

# 2022 RETROSPECTIVE



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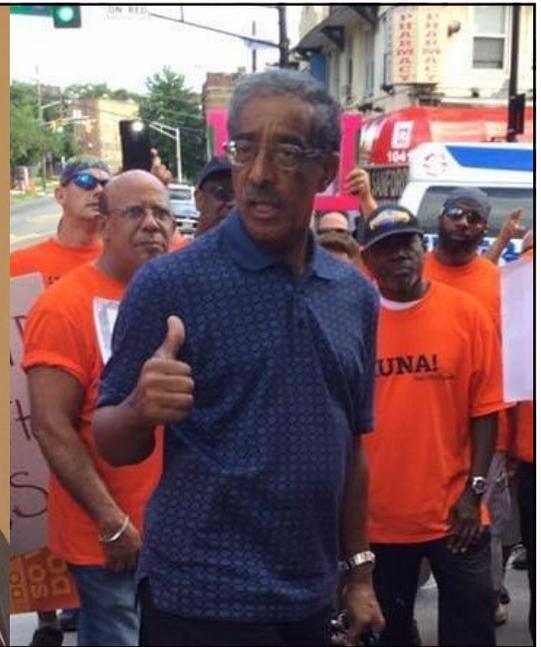
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# INSIDER NJ

Message from the Editor

RETROSPECTIVE 2022



The year brought the retirement of two legislative champions: Senator Ronald L. Rice, Democrat from Newark; and Senator Mike Doherty, Republican of Warren County.

Their retirement is significant.

Both Rice and Doherty served our country in uniform, the former in the Marine Corps and the latter in the United States Army, and brought to elected office a shared sense of sacrifice, moral responsibility and integrity.

In addition, those qualities imparted to both men the value of independence, especially in machine-dominated New Jersey politics.

Neither Rice nor Doherty ever did exactly what some powerful entity or

political organization told him; and in fact, mostly did the opposite in the name of serving their constituents.

We don't want to give the impression that a person's service in the military gives him a leg up on morality or legislative duty. It doesn't. History provides countless examples to the contrary. But in these two cases, we found in Rice and in Doherty a similar robustness of public purpose, and routine willingness to contravene power (Rice typically with the Norcross Machine, and Doherty with the Chris Christie Administration, which in many ways amounted to the same cross-party uber base) when it counted.

Rice displayed his independent drive most recently during the debate over marijuana legalization, where he un-

dertook the public position of decriminalization and expungement and managed to secure part of what he sought on the social justice front.

During the Christie era, he opposed charter schools without a wholly transparent process. “We start giving out applications for charters like they’re water,” said Rice, sitting on a subcommittee of the Joint Committee on the Public Schools. “Let’s slow this thing down. Even today when I move around urban communities people tell me ‘I’m going to open up a charter school.’ And they don’t have ten cents in their pocket. I say, ‘You are?’”

He stood by Sheila Oliver when she pursued a U.S. senate run in 2013 in defiance of the Democratic Party establishment. “The Joe D’s of the world and the George Norcrosses of the world can love us one day and then tell us our candidate can’t win,” he said.

Rice always came prepared, and he came prepared to fight.

So did Doherty.

“The seeds for this entire event were planted when Chris Christie made the decision that he was

going to run for reelection and basically ignore the Republican candidates that were running, including those running for the legislature,” Doherty said back in 2015. “His obsession with getting these 100 Democratic mayors led to this entire Bridgegate scandal.”

He added, “He’s got no one to blame but himself for this fiasco.”

Doherty bucked the Republican establishment when he bumped off his primary opponent in 2009 (two years, incidentally, after Rice weathered a Norcross-Steve Adu-bato Sr-Cory Booker-engineered attempt to get rid of him) to give the people of the 23rd District independent GOP representation.

While many Democrats (and Republicans, for that matter) took cover rather than risk their political empires getting overturned by the former U.S. Attorney, Doherty – like Rice – had nothing to hide.

“I think I represent a lot of people who think he used us to get into the office, and then when it came time to use up some of that political capital that we helped him garner, he decided he was not going to expend any political capital on any of the Republican candidates, he was just going to use it for his own ambition,” Doherty said.

Doherty and Rice.

Two public service soldiers who didn’t agree on much but who would be the last two guys you’d ever find abusing the office.

In summary, we will miss them, and so will New Jersey.

We don’t know what the next generations of leaders will demonstrate in terms of competency and job dedication, but we can with some confidence say this: Rice and Doherty separately but in part from the same trained foundation of sacrifice for a greater good than themselves leave legacies of moral rectitude and transparency.

They always picked up the phone when we called, and never shied away from controversy.

Of course, Doherty’s career in elected office will continue, in his new role as surrogate of Warren County.

But, as with Rice, it won’t be the same without him in the senate.

And that’s too bad.

Max Pizarro

*Max Pizarro*

Editor, InsiderNJ

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# WINNER OF THE YEAR

## Janice Fuller



The work of the 2021 congressional redistricting chair would not come to fruition until 2022, when elections would test the formulations devised by Fuller and her colleagues. The map devised by the Democratic chair and her team – and selected over the GOP team’s submission by Judge John Wallace – foresaw a 9-3 outcome; that is to say, nine Democrats and three Republicans occupying congressional seats. That’s what Fuller sought, and that is the result the voters in New Jersey’s 12 congressional districts produced. All the incumbents won in a 10-2 state with the exception of U.S. Rep. Tom Malinowski, whom Democrats sacrificed in the name of building stronger fortifications for other Democratic incumbents. Former Chief of Staff to Congressman and House Energy and Commerce Committee Chair Frank Pallone (D-6), and former D-6 district Director, Fuller serves as President for Mid-Atlantic for Anbaric Development, where she leads efforts to develop offshore wind transmission infrastructure.



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# WINNER OF THE YEAR RUNNER-UP Donald Payne



Challenged by well-funded progressive Amani Oakley, the U.S. Representative from the 10th District went into full alpha plumage mode, showing off a broad array of endorsements from across his district and the state, proving the value of longtime relationships secured, especially from all strata of labor. Payne in his 2020-2022 term could also take pride in helping President Joe Biden secure the federal infrastructure act – which creates thousands of building trades jobs in the congressman’s district; and in leading the floor fight to secure paid sick leave for rail workers.

