-8), Daughtrey remains one of the best street level politicians in the state, a Bayonne brawler with the bonus of precision level know-how.



## 47. Dave Pascrell Co-Chair, Government and Regulatory Affairs, Gibbons PC

The Gibbons PC powerhouse has additional weapons in his wheelhouse, including the sitting CD-9 Congressman Bill Pascrell, Jr., and his brother, Bill Pascrell III, over at Princeton Public Affairs.



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## 2022 INSIDERNJ POWER LIST!

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## 48. Iris Delgado Executive Director of the Middlesex County Democratic Party

Veteran director of Victory 2017, the coordinated campaign that helped elect Governor Phil Murphy and other Democrats in New Jersey, Delgado also serves as executive director of the NJ Democratic

Assembly Campaign Committee, tasked with preserving and expanding upon the Democratic majority in the New Jersey General Assembly. Trusted by Middlesex County Democratic Chairman McCabe. Also – she's half Chilean.



Solomon did the most valuable reporting work of the year, with her deep dive podcast on the still shamefully unresolved and unsolved Sheridan killings. When people complain about the media in these intellectually and morally impoverished times, they ought to look at Solomon's work, use her as a template what reporting should be, and take heart, that this kind of journalism persists.

## 50. Deb Cornavaca Director of Government Relations, NJEA

How many Fulbright scholars are running around the State House? Masters and PhD from UCLA. Tough as nails and formerly Governor Murphy's strongest governmental connective tissue to New Jersey's reform community, and former Legislative Director for New Jersey Working Families.





### NJEA members

Proud advocates for educators, students, and the nation's **BEST** public schools.



Pictured above:

Sean M. Spiller, President (center)

Steve Beatty, Vice President (right)

Petal Robertson, Secretary-Treasurer (left)

#### 51. Laura Ali Morris County GOP Chair

Ali 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 in 2021. DeCroce will be back in 2023, in search of revenge, and testing Ali's grip on Morris County power.



## 52. 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. A close ally of South Ward Councilman Pat Council and Hasani Council, Newark School Board Member and his father's COS.

## 53. Trish Zita Lobbyist

Principal of the Zita Group, the veteran Zita learned her trade in the Speaker Doria era and has emerged as one of the most powerful women in Trenton as head of a full-scale lobbying firm that includes stars like Jeannine LaRue (see below) and Murphy Administration veteran Chris Hughes.



#### 54. 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.





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#### 55. 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, he successfully spearheaded the moment to land a \$19-per-hour by 2023 for half of all Newark International Airport workers. Now currently engaged in a fight to unionize condo workers.

## 56. David Cruz NJ Spotlight News Chief Political Correspondent

Consummate professional Cruz has done an admirable job of taking over Reporters Roundtable duties from his friend, the legendary Michael Aron, who retired in 2020 to assume part-time duties at the public television network.



## 57. Briana Vannozzi Anchor of NJ Spotlight News

A former Statehouse Bureau Chief, Vannozzi brings competence and class to her work, making NJ Spotlight News nightly broadcast must-watch viewing for anyone trying to stay apprised of daily happenings in Trenton.



