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INSIDE POLITICS FOR POLITICAL INSIDERS

CAMPAIGN '09, EST. 2007

INSIDE

Winners & Losers of the Year * Politician of the Year
Best & Worst Campaigns of 2007 * Top Ten News Stories of 2007
Best Operatives * Boss of the Year
People to Watch * The Rudest Person Alive

PolitickerNJ.com
INSIDE POLITICS FOR POLITICAL INSIDERS

POLITICIAN OF THE YEAR

Stephen Adubato, Sr.

At age 75, Stephen Adubato Sr. continues to accumulate political allies by working both sides of the aisle and carefully engaging in battles that he can win. His organization captured Sharpe James' State Senate seat (with Teresa Ruiz, a key lieutenant), he took out Assemblyman Wilfredo Caraballo (as he promised to do in 2006), picked up an Assembly seat (the one held by Bill Payne), and he continues to secure enormous funding for his power base, Newark's North Ward Cultural Center. Adubato's electoral success in 2007 was extraordinary, even as Newark Mayor Cory Booker's candidate lost a race to Ron Rice.

Adubato is well-liked by New Jersey's Governor and two U.S. Senators, has influence over Booker, and exercises substantial clout over the Essex County Hall of Records and the Newark City Council. He talks to just about every powerbroker in New Jersey. And this year, when he announced his support of Hillary Clinton for President, his endorsement was viewed as important enough to make Hotline, one of the nation's most important political publications.

And while he's a Democrat, Adubato has cultivated close relationships with key Republicans, like U.S. Attorney Christopher Christie, GOP State Chairman Tom Wilson, and State Senators-elect Bill Baroni and Kevin O'Toole.

PolitickerNJ.com Politicians of the Year

Donald Scarinci, 2000
John Lynch, 2001
Christopher Christie, 2002
Michael Beson, 2003
Joseph Ferriero, 2004
Richard Codey, 2005
Juan Melli, 2006
Stephen Adubato, 2007

WINNER OF THE YEAR

George Norcross

Sonny McCullough said it best in his election night concession speech: "I'd like to congratulate George Norcross."

Norcross had a very good year for two reasons: he won the two races he was most heavily invested in, and he made tens of millions through the sale of Commerce Bank. The first expands his political power, and the second gives him even greater financial security – something that, in New Jersey, will make him even more powerful.

The General of the South was one of the driving forces behind the elections of Democrats Jeff Van Drew and Jim Whelan to the State Senate. He showed that his money and manpower could oust incumbents – hardly pushovers – in tough races. His ability to raise money – quickly and in large denominations – can stop a team of oxen dead in their tracks. He doesn't let people tell him no, and gets that few New Jersey politicians have the testicular fortitude to turn him down anyway.

Whelan's victory, particularly, gives Norcross added clout with the Atlantic City gaming industry. And Asselta's defeat showed that Norcross' support is more important than the active endorsement of New Jersey AFL-CIO President Charles Wowkanech.

After the election, Norcross quickly endorsed a longtime rival, Richard Codey, for Senate President, and then got his man, Steve Sweeney, elected Senate Majority Leader – evidence that the truly successful know how – and when – to use their power. His friendship with Assembly Speaker Joseph Roberts gives him incredible sway in both houses of the New Jersey Legislature. His alliance with Senator Raymond Lesniak gives the Norcross machine an embassy in the north.

Norcross faces new challenges in 2008: he is positioning to pick up a congressional seat the Republicans have held since 1884 – maybe even a second one, if Jeff Van Drew runs— and if Frank Lautenberg changes his mind, is well positioned to help Rob Andrews win a U.S. Senate seat.

LOSER OF THE YEAR

Gary Rose

In an interview with *The Record* last October, gubernatorial advisor Gary Rose said: "I can't figure this place out." He wasn't kidding.

Jon Corzine's former Goldman Sachs partner, now an influential gubernatorial advisor with the title of Chief of the Office of Economic Growth, stands out as one of the architects of the Governor's political woes. It's not that he's a political outsider as much as his inability to understand that he can't change the way Trenton works if he doesn't learn how it works. If Corzine is to be held accountable to the people of New Jersey, then Rose must be held accountable to Corzine.

To some – including a few Corzine loyalists – he comes across as the imperial advisor whose arrogance has cost the Governor critical percentage points in his approval ratings.

Rose has made some powerful enemies: to put it mildly, he doesn't get along with Senate President Richard Codey and has strained relationships with many legislators. He doesn't see the importance of party leaders to Corzine, and in some cases, doesn't even know who key Democratic County Chairs are.

Specifically, Rose's 2007 failures include the rejection of ballot initiatives to fund stem cell research and reduce property taxes – and the near loss of Corzine's open space initiative (which received the lowest percentage of voter approval of any open space ballot question in state history.) His economic growth plan has not yet been approved or implemented. Is the latest sign of his success an announcement by Merrill Lynch that they are laying off thousands of New Jersey employees?

Over the last year, Rose has emerged as sort of a New Jersey Rasputin – an advisor who manages to anger nearly everyone, but maintains extraordinary loyalty from the King that he serves.

RUNNERS UP: NEXT PAGE

RUNNERS UP
WINNERS OF THE YEAR

Stuart Rabner
A rapid climb up New Jersey's political ladder, Rabner is now the Chief Justice of the New Jersey Supreme Court.

Tom Kean Jr.
One year after losing a U.S. Senate race, the ex-Governor's son is now the Senate Minority Leader and well-positioned to reinvigorate the NJ GOP as the leader of the new generation. Now he has to show that he's got talent.

Frank Pallone
The 11-term Congressman now heads one of the most powerful subcommittees in Washington, and after becoming the first Democrat to attack the U.S. Attorney, is now the darling of many New Jersey Democrats.

Susan Bass Levin/Anthony Coscia
The new Deputy Executive Director of the Port Authority, and the PA Chairman, helped New Jersey secure $6 billion in funding for a Hudson River tunnel and PATH improvements. That makes them New Jersey's biggest producers of 2007.

George Gilmore
The Ocean County GOP Chairman, perhaps the last Republican boss standing, picks up key local victories in Toms River and Brick mayoral races, and was named Chairman of the New Jersey Giuliani for President campaign.

RUNNERS UP
LOSERS OF THE YEAR

Bob Levy
He went AWOL for two weeks and now, facing a criminal probe, has resigned as the Mayor of Atlantic City.

Joseph Coniglio
The Bergen Democrat was forced to drop his bid for re-election to the Senate after his federal criminal probe was leaked to the press. His political career is over, even though he hasn't actually been charged with a crime.

Roberto Rivera-Soto
The Associate Justice of the state Supreme Court became a joke this year after being disciplined in an embarrassing "do you know who I am" incident that threatens his long-term judicial career.

Sal Vega
The half-term Assemblyman and Mayor of West New York went from supporting Brian Stack for Mayor to challenging him – and the results were humiliating: Vega got just 25% of the vote, even with the support of one of the state's premier Democratic machines.

Steve DeMicco
The state's dominant political consultant who has helped win two U.S. Senate races and two Gubernatorial races in recent years, lost State Senate races for Ellen Karcher and Seema Singh in 2007.

QUOTABLE

"Oh yeah, I endorsed him. But that was before I knew he was crooked."

— Sal Vega on his Democratic State Senate primary opponent, Brian Stack. (PolitickerNJ.com, 05/15/07)

BOSS OF THE YEAR
Christopher Christie

Democrats and Republicans statewide spent nearly $70 million on state legislative races in 2007, combining to oust three State Senators and one Assemblyman. Spending much less money, Christopher J. Christie, the United States Attorney, was responsible for unseating three State Senators and two Assemblymen – making him more effective at tossing incumbents from office than any party leader in New Jersey, even our Winner of the Year.

And Christie's ability to deliver no-bid contracts worth huge amounts of money to his friends and former colleges – like a deal worth up to $50 million for John Aschcroft, and mega million dollar contracts for Herbert Stern and John Inglesino at UMDNJ, GOP ex-N.J. Attorney General David Samson and David Kelley, a former U.S. Attorney in New York – might make party leaders like George Norcross, Glenn Paulsen, Charlotte DeFilippo and Joseph Ferriero envious. It's possible that Christie gives out more contracts than several of the party bosses.

Like an effective boss, Christie has been able to avert public criticism – maybe because his name doesn't actually appear on a ballot (although that may change in 2009.) Neither party has been willing to publicly criticize him – perhaps because of Paul Byrne's old rule about not ticking off the U.S. Attorney – but suddenly Rep. Frank Pallone took the lead just before Thanksgiving, becoming the first Democrat in seven years to take Christie on.

TOP 10 POLITICAL STORIES OF 2007

1 Governor Jon Corzine was critically injured in an April automobile when his state car, traveling at 91 miles per hour, crashed on the Garden State Parkway. Not wearing a seatbelt, Corzine broke more than a dozen bones, lost half his blood, and spent more than a week on a ventilator. The Governor paid a fine for not wearing his seatbelt, and the Trooper driving the car, Robert Rasinski, was reassigned to a job that pays more money. Dick Codey returned as Acting Governor during Corzine's hospitalization.

⁜ ⁜ ⁜

2 Four Democratic legislators were indicted, and a fifth is now the target of a federal crime probe. Assemblymen Alfred Steele and Mims Hackett were arrested on bribery charges during an early morning FBI sweep last September that included Passaic Mayor Sammy Rivera and nine others. Steele and Hackett resigned from the Assembly, although Hackett remains as Mayor of Orange. Steele has already pleaded guilty, while Rivera says he wants a trial. Two other State Senators were also indicted in 2007: Sharpe James, the former Mayor of Newark; and Wayne Bryant, the powerful Senate Appropriations Committee Chairman. James and Bryant did not seek re-election and are currently awaiting trial. A third State Senator, Joseph Coniglio, dropped his bid for re-election after several newspapers reported a federal grand jury was looking at his $60,000-a-year plumbing contract with Hackensack University Medical Center, whichl he helped obtain $1 million in state funds.

⁜ ⁜ ⁜

3 Atlantic City Mayor Robert Levy resigned after disappearing for nearly two weeks. He has spent time at a substance abuse and mental health clinic, and resigned amidst an investigation that he embellished his military service record. No charges have been filed against Levy. Three Atlantic City Councilmen were convicted on corruption charges -- a fourth was acquitted – and another was the subject of a bizarre sex tape that appears to have been a set-up from the corrupt Callaway political machine. Atlantic City is now on its third Mayor this year.

4 U.S. Attorney Christopher Christie, a likely candidate for the GOP nomination for Governor, continued his war on corruption with indictments and convictions against a multitude of public officials. But Christie was included on a Justice Department list of federal prosecutors to be fired (he was removed), and he's facing heavy public criticism from Democrats, led by Rep, Frank Pallone, for awarding a no-bid federal monitor contract to his former boss, John Ashcroft, that could be worth as much as $50 million over the next eighteen months.

⁜ ⁜ ⁜

5 CWA President Carla Katz, who heads the state's largest public employees union and was Jon Corzine's former girlfriend, continued to dominate the news: lawsuits to force Corzine to release his emails to her; cash payments by Corzine to Katz's brother-in-law, Rocco Riccio; and lawsuits from the national CWA union to remove her from her post. (Katz is also an unpaid *PolitickerNJ.com* columnist.)

⁜ ⁜ ⁜

6 Fifteen State Senators who were elected in the 2003 election did not seek re-election in 2007 – a record number of voluntary retirements in a chamber where Senators are more likely to die in office than to walk away. With the defeat of three incumbents in the November mid-term election, the New Jersey Senate becomes younger, less predictable, and less experienced: the departing Senators had a combined 341 years of legislative service.

⁜ ⁜ ⁜

7 One of the most powerful legislators in state history, Bill Gormley, resigned on February 15 after nearly thirty years in Trenton. He spent a decade as Senate Judiciary Committee Chairman. Republicans, by a 61%-39% margin, picked Sonny McCullough to replace him over Frank Blee, and then in November, voters replaced McCullough with Democrat James Whelan.

8 In the weeks after the mid-term elections, two Republican Congressmen – Jim Saxton and Mike Ferguson – announced they would not seek re-election in 2008. Unexpectedly, two seats that the GOP has held for more than fifty years are in play for the Democrats.