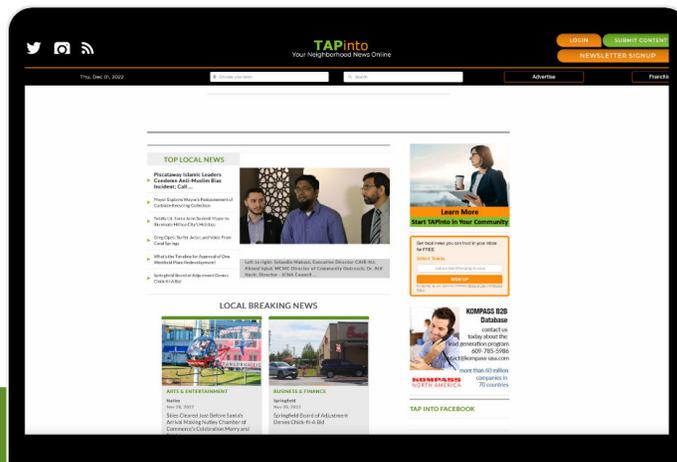


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# POLITICIAN OF THE YEAR

## Andre Sayegh



The Mayor of Paterson produced a convincing reelection victory to become the first mayor since 2006 to secure a second contiguous term in office. A difficult city to govern, Paterson broke mayors Marty Barnes and Joey Torres (both of them ended up behind bars) and hit the eject button on Jeff Jones after only one term (2010-2014). A former Ward 6 councilman who ran for mayor of his hometown twice unsuccessfully before winning his first term in 2018, Sayegh proved a very sharp elbowed corruption buster and dynamic and accessible chief executive. Having toppled Alex Mendez to win his first term, Sayegh in a divided field crushed his old rival earlier this year 48-27%. Insiders see Sayegh as the natural successor to U.S. Rep. Bill Pascrell (D-9) – who also won a second term when he served as mayor in the 1990s – when the congressman retires from federal office.



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# POLITICIAN OF THE YEAR RUNNER-UP Tony Vauss



The veteran Mayor of Irvington demonstrated years of careful local gamesmanship to plant his city in the strongest political position to claim the senate seat vacated with the retirement of Ronald L. Rice.

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# COUNTY CHAIR OF THE YEAR

## Peg Schaffer



One thing was notching all those victories during the President Donald J. Trump era. Schaffer's challenge was going to be how her countywide candidates performed once Trump left office. As it turned out, they did very well (with the specter of Trump to westward on the Sourland Mountains). Malinowski nipped Kean unofficially by a couple hundred votes (that districtwide contest was so close, it could have one either way). But countywide, incumbent Sheriff Darrin Russo handled GOP challenger John Sheridan: 55-45%. Clerk Steve Peter similarly handled his Republican rival, and so did Melonie Marano, for a decisive Democratic sweep in a year where the GOP hoped to exploit the midway point of Joe Biden's presidency for battleground gains. The red wave never materialized, giving Schaffer – who also serves as vice chair of the Democratic State Committee – a chance to consolidate party power in her Central Jersey county.

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# LOSER OF THE YEAR

## Tom Malinowski



He did a good job, trying to run on what he had to work with (a district forged during 2021 redistricting that featured 17K more Republicans than Democrats as part of a deal to produce an additional Republican seat while protecting other Democratic incumbents). Ultimately, Malinowski could not close the gap, as he demonstrated a superior intellect and pretty good work product while inescapably encumbered by a stock trading scandal. Tom Kean, Jr., the man he vanquished in 2020, ended up defeating Malinowski in the rematch by roughly half the registered Republicans in the new district.

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# LOSER OF THE YEAR RUNNER-UP

## The Voters of the 7th Congressional District



InsiderNJ anticipated a dreadful contest, and it worked out that way, with the incumbent, Malinowski (see above), tethered to a stock scandal and gratuitously visible; while his opponent, Republican challenger Tom Kean, Jr., assisted by a redistricted congressional map that gave him the edge in numbers he needed, remained underground, running a campaign that had all the relevance of the unexhumed tomb of a cousin of King Tutankhamun. Of course, that's what Kean wanted, a sarcophagus filled with sand, so he wouldn't have to talk about his party's favorite pharaoh, Donald Trump, or abortion. And that's what the district gets, with Kean's timid in absentia win.

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# LEGISLATOR OF THE YEAR

## Ronald L. Rice



The senator from the 28th District retired this year after a 36-year career in Trenton. Reinforced by those in attendance at his Dec. 3rd gala, his life's work – characterized by self-sacrifice, mean, lean Marine Corps public interest dedication, real-world groundedness on the streets of America, and a legislator's sharp elbowed understanding of the system – stands in stark contrast to at least one garish political figure of our present day, who strikes a Caligula-like self-idolizing pose in resistance to the country's history, to battles won and shifts of power gained, as part of a surreal, seemingly slavish dedication to pre-Civil War era anarchist nativism. The absolute opposite of Donald J. Trump in term of public – not self- service focus, Rice received a rousing send-off sponsored by the Legislative Black Caucus Foundation, overwhelmingly characterized by love and gratitude.

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# LEGISLATION OF THE YEAR



Assemblyman Joe Danielsen's (D-17) gun reform bill (A-4769) reacted to the U.S. Supreme Court's Bruen Decision by targeting the state's firearm licensing laws and establishing a list of sensitive locations where guns may not be carried, including playgrounds, bars and restaurants that serve alcohol, train stations, and polling places. A Reworked version of the bill protecting gun rights for retired law enforcement passed, but stands to receive significant 2nd Amendment-based legal challenges.



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# WHO'S **UP** AND WHO'S **DOWN**



## Britnee Timberlake

The siphoning of Montclair-based Nia Gill (see below) from the behemoth of Timberlake's East Orange at the heart of the 34th District makes Timberlake (a close ally and acolyte of Democratic State Party Chairman LeRoy Jones) the party's heir apparent to move up to the state senate with a win next year.

