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POWER

LIST

2010



We wish Wally Edge a fond farewell (New Jersey politics will never be the same without you), and we extend a warm welcome and our heartfelt best wishes to Darryl Isherwood and Zach Silber.

We look forward to peeking into “The Back Room” more frequently than Cory Booker appears on Oprah, and we wish continued success to Max Pizarro and Timothy Carroll.

*Those who do not know the plans of competitors cannot prepare alliances.
Those who do not know the lay of the land cannot maneuver their forces.
Those who do not use local guides cannot take advantage of the ground.*

Sun-Tzu, The Art of War



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Welcome to the **2010 POLITICKERNJ POWER LIST**

Inside these pages you'll find PolitickerNJ's 2010 Power List of the 100 most politically influential people in the state.

In compiling this year's list, we used some tried and tested rules from the past, including the elimination of elected officials, sitting judges, past governors and former U.S. senators. Most anyone else was fair game.

To find our Power 100, the editorial staff of PolitickerNJ combed through the ranks of government staffers, political appointees, attorneys, lobbyists, media, labor unions, party leaders and anyone else who moves and shakes in the Garden State. We hope you'll see some familiar names as well as some surprises.

Much has changed in the last year and New Jersey has found itself under the glare of the national spotlight. In the span of less than a year, the new governor has drastically altered the dynamics of power in Trenton and in doing so has become the darling of

the national GOP. And with the new administration comes a new set of players who have risen into the ranks of the power elite.

The coming year promises to be one of the most exciting in the state's political history, with redistricting, mid-term elections in all of the state's 40 legislative districts and the beginning of a presidential campaign in which New Jersey and its governor may find itself in a pivotal role. We look forward to watching how the names that populate this list impact the agenda over the next 12 months.

Like the state house, there is a new administration at PolitickerNJ. And while the same rules applied to the making of this list as in years past, the list as always is subjective. Therefore, we discourage you from making comparisons to past lists and as you'll notice we decided to forgo the traditional stock ticker column which shows rises and falls from prior years.

With that, we invite you to grab a cup of coffee and enjoy.

PolitickerNJ.com **POWER LIST 2010**

The 100 Most Influential Personalities in New Jersey Politics



1 Bill Palatucci **SVP/General Counsel for Public Affairs, Community Education Centers, Inc.**

Gov. Chris Christie's former law partner serves as a chief advisor and confidante to the freshman governor. He's the man behind the man and serves as a sounding board on major decisions. But this power broker is no lackey to the front office. He's been a player in his own right since the 1980s when he was the go-to guy for major GOP campaigns. His clout was extended this year with his election to the Republican National Committee.

PolitickerNJ.com's **PREVIOUS #1s**

2009

Weysan Dunn
Special Agent In Charge, FBI Newark Office

2007

Stuart Rabner
Attorney General of New Jersey; Chief Justice-designate

2005

No Power List published

2003

Jamie Fox
Chief of Staff to the Governor

2001

David Halbfinger
Reporter, The New York Times

2008

Brad Abelow
Chief of Staff to the Governor

2006

No Power List published

2004

Christopher Christie
US Attorney

2002

John Lynch
Democratic Lawyer and Former Senate President

2000

Jim Gearhart
Radio Personality



2 Mary Pat Christie
First Lady

No shrinking violet, this first lady plays a far more active role in advising the governor than other first spouses of recent vintage. She is keyed into the big front office decisions, raises money for both her own and her husband's causes and continues to increase her public profile independent of her husband.



3 Jeff Chiesa
Chief Counsel to the Governor

Now chief counsel, Chiesa once served as executive director of the governor's transition team. He came to the administration from the law firm founded by No. 6, but before that he was part of Christie's U.S. Attorney's Office where served as executive assistant U.S. Attorney. Chiesa and Christie have known each other and worked together for years, and insiders say the two have an almost telepathic connection on policy issues.



4 Steve Adubato Sr.
Executive Director of the North Ward Cultural Center

Founder of the Blue Ribbon charter school, the Robert Treat Academy, and a dedicated advocate of urban schools reform, Adubato serves as more than just a symbolic political mentor to the GOP governor, despite his membership in the Democratic Party. Remember, a day after he won the gubernatorial contest, Christie made his first public appearance at Adubato's North Ward Center. Adubato also wields tremendous influence with Essex County Executive Joe DiVincenzo, a key Christie ally. If The Power List is a snapshot in time, then Newark's recent "win" over South Jersey on arbitration reform gave a boost to this Essex power player.