⁜ ⁜ ⁜

9 The New Jersey Supreme Court Associate Justice Roberto Rivera-Soto was censured for his role in an incident involving his son's high school football team. Upset with the school's failure to discipline the other student involved Rivera-Soto "referred or alluded to his judicial office" during a telephone conversation with the Superintendent of Schools, and personally called the Chief of Police, Assignment Judge, the Acting Camden County Prosecutor, and other court officials to discuss the case.

⁜ ⁜ ⁜

10 A total of $68.8 million was spent on primary and general campaigns for the State Senate and General Assembly in 2007: Democrats picked up one Senate seat and Republicans gained two Assembly seats. The big news of the November election was the defeat of public referendums to spend $450 million on stem cell research and an initiative to dedicate monies from last year's sales tax hike to property tax relief. They were the first public questions defeated by the voters in 17 years in an election that had the lowest voter turnout in 83 years.

⁜ ⁜ ⁜

QUOTABLE

"I'll meet him on the battlefield and I will slay the beast."
– Sal Vega on Brian Stack
(PolitickerNJ.com, 04/05/07)

From helping our clients win in District 12 despite being outspent 5 to 1 to convincing victories over well-funded opponents in Districts 2 and 8 to defeating a 13-year incumbent in a winner-take-all Senate primary in District 24…

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Senator-Elect Jennifer Beck (NJ)*
Senator-Elect Chris Connors (NJ)**
Senator-Elect Phil Haines (NJ)**
Senator-Elect Steve Oroho (Primary & General NJ)**
Senator-Elect Joe Pennacchio (NJ)**
Senator Bob Singer (NJ)
Assemblyman-Elect John Amodeo (NJ)**
Assemblyman-Elect Vince Polistina (NJ)**
Assemblywoman-Elect Dawn Addiego (NJ)**
Assemblyman-Elect Scott Rudder (NJ)**
Assemblywoman-Elect Caroline Casagrande (NJ)**
Assemblyman-Elect Declan O'Scanlon (NJ)*
Assemblyman-Elect Dan VanPelt (NJ) **
Assemblyman-Elect Gary Chiusano (NJ)**
Assemblyman-Elect Jay Webber (NJ)**
Assembly Leader Alex DeCroce (NJ)
Assemblyman Jon Bramnick (NJ)
Assemblyman Ron Dancer (NJ)
Assemblyman Mike Doherty (NJ)
Assemblyman Joe Malone (NJ)
Assemblywoman Alison McHose (NJ)
Assemblyman Brian Rumpf (NJ)
Assemblyman Lou Tobacco (NY) (Special Election 3/07)**
Assemblyman George Amedore (NY) (Special Election 7/07)**

BALLOT INITIATIVES:

NO on Casinos, Wichita, KS, Casino Referendum
NO on Casinos, Wichita, KS, Slot Machine Referendum

COUNTY & LOCAL:

Burlington County Freeholder-Elect Joe Donnelly (NJ)**
Burlington County Sheriff Jean Stanfield (NJ)
Ocean County Freeholder Jack Kelly (NJ)
Ocean County Freeholder Jim Lacey (NJ)
Sussex County Freeholder-Elect Jeff Parrott (NJ)**
Sussex County Freeholder Hal Wirths (NJ)
Sussex County Clerk Erma Gormley (NJ)
Sussex County Sheriff Bob Untig (NJ)
Lehigh County Commissioner-Elect Dean Browning (PA)**

And Republican sweeps in local races in Westfield, Cinnaminson, Lumberton, Medford, Franklin, Parsippany, Little Egg Harbor and Lacey Townships (NJ)

* DEFEATED DEMOCRAT INCUMBENT.
** WON OPEN SEAT CONTEST.

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DIRECT MAIL FOR REPUBLICAN CANDIDATES

BEST AND WORST CAMPAIGNS OF 2007

BEST

1. Brian Stack for State Senate (Democrat, 33rd District

The 24/7 Union City Mayor and Assemblyman ran off the line for Bernie Kenny's State Senate seat and beat the hell out of the Hudson County Democratic Organization. He won 75% of the vote against West New York Mayor and Assemblyman Sal Vega in a potentially historic victory. His coattails helped bring in two Assembly seats and a Freeholder.

2. Jim Whelan for State Senate (Democrat, 2nd District)

The one-term Assemblyman and former Mayor of Atlantic City ousted interim GOP Sen. Sonny McCullough in one of the most dramatic contests of the year. This is the seat Bill Gormley held since 1982.

3. Bill Baroni for State Senate (Republican, 14th District)

The two-term door-to-door campaigner locked up this open seat in the first ten days when he captured enough labor endorsements to scare Linda Greenstein and Glen Gilmore out of the race. He ran a strong campaign against a flawed challenger and won by a 2-1 margin.

4. Jeff Van Drew for State Senate, Nelson Albano and Matt Milam for Assembly (Democrat, 1st District)

Van Drew, who had never run in an easy campaign, easily beat Nicholas Asselta, who hadn't run a campaign in six years. Asselta thought he had a deal with the Democrats – and found out the hard way that he did not.

5. Randy Brown for Mayor (Non-Partisan, Evesham)

While technically non-partisan, Brown, supported by Democrats, beat GOP-backed incumbent Gus Tamburri with a combination of money and modern grass roots technology.

6. Ronald Rice for State Senate (Democrat, 28th District

A year after getting slaughtered in the mayoral race, Rice showed all politics is local when he beat Cory Booker's handpicked challenger.

7. Steve Sweeney for Senate Majority Leader (Democrat)

Sweeney (and George Norcross) know how to build coalitions, and most importantly, how to count in a leadership battle. It proves tha t a solid geographic base in an internal party battle is best.

8. Kevin O'Toole for State Senate (Republican, 40th District)

When Hank McNamara announced his retirement, O'Toole moved quickly to win endorsements in Bergen and Passaic, and had little trouble overcoming the obstacle formerly known as Guy Talarico.

9. Jonathan Hornick for Mayor (Democrat, Marlboro)

The young Democrat wins big after an aggressive campaign to oust incumbent Robert Kleinberg.

10. Jay Webber for State Assembly (Republican, 26th District)

After losing a Senate primary in '03, he never stopped campaigning and developed the most important skill in politics: he learned from his mistakes and ran a great race in the GOP primary against Larry Casha.

11. Wayne D'Angelo for State Assembly (Democrat, 14th District)

The Mercer County labor leader out organized Dan Benson for the Democratic nod, and used his labor base, to overcome the Baroni Tsunami at the top of the ticket to become the lone Democratic pickup in the '07 Assembly races.

12. N.J. Rudy Giuliani for President (Republican)

Giuliani New Jersey has captured most of the prized endorsements, maintained a strong lead in the poll, and got winner take all passed.

13. Jeff Grayzel for Township Committee (Democrat, Morris Township)

After finishing the '06 race in a tie, Grayzel ran a strong grass roots effort – helped by state Democrats -- to win a May do-over election and become one of the few Democrats to carry this strongly Republican town.

14. Nicholas Chiaravallotti for State Assembly (Democrat, 31st District)

The Bayonne Democrat lost his primary bid for Assemblyman, but his strong campaign off the line was impressive enough to ensure a political future.

15. Hillsborough Charter Change (Ballot Initiative)

The campaign to oppose a referendum for the direct mayoral elections included direct mail and cable TV ads -- and was handily defeated.

QUOTABLE

This is a triple-dipper who uses school time to hold press conferences. He was under the thumb of (West New York Mayor Anthony M.) DeFino and he was the waterboy for (Hudson County Executive) Bobby Janiszewski."

— Brian Stack, on Sal Vega
(Jersey Journal, 04/28/07)

WORST

1. Yes on Stem Cell Funding (Ballot Initiative)

The Governor, the legislative leadership and proponents of stem cell research assumed voters would choose the promise of breakthroughs on stem cell research over their pocketbooks – and they were wrong. Yes supporters had more money, more endorsements, better poll numbers and a more extensive organization – and they took the voters for granted.

2. James McGettigan for County Executive (Democrat, Atlantic County)

The Democratic Sheriff, a fairly strong vote getter in the past, had too many misstatements and controversies to become a real threat to GOP incumbent Dennis Levinson.

3. Ellen Karcher for State Senate (Democrat, 12th District)

After running a magnificent race against John Bennett in 2003, Karcher's re-election against Jen Beck was a disaster. She had plenty of money (but too many advisors) and the disclosure that she took a farm tax credit altered her image as a reformer.

4. Janice Mitchell Mintz for County Executive (Republican, Mercer County)

Potentially a very good candidate foolishly turned over her campaign to a campaign manager who angered the political community – including her own party – and went down to a massive (but maybe not career ending) defeat.

5. Glen Gilmore for Mayor (Democratic, Hamilton Township)

Once a rising star, Gilmore did everything wrong and lost a race he rightfully should have won with ease. He believed, to his detriment, that a huge warchest and a flawed opponent would overcome his tax record.

6. Todd Caliguire for State Senate (Republican, 40th District)

Caliguire has become a perennial candidate and the only thing notable about his primary against Kevin O'Toole was his race baiting.

7. Nancy Wolf for Mayor (Democrat, Highland Park)

The Laurel Kornfeld-led primary challenge to Mayor Meryl Frank was more like a scene out of Fatal Attraction than a real campaign.

BEST AND WORST CAMPAIGNS OF 2007

WORST

8. Richard Dennison for State Senate (Democrat, 7th District)
South Jersey Democrats dropped the lawyer/undertaker when they realized he couldn't handle being a candidate and grasp simple concepts about how to run a campaign. We agree.

9. Bernadette McPherson for Mayor (Democrat, Rutherford)
The Bergen County Freeholder becomes the latest local casualty of EnCap supporters when she received just 31% of the vote for re-election as Mayor.

10. Leonard Lance for Senate Minority Leader (Republican)
He didn't take Tom Kean's interest in his job seriously, and didn't get that the nine GOP freshmen were interested in change. When he finally asked for another term, he found that the only solid vote he had was his own. (And as leader, he lost two Senate seats.)

11. Linda Stender for State Assembly (Democrat, 22nd District)
She ran a great campaign for Congress in '06 and is a nationally targeted House candidate in '08 – but her bid for a fourth term in the Assembly was weak – as evidenced by her relatively narrow win in a Democratic district.

12. Charles Kahwwaty, Bob Yudin and Paul Duggan for Freeholder (Republican, Bergen County)
The GOP Freeholder candidates came closer to winning than anyone expected, but not because of anything they did.

13. James Murray for Freeholder (Republican, Morris County)
Murray didn't raise a lot of money, didn't produce effective mail or ads, didn't assemble a strong grass roots organization, didn't effectively attack his opponents, and didn't articulate new ideas. What made his campaign so bad is that he won.

14. Guy Gregg for State Senate (Republican, 24th District)
The seven-term Assemblyman was supposed to be shoo-in, but he seemed unprepared for a real campaign and ran a rather weak effort against Steve Oroho.

15. N.J. John Edwards for President (Democrat)
Despite the endorsement of Senate President Richard Codey, the Edwards campaign (sans John Lynch this time) was unable to field a full slate of delegates for the February 5 primary.

DISAPPOINTMENTS

Fans of the Mets, Yankees and Phillies, and Republicans in Bergen County, understand disappointments.

Dana Wefer, labeled a rising star in Democratic politics when she ran aggressive, uphill races for Morris County Freeholder in 2005 and 2006, graduated law school and got a job this year. Her Assembly campaign in District 25 was unmemorable.

Brian Propp, who played in the National Hockey League for fifteen-years and was an All-Star for the Philadelphia Flyers, turned out to be a failure as a candidate. He lost a race for State Assembly in Burlington County.

Wishing PolitickerNJ's readers a joyous holiday season and a prosperous new year...

And a warm welcome to the Legislature's freshman class!