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**WHO'S UP AND WHO'S DOWN**

# Raj Mukherji

Redistricting will catapult the veteran 33rd District Assemblyman from Jersey City into a new seat created by the political deoxygenation of 32nd District Senator Nick Sacco (see below).

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**WHO'S UP AND WHO'S DOWN**



# Mike Testa

The Cumberland County GOP this year took control of the County Commission on the strength of their Tuesday night general election victories, strengthening the position of state Senator Testa (R-1), a possible 2025 Republican candidate for governor.

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**WHO'S UP AND WHO'S DOWN**



**Andy Kim**

Malinowski's implosion leaves the Burlington-based representative as the most obvious progressive voice in the spirit of fellow Central Jersey brand name Frank Pallone.

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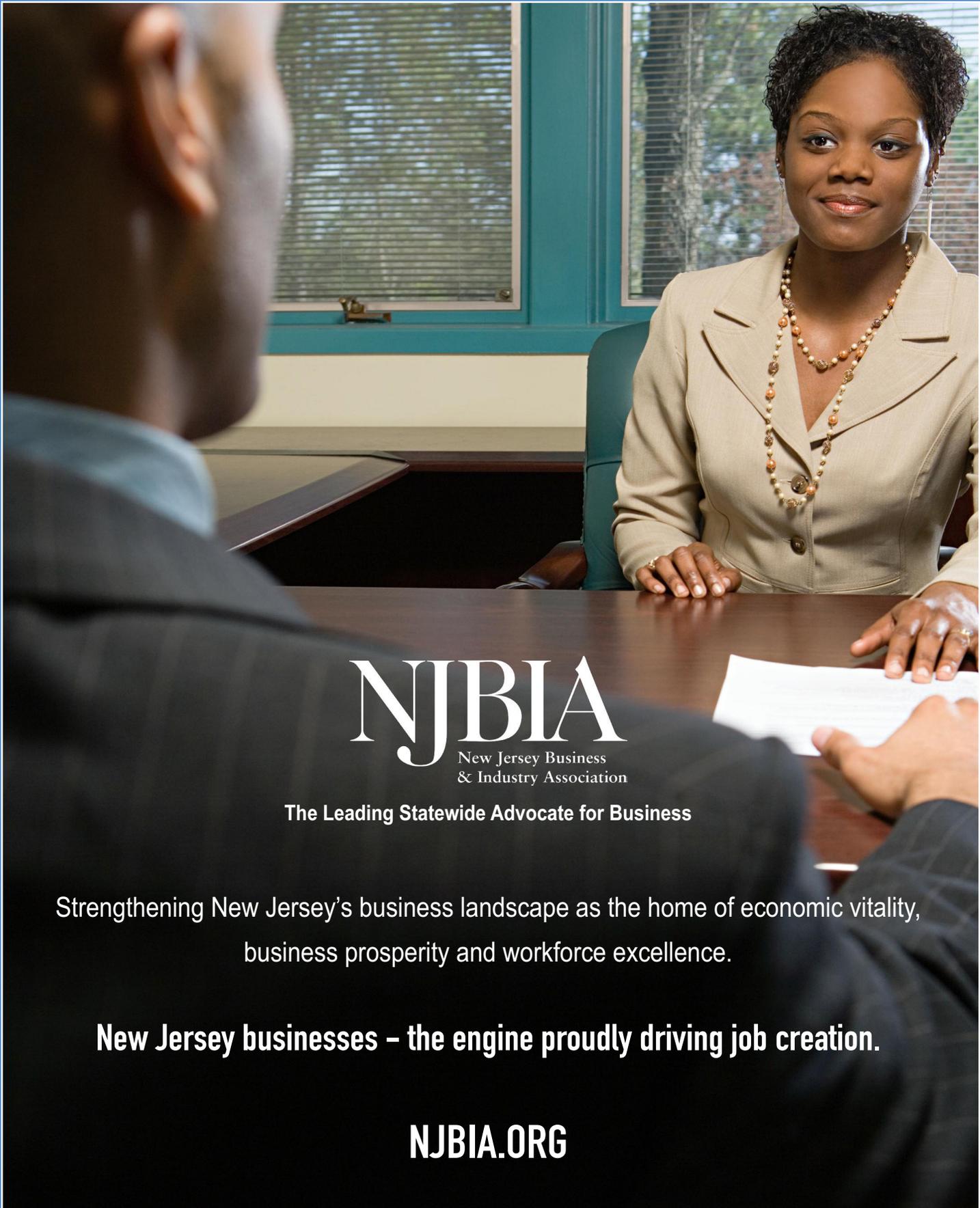
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## WHO'S UP AND WHO'S DOWN



## Doug Steinhardt

Warren County Republican Committee Chairman Doug Steinhardt won appointment in December to complete the term of former state Sen. Doherty (see above). At a special convention in Clinton Township Middle School, Republican Party leaders tapped Steinhardt to replace Doherty – now the Warren County surrogate – to the state senate in the 23rd Legislative District.



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**WHO'S UP AND WHO'S DOWN**

## Al Barlas

The chair of the Essex County GOP (and co-chair of 2021 legislative redistricting), Barlas of Mercury Public Affairs, has Republican Party support to replace Assemblyman Kevin Rooney (R-40), who's retiring.



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**WHO'S UP AND WHO'S DOWN**



# Pat Council

With the backing of his friend, Newark Mayor Ras Baraka, the recreation direction and South Ward Democratic Chairman won the South Ward Council seat left behind by retiring Councilman John Sharpe James.

**WHO'S UP AND WHO'S DOWN**



# Mike Silva

The retired police officer from the Ironbound stared down retired Police Chief (and Police Director) Anthony Campos in a fight to succeed retiring Councilman Augusto Amador.