## 58. Harry Hurley Host of the Harry Hurley Show, WPG Talk Radio

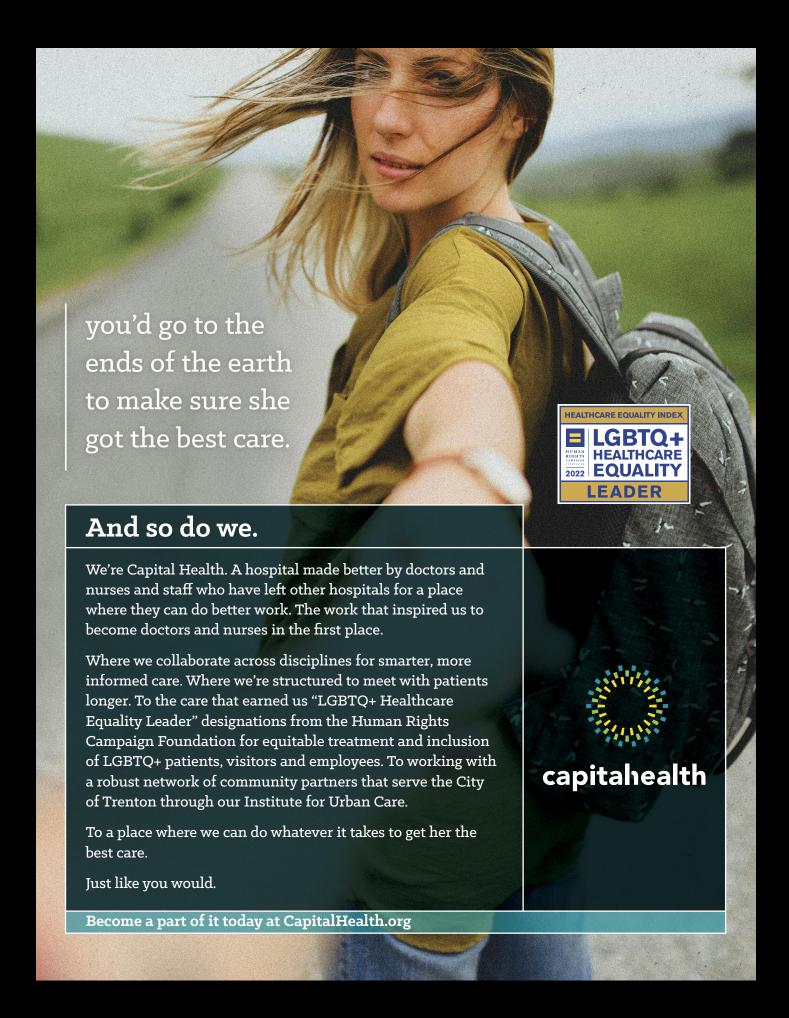
No other radio host show in New Jersey covers politics as hyperactively as Hurley, who has earned the trust of key players in both parties while amplifying the concerns and troubles of regular voters. An asset to the state.

#### **59.** 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.



## **60. 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. Married to top notch operative (and Chairman Currie confidante) Keith Furlong out of Passaic County.



## **61. Craig Guy**The next Hudson County Executive

The veteran political operative stands in line to succeed sitting County Executive Tom DeGise, who's retiring. Schooled as DeGise's chief-of-staff, Guy will need to help make political Hudson a powerhouse again, working with Hudson County Democratic Chairman Anthony Vainieri (who's not on this list only because he serves as a county commissioner).

#### 62. Tom Barrett

#### **Democratic State Committeeman**

The handsome 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 played a critical role in defending incumbent U.S. Rep. Mikie Sherrill (D-11).



### 63. 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.



## 64. 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. Van Drew followed up his 2020 party switch with redistricting victories that gave him a safer Republican district, enabling him to romp to victory this year over credible Democratic challenger Tim Alexander.

## **65. Jeannine LaRue** Lobbyist, The Zita Group

Part of the one-two punch combination at the Zita Group, LaRue joins Zita as two of the most policy-grounded people in the state of New Jersey. Count on LaRue to routinely speak out on social justice issues, while maintaining strong backroom institutional ties.



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Gene Mulroy \* Gerville "Gerry" Gibbs, Jr.
Paul Crupi \* Sabeen Masih \* Briana Piserchia

## 66. Gene Mulroy and Gerry Gibbs Principals, Capital Impact Group



The pair of public affairs specialist go back-to-back in the halls of Trenton, offering a touch of class to the proceedings.

### **67. Dave Parano**CEO of Parano and Associates

The vote-by-mail operations guru cut his teeth with former state Senator Loretta Weinberg, and remains the chief Democratic Party operative most institutionally grounded in Bergen County.



## 68. Sue Altman Executive Director, New Jersey Working Families

The Camden-based political activist helped reshape the New Jersey political landscape by dealing multiple body blows to the South Jersey Democratic Party machine.



## **69. Joe DeMarco**Vice Chairman, Somerset County Democratic Committee

The successor to Christodoulou, DeMarco – maybe more than anyone else on this list – embodies New Jersey politics: equally adept at urban guerilla tactics (check out his record of against-the-grain wins in West New York and Bayonne), and golf course badger disrupter (witness his string of wins in Somerset County). A real pro who could pop up anywhere at any time, he had a good year in a battleground county that Dems swept.

#### 70. 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.



#### 71. 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.



## 72. Rudy Garcia President, MBI

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.



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#### 73. Sammy Gonzalez

#### Newark North Ward Democratic Chairman

Gonzalez holds on his shoulders the local political organizing tradition of the late Steve Adubato, 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. The party did that this year when they wanted to secure the North Ward portion of LD28 in favor of winning Senator Renee Burgess.