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Carla A. Katz, President

To Our Endorsed
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On Their 2007 Victories

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John Burzichelli
Nilsa Cruz-Perez
Pamela Lampitt
Jack Connors
James Holzapfel
Wayne DeAngelo
Reed Gusciora
Peter Biondi
Upendra Chivukula
Patrick Diegnan
Joseph Vas
Joseph Cryan
Gerald Green
John McKeon
Ralph Caputo
Alberto Coutinho
Ronald Dancer
L. Harvey Smith
Joan Quigley
Caridad Rodriguez
Sheila Oliver
Gary Schaer
Gordon Johnson
Joan Voss
Matthew Milam
Douglas Fisher
Sandra Love
Louis Greenwald
Herbert Conaway
David Wolfe
Samuel Thompson
Linda Greenstein
Bonnie Watson-Coleman
Joseph Egan
Peter Barnes III
John Wisniewski
Neil Cohen
Linda Stender
Alex DeCroce
Cleopatra Tucker
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Frederick Scalera
Valerie Vainieri Huttle
Connie Wagner

Senate President Richard Codey

Fred Madden
Dana Redd
John Adler
Diane Allen
Phil Haines
Andrew Ciesla
Sean Kean
Bill Baroni
Shirley Turner
Robert Smith
Barbara Buono
Joseph Vitale
Raymond Lesniak
Leonard Lance
Ronald Rice
Robert Singer
Sandra Bolden Cunningham
Nicholas Sacco
Brian Stack
Nia Gill
John Girgenti
Paul Sarlo
Loretta Weinberg
J. Robert Gordon
Kevin O'Toole

Congratulations to PolitickerNJ

On the fresh new look and on the up-to-the-minute coverage of all the happenings inside New Jersey politics. You keep it real.

Special Congrats to Wally Edge—your grasp of history and of Seinfeld continues to impress us. Happy Festivus from your union friends!

BEST OPERATIVES OF 2007

In alphbetical order

Phil Alagia, Campaign Manager, District 29 Democrats

Rob Asaro-Angelo, Executive Director, NJ Democratic State Committee

Kristin Antonello, Communications Director, Beck/O'Scanlon/Casagrande

Jack Bohrer, Democratic Consultant, Vision Media

Mary Campbell, New Jersey Democratic State Committee

Rob Cressen, Executive Director, Ocean County GOP

Jenny Davis, Campaign Manager, Dawn Zimmer for Hoboken City Council

Tom Fitzsimmons, Campaign Manager, Beck/O'Scanlon/Casagrande

Colleen Montgomery, Democratic State Committee

Matt Mowers, Political Director, Gerald Cardinale for State Senate

Mike Muller, Assembly Democratic Campaign Committee

Allison Murphy, Campaign Manager, Van Drew/Albano/Milam

Steve Quain, Campaign Manager, Bill Baroni for State Senate

Chris Russell, Burlington County Republicans

Raiyan Sayed, Campaign Manager, Jim Whelan for State Senate

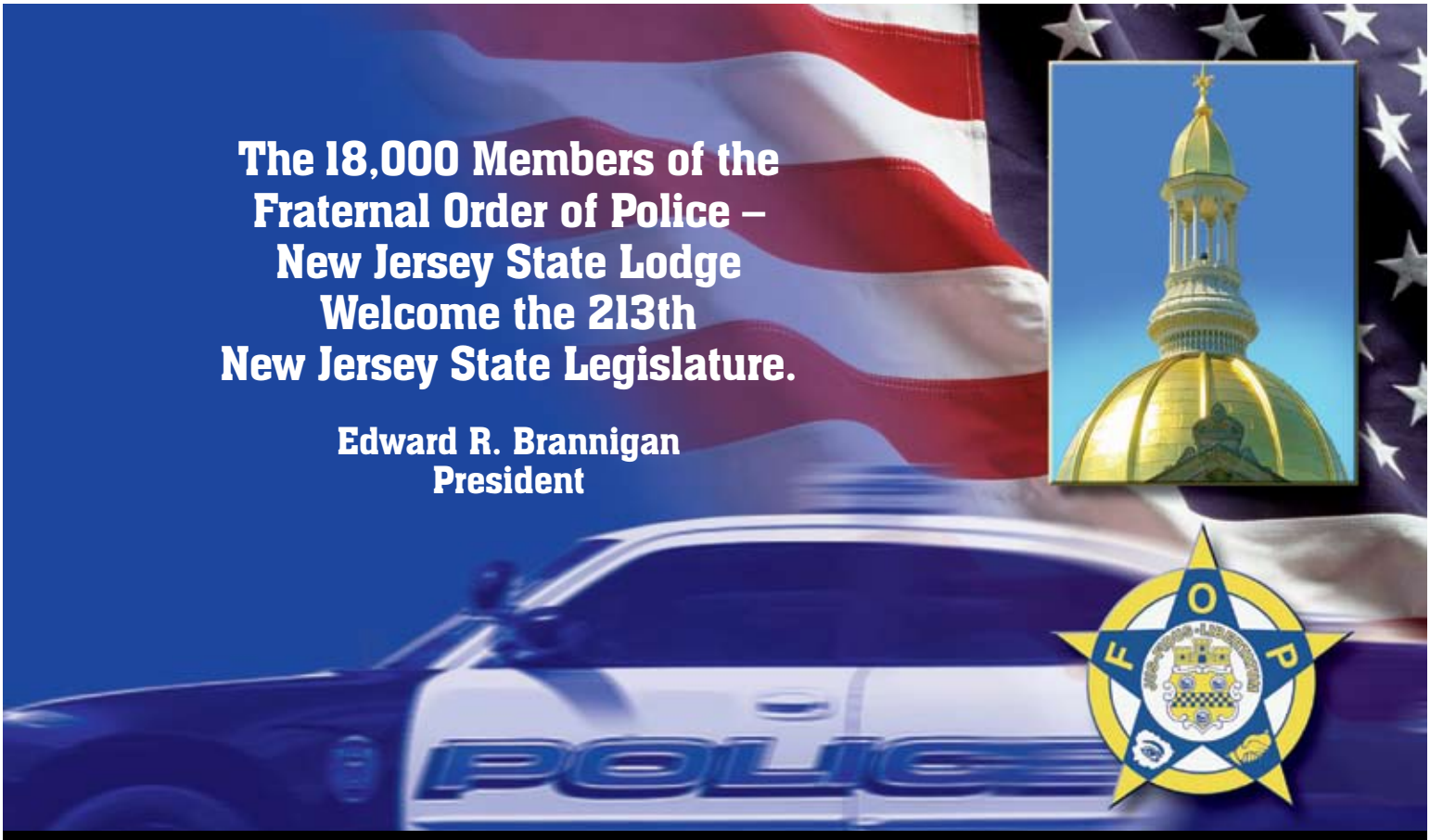
Tom Suthard, Campaign Manager, Polistina/Amodeo for Assembly

Tom Fitzsimmons, Campaign Manager, Beck/O'Scanlon/Casagrande

Raiyan Sayed, Campaign Manager, Jim Whelan for State Senate

WORST OPERATIVE

Bob McHugh, a former Associated Press reporter, was the Campaign Manager for Janice Mitchell Mintz, the GOP candidate for Mercer County Executive.



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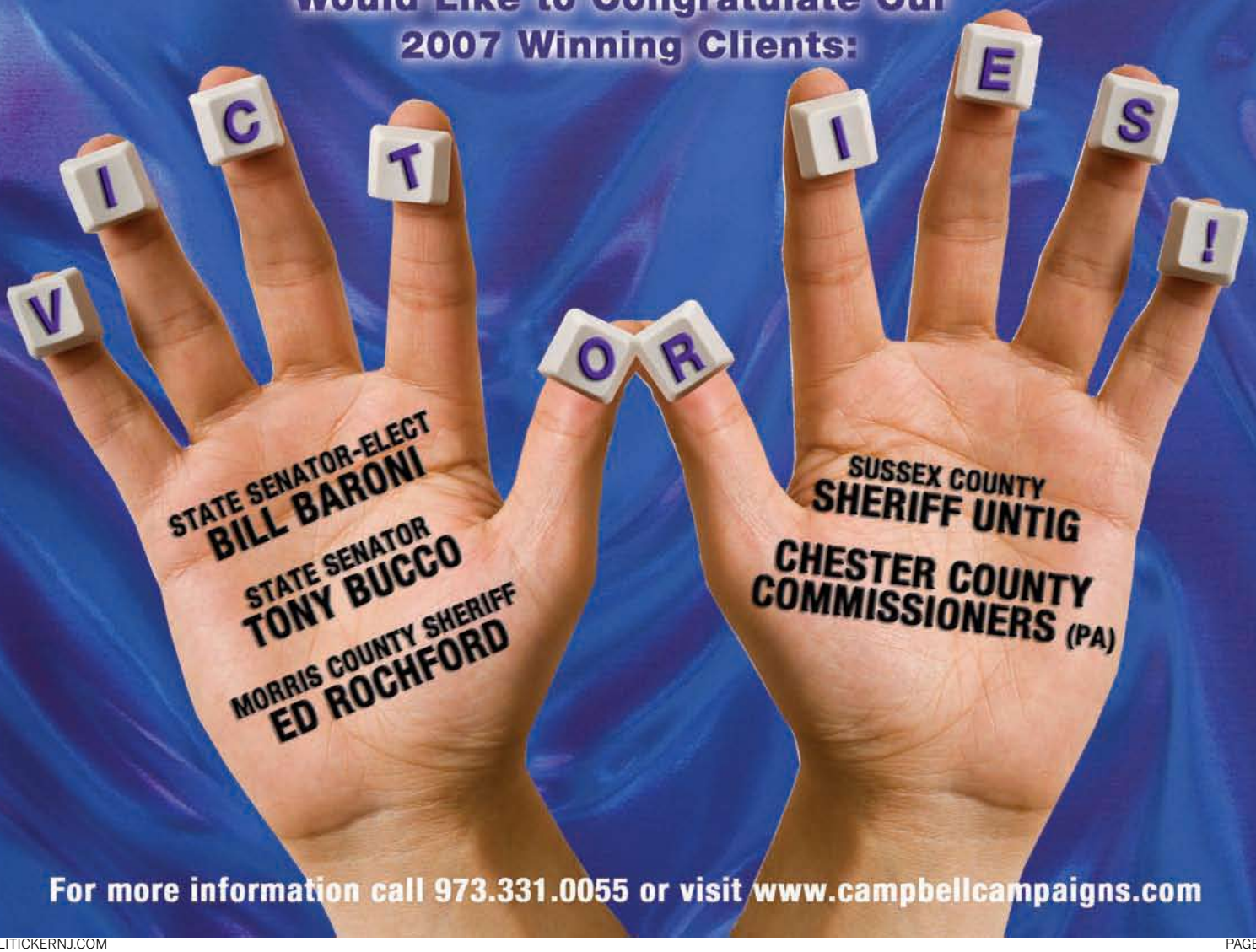

For more information call 973.331.0055 or visit www.campbellcampaigns.com

PEOPLE TO WATCH IN 2008

Frank Lautenberg, who at age 84 will seek a fifth term as a United States Senator from New Jersey. If he wins, he'd become the oldest and longest-serving Senator in state history. But a sudden retirement could turn New Jersey politics upside-down.

Common Sense America Executive Director **Brian Brown** and Garden State Equality Chairman **Steven Goldstein** go to battle over a likely vote next year on same sex marriage.

John Adler, the Senate Judiciary Committee Chairman who is seeking to become the first Democratic Congressman from Jim Saxton's district since 1994. And watch Frank LoBiondo, if **Jeff Van Drew** decides he wants to be a Congressman

Kate Whitman, the smart and talented daughter of former Governor Christine Todd Whitman, who is seeking an open congressional seat in the 5th district. Also, Whitman's primary opponent, Sen. **Leonard Lance**, and the Democratic nominee, Assemblywoman **Linda Stender**. And note that in 2007, Whitman lost a convention for Somerset Freeholder, Lance was a *PolitickerNJ.com* Loser of the Year Runner-Up, and Stender ran the 11th Worst Campaign of the Year.

Charlotte DeFilippo, the veteran Union County Democratic Chair, had her records as Executive Director of the Union County Improvement Authority subpoenaed by the state Attorney General's office.

Steve Ayscue, who has made George Norcross' political jets arrive on time for years, has emerged as one of the most powerful political insiders in South Jersey, with considerable responsibility for Democratic wins in State Senate races and beyond.

Matthew Boxer, who survived a contemptuous confirmation process to become New Jersey's first State Comptroller, will be held accountable as the guy charged with making a government some view as out of control operate more efficiently

Troy Singleton, an aide to Carpenters Union leader Frank Spencer and a close confidante of Assembly Speaker Joe Roberts.