# 1868

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## WHO'S UP AND WHO'S DOWN



## Nick Sacco

After serving in the State Senate since 1994, Sacco said he decided not to run for re-election after consulting with family and close friends, according to a post-redistricting release from the senator. He made the decision “long before the new districts were drawn” and he was placed into the same district as his colleague, Senator Brian Stack, the release noted. Sources confirm that he had long talked about being done with Trenton, and tired of the commute and cloakroom politics of the current party regime. As part of a deal struck with Senator Stack, Sacco got his choice of the HCDO chair and the new assemblyperson in the 33rd District, but no matter what he did or said as he heads toward another local reelection in his beloved North Bergen, Sacco couldn’t escape looking like a redistricting casualty, a shocking place to be in a state where *Bosses* – supposedly – *don’t get Kneecapped*.

**WHO'S UP AND WHO'S DOWN**

# Nia Gill

Redistricted out of commission, the senate's most consistently morally indignant interlocutor faces the prospect of trying to run for reelection against either Dick Codey or Britnee Timberlake, and without the Democratic Party line.



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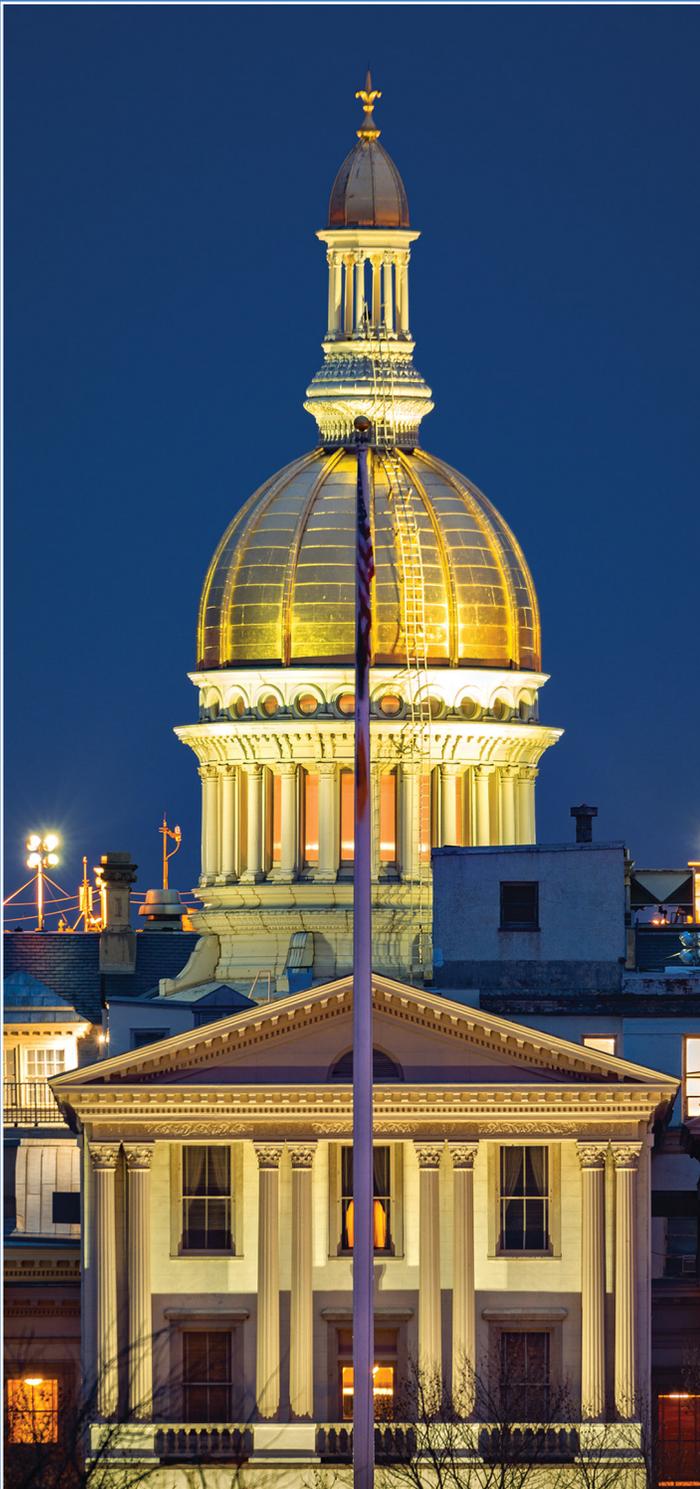
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## WHO'S UP AND WHO'S DOWN



## Alex Mendez

In his second shot at the mayoralty, former At-Large Paterson Councilman (and sitting 3rd Ward Councilman) couldn't shake off a VBM scandal, as he came up woefully short in his bid to unseat Mayor Sayegh. Not even former jailed Mayor Jose "Joey" Torres running around in Mendez's corner could give his flailing candidacy a boost.



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## WHO'S UP AND WHO'S DOWN



## Sean Caddle

The New Jersey-based political consultant in January admitted hiring two men to kill a longtime associate who had worked for him on various political campaigns, U.S. Attorney Philip R. Sellinger announced. Caddle, 44, of Hamburg, pleaded guilty by videoconference before U.S. District Judge John Michael Vazquez to an information charging him with one count of conspiracy to commit murder for hire. Judge Vazquez allowed Caddle to remain out on \$1 million unsecured bond, home detention with electronic monitoring and travel restrictions. Caddle ran the Committee for Economic and Social Justice, the PAC associated with former state Senator Ray Lesniak (D-20).

## WHO'S UP AND WHO'S DOWN



## Antonio "Tony" Teixeira

The Union County man who previously served as a staff member in the New Jersey Senate (including Chief of Staff to Senate President Nick Scutari) in November admitted his role in a conspiracy to falsely inflate the invoices that a political consultant (see Caddle, above) submitted to various campaigns, political action committees, and IRS 501(c)(4) organizations, U.S. Attorney Sellinger announced. Teixeira, 43, of Elizabeth, pleaded guilty before U.S. District Judge John Michael Vazquez to an information charging him with one count of conspiracy to commit wire fraud and one count of tax evasion.