### Democratic Party Operatives, and Partner, MAD Global

A shoreline power couple. Matos serves as Partner of MAD Global Strategy, 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.



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







To the legislators, advocates, and all those on the Power 100 list who have proudly stood up for abortion rights:

#### Thank you.

You have enacted some of the strongest policy protecting the right to abortion in the country. On behalf of the tens of thousands of New Jerseyans who turn to Planned Parenthood health centers for reproductive health care, we share our appreciation.

#### The work is not over.

Post-Dobbs, New Jersey still faces gaps in access.

#### Together we can:

Ensure that everyone who seeks abortion care – regardless of their income, insurance coverage, or immigration status – has the financial means to afford their care.

Enshrine in state law the expanded pool of providers who can provide abortion care.

Clean up old, unenforceable laws that restrict abortion care in New Jersey.

Secure sustainable funding for a full range of reproductive health services.

We look forward to continuing our work with legislative leadership to make these shared goals a reality in the coming months.

Because rights without access are meaningless.



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. 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 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. Don't forget – his son had a good year in his dual role as chair of the Cumberland GOP, where they took control countywide.

## 77. Joe Fiordaliso President, NJ Board of Public Utilities

Nominated as a BPU commissioner by then-Governor Richard Codey and subsequently confirmed, the Ironbound born and raised Fiordaliso in 2018 accepted Governor Murphy's nomination as BPU president, where he currently serves as Co-Chair on the NJ Council on the Green Economy, and also serves on the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners' (NARUC) Committee on Critical Infrastructure and Committee on Energy Resources and the Environment, is a member of the Executive Committee for the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI).

## 78. Sonia Delgado Lobbyist, Princeton Public Affairs Group

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.



## 79. Patricia Campos - Medina Activist

The top-notch academic with real world organizing experience is an expert in Hispanic Affairs and a key influencer within the Governor Phil Murphy political orbit.



## 80. 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.



### LATINA CIVIC CONGRATULATES ALL THOSE NAMED TO THE INSIDER 100: POWER LIST

## WE ARE GRATEFUL FOR OUR COLLEAGUES ON THIS LIST WHO JOIN US IN ADVOCATING TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE FOR ALL LATINOS IN NEW JERSEY

LATINA CIVIC ACTION PRESIDENT
PATRICIA CAMPOS-MEDINA

LATINA CIVIC FOUNDATION PRESIDENT

ANDREA MARTINEZ-MEJIA

LATINA CIVIC PAC PRESIDENT

LAURA MATOS

## **82. Millie Silva**Secretary Treasurer at 1199 SEIU

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. Now number two at her local's membership of 450,000.





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Congratulations to the 2022 Power List!



## 83. Joe Jacobs Attorney

Veteran Atlantic City operator Jacobs fulfills a key kitchen cabinet role for Atlantic City Mayor Marty Small, who has put together a string of back-to-back election victories, including a 2022 squashing of the Craig Callaway-engineered government referendum question, meant to weaken Small, which only strengthened him.



#### 84. Andre Speight

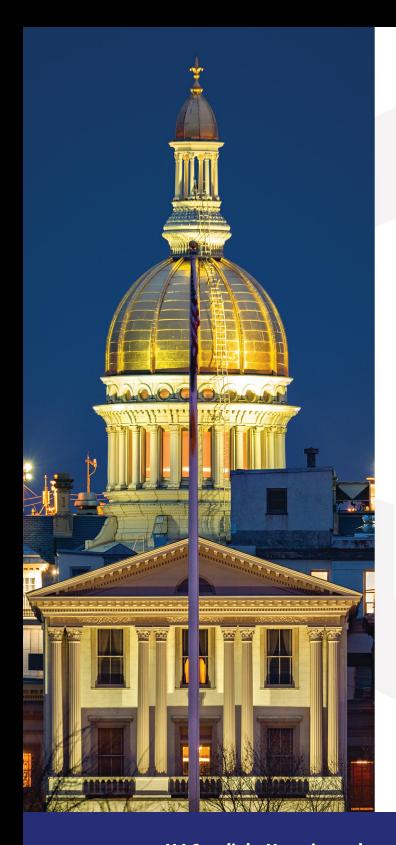
### Newark Central Ward Democratic Committee Chairman

Essex Democrats relied on Speight to do some of the house-to-house work in the contest for Central Ward council, always a torque point in every citywide election. Married to Assemblywoman Shanique Davis Speight (D-29).