The Group – the key fundraisers for Hillary Clinton's New Jersey presidential campaign: John Graham, Alfred DeCotiis, Michael Kempner, Bill Harla, Rev. Reginald Jackson, and Meryl Frank, have created a structure that will make them sought after by candidates in the future.

Bill Layton, the newly elected Burlington County Republican Chairman, will now be held accountable for the success and failure of GOP candidates in Burlington.

Dennis Shulman, a blind Rabbi/Psychoanalyst, is seeking the Democratic nomination for Congress in the fifth district. He wants to challenge Rep. Scott Garrett.

Two veteran New Jersey operatives get a chance to manage in the major leagues: **Brendan Gill**, who has worked for Steve Rothman, Bill Pascrell and others, will manage U.S. Senator Frank Lautenberg's campaign. His possible rival will be **Mark Duffy**, who has worked for Assembly Minority Leader Alex DeCroce and has run campaigns in Mercer and Monmouth counties, will be Republican Anne Evans Estabrook's campaign manager.

Two of the state's leading young Hispanic politicians are **Teresa Ruiz**, who became the first Latina to win a seat in the State Senate, and Newark City Councilman **Anibal Ramos**, who could emerge as a mayoral candidate – especially if Cory Booker falters.

New Jersey AFL-CIO President **Charles Wowkanech** took some flak from Democrats by supporting Nick Asselta and Phil Haines, and for staying out of the Whelan/McCullough race. Will Democrats punish him, or leave him alone?

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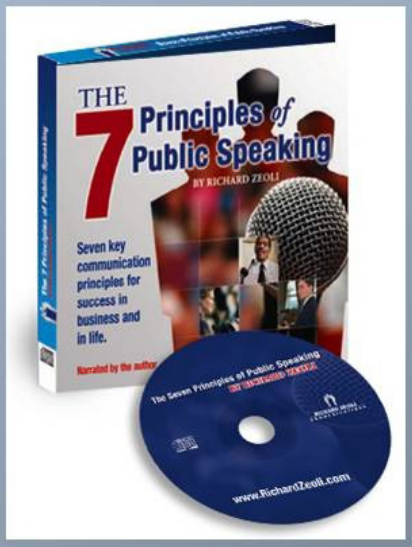

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CONFLICT OF THE YEAR

To casual News 12 viewers—no jokes about the tens of them—**Jim McQueeny** appears as a full-time newscaster, especially when he has served as a moderator for partisan political debates. But unlike other news analysts, he pays the mortgage working for clients actively wheeling and dealing in Jersey politics. His firm, Winning Strategies, has an extensive list of corporate and public clients. This creates an actual conflict: he books quests for his weekly cable TV show and asks questions without a full disclosure to viewers that he is a lobbyist.

THE BEST FIGHTS OF 2007

Joe Ferriero vs. Loretta Weinberg; Brian Stack vs. Sal Vega; Glenn Paulsen vs. Diane Allen; Glenn Paulsen vs. Mike Warner; Vivian Stringer vs. Don Imus; James E. McGreevey vs. Dina Matos McGreevey; Anthony Coley vs. Ivette Mendez; Dick Codey vs. Ken Zimmerman; Dick Codey vs. George Zoffinger; Kevin O'Toole vs. Kevin Collins; Upendra Chivukula vs. Seema Singh; Karen Kominsky vs. Christie Davis Jackson; Bill Gormley vs. Sonny McCollough; Bill Pasco vs. Maryannie Harper; Skip Hidlay vs.Ellen Karcher; Izod vs. Prudential; Guy Talarico vs. everybody.

TOUGHEST STAFF MEETING

Essex County Executive **Joseph DiVincenzo**, who had to preside over meetings with his two Deputy Chiefs of Staff – **Teresa Ruiz** and **Bill Payne**, both candidates for the same State Senate seat.

QUOTABLE

"Absolutely not true."

—Bergen County Democratic Chairman Joseph Ferriero, on reports that Joseph Coniglio would drop his bid for re-election to the State Senate, less than thirty hours before Coniglio withdrew (PolitickerNJ.com, 09/11/07)

IN MEMORIUM

PolitickerNJ.com was deeply saddened by the death of **Dr. David Rebovich**, a prominent, popular and powerful political science professor at Rider University, and the Director of the Rider University Institute for New Jersey Politics, on October 12. He was among the very best that New Jersey had to offer and it was our considerable honor to run his weekly column for the last six years. We miss him.

Among the favorites of the New Jersey political community who passed away in 2007: Fort Lee Mayor Jack Alter; former State Senator Byron Baer; former Assemblyman Neil Duffy; former Senate President Wesley Lance; former Burlington County Democratic Chairman George Lee; former State Sen. Alexander Menza, a candidate for the Democratic U.S. Senate nomination in 1978; former Bergen County Executive William McDowell; former Plainfield Mayor Albert McWilliams; former Rep. Joseph Minish; former Assemblywoman Angela Perun; Central New Jersey radio personality and former NJSEA spokesman for Bernard Spigner; political strategist Greg Stevens, who served as Chief of Staff to Gov. Thomas Kean former Public Advocate Stanley Van Ness; former Assemblyman Harold Pareti; former State Senator Richard Van Wagner; former Wayne Mayor/Superior Court Judge David Waks; and George Warrington, the former Executive Director of New Jersey Transit and the former President of Amtrak.

Since Garden State Equality's founding in 2004, New Jersey has enacted 153 LGBT rights laws at the state, county and municipal levels — the most in America.

We thank all of you who have worked with us to make civil rights history.

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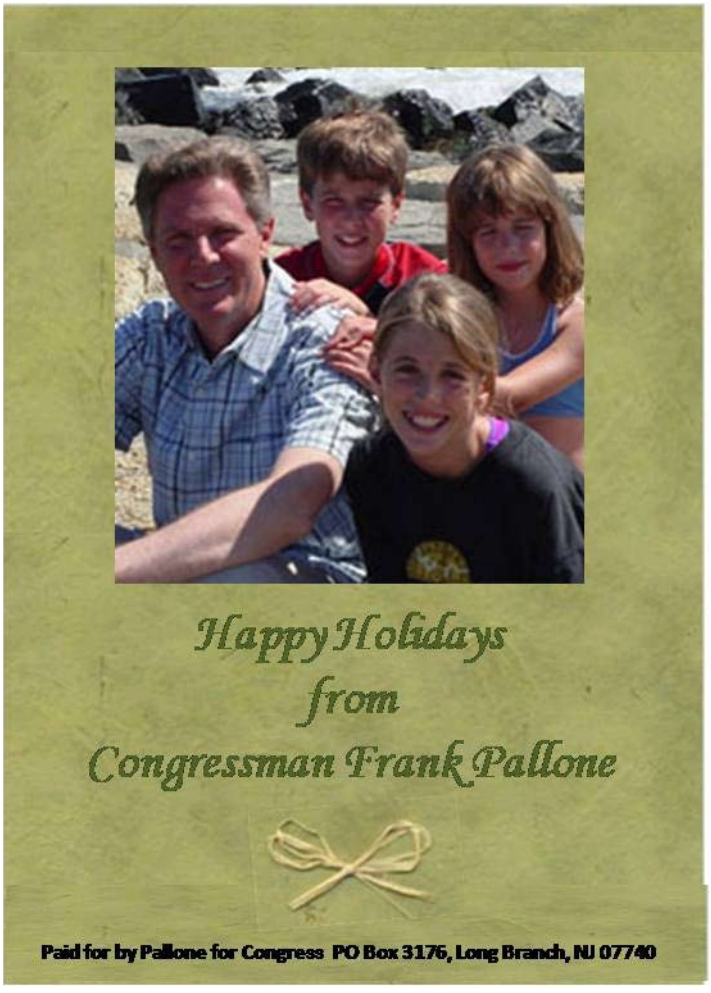
www.GardenStateEquality.org

BEST THREE WORDS OF THE YEAR

Hold Me Accountable: "So I close with a simple pledge: that in the choices I make as your Governor, I will be guided by one principle – What is best for New Jersey. And, in turn, I ask you – the citizens of New Jersey, hold me accountable."

—Gov. Jon Corzine, in his Inaugural Address, January 17, 2006



Senator Joe Vitale congratulates and welcomes a new generation of leaders and partners in governing.

Paid for by the Election Fund of Joseph Vitale

CONGRATULATIONS

TO THE NEW SENATE REPUBLICAN LEADER, THE HONORABLE TOM KEAN.

NO DOUBT, HIS OPTIMISM, TENACITY AND INTELLECT
WILL HELP NEW JERSEY SHINE AGAIN.

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CANDIDATES WITH PROMISE

Despite their losses in 2007, there is a political future for **Will Kole**, the Democratic Assembly candidate in the Somerset County-based 16th district, and **Mark Cimino**, a Republican who ran against State Sen. Steve Sweeney in District 3.

⁜ ⁜ ⁜

FOR THE FUTURE

Former Yankees/Mets pitcher **Al Leiter** told PolitickerNJ.com that he wants to run for office someday, just not for U.S. Senate or Congress in 2008.

⁜ ⁜ ⁜

WORST IDEA FOR A LAW

Assemblyman **Patrick Diegnan** introduced legislation to force Rutgers University to put "NJ" in their logo. It didn't go anywhere.

⁜ ⁜ ⁜

BEST DRESSED FOR COURT

Sharpe James' travel companion, **Tamika Riley**.

QUOTABLE

"Reformers are like morning glories, they pop up and disappear. Jon Corzine was going to ride into Trenton and clean it up. Instead, it's gotten worse."

—Bogota Mayor Steve Lonegan
(Courier-News, 04/06/07)

BEST HEADLINE OF THE YEAR

Crook becomes Judge:
Evan Crook was appointed to serve as a Superior Court Judge in Burlington County. This is ironically appropriate for New Jersey.

DUMB MOVES

Bergen County Prosecutor John Molinelli took on vacation to Italy with State Senator **Joseph Coniglio**, the target of a federal corruption probe, and Dennis Oury, the lawyer for the Bergen County Democratic Organization.

Jon Corzine decided to take a quick trip to Portugal to attend a global warming conference seven days before the mid-term elections. And for writing a personal check to Rocco Ricco, Carla Katz's 'ner do well brother-in-law.

Atlantic County Sheriff **Jim McGettigan**, in his dismal race for County Executive, criticized the county for hiring porn industry lawyer Eric Bernstein (he calls himself a first amendment attorney) as a labor counsel – without revealing that Bernstein represented McGettigan. And then, after attacking him, he wrote asking for a campaign contribution.

Assemblyman **Gordon Johnson** gave $1,850 of his own money to a group run by Lyndon LaRouche. Dumber move: he said he didn't know LaRouche was a racist.

Assemblywoman **Marcia Karrow** faced assault charges after allegedly shoving a Republican Committeewoman during a rancorous Hunterdon primary.

Toms River Council President **Greg McGuckin** owed the IRS over $100k, and he didn't think his opponents in the race for Mayor would find out.

Even though she knew he had been convicted of sexually assaulting a 13-year-old girl, State Senator-elect **Sandra Bolden Cunningham** allowed 45-year-old Russell Wallace to work on her campaign.

Republican State Senator **Nicholas Asselta** spent 39 months of his life believing that Democratic Assemblyman Jeff Van Drew would not run against him. He lost by 5,000 votes.

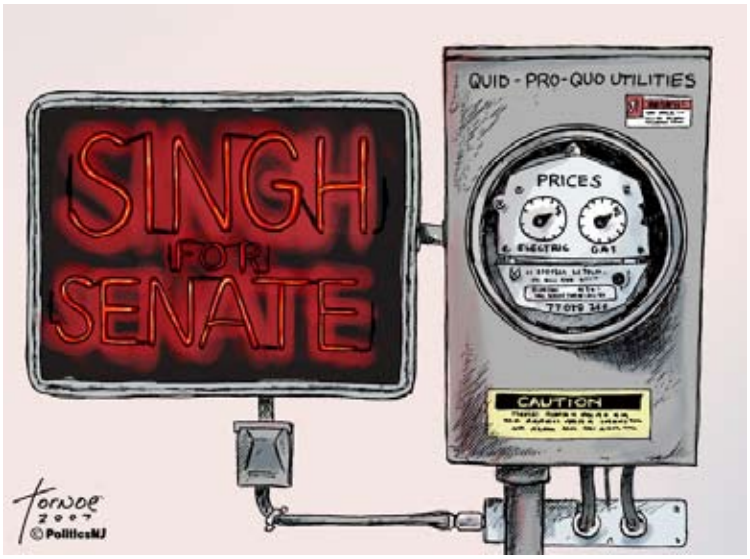
Perennial candidate **Todd Caliguire** designed a mailer that called his Senate primary opponent Kevin O'Toole "the Republican Al Sharpton" —saying that O'Toole's "Asian/Korean" heritage gave him protection in redistricting.