5 Rich Bagger
Chief of Staff to the Governor

The former assemblyman knows the issues. More importantly, he arguably has better first-hand knowledge of the Trenton mechanics necessary to drive the governor's agenda than anyone else in the administration. Respected on both sides of the aisle, Bagger is on some short lists for a U.S. Senate run.



6 David Samson
Attorney

He served as chairman of the governor's transition team and remains a front-line player. The former attorney general would have been a top-tier Power-Lister even without his recent appointment as chairman of the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey, which awaits confirmation. That nod vaulted him into the top ten. Samson's law firm has never been stronger and a lot of top level GOP power huddle-ups continue to take place at Samson's.



7 Mike DuHaime
Political Strategist

The chief consultant to Gov. Chris Christie's campaign is the architect of the governor's national stump tour and would run a Christie-for-President campaign if it materializes. As the veteran engineer of the 2008 Rudy Giuliani presidential campaign, the likeable DuHaime built a countrywide network which is still intact and expandable for Christie.



8 Todd Christie
Brother of the Governor

The governor's brother has a seat at the table of inner circle advisors. As does Mary Pat Christie, the first brother wields tremendous influence with the governor as a consequence of their close family bond. The governor's loudest cheerleader, younger brother Todd also runs the family foundation. His deep pockets don't hurt his standing in the Republican Party either.



9 Mark Zuckerberg
Facebook Founder

The billionaire Facebook founder's \$100 million gift to Newark schools has put a national spotlight on the troubled city. The gift also moved Booker into the role of school overseer and representative of Gov. Chris Christie. Zuckerberg's offering has also reignited debate over charter schools, of which Booker is a supporter.



10 Michael Critchley Sr.
Attorney

First the Luccheses and now Anthony Suarez. This attorney's high-profile win last month not only broke a streak of more than 200 wins by the U.S. Attorney's Office, but also helped discredit informant Solomon Dwek for future prosecutions. A question for the rest of the power elite: If the U.S. attorney trains his sights on you, who are you going to call now?



PUBLIC STRATEGIES IMPACT

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ASSOCIATION MANAGEMENT

Roger A. Bodman
Harold L. Hodes

William J. Maer
Joseph A. Simonetta

Joseph DeSanctis
Tracie A. DeSarno
Matthew S. Halpin
Edward J. Mount

Patrick A. Stewart

“Over two decades of excellence.”



11 George Gilmore
Ocean County Republican Chairman

The veteran Ocean County Republican Committee chairman has enjoyed close relations with Christie for as long as the former U.S. attorney has been in the broader public eye. While Christie's overwhelming 2009 numbers in Ocean were less a function of Gilmore's political machine and more an anti-Corzine tidal wave, Gilmore's operation remains formidable. Among non-elected officials who are also county chairs, Gilmore wields the most influence with the governor.



12 George Norcross III
South Jersey Democratic Leader

He reaches everywhere. There is no Democrat who is not an elected official right now who wields more influence over the legislature than the powerful South Jersey boss. Nothing gets done in the majority Democratic caucuses of both houses without first passing muster in the South Jersey family of which Norcross is the undisputed political patriarch. He enjoys roots in the building and trades unions, an overarching network through his insurance business, and a lifelong friendship with Senate President Steve Sweeney (D-West Deptford). He also has fortified strong ties to the Essex County Democratic organization, state Sen. Brian P. Stack (D-Union City), state Sen. Kevin O'Toole (R-Cedar Grove), and of course, the governor's office. His standing took a ding this week with the loss of the 3rd District congressional seat.



13 Bill Stepien
Governor's Deputy Chief of Staff

The political bulldog who served as Christie's campaign manager, Stepien continues now as the governor's trusted inner-circle ally. If there is an issue that has a political dimension to it, it gets dropped in Stepien's box. Of course, there aren't too many of those in New Jersey. Stepien answers directly to either Palatucci or Christie.



14 Josh Margolin
Star-Ledger Statehouse Reporter

The guy doesn't pick up a pen unless he can throw it at a bullseye, which he does nearly every week, much to the mortification of media colleagues. Even as he finishes his forthcoming book, "The Jersey Sting," with fellow Ledger reporter Ted Sherman, the veteran, Pulitzer Prize-winning investigative reporter continues to break big stories.