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## WHO'S UP AND WHO'S DOWN



## Wildwood Elected Officials

Mayor Peter Byron, former Mayor Ernest Troiano, and current City Commissioner Steven Mikulski faced charges of unlawful taking and tampering with public records, according to Acting Attorney General Matthew Platkin. First elected as city commissioners in 2011, Byron, 67, a Democrat, and Troiano, 71, a Republican, had voted to pass a resolution declaring themselves full-time employees working at least 35 hours each week. According to 101.5 FM: “Working those hours, the two officials would have been eligible for the State Health Benefits Program in accordance with a state law passed in 2010. However, the men ‘falsely signed and submitted timesheets to the city’ claiming they worked full days Monday through Friday, Platkin said.”

**WHO'S UP AND WHO'S DOWN**

# Paul Kennedy

The disgraced former Ocean Gate Mayor absorbed theft and official misconduct charges for keeping money meant for government purposes; including pocketing auction money.



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# CONTEST OF THE YEAR

## The Newark West Ward Race



Attorney Chigozie Onyema gave local establishment forces a fright, as he forced rap star Dupre “DoItAll” Kelly into a runoff in the West Ward before succumbing to the Ras Baraka-connected Kelly.

# CAMPAIGN OF THE YEAR

## Andy Kim 2022



Sure, the 3rd District Congressman received much more favorable congressional territory on the other side of redistricting. But he exceeded expectations against financially well-connected challenger Bob Healey, thrashing his general election rival 55-44%. Progressive darling Kim accomplished this mostly by heading toward reelection with a solid public service record (and no scandals, unlike Malinowski), putting distance between himself and House Speaker Nancy Pelosi (Kim unequivocally opposed Pelosi's defense of elected officials investing stock), successfully arguing the district benefit of the American Rescue Act, and taking advantage of the Supreme Court's reversal of *Roe v. Wade*.

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# COMEBACK OF THE YEAR

## George Gilmore



Sentenced to one year and one day in prison for his conviction on two counts of failing to pay payroll taxes withheld from employees to the IRS and one count of making false statements on a bank loan application, the jammed-up former Ocean County GOP chairman subsequently received a pardon from outgoing President Donald J. Trump. This past summer, Gilmore staged a comeback, running for his old chairmanship and defeating Sheriff Michael Mastrorady by just 13 votes in a county convention: 333-320.

# OPERATIVE OF THE YEAR

## Jackie Burns



This was supposed to be a close election in a district that Democrat Mikie Sherrill snagged from Republicans during the Trump years. Notwithstanding redistricting advantages and spending herself down to zero, Sherrill made a statement, soundly defeating Republican challenger Paul DeGroot 57-42%. At the helm was campaign manager Burns, who managed to make DeGroot look like he agreed with Sherrill more than he opposed her (especially key on the abortion front) as the moderate tried to flee the Trump reaches of his own party only to fall into campaign no-man's land.



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**The Freedom of Reproductive Choice Act:** Guarantees the right to abortion in New Jersey

**S413/A4698:** Enables patients to receive 12 months of birth control at a time

**FY23 State Budget:** Made historic investments in reproductive health care services

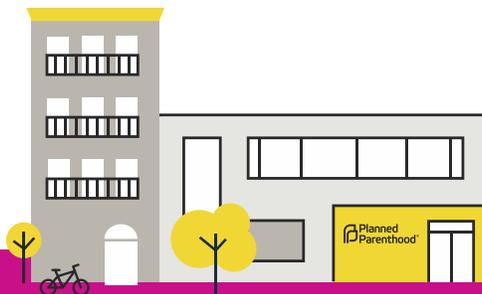
**A3974/S2642:** Bars extradition of people who seek abortion care in New Jersey

**A3975/S2633:** Protects patient health information, patients from out-of-state, and providers

**We've accomplished so much – and there's still so much more to do.**

**In a post-Roe world, we're working to ensure that everyone can access the reproductive health care they need, when they need it.**

**Join us in this fight, in 2023 and beyond.**



*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](http://www.PPActionNJ.org)

# ORGANIZATION OF THE YEAR Team Irvington Strong



The retirement of state Senator Ronald L. Rice in LD-28 created an opportunity for Democratic Party organizations in the 28th to flex their muscles. This proved a telling political moment for Irvington Mayor Tony Vauss, who spent years learning the county organization trade from his mentor the late D. Bilal Beasley. Confronted by the larger – but not as organized – Newark, Vauss and his allies partnered with Bloomfield to make their candidate, Irvington Council President Renee Burgess, the party successor to Mr. Rice.

# NEWCOMER OF THE YEAR

## Renee Burgess



On Sept. 9th, when she won the backing of the Democratic Party, the long-serving Irvington Council President told InsiderNJ she wants to focus on healthcare for senior citizens and the disadvantaged, and on the expansion of voting rights for all citizens. “Absolutely,” she said, when asked if she sees her victory as an opportunity to broaden the impact and organizational influence of Team Irvington Strong, which starts with voter education and mobilization. One of the people she thanked tonight at the podium was her daughter, and an hour removed from her victory, she had a message for young women. “Stay strong,” Burgess said. “Get educated, yes – but don’t forget to help people. Help yourself, but help other people. Don’t forget them. And – I’m not afraid to say it – don’t forget that higher power.”

# GREEK MYTH OF THE YEAR



## Sisyphus

From NJ.com, quoting Senate President Nick Scutari (D-20), on the legislature's path to legalize recreational marijuana:

*"That journey was like pushing a stone up a hill in Greek mythology. Every time I pushed it up, it rolled down."*

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*Eileen Kean, Esq*  
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# QUOTE OF THE YEAR



## **Assemblyman Hal Wirths, on the Democrats’ “terrible bill”, in his judgement, which tightens regulations governing concealed carry:**

“For those of you who are going to go off to canvas in New Hampshire and Iowa for Governor Murphy—they all carry! You go to Texas for the baseball games, they all carry. You go to Disney, they all carry. Go to Philadelphia to watch a game, they all carry. Are you all going to avoid those states? How about New Hampshire, Vermont, Maine? Maine is one of the safest states in the nation. You know what’s required in Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, and many other states? Just to be a law-abiding citizen. Anyone in this room—I hope we’re all law-abiding citizens—can go to those states and carry a firearm today, without any permit. Do you feel threatened when you’re walking through Vermont and New Hampshire? I don’t think so. I think if you look at yourself in the mirror and say, ‘Am I scared to go to those states?’ The answer would be no. Otherwise, you’re really homebodies and you stay right here, which is good, I guess, the state of New Jersey spends all your money. But folks, this is going to do nothing but make the law-abiding citizens less safe.”