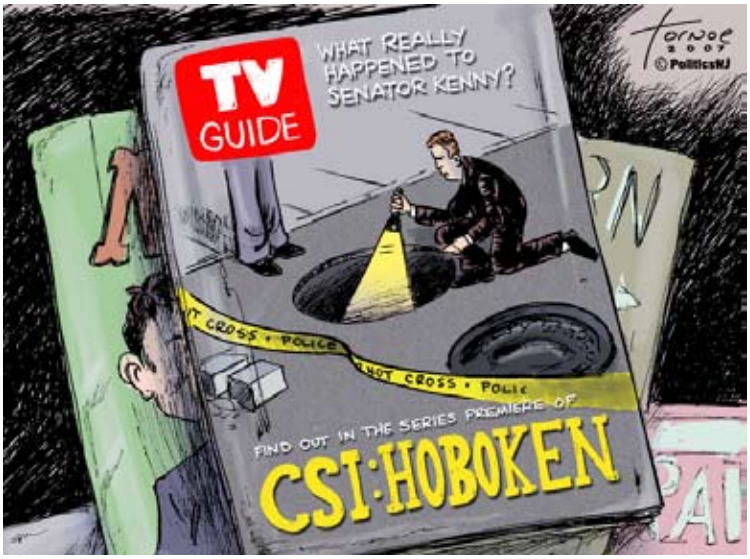
Prudential executive **Gabriella Morris** to fill a vacant Republican seat on the Election Law Enforcement Commission. She last a couple of days before Gov Jon Corzine realized he couldn't name a government affairs executive to regulate lobbyists.

⁜ ⁜ ⁜

WORST DEAL OF THE YEAR

Bergen County Democratic Chairman **Joseph Ferriero** dropped his primary challenge to State Senator **Loretta Weinberg** so that the party can unite behind a move to oust Republican Gerald Cardinale in the 39th district. But Weinberg wound up attacking Ferriero and party bosses in October, and Cardinale won.





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⁜ ⁜ ⁜

HE'S TOUGHER THAN HE LOOKS

Last spring, Congressman **Rodney Frelinghuysen** helped Washington, D.C. police chase down and apprehend a mugger who tried to grab his wallet.

⁜ ⁜ ⁜

MOST LIKELY TO UNIMPRESS

Assemblyman-elect **Daniel Van Pelt** and Assemblywoman-elect **Cleopatra Tucker**.

NEVER DID IMPRESS

Assemblywoman **Oadline Truitt**, who lost the primary

⁜ ⁜ ⁜

SHOCKING

Diane Allen backed out of a race for Congress in the 3rd district, and Tom Kean, Jr. took just five hours to decide not to run for an open seat in the 7th.

⁜ ⁜ ⁜

QUOTABLE

"(Guy) Talarico did to the Bergen Republican Organization what Jack Kevorkian did to terminally ill patients. The county party was in poor shape, but not terminally ill, when Talarico took control. It needed a leader as smart and pragmatic as the Democrats' Joe Ferriero. Instead, the party got Dr. Death."
The Record Editorial, 06/07/07

"Abraham Lincoln would be turning over in his grave right now."
— Republican Assemblywoman Charlotte Vandervalk, on the campaign tactics of Bergen County GOP Chairman Guy Talarico
(The Record, 06/04/07)

NOT SHOCKING

Former **Gov. Donald DiFrancesco** is being sued by a former attorney at his law firm for sexual harassment.

⁜ ⁜ ⁜

SHOCKING AND NOT SHOCKING AT THE SAME TIME

Democratic leaders, from Gov. Corzine down, called for the resignations of **Alfred Steele** and **Mims Hackett** from the Assembly, but not **Sharpe James** and **Wayne Bryant** from the Senate. Steele and Hackett were still on the ballot, but James and Bryant were not seelking re-election.

⁜ ⁜ ⁜

SOMEDAY, THEY'LL MAKE GREAT TRIVIA QUESTIONS

Some people thought Republican **Robert Colletti** was headed to the State Senate when Joe Coniglio refused to leave the race despite news that he was the target of a federal criminal probe. But Coniglio eventually fell to pressure from Democratic leaders, and Colletti got smashed by Bob Gordon.

For a day or two, it looked like political neophyte **Mark Meyerowitz** could be an Assemblyman after his opponent, Mims Hackett, was arrested. But Democrats quickly got Hackett out of the race, and Meyerowitz was never heard from again.

The two people who were in the Governor's car when Jon Corzine was injured during a high speed crash last April have been reassigned: **Robert Rasinski**, the State Trooper who was driving 91 mph, is no longer driving for Corzine, and **Samantha Gordon**, his traveling aide, has been moved over to the Clinton for President campaign.

LUCKY FOLKS

Dick Codey ran unopposed for Senate President, even though George Norcross picked up two South Jersey Senate seats.

Congressman **Albio Sires** seems to have avoided a primary challenge in 2008 amidst apparent peace in Hudson County.

Bergen County Freeholder **Connie Wagner**, Passaic County Freeholder **Elease Evans**, and South Orange-Maplewood school board member **Mya Jasey** were elected to the State Assembly after corruption probes ended the careers of incumbents.

Superior Court Judge **Thomas Vena**— the guy who cut the bail of an illegal immigrant accused of raping a five-year-old girl that was charged this month with three Newark murders— got tenure just two months ago, which means he can serve until 2022.

⁜ ⁜ ⁜

BEST MIKE WALLACE AMBUSH INTERVIEW OF THE YEAR

PolitickerNJ.com's Max Pizarro, walking into Common Sense America's office with a video camera to interview a stunned **Brian Brown.**

Runner Up: Pizarro waiting for **Anne Estabrook** in her office parking lot to ask about her position on Iraq. She had no comment.

⁜ ⁜ ⁜

CHUTZPAH

Weeks after his arrest on federal corruption charges, Guttenberg Mayor **David Delle Donna** showed up at a Hudson County Democratic fundraiser.

Assemblywoman **Valerie Vainieri Huttle** rants against transparent government contracts, as if her husband wasn't a partner at a major North Jersey law firm that represents many government entities.

Morris Plains Councilman **George C oogan**, who faces shoplifting charges after leaving a local market without paying for his $30.95 worth of frozen Lean Cuisine meal, and then complained to police that his food was melting.

Bogota Mayor and gubernatorial candidate **Steve Lonegan**, a fervent opponent of illegal immigration, used an undocumented worker to help him around the house. (Lonegan is also an unpaid columnist.)

⁜ ⁜ ⁜

RISING STARS

Three young operatives worth watching: **Frank Luna**, who stood out despite Nicholas Asselta's losing State Senate bid; **Brian McGinnis**, a wonkish Democrat who worked on Jim Whelan's Senate campaign; and **Mike Maitland**, a rising star who is now Assemblyman Paul Moriarty's Chief of Staff.

Twenty-something **Jamal Holley** is a Roselle Councilman and a former Chief of Staff to Assemblyman Neil Cohen. He is close to Ray Lesniak, Joe Cryan and Charlotte DeFilippo. **Adam Neary**, also in his twenties, is the President of the New Jersey Young Democrats and an aide to Rep. Albio Sires. **Eric Sedler**, who worked on Bill Baroni's State Senate campaign, is one of the people behind RedJersey.com. **Andrea Orbe-Martinez**, whose pleasing personality in a job where the answer is often no, has won strong reviews as the Governor's Appointments Director. **Tim White**, a Republican operative turned lobbyist, is now advising potential Jersey City mayoral candidate Steve Fulop.

Steve Lenox and **Mike Soliman**, the state directors for U.S. Senators Frank Lautenberg and Bob Menendez, respectively.

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Happy Holidays

Cape May County Regular Republican Organization
David I. Von Savage, Chairman

Ordered and Paid for by the Cape May County Regular Republican Organization

UNSOLVED MYSTERY OF THE YEAR

What really happened to Senate Majority Leader **Bernie Kenny**? And how come the Hoboken police have been unable to crack the case?

⁜ ⁜ ⁜

WORST PREDICTION

"For decades, our last-in-the-nation-primary status relegated New Jersey to the sidelines in the presidential selection process. Today, New Jersey's primary voters take a well-deserved walk to the front of the class." Assembly Speaker **Joe Roberts** (Associated Press, 04/02/07)

⁜ ⁜ ⁜

IF A TREE FALLS IN THE WOODS

Former Congressman **Jim Courter** endorsed John McCain for President.

⁜ ⁜ ⁜

MORONS OF THE YEAR

Newspaper publisher **Jim Devine**, a former Union County Democratic operative, was arrested for being a deadbeat Dad.

Hudson County Democrats dropped Freeholder **Gerald Lange** from their ticket after his arrest on domestic violence charges, but he remains a West New York Commissioner.

QUOTABLE

"I only know what I read in the Star-Ledger."

Middlesex County GOP Chairman Joseph Leo, who was not aware of who his party was running for the Legislature in the 22nd district, which includes parts of Middlesex County

(PoliticsNJ.com, 04/11/07)

"I'm surprised that it's taken this long for this to get out. I knew I was going to draw heat for this."

—Camden City Councilman William Spearman, who acknowledged starting a new consulting firm that has a $30,000 contract with a non-profit group that gets funding from the city.

(Courier Post, 05/04/07)

Corzine administration official **Malik Cupid**, who was charged the day before Valentine's Day (his name is Cupid – so it became a national story) with stealing $1,400 from the bank account of his former girlfriend, who is now on active duty in Iraq. He pleaded guilty, and resigned.

Lobbyist **Christopher Daul** was arrested on charges that wearing just black socks and a hands-free headset, he masturbated in front of two women at near the Liberty Village Premium Outlets in Flemington.

27-year-old Republican **Christopher Thieme**, a former candidate for Sussex County Freeholder, was sentenced to seven years in prison for hitting a young woman over the head with a pool cue.

⁜ ⁜ ⁜

THE ELECTION THAT NEVER ENDS

Democrat **Michael Luther** was elected Mayor of Parsippany in 2005 and has been in office nearly two years. But after a series of legal battles over his exceedingly close race with Republican Rosemarie Agostini, a trial will be held in January to determine who won the election.

⁜ ⁜ ⁜

UPSET OF THE YEAR

Morris County Freeholder **John Inglesino** lost his bid for re-election in the Republican primary to Jim Murray, who had no political base, no money and no real message – only good ballot position.

⁜ ⁜ ⁜

MOST LIKELY TO LOSE THEIR JOBS IN 2008

John Samerjan, the Senate Republican Executive Director under John Bennett and Leonard Lance, is expected to be replaced by the new Minority Leader, Tom Kean, Jr.

Ken Zimmerman, the Chief Counsel to Governor Jon Corzine, hasn't found it easy to get along with legislative leaders and Corzine supporters.

Honorable Mention

Frank LoBiondo, a seven-term Republican Congressman who has spent three decades in public office, could have a real race on his hands if Jeff Van Drew decides to run. He probably won't lose to anyone else, but he still needs to do some damage control. In 2007, LoBiondo played a pivotal role in Sonny McCullough's victory over Frank Blee in a State Senate Special Election Convention (a grudge match against rival Bill Gormley) – some believe Blee would have held the seat for the GOP; and he watched his close friend, Nick Asselta, lose to his greatest potential threat, Jeff Van Drew, in a campaign managed by his longtime political svengali, Maryannie Harper.

Donald Payne, a ten-term Democratic Congressman who has held office on and off since 1972, has severe political problems within his Essex County base. His brother, William Payne, upset Democrats when he gave up his Assembly seat to mount an Independent campaign for State Senate against Teresa Ruiz. His son, Donald Payne, Jr., is upsetting party leaders in each of his two offices: Newark City Councilman and Essex County Freeholder. Payne is one of the most venerable politicians of his generation, but if Newark Mayor Cory Booker backs a challenger – Booker has repeatedly declined to endorse him for 2008 – he could be in trouble.