15 Kevin O'Dowd
Deputy Counsel to the Governor

The deputy counsel to the governor has assumed an increasingly powerful role within the administration, especially on the legislative coordinating side. He was instrumental in orchestrating the budget talks last summer, playing an enforcer role when GOP lawmakers balked.



16 Roger Bodman
Lobbyist

The Public Strategies Impact co-founder enjoys a New Jersey lobbyist's prized privilege: very close ties to the governor, in this case an especially powerful governor. The veteran Bodman also has great reach across the aisle in the form of firm players Harold Hodes and Bill Maer.



17 Jon Hanson
Chair of the Hanson Commission

The chairman of the governor's commission on gaming stands at the torque point of New Jersey's gaming and entertainment future. The commission he chairs wields exceptional power, so much so that it was named for him instead of the governor who called it.



18 Paul Fishman
U.S. Attorney

While not yet as high-profile as his predecessor, who now calls the state house home, he is still the most powerful law enforcement official in a state where political perp walks have become common theater. Fishman could have been higher on the list, but the recent acquittal of Anthony Suarez is the first loss for his office after a streak of 200 wins.



19 Donald Trump
Developer and TV Personality

The self-professed fan of Gov. Chris Christie is in frequent contact with the governor as Christie begins his Atlantic City overhaul. Trump now only owns a ten percent share of Trump Entertainment, but his name is still on the product at a time when the governor is committed to making AC the center of New Jersey's entertainment universe.



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Retail Sales Generated: \$69.1 Billion

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Percent of Total State Employment (Non-Agricultural): 9.6%

Shopping Center-Related Employment in New Jersey: 379,600 jobs

For further information or assistance, please contact:

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"No Groundbreakings = No Ribbon Cuttings = No New Jobs = No New Revenue"



20 **Bill Baroni** **Deputy Executive Director of the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey**

Always politically savvy, the former Mercer County Republican senator, in his new role as deputy director of the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey, is part of the governor's frontline effort to create jobs and reform a decayed infrastructure at this key authority. Baroni boarded the Christie-for-governor train early as the former U.S. Attorney began dipping toes into a potential run for higher office.



21 **Mike Soliman** **State Director for U.S. Sen. Bob Menendez**

Two years in front of his boss's re-election bid, the state director for U.S. Sen. Bob Menendez (D-Hoboken) remains a solid, intelligent on-the-ground presence. Soliman is THE point of contact for the most powerful Democratic elected official in the state.



22 **Michele Brown** **Governor's Appointments Counsel**

No one lands in the Christie administration without going through the governor's appointments counsel, a key front-line player in the ongoing formation of the governor's team. A former deputy at the U.S. Attorney's Office, Brown resigned from the Department of Justice amid 2009 campaign trail headlines that she accepted a \$46,000 loan from Christie. Insiders say she is one of the core players that keep Team Christie moving.



23 **Wayne Hasenbalg** **Deputy Chief of Staff for Policy and Planning**

Hasenbalg is very well respected and a key resource for both the administration and the kitchen cabinet. He has deep ties in key places, having worked as a partner in the powerful Teaneck law firm of DeCotiis, Fitzpatrick & Cole, LLP. He is a former member of the Kean administration, as well as chief of staff for the late attorney general of New Jersey, Cary Edwards.



24 **Andrew Hendry** **Senate Democratic Office Executive Director**

He's the last person Senate President Steve Sweeney (D-West Deptford) gut-checks before he goes live with a policy decision in the trenches of Trenton. Hendry prefers a behind-the-scenes role more than some of his colleagues, but that doesn't mean he's not a player.



25 **Michael Drewniak** **Governor's Chief Spokesman**

No one can tap his inner Chris Christie like the gov's press secretary. Drewniak goes back to the U.S. attorney years and is the man most adept at replicating Christie's thoughts and words in real time, usually on media deadline. Forget about the panic-stricken spokesman who has to gut-check every i-dot and t-cross with the boss. Drewniak is the rare authoritative voice who seemingly has carte blanche to speak for the gov.



26 **Maria Comella** **Deputy Chief of Staff for Communications**

She heads up the behind-the-scenes communications efforts of the governor's office and crafts the message. She was the communications director for the campaign and kept the future governor on message. She is Drewniak's boss and could have been higher on the list, but Drewniak has a higher public profile.