## 85. Michele Adubato CEO, the North Ward Center

A veteran of the Newark Public School System, Adubato founded the nonprofit Center for Autism and took over the reins of the Newark-based North Ward Center from her father, the late Steve Adubato, Sr.,







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## 86. 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 when it came to the reelection of U.S. Rep. Mikie Sherrill (D-11).



#### 87. 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. Politically savvy.



#### 88. Bob and Gail Gordon

#### **Power Couple**



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.

#### 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 ahead of the South Jersey Democratic Organization' significant 2021 denting. Future mayoral candidate.



## Congratulations to all those named to the 2022 Power List!

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Ralph Zucker Co-Chairman David Gross Co-Chairman Agudath Israel of America New Jersey Office

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### 90. 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. On the front line of all thorny legal rights fights.



#### 91. 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.

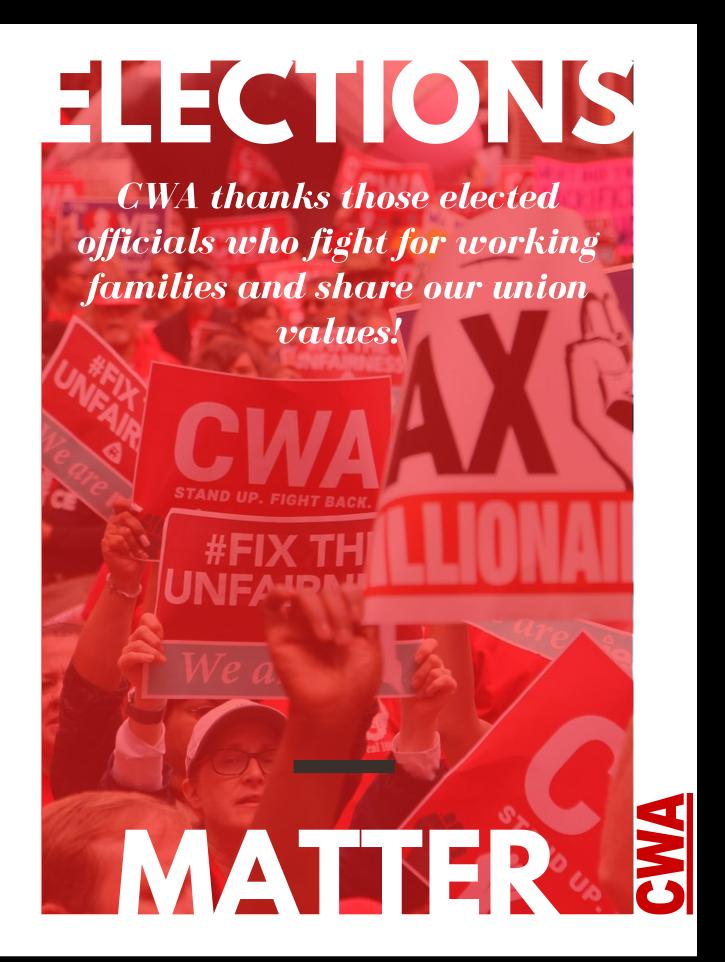


#### 92. Debbie White

### President, Health Professional Allied Employees (HPAE)

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. Her union this year took on a major fight with Rutgers.





### 93. Susan Decarava President of the NewsGuild of NY

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 News-

Guild. "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.

## 94. 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 Ciatatrelli 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.



#### 95. 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.





Aladar G. Komjathy Eileen Kean, Esq

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#### 96. 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 in 2021, the wider dimensions of sagging Camden County Democratic fortunes, including the evaporation of Steve Sweeney, breathe life into her local cause.



#### 97. 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, and will surface with intensity whenever Trenton tries to trample on people – which is often.

## 98. Patrick and Amy Kennedy South Jersey Power Couple



The former U.S. Representative from Rhode Island and the former schoolteacher turned 2020 Democratic nominee for Congress have statewide ties, not to mention the international calling card of Kennedy.

### New Name, New Logo, Same Great Team!





## 99. Zenon Christodoulou Board of Public Utilities Commissioner

The former long-serving chairman of the Somerset

Democratic Committee has a PhD in economics and offers
the experience of something rare – almost unheard of, in fact – in
his party: family business ownership.



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## 100. Rasheida Smith Dunton Consulting, LLC

In charge of a full-service government and community relations firm based in East Orange, Smith is a key confidant in the political circle of powerful Democratic State Party Chairman LeRoy Jones.



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