⁜ ⁜ ⁜

COMEBACKS

Ralph Caputo, a 69-year-old Essex County Freeholder, won election to the State Assembly as a Democrat – forty years after winning the same seat as a Republican.

Rose Heck, 75, who spent thirteen years in the State Assembly before losing a State Senate race in 2003, was again elected Mayor of Hasbrouck Heights – a job she won for the first time in 1987.

Albert Coutinho, a Newark Democrat who spent six months as an Assemblyman in 1997, won a two-year term this year. Hudson County Democrats Anthony Chiappone and L. Harvey Smith will also return to Trenton.

When he won a Republican Assembly seat in a 1988 special election, Democrat **John Villapiano**, was hailed as a rock star. But his political career ended when he voted for the Florio tax hikes, and his bid for the State Senate this year was a disaster.

Frank X. Herbert, who served as a Democratic State Senator from Bergen County from 1978 to 1982, now lives in Morris County where he lost a Senate race to Anthony Bucco. Herbert, 78, had some health issues that delayed his campaign: "I spent the whole month of April with hoses up my yinyang," he told PolitickerNJ.com.

QUOTABLE

"Absolutely not true."

—Bergen County Democratic Chairman Joseph Ferriero, on reports that Joseph Coniglio would drop his bid for re-election to the State Senate, less than thirty hours before Coniglio withdrew (PolitickerNJ.com, 09/11/07)

THE RUDEST NEW JERSEYAN ALIVE

There is no shortage of offensive people in New Jersey politics, but none are more rude than **Samantha Maltzman**, the Finance Director for Hillary Clinton's campaign for the Democratic presidential nomination. Top Clinton fundraisers constantly complain about her personality flaws and tell stories of her mistreatment of potential donors. Simply put, Maltzman is just plain obnoxious —and doesn't have the talent to pull that off

ELECTION NIGHT '07

Gerry Cardinale won a ninth term in the State Senate against a well-funded opponent, but his wife, Carole Cardinale, lost her seat on the Demarest Borough Council.

⁜ ⁜ ⁜

TOM KEAN SAID PEOPLE WERE MOVING OUT OF NEW JERSEY

Matthew Miller, who served as Communications Director for Bob Menendez's U.S. Senate campaign, is now in Washington in the same role at the Democratic Senatorial Campaign Committee.

Jill Hazelbaker, who was Communications Director of the Kean for U.S. Senate campaign, is now in Washington in the same role at John McCain's presidential campaign.

⁜ ⁜ ⁜

THE RODNEY DANGERFIELD AWARD

New York Senator **Charles Schumer**, go gets exponentially more TV exposure in North Jersey than anyone from this state, gets no respect from New Jersey Democrats. At a press conference after Jon Corzine's accident, then-Acting Governor Dick Codey said: ""I'm not Chuck Schumer doing press conferences on Sunday ... But don't take me for a potted plant. I would never be a caretaker." (Philadelphia Inquirer, 04/25/07) In 2005, at the Washington Press Club Foundation dinner, Corzine said: "Sharing a media market with Chuck Schumer is like sharing

BILL BRADLEY AWARD

During his eighteen years in public office, Bill Bradley marched to his own drummer. He was fiercely independent, often frustrating leaders of his own party when his actions appeared tone deaf to a political agenda. Bradley was never a favorite of political insiders, but the voters seemed to like him as their representative in Washington.

If Bill Bradley had run for Governor in the 1970's instead of the U.S. Senate, he might have a record similar to **Jon Corzine**. And if you're one of the people who knew Bradley, you would understand that New Jersey Democrats would never have tolerated him as their Governor.

Like Bradley, Corzine appears to be his own man. He seems to pursue public policy initiatives that reflect his own beliefs, and he doesn't appear to care what the political intelligencia thinks or says. Some of his true fans say he should wear his struggles with the Legislature and party bosses as a badge of honor. Some of his initiatives, like monetization, are not universally popular among his own supporters. His record could earn him a place in history; just as easily, it could make him a one-term Governor – not that he necessarily cares.

Sometimes Democrats look at Corzine and just shake their heads, like the Saturday morning last October when he attended a breakfast with a Democratic Senate candidate and then showered her GOP rival with praise on his way out the door.

When Corzine is in his zone, focused on some of his core issues, he seems to get his way. This year he passed his state budget with hardly any dissent – the same thing happened with legislation to eliminate the death penalty. But when the Governor loses focus – like on monetization – he seems to have trouble keeping his own party in line.

For better or worse – *PolitickerNJ.com* isn't prepared to make any predictions or take sides – what New Jersey has is Corzine being Corzine .... or Corzine being Bradley.

YES, ELLEN, THEY REALLY HATE YOU

Franklin Township Deputy Mayor Ellen Ritchie was recalled by a massive 81%-19% margin. She won just 14% of the vote in a separate election to fill her seat.

THE BEST OF ALFRED DOBLIN

"People put great effort into how they order their coffee at a Starbucks. But when it comes to deciding who will represent them in Trenton or town hall, they willingly accept a steaming cup of swill. — (The Record, 09/10/07)

"It's like catching salmon in the Northwest during mating season. The rivers are choked with over-eager fish waiting to spawn. In New Jersey, the halls of government are choked with officials all too eager to throw themselves into a legal net if they get even a whiff of some chum." —(The Record, 09/07/07)

THE BEST OF TOM MORAN

"But we've seen that there is a method to this man's kindness. He uses cash to make problems disappear, or to win friends during his election campaigns with charitable donations. Corzine yesterday was reduced to fleeing through the library stacks after refusing to answer more questions from reporters. His little party turned out to be an embarrassment. So here we are -- nearly halfway through his term, and we're still stuck in the muck he promised to pull us out of. " —(Star-Ledger, 09/05/07)

"This Carla Katz saga is like a mosquito that keeps dive bombing your ear as you try to sleep. It's not much of a scandal, at least not so far. No one committed any crimes. And in New Jersey these days, that counts for something. But the Katz story is packed full of secrets, and money, and gargantuan conflicts of interest. And thanks to the governor's stonewalling, the truth will dribble out slowly and torturously, draining away one more drop of his credibility each day." — (Star-Ledger, 09/19/07)

THE BEST OF MONICA YANT KINNEY

"Two years ago, the self-made gazillionaire who bought himself the most powerful governorship in the nation talked tougher. He actually used his inaugural address to smack the scoundrels who made New Jersey the corruption capital of the U.S. Now, Gov. 'Hold Me Accountable' is suggesting he may have overreached, thinking he could "change the way government does business. 'You're going to say this is flip, but democracy is a messy exercise,' Corzine says halfway through a 40-minute interview last week. That is flip. I'm only saying it because he told me to." —(Philadelphia Inquirer, 10/17/07)

THE BEST OF CHARLES STILE

"Gerry Cardinale doesn't seem to be himself these days. "The state Senate's unapologetic crusader of conservative causes for more than three decades is sounding like— longtime Cardinale watchers, brace yourselves— a moderate.

"Ask him to reflect on the roots of his right-wing passions, and the 73-year-old dentist from Demarest changes the subject -- he'd rather talk about the time he angered his conservative allies when he supported "set asides'' on government projects, a form of affirmative action for women and minority contractors.

"His answer sounds more like the Rev. Jesse Jackson than the Rev. Jerry Falwell -- or Dr. Gerry Cardinale, for that matter. " —(The Record, 07/24/07)

NEW VOCABULARY WORDS

Monetization;
Christmas Tree Gate;
Rescue Money; Clean Elections;
Governor Paralysis

STRATEGISTS OF THE YEAR

Republican **Edward Trzaskawka**, better known in politics as Ed Traz, had a phenomenal year as a political consultant: he worked for Steve Oroho, who beat Guy Gregg in the 24th district State Senate primary; for Jennifer Beck, who beat incumbent State Senator Ellen Karcher; for Declan O'Scanlon and Caroline Casagrande, who ousted Democratic incumbent Michael Panter; for Republican Asssemblymen-elect John Amodeo and Vince Polistina; and for the Republicans in the 8th district: Phil Haines, Dawn Addiego and Scott Rudder.

Democrat **Steve Ayscue** played a key role in ousting Republican State Senators Nicholas Asselta and Sonny McCullough in two South Jersey districts and replacing them with Jeff Van Drew and Jim Whelan. The man who made George Norcross' political jets arrive on time for years has emerged as one of the state's most powerful players, with considerable responsibility for Democratic wins across New Jersey.

Honorable Mention: **Rick Shaftan**, the fly-under-the-radar screen conservative who played a key role in the defeat of two major ballot initiatives.

QUOTABLE

"Am I a leper? I should be a leper and not be seen again?" *—Former Assemblyman Anthony Impreveduto, who resigned following his felony conviction, on his new career as a lobbyist.*
(The Record, 07/17/07)

QUOTABLE

"I am what I am. I like to eat, drink, sing, dance and laugh, and I make no apologies for that. That's who I am and everybody knows it."

—Jersey City Mayor Jerramiah Healy (Asbury Park Press, 07/15/07)

"Tell Denny Levinson to go ---- himself. He's a pathological liar and you can quote me."

—James McGettigan, the Democratic candidate for Atlantic County Executive, in an interview with a local reporter. Later, McGettigan admitted making the statement, calling it the "catch phrase of the day."
(Press of Atlantic City, 07/19/07)

"I'm 78 years old and running for office. I must need to have my head examined."

—Mike Guarino, who ran against Paul Sarlo in the 36th district.
(PolitickerNJ.com, 06/08/07)

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POWER LIST 2007

The *POLITICKERNJ.COM* POWER LIST 2007 identifies New Jersey's 100 most politically influential personalities. In developing our list, we eliminated anyone who currently holds elected office, as well as the Judiciary. This precludes some people, Assemblyman/Democratic State Chairman Joe Cryan, for example. We also eliminated the living former Governors, United States Senators, and, of course, Bill Gormley: we believe this particular group remains highly influential and well-respected. This is an Insiders List. We looked at policy makers, party leaders, fundraisers, lobbyists, labor unions, businesses, and associations and have assembled the ultimate list of New Jerseyans with clout, with an impact on politics and government in the Garden State. We selected names based on a fairly unscientific curve: we allocated spaces on this list for a dozen different categories within the New Jersey political community—so #11 on the list of important fundraisers or donors doesn't make the list, but the most influential congressional staffer does. Just remember that our list is purely subjective, and forever changing.

In New Jersey politics, power shifts constantly. Stay tuned for an updated *PolitickerNJ.com* Power List —coming in 2008!

1

Stuart Rabner

Attorney General of New Jersey;
Chief Justice-designate

What an incredible meteoric rise for a man who, in just nineteen months, has gone from a career federal prosecutor -- a first tier bureaucrat whose clout among the political elite was so limited that he was unsuccessful in his bid for a Superior Court Judgeship) to #1 on the list of the most powerful people in New Jersey politics. Dick Codey said recently that Stuart Rabner's problem was that he didn't have a godfather; now – a beneficiary of literally being in the right place at the right time – his godfather is the Governor of New Jersey.

Rabner became Jon Corzine's Chief Counsel just months after a random meeting while the two volunteered at a soup kitchen (What if Corzine had a better offer for that time slot on his schedule?) led to the formation of a very close bond between two men who seemingly share a vision for a better way to run New Jersey.

Eight months into the fledgling administration, Zulima Farber resigned after a traffic stop snowballed into the story of the year – and Rabner became the state Attorney General. Next – if Nia Gill and Ron Rice say yes – he could spend the next 23 years as Chief Justice of the New Jersey Supreme Court.

Rabner's power comes from being Corzine's trusted consigliore, from his shear intellectual integrity, his ability to win bi-partisan support (he's not just Corzine's guy, he's a close ally of the U.S. Attorney too), and his seemingly permanent honeymoon with media. What makes him even more fascinating – and more powerful – is that he has accumulated power without making enemies – not an easy task for even the most seasoned New Jersey politician, yet alone a political newcomer like Rabner.