27 **Jeff Michaels**
Political Consultant

The former chief of staff to Gov. Donald DiFrancesco has his own top-flight consulting firm in New Jersey's power nexus. Michaels, who grew up in Livingston, has close ties to Gov. Chris Christie and through his partner, Phil Norcross, to South Jersey power broker George Norcross III.



28 **Jeff Vanderbeek**
Owner of the New Jersey Devils

With the Hanson Commission's recommendation to sell the Izod Center, the Prudential Center potentially becomes the best concert and indoor sports venue in the state. With the addition of the Nets, the Rock now features two top-flight sports teams.



29 **Jim Gearhart**
Radio Personality

If you don't think the 101.5 FM talk show host wields influence, you probably don't believe ex-Department of Education Commissioner Bret Schundler's testimony under oath that Gov. Chris Christie fretted about the beating Gearhart was giving him over Schundler's first Race to the Top application.

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30

Glenn Paulsen
Attorney

Behind the scenes, the former chairman of the Burlington County Republican organization remains a powerful figure. In the words of one Republican player, "There's no question he still runs Burlington." Mostly underground since his friend and protégé Bill Layton took over the party three years ago, Paulsen will play a role in the upcoming redistricting battle

31

Robert Grady
Chairman of the State Investment Council

The former budget advisor to then Governor-elect Christie was named to the governor's panel of economic advisors in January. Last month he solidified his spot as a key economic force when he took over as the chairman of the State Investment Council.

32

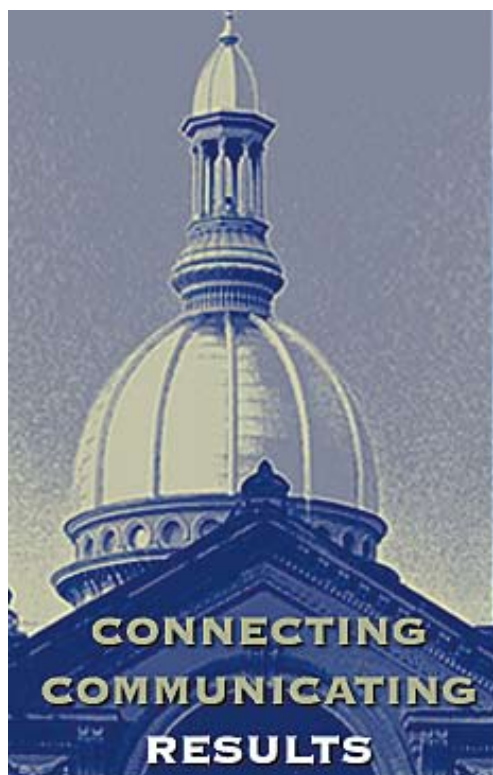
Dennis Bone
President of Verizon New Jersey

Responsible for all of Verizon's corporate interests in New Jersey and boss of 18,000 employees, Bone additionally serves as trustee for numerous influential groups, including the New Jersey Chamber of Commerce. He was also a member of Gov. Chris Christie's transition team.

33

Ray Pocino
National Vice President and Eastern Regional Manager of the Laborers International Union of North America (LIUNA)

The labor boss represents 40,000 construction workers in the region who routinely provide GOTV muscle at election time. He was a voluble critic of Gov. Christie's decision to kill the Access to the Region's Core (ARC) project. He also serves as a Commissioner of the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey, where he has a say in billions of dollars spent on the region's infrastructure. His influence got a boost by the addition of former Corzine campaign manager Maggie Moran to his staff.



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34

Lou Goetting
Cabinet Secretary

The governor's cabinet secretary sits outside the governor's office and has minute-to-minute contact with Chief of Staff Richard Bagger. Several insiders pointed to him as a comer in the governor's office and say his spot should rise in years to come.



35

James Simpson
Commissioner of the Department of Transportation

The former Bush appointee was at the center of the governor's decision to kill the Access to the Region's Core (ARC) project and figures to be a key player going forward as New Jersey attempts to address the insolvent Transportation Trust Fund.



36

Steven Goldstein
Chairman of Garden State Equality

With the same-sex marriage defeat, Goldstein's clout took a hit, but he still runs the largest civil rights organization in New Jersey. His troops will mobilize when and where he tells them and with the introduction of anti-bullying legislation last month he showed he still has the power to push his agenda.



37

Anthony Coscia
Chairman of the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey

Though his replacement has been named (see No. 6), Coscia still carries a big stick in New Jersey. When he leaves the port, he's still a partner in Windels Marx Lane & Mittendorf, one of the regions oldest law firms. He's also been appointed by President Obama to the board of Amtrak, though his nomination has so far been held up.