# NJEA members



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public schools.

Pictured above:

**Sean M. Spiller**, President (center)

**Steve Beatty**, Vice President (right)

**Petal Robertson**, Secretary-Treasurer (left)

# ELECTION BOMBSHELL OF THE YEAR

## The Supreme Court's Reversal of Roe v. Wade



No, it didn't enable Malinowski to beat Kean in New Jersey's single truly battleground district (at least based on redistricting), but the mid-summer news of the High Court's intentions certainly galvanized women in key suburban areas to reinforce what the map wrought.

# CAMPAIGN AD OF THE YEAR

## The Bob Healey Campaign Against incumbent U.S. Andy Kim.



**In the words of InsiderNJ Columnist Fred Snowflack:**

“Nancy Pelosi is on drums; Joe Biden is lead guitar. A bunch of old guys are dancing around – sort of. All this is brought to you by ‘Far Left Records.’ Or actually, Bob Healey. He is the Republican candidate challenging Andy Kim in CD-3 and also a one-time punk rocker. So a TV ad hearkening back to his musical days may not be all that odd. The parody is entitled ‘Washington is a madhouse.’ And the seemingly well heeled politicians strutting about are “dancing along to an insane tune,” Healey says in the narrative. This is a tune that has brought the country rising inflation among other ills.

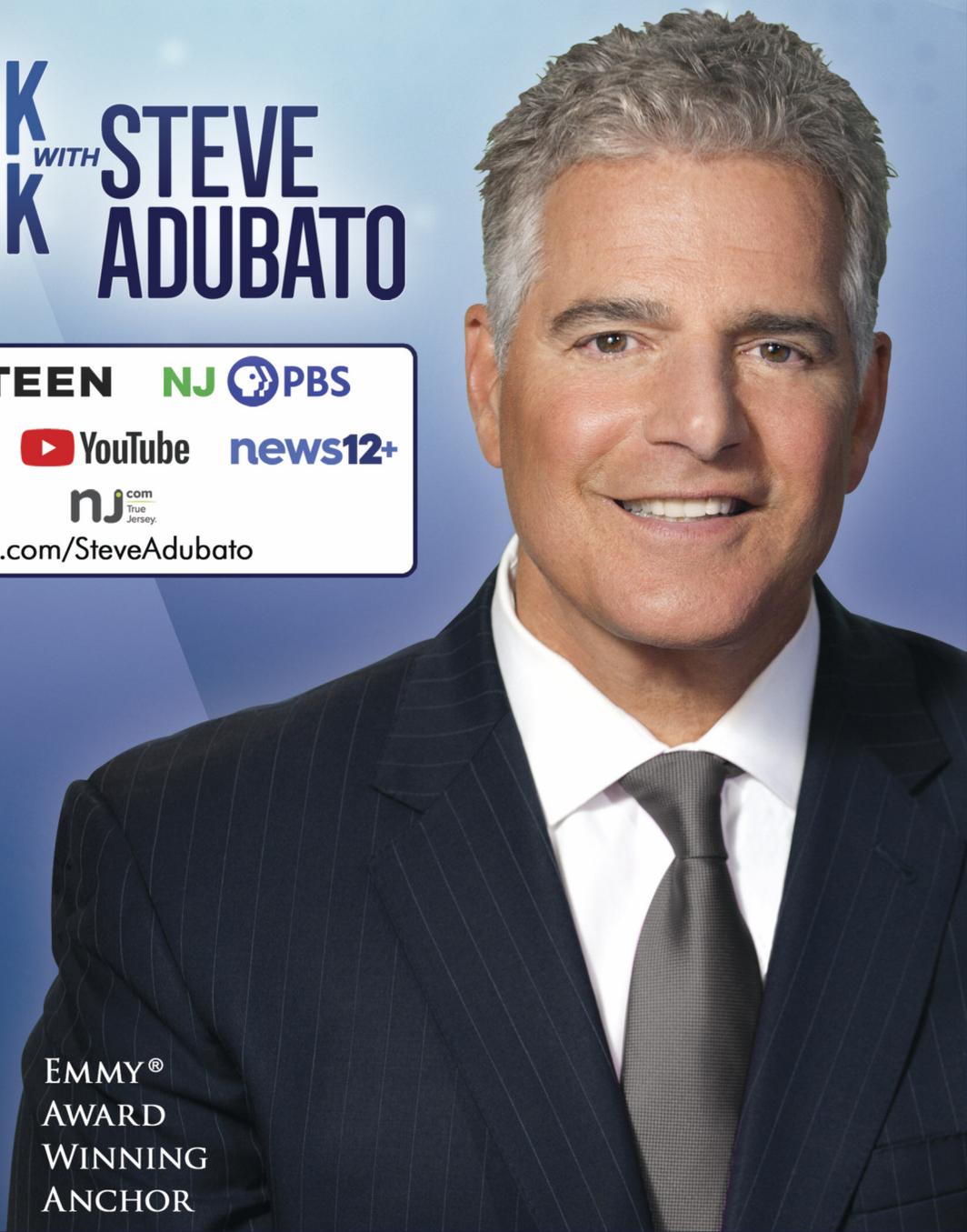
Healey, who was once lead singer for a group called The Ghouls, says his mosh pit days may be behind him, but that he still knows how to “throw an elbow” and get things done. The elbow reference sounds more like a basketball player battling for a rebound under the boards, but no matter. Getting things done to Healey means cutting spending to control inflation, increasing

energy production and supporting law enforcement. The ad is creative, but also routine in that it essentially covers what Republicans want the midterms to be about – Biden, Pelosi and inflation. It does not confront women’s rights, or more specifically, abortion, which is what Democrats want the midterms to be about.”