2

George Norcross

CEO, Commerce National Insurance

George Norcross III has become the poster child for political bosses in New Jersey, not that he really cares. His influence his enormous – his political organization includes the Assembly Speaker and four state Senators – a number that could (or maybe even will) increase by two of more next year. His ability to raise money – quickly and in large denominations – can stop a team of oxen dead in their tracks. He doesn't let people tell him no, and gets that few New Jersey politicians have the testicular fortitude to turn him down anyway. His brother runs the South Jersey AFL-CIO and the Camden County Democratic machine.

While technically just a private citizen – Norcross holds no public or party office – he has much influence over public policy in Camden County, where it's well-known that he actually cares about the quality of service provided by county government. That's the wonk in his roots – he started out as an aide to a Camden County Assemblyman, working on legislation and constituent service.

With his South Jersey organization secure, Norcross is going statewide. He has forged strong relationships in Bergen, Essex and Union counties, and his machine has made some significant electoral inroads into Burlington and Atlantic counties. Norcross is eyeing seats currently held by two Republican State Senators and a Republican County Executive; victory, combined with Bill

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Gormley's retirement, could add some lucrative patronage operations to his coalition, like the almighty CRDA.

3

Bradley Abelow
State Treasurer

Until just a year and a half ago, Brad Abelow didn't even live in New Jersey. He was an ex-Goldman Sachs guy that Jon Corzine trusted enough to put him in charge of the state budget. At first, it wasn't an easy assignment: he found himself in the middle of a budget dispute between Corzine and the Democratic legislative leadership that resulted in a shut down of state government. But just one year later, and despite the late start, Abelow has shown that he seems to get politics – almost as well as he got making money.

Much of the credit for the Budget Accord of 2007, which is expected to pass a state budget ten days before the legal deadline (we'll miss the newspaper photos of late night budget sessions) goes to Abelow, who has shown that people respect his brains, his negotiating skills, his fairness, and the accuracy of his information. He is completely loyal to Jon Corzine, the only politician in the state that he actually cares about --when was the last time New Jersey had a State Treasurer with no personal agenda? If/when Tom Shea leaves, watch Abelow be short-listed for Chief of Staff.

4

Josh Margolin
Reporter, The Star-Ledger

Part of the Star-Ledger team that won a Pulitzer Prize covering James E. McGreevey's fall from power, he is the main statehouse guy for the state's largest newspaper. First with Jeff Whelan and now with Deborah Howlett, Margolin is constantly on the front page. (No offense to everyone else, but the 80/20 rule clearly applies: 80% of the best stories emanate from 20% of the reporters.) His effectiveness is helped by 24/7 access to West Orange and Mendham, where two key newsmakers are clearly on his speed dial. Politicians don't necessarily dread his calls, even though he can be a little arrogant at times (a point Margolin seems to take pride in). But it's hard to remember the last time the Star-Ledger had to run a correction on one of his stories.

5

Christopher Christie
United States Attorney

In blue state New Jersey, there is no Republican more powerful – or more feared – than the corruption-busting, headline-making, technically apolitical United States Attorney (and possible '09 Gov candidate). So far, not a single public official charged with corruption has won an acquittal – although some of the people he has gone after were, of course, never charged. Nationally, 2007 hasn't been the best political environment for federal prosecutors, and his pre-election dealings with Bob Menendez, combined with his removal from the list of U.S. Attorneys the White House may have wanted to fire, raised some questions of partisanship.

One testament to the fear of Christie's wrath: he can even call a Harvard-educated Senate Judiciary Committee Chairman a "third-rate bureaucrat" and not be publicly criticized by a single member of the majority party.

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6

Tom Shea
Chief of Staff to the Governor

The only thing that keeps Tom Shea from being higher up on the Power List is that he doesn't seem interested in exercising the full muscle normally accorded to his position. Instead, he prefers the lower-key role of Crown Prince who can never *be* King. The convention wisdom has been that Shea wants out – some say he'd like to spend more time in Florida – but Jon Corzine's long road to full recovery following his automobile accident will likely keep Shea around his family business a little while longer.

7

Joseph Ferriero
Bergen County Democratic Chairman

A decade ago, when Joe Ferriero became County Chairman, a Bergen Dem boss would have been an oxymoron – the GOP controlled county government for seventeen years. Through force of personality, discipline, and a knack for raising money, Ferriero has turned a Republican stronghold into a Democratic empire; now the GOP is not just the minority, they are irrelevant. Even The Record, no fan of Ferriero, says the GOP should find a new leader like the one the Democrats have. Courted by presidential candidates, and regular dinner partner of Corzine and/or Shea, Ferriero knows he is the key to continued Democratic dominance: Republicans can't win New Jersey without carrying Bergen. But the boss is still a little cocky – sometimes he brags too much – he has become a campaign issue, and he's turned Loretta Weinberg into a giant-killer that he positively can't control.

8

Steve Adubato, Sr.
Executive Director, North Ward Cultural Center

At 74-years-old, Stephen Adubato, Sr. is at the pinnacle of his power. The Newark political insider, who has never held public office, is close the Governor, wields considerable influence over Essex County government, played a key role in electing Cory Booker as Mayor of Newark, and has more than a few votes on the Newark City Council. His candidates don't seem to lose elections these days, and his decision to dump his longtime ally, Freddy Caraballo (a big win) from the State Assembly leaves him feared and respected. Still, the win in the 29th was offset – albeit not evenly – by Ron Rice's win in the 28th. Adubato is part of a statewide alliance that includes George Norcross, Joe Ferriero and Ray Lesniak that could affect who runs the Legislature next year (Adubato could have four votes in the Senate) – which means he could move up on this list – or down.

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9

Craig Carton & Ray Rossi
NJ 101.5 Radio Personalities

NJ 101.5 FM's The Jersey Guys offend huge segments of the state's population, often don't care about the facts -- but that's exactly what gives them so much shwack in the political arena. What they say has actually influenced elections – though not necessarily for the person they were trying to hurt (see Jun Choi) – and any way you look at it, that's real power.

10

Carla Katz
President, CWA Local 1034

The multi-millionaire CWA Local 1034 President, representing state employees, would be hugely powerful even if she weren't the Governor's ex-girlfriend (and e-mail buddy). Her contacts extend well beyond the Governor's office, and her clout preceded Corzine's emergence on the political scene by several years. As long as her constituency – public employees – keep re-electing her, she'll be on his list.

11

Charlotte DeFilippo
Union County Democratic Chair

Because of her close alliance with powerful State Senator Raymond Lesniak, the Union Democratic chair is one of the most powerful party leaders in the state. And her team has not lost a general election since 1995.

12

Bill Castner
Executive Director, New Jersey State Assembly Majority Staff

The young lawyer is the Speaker's top advisor, and one of the smartest tacticians on any legislative staff. Joe Roberts listens to what he says.

13

Gary Rose
Director, Governor's Office of Economic Growth

Completing the Goldman Sachs takeover of state government, it is the job of this Corzine friend to convince people that the state of New Jersey's economy is indeed sound. And some Trenton watchers think he is the unofficial Lieutenant Governor: he often shows up at meetings that were originally scheduled with Corzine.

14

Ray Pocino
Vice President, Laborers International Union of North America; Port Authority Commissioner

The boss of the laborers union has power that extends up and down New Jersey, across the Hudson River, and in Washington, D.C. And he's well liked too.

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15	**Kris Kolluri** New Jersey Commissioner of Transportation	As one of Corzine's most trusted cabinet members, he has accumulated power with control of the Turnpike, Parkway, NJ Transit and the South Jersey Transportation Authority. Don't be surprised to see the state's most powerful Asian Indian American on the Lt. Governor short list two years from now.
16	**Carl Goldberg** Chairman, New Jersey Sports and Exposition Authority	Respected businessman runs the New Jersey Sports Authority and oversees two of the state's largest projects, Xanadu and Giants Stadium – and maybe a third … Nascar?
17	**Juan Melli** Founder, BlueJersey.com	The anti-machine liberal blogger has emerged as the Pied Piper of the progressive wing of the New Jersey Democratic Party, with no hesitation of criticizing fellow Democrats if he thinks they've wandered off his reservation.
18	**Mary Jane Cooper & Paula Franzese** New Jersey Inspector General & State Ethics Commission Chairwoman	These days, the two ethics watchers have the real power to keep politicians honest. And they're not especially popular with the political elite – hated, perhaps – which only serves to keep them moving up this list. That is until someone higher up comes down upon them!
19	**David Kocieniewski** Reporter, New York Times	The *New York Times* reporter doesn't write every day, but when he does, it has huge impact.
20	**Donald Trump** Casino Owner & Developer	The Donald's N.J. power comes from his casinos, and his ability to get anyone to take his call – until he sells to Dennis Gomes.
21	**Elnardo Webster** Attorney and fundraiser	Not every former NFL player winds up on ESPN. He's Cory Booker's best friend and ex-law partner, and a favorite of Jersey City Mayor Jerramiah Healy. That's like being the Chief of Staff to the Governor of Delaware.
22	**Charlie Wowkanech** President, New Jersey AFL-CIO	In the old days of Charlie Marciante, the AFL-CIO Prez would have been in the top 5, but today there are a huge number of labor leaders who cut their own deals. But with this title – and the ability to turn out thousands to rallies and for GOTV – comes much respect.
23	**Rev. Reginald Jackson** Executive Director, New Jersey Council of Black Ministers	The go-to guy for Democrats who want support from the African American community, and a man no candidate wants to see trash talking them at a press conference the week before an election.
24	**AJ Sabath** Aide to Senate President Richard Codey	The ex-state Labor Commish now heads the political shop for the most popular man (so says an independent poll) in New Jersey, Dick Codey. It's Adam who makes sure Codey's candidates, like Sandra Cunningham and Ronald Rice, win.
25	**Mike DuHaime** Campaign Manager, Giuliani for President	The ex-NJGOP Executive Director is playing in the World Series of politics, and doing extraordinarily well. If Giuliani is elected President, could he help NJ Republicans actually become a major party again?

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26	**Steven Tisch, John Mara & Woody Johnson** Jets owner/Giants owner	They own the two New York football teams that play in New Jersey, and everybody wants to be their friend – especially labor unions and contractors who want a piece of the new stadium, and players (real and self-imagined) who went the best seats.
27	**Steven Goldstein** President, Garden State Equality	The smart and articulate ex-operative now runs the state's largest and most powerful gay rights organization, and played a key role in getting New Jersey to pass – in an election year -- a civil union law that other states were afraid to touch.
28	**John Myers** Archbishop of Newark	The Archbishop of Newark is not as politically potent as he was in Peoria, but no one in New Jersey has a bigger political machine.
29	**Anthony Coscia** Chairman, Port Authority of New York and New Jersey	Even with McGreevey gone, the Port Authority Chairman remains amazingly influential – especially as the PANYNJ decides who will build a new tunnel under the Hudson, and how the World Trade Center site will return.
30	**Harold Hodes** Lobbyist	Brendan Byrne's ex-Chief of Staff keeps his clout in a world where people don't remember Al Beadleston or Bill Hamilton – a testament to his staying power in the ever-changing world of New Jersey politics.
31	**George Gilmore** Ocean County Republican Chairman	The Ocean County Republican Chairman doesn't lose general elections, and has firm control over his county government – two things that make him unique in Blue State New Jersey.
32	**Steve DeMicco/Brad Lawrence** Political Consultants	The Democratic strategist gets the marquis clients: Corzine, Menendez, Lautenberg and McGreevey – and lower tier campaigns, like Paul Stuart Aronsohn.
33	**Fran Dauth** Editorial Editor, The Star-Ledger	She writes the Star-Ledger's editorials, and in New Jersey, important people read those editorials early every morning.
34	**Jeff Vanderbeek** New Jersey Devils Owner	It's impressive that his arena is almost finished, considering how many Governors he's had to deal with over seven years – not to mention the two Newark mayors.
35	**Orin Kramer** Chairman of the New Jersey State. Investment Council; Democratic fundraiser	The Democratic fundraiser and ex-White House aide talked Jon Corzine into running for office; now he's a key player in Barack Obama's presidential campaign, and he makes decisions on the investment of billions of dollars of New Jersey money.