38

Phil Alagia
Chief of Staff to the Essex County Executive

He's a player in the county and has the juice of both the Essex County Executive and No. 4 behind him. He's also the man called on for the GOTV efforts in Essex.



39

Rev. John Myers
Archbishop of Newark

The leader of the largest archdiocese in New Jersey is a close friend of New Jersey's first pro-life governor. His constituency is huge should he choose to tap it, which adds to his power.

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40

Dan Katz
Chief of Staff to U.S. Sen. Frank Lautenberg

This chief of staff still wields considerable clout in the state as his octogenarian boss beat cancer and shows no signs of slowing. Lautenberg sits on the appropriations committee, which gives Katz a say on where the money goes.



41 Bill Castner
Attorney

This former chief counsel to Gov. Jon Corzine may have lost a step with Corzine's defeat, but his position as an attorney for a top firm with heavy lobbying muscle, and his likely spot on the Democrats' redistricting committee, keeps him as a top 50 player.



42 Deborah Gramiccioni
Director of the State Authorities Unit

This former criminal investigations chief for the state Attorney General's Office is a key part of the governor's effort to reform the New Jersey authorities. It is a major effort, which has already resulted in embarrassing early headlines for the Passaic Valley Sewerage Authority and Burlington County Bridge Commission.



43 Patrick Murray
Monmouth University Pollster

Murray has released all of the head-turning polls this election season. His polls in the 6th and 3rd Districts had journalists and politicians scrambling. The pollster is also a go-to pundit helping to explain the races he's polling.



44 Elnardo Webster
Attorney

The legal brains behind the Booker operation, Webster suffered a hit when the mayor's municipal utilities authority (MUA) failed this summer, but he remains Booker's close confidante and counsel. Jersey City Mayor Jerry Healy listens to him as well, which gives the ex-NFL linebacker a solid one-two punch of political might.



45 Ed Deutsch
Attorney

A heavy hitter on two fronts, Deutsch served on the governor's transition team as the chairman of banking and heads up the third largest law firm in the state.



46 Tom Moran
Star-Ledger Columnist and Editorial Page Editor

Moran is the editorial page editor of the state's largest and most influential newspaper. His editorials serve as a rallying point for progressives in the Chris Christie era, when no clear Democratic leader has emerged. Moran is arguably the only left-leaning critic with the ability to get under Christie's skin.



47 Paula Dow
Attorney General

The attorney general was Christie's nod to a bi-partisan cabinet and showed his continued commitment to corruption-busting. The former Essex County prosecutor also served two years in the U.S. Attorney's Office and is one of many former colleagues to find spots in the Christie circle.



48

Eric Scott
News Director, 101.5 FM Radio

Not only does Scott oversee the state's most influential radio station, but he has made a name for himself as a debate moderator extraordinaire. Last year he refereed the gubernatorial square-off and this year stood between candidates in two congressional battlegrounds, the 12th and 3rd Districts.



49

Michael Kempner
Public Affairs Executive

He runs a top lobbying firm and his Democratic connections would be enough to put him on the list, but last month, the President dined at his home, which solidified his status as a top-50 power broker.



50

Alfred Doblin
Record Columnist and Editorial Page Editor

As editorial page editor and a columnist for the state's second largest paper, Doblin wields considerable political clout within the state. His Record columns are widely read and more times than not cut to the heart of the issue of the day.

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51

Bill Caruso

Executive Director of the Assembly Majority Office

The executive director of the Assembly Majority Office emerged from the South Jersey Democratic Organization to become an inside player in Trenton politics as the Democrats' go-to guy. He's in constant contact with Gov. Chris Christie's office as the Assembly Democrats' lead negotiator on key legislation.



52

Dale Florio

Lobbyist

The head of Princeton Public Affairs, Inc., Florio remains one of the most powerful lobbyists in the state with reach that extends into both parties. The former Somerset County Republican chairman's partners include Bill Pascrell III, son of the U.S. congressman.



53

John Inglesino

Attorney

The former Morris County freeholder has been friends with the governor going back to the early 1990s, when they both served on the board. Signifying his eagerness to be in the statewide game, Inglesino upped his Trenton cred over the summer when he joined Michael Murphy's lobbying firm, Impact NJ. He remains close personal friends with the governor.



54

Ralph