Still, it was funny.

# THINK TANK WITH STEVE ADUBATO

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# WORST CANDIDATE OF THE YEAR

## Ian Smith

The Attlis Gym Owner and perennial COVID-19 lockdown critic of Governor Phil Murphy looked (kind of) good on paper, but melted down in his own – to put it mildly – miasma of driver history trouble.

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**NEW JERSEY**  
Business Summit & EXPO

**2023**

*Registration info coming soon*

# WORD OF THE YEAR

pol·i·tics

*/'pälə,tiks/*

## POLITICS

n. “A strife of interests masquerading as a contest of principles. The conduct of public affairs for private advantage.”

-Ambrose Bierce



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# 2022 GENERAL ELECTION RESULTS

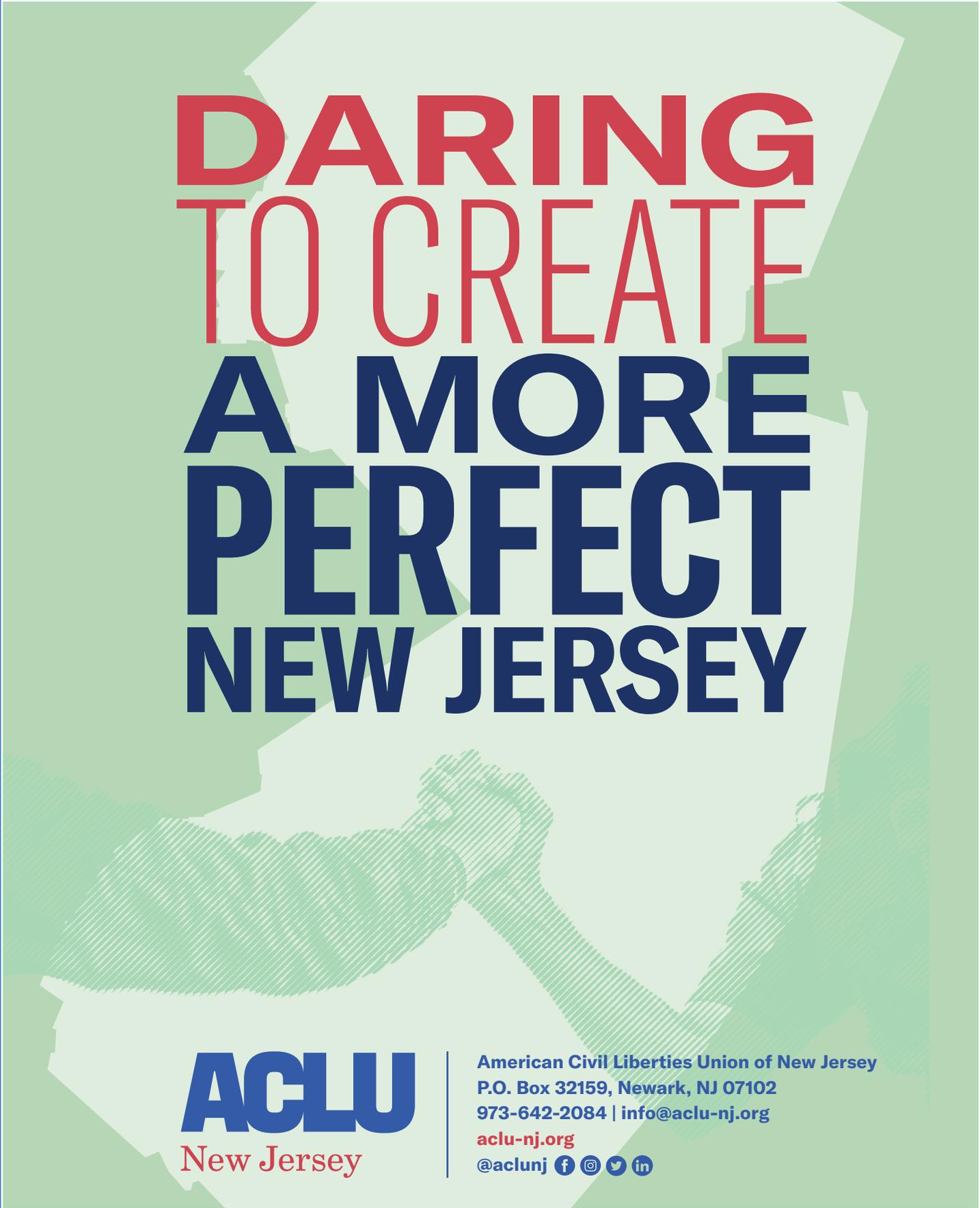
(from the New Jersey Secretary of State's Office)

<p><b>CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT 1:</b>  <b>U.S. Rep. Donald Norcross (D): 139,559</b>          Claire Gustafson (R): 78,794</p>	<p><b>CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT 4:</b>  <b>U.S. Rep. Chris Smith (R): 173,288</b>          Matthew Jenkins (D): 81,233</p>
<p><b>CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT 2:</b>  <b>U.S. Rep. Jeff Van Drew (R): 139,217</b>          Tim Alexander (D): 94,522</p>	<p><b>CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT 5:</b>  <b>U.S. Rep. Josh Gottheimer (D): 145,559</b>          Frank Pallotta (R): 117,873</p>
<p><b>CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT 3:</b>  <b>U.S. Rep. Andy Kim (D): 150,498</b>          Bob Healey (R): 118,415</p>	<p><b>CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT 6:</b>  <b>U.S. Rep. Frank Pallone (D): 106,238</b>          Susan M. Kiley (R): 75,839</p>

**PASS S1221/A1349**

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[aclu-nj.org](http://aclu-nj.org)

@aclunj    

# 2022 GENERAL ELECTION RESULTS

(from the New Jersey Secretary of State's Office)