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36	**Steve Lonegan** Executive Director, Americans for Prosperity - New Jersey	He is New Jersey's #1 conservative -- the de facto leader of the Republican wing of the Republican party, and never afraid to say what he thinks -- one of the few GOP leaders in New Jersey who actually affect public policy. The Mayor of Bogota is not seeking re-election – which gives him a pass on our "no elected official" rule.
37	**Dennis Bone** President, Verizon	The Verizon boss is well-liked by NJ's power brokers and elected officials, and scored real legislative success by getting his company into the cable TV business
38	**Ivan Zapien** Chief of Staff to Sen. Bob Menendez	Bob Menendez's talented Chief of Staff increases clout with boss' new DSCC role
39	**Skip Hidlay** Publisher, Asbury Park Press	Ask John Bennett why the Asbury Press Publisher belongs on this list.
40	**Jeff Carroll** Chief of Staff to Rep. Frank Pallone	The Chief of Staff for Rep. Frank Pallone, whose Health Subcommittee makes him the most powerful member of the state's 13-member House delegation
41	**Bob DeCotiis** Attorney and Democratic fundraiser	Runs one of New Jersey's most politically influential law firms.
42	**Ken Zimmerman** Counsel to the Governor	The Governor's Chief Counsel wields substantial power -- as long as the Governor isn't Dick Codey.
43	**Angelo Genova** Attorney and Port Authority Commissioner	He's the best election lawyer on the Democratic side, with a knack for figuring out how to make any campaign contribution – to his side -- look legal.
44	**Bob Franks** President, Health Care Institute of New Jersey	The popular former Congressman and statewide contender runs the Health Care Institute of New Jersey, the trade group for New Jersey's pharmaceutical industry.
45	**Bill Palatucci** Attorney and Republican fundraiser	He's not just Chris Christie's best friend and "campaign manager"-- he has an uncanny ability to pick GOP primary winners; if his primary winners won after June, he'd be much higher on the list.

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46	**Al DeCotiis** Attorney and Democratic fundraiser	A key player in Hillary Clinton's campaign, and he's close to the federal legal community in Newark and Washington.
47	**Frank Spencer** Eastern District Vice President, United Brotherhood of Carpenters	With his influence on New Jersey politics secure, the head of the state Carpenters Union leader is now playing on a national stage as an officer of the UBC.
48	**Phil Alagia** Chief of Staff to the Essex County Executive	He's Steve Adubato Sr.'s fixer: the Chief of Staff to the Essex County Executive and the guy Democrats bring in when they need to win an election.
49	**Michael Kempner** Lobbyist and Democratic Fundraiser	He runs MWW, one of the state's top public relations and lobbying firms, and is a key Hillary Clinton fundraiser
50	**Robert Rasinski** State Trooper	He saved the Governor's life, and when the Governor owes you a big favor, you're powerful -- at least until you use that favor up
51	**Kathy Crotty** Executive Director, New Jersey Senate Majoriy Office	The venerable legislative staffer runs the State Senate for Dick Codey, making sure that the Legislature runs fine during those days – and nights – that Codey is the Governor.
52	**Ed Brannigan** President, New Jersey Fraternal Order of Police	The independent boss of the state FOP union is courted by both parties, largely because his support his hardly automatic. The PBA has a new President, Tony Wieners, who needs some time to earn the slot on the list that would have easily gone to his predecessor, Mike Madonna.
53	**Al Porroni** Executive Director, New Jersey Office of Legislative Services	OLS has incredible influence over what laws get passed in New Jersey, and while he's no Sam Alito, Sr., he's done well learning to make the majority party happy.
54	**Jamie Fox/Eric Shuffler** Lobbyists	New Jersey's new Batman & Robin have lots of influence with the Governor and key Democrats – enough to make them successful despite their enemies.
55	**Donald Scarinci** Attorney and Democratic fundraiser	He's stepped back from his day-to-day political activity in Hudson County, but he's still respected and influential.
56	**Dan Katz** Chief of Staff to Sen. Frank Lautenberg	Earmarks still matter, and Frank Lautenberg's Chief of Staff has a real say over the U.S. Senate Appropriations Committee.
57	**John F.X. Graham** Businessman and Democratic fundraiser	Major Democratic fundraiser who heads Hillary Clinton's N.J. operation four years after playing the same role for John Kerry.

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58	**Joan Verplanck** President, New Jersey Chamber of Commerce	The Executive Director of the New Jersey Chamber of Commerce has strong ties to the state's business community, and runs the popular trip to Washington, D.C. every February.
59	**Brian Thompson** Reporter, WNBC-TV	When NBC decides to run a major political story, more people than all the print newspapers combined see his work product.
60	**David Norcross** Republican National Committeeman	The Republican National Committeeman can get key White House officials to return his calls with ease, even if his name is Norcross.
61	**Celeste Fitzgerald** Executive Director, New Jerseyans for Alternatives to the Death Penalty	New Jersey's leading anti-death penalty advocate successfully moved the issue to the forefront of the New Jersey legislative agenda – after years of being below the radar screen.
62	**Steve Ayscue** Political Strategist	He's the first guy George Norcross talks to in the morning, and outside his immediate family, the last one he talks to at night.
63	**Paul Fader** Attorney and Democratic fundraiser	The onetime front office lawyer is now partners at a law firm with Jim Florio and the ever-intriguing Michael Perrucci.
64	**Bill Watson** Advisor to the Mayor of Trenton	An influential Democrat on his own, his power is enhanced as the top advisor to the Mayor of Trenton and as the brother of the Assembly Majority Leader.
65	**Alfred Doblin** Editorial Editor/Columnist, The Record	The Record columnist and editorial writer isn't afraid to piss people off.
66	**Paul Josephson** Attorney and Democratic fundraiser	Ex-gubernatorial counsel wields considerable influence from his private law practice, working with central New Jersey powerhouse Bob Basco.
67	**Bill Maer** Lobbyist	The likeable political consultant and lobbyist wields enormous influence in the State Senate and in Bergen County.
68	**Herb Stern** Federal Monitor, UMDNJ	The former U.S. Attorney and Federal Judge is the U.S. Attorney's man at UMDNJ – and given the billable hours that client has produced, he could have the best patronage job in New Jersey.
69	**Mickey Carroll** Director, Quinnipiac University Polling Institute	The ex-New York Times reporter runs the Connecticut-based Quinnipiac University Poll, which has more influence over campaigns & elections in New Jersey than any other independent polling operation.

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70	**Regina Carlson** Executive Director, Group Against Smoking Pollution	The GASP founder got some landmark legislation passed – first a ban on smoking in restaurants, and then one in casinos. And she beat some rather powerful special interests (see #71) to do so.
71	**Dale Florio** Somerset County Republican Chairman; Lobbyist	The Triple Dipper: He's the political boss of genial Somerset County, the state GOP Finance Chairman, and the head of one of the state's most powerful lobbying firms.
72	**David Pringle** New Jersey Environmental Federation Campaign Director	Running one of New Jersey's most powerful environmental organizations give you a lot of clout – too bad there's so much infighting and complaining within the environmental community.
73	**David Rebovich** Managing Director, Rider Institute for New Jersey Politics	The Rider Political Science Professor is the most frequently quoted man in New Jersey – a testament to his intelligence, his understanding of New Jersey politics, and his ability to say anything in twenty words or less.
74	**Bill Matsikoudis** Counsel to the Mayor of Jersey City	Jerramiah Healy is about to become the Hudson County Democratic Chairman, which should give the Counsel to the Mayor of Jersey City event more clout.
75	**Pablo Fonseca** Chief of Staff to the Mayor of Newark	The very able Chief of Staff to Cory Booker has a seat at the table of power the state's largest city (at least officially, until the 2010 census) seeks a real renaissance – not the one Sharpe James promised.
76	**Ron O'Malley** Bergen County Utility Authority Chairman	Virtually unknown statewide, he carries extraordinary influence in Bergen County government.
77	**Alan Marcus** Public Relations Executive	The legendary lobbyist and public relations executive knows his way around New Jersey, and has the second best institutional memory in the state; that's what happens when you're over 60 with 40+ years experience in Trenton.
78	**Susan Bass Levin** New Jersey Commissioner of Community Affairs; Port Authority Deputy Executive Director-designate	The DCA Commissioner and ex-Cherry Hill Mayor is headed to the Port Authority, a great gig, though not necessarily the one the onetime statewide aspirant and congressional candidate wanted.
79	**Ralph Izzo** CEO, PSE&G	Politically active, and runs the state's largest public utility company. But what was he thinking by bankrolling Seema Singh?
80	**Ken Kurson** Advisor to Rudy Giuliani	The New Jerseyan is Rudy Giuliani's close friend, advisor and co-author. In a Giuliani White House, he gets a West Wing office.

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82	**David Samson** Lawyer; former Attorney General	New Jersey's best Attorney General that served between Farmer and Rabner, he had political clout before he went to Trenton as the head of a major North Jersey firm. He still does.
83	**Nick Acocella** Editor, Politifax New Jersey	While he doesn't have a website, everyone talks to him and he's basically unspinnable.
84	**Sheryl Gordon** President, AFSCME Local 183	Key player in New Jersey organized labor, and well liked among her union brothers and sisters.
85	**Julie Roginsky** Political Consultant	The fiercely partisan Democratic operative gets her clout as a daily talking head on FOX and MSNBC.
86	**Marie Tasy** Executive Director, New Jersey Right to Life	New Jersey Right to Life boss would have been higher on this list before Guy Gregg's Senate primary loss, and if New Jersey wasn't colored in with a blue marker. Her membership influences a major block of a GOP primary base vote and Republicans care what she thinks.
87	**Adam Kaufman** Lobbyist	The Democratic lobbyist is very well liked -- maybe even more now that he's dropped his partner, the not-at-all powerful, self-promoting Republican lobbyist Steve Some.
88	**Bob Ingle** Gannett New Jersey columnist	Not at all popular among the political elite, or on press row, and he's sort of a pain in the ass, but his column gets read – especially by the people who say they don't.
89	**Carl Van Horn** Professor, Rutgers University	One of Corzine's favorite policy advisors – maybe because he's often the smartest guy in the room, even if Gary Rose does disagree.
90	**Joe Hayden** Attorney	If, hypothetically, a major New Jersey political leader needed to personally retain a criminal defense attorney (not that things like this actually happen here!), Hayden seems to be the go-to guy.
91	**Ben Rich** Chief of Staff to Rep. Bill Pascrell	Rep. Bill Pascrell's Chief of Staff is the main N.J. staffer on the powerful House Ways & Means Committee.
92	**Gerald Krovatin** Attorney	When allegedly corrupt politicians turn to you to keep them out of jail, you have power.
93	**Tom Barrack** CEO, Colony Capital	He's the money man behind Xanadu and the Hilton's Atlantic City casino operation.
94	**Bill Sheehan** Executive Director, Hackensack Riverkeeper	While others complain, this Bergen activist gets things done – making him a key player in the North Jersey environmental community.

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95	**Robert Roe** Lobbyist and former Congressman	The onetime Chairman of the House Transportation Committee (and, twice, the second place finisher in gubernatorial primaries) can – seemingly with ease – get grant money for local and county governments.
96	**Bob Decheine** Chief of Staff to Rep. Steve Rothman	Rothman is the only majority party member on the House Appropriations Committee, and his top staffer is the gatekeeper for New Jersey's piece of the federal pie.
97	**Laurel Brennan** Secretary-Treasurer, New Jersey AFL-CIO	Highly regarded labor leader, who started as an intern at the New Jersey State Federation of Teachers, could succeed Charlie Wowkanech someday. And her daughter, Erin, Political Director for the Philadelphia AFL-CIO, could be on a power list in Pennsylvania
98	**Lewis Eisenberg** Partner, Granite Capital	The mega millionaire GOP fundraiser is not as powerful as he used to be. The lame duck White House doesn't cater to him as much, and he's for John McCain when most of the New Jersey GOP establishment is with Rudy Giuliani.
99	**Joyce Powell** President, New Jersey Education Association	The President of New Jersey's most powerful union, the NJEA, is still new at the job after replacing Edith Fulton; watch for her rapid climb up the list
100	**Harry Hurley** Atlantic City radio personality	The radio personality's influence is limited to Atlantic County, but people listen to him there -- and when it comes to New Jersey politics, what happens in Atlantic City hardly stays just there. Keep an eye on what this broadcaster/webmaster says this fall about pivotal races for County Executive, State Senate and Assembly: he can actually swing votes.

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