<p><b>CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT 7:</b>  <b>Tom Kean (R): 159,392</b>                  U.S. Rep. Tom Malinowski (D): 150,701</p>	<p><b>CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT 10:</b>  <b>U.S. Rep. Donald Payne (D): 99,613</b>                  David Pinckney (R): 25,792</p>
<p><b>CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT 8:</b>  <b>Rob Menendez (D): 70,837</b>                  Marcos Arroyo (R): 23,540</p>	<p><b>CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT 11:</b>  <b>U.S. Rep. Mikie Sherrill (D): 161,436</b>                  Paul DeGroot (R): 109,952</p>
<p><b>CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT 9:</b>  <b>U.S. Rep. Bill Pascrell (D): 82,115</b>                  Billy Prempeh (R): 65,215</p>	<p><b>CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT 12:</b>  <b>U.S. Rep. Bonnie Watson Coleman (D): 125,127</b>                  Darius Mayfield (R): 71,175</p>

*Agudath Israel: 100 years of championing religious liberties and civil rights.*

*Wishing all a Happy & Successful 2023!*

Rabbi Avi Schnall  
 Director

Ralph Zucker  
 Co-Chairman

David Gross  
 Co-Chairman



**Agudath Israel of America**  
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## IN MEMORIAM

*Rest in Peace, New Jersey Governor James J. Florio*

Former Governor Jim Florio, a Navy veteran, former amateur boxer and proud New Jersey Democrat who represented South Jersey and the Camden waterfront in Congress, died this year.

He was 85.

Forced to raise taxes, he said, Governor Florio fought unsuccessfully

for a second term in 1993, losing narrowly to Christie Todd Whitman.

Said Governor Phil Murphy of his predecessor, "Governor Florio was a fighter who never backed down. He was a leader who cared more about the future of New Jersey than his own political fortunes. And he was also a friend whose

kind counsel was invaluable to me and countless others across our state. Our communities are cleaner today because of the environmental efforts he championed in Congress. And our streets are safer today because of his dogged effort to enact and defend our state's assault-weapons ban, which remains the law to this day. More than anything, Governor Florio

showed that legacies are built by doing the right things. Tammy and I send our heartfelt thoughts to Lucinda, Jim's children, and all who loved him. Our state has lost a good man, and later this morning I will sign an executive order directing our flags to fly at half-staff in his honor."

New Jersey Democratic State Committee Chairman LeRoy J. Jones, Jr., released the following statement:

"Governor Jim Florio was a consummate public servant who rose from humble, working class beginnings to devote his life to making the State of New Jersey a better place to live, work and raise a family. As a member of Congress representing South Jersey, he wrote landmark environmental legislation that is still helping us clean up industrial sites and create a greener future. As Governor Jim Florio had the courage of his convictions to pursue a progressive agenda even in the face of major opposition and backlash. While he did not win a second term, his initiatives on school funding and gun safety helped shape the state we love today and his impact will always be remembered.

"On behalf of the New Jersey Democratic State Committee, I

want to extend my condolences to Governor Florio's family, friends and colleagues during this difficult time, and commit to always remembering the positive impact he had on our state."

A lifelong public servant, Governor Florio served in the legislature prior to going to Congress, and prior to becoming governor. In 1969 and 1971, he represented the 3rd Legislative District in the General Assembly, which covered portions of Camden. He was elected in 1973, together with Ernest F. Schuck, to represent the 5th Legislative District in the General Assembly, which covered portions of Camden County and Gloucester County; Florio resigned in 1975 to take a seat in the U.S House of Representatives.

U.S. Rep. Bill Pascrell (D-9) backed Mr. Florio for the U.S. Senate in 2000. The former governor lost to Jon Corzine in the Democratic Primary, 58-42%.

"Governor Florio was a good man, an inspiring leader, and a picture of perseverance," Pascrell tweeted. "He had a lot of big wins, some tough losses, and always bounced back always to help New Jersey be even better. Jim was my good friend. The whole state is poorer without him today."

**From Wikipedia:**



"In November 1974, Florio was elected to the United States House of Representatives from New Jersey's 1st congressional district, and served from January 3, 1975, until January 16, 1990.

"In Congress, he was best known as the author of the Superfund legislation to clean up the most polluted sites in the country. He was the author of the Railroad Deregulation Law which saved the nation's freight railroads, including Conrail. He was also cosponsor of the Exon-Florio Amendment, which created the Treasury Department's Committee on Foreign Investment in the United States and effectively removed Congress from the approval process on foreign takeovers of U.S. industrial concerns. This legislation was a factor in the Dubai Ports World controversy in 2006."



Governor Florio was an early backer of Joe Biden for President in 2020.

“Donald Trump is an existential threat to the future of our nation,” he told his friend, InsiderNJ columnist Alan Steinberg. “His character and corruption make him an unfit president. I plan to endorse Joe Biden. He is definitely the most electable Democratic candidate. I have had a long relationship with him, and he has both the experience and personal character to be a successful president. Most importantly, Donald Trump must be defeated, and Joe Biden is definitely the most electable Democrat.”

Steinberg added this about the Governor:

“Jim Florio is a person of commitment and passion, both as to his values, which are traditional working class and community oriented, and as to his positions on issues, which are oriented to both policy solutions and pragmatic politics. Yet in communicating his values and policy views, Florio’s passion is tempered by a strong sense of dignity, decorum, and a desire to listen and respond to the views of the person with whom he is conversing. Jim Florio engages in dialogue – he does not harangue.”

U.S. Rep. Donald Norcross (D-1) released the following statement upon learning of the death of former Governor Florio:

“I was saddened to learn of the passing of Governor Jim Florio. He was a dedicated public servant who cared deeply for our great state and its people. He was a true environmentalist, a trailblazer long before it was popular to do so. As a congressman he championed the superfund law that has cleaned up dangerous chemicals in communities in New Jersey and around the country, and as governor he signed the state’s clean water act, saving countless lives. He led by seeing the good in every individual and reached across party lines to do what was right even when it was hard. My deepest sympathies to his wife and family. New Jersey has lost one of our greatest champions and he will be truly missed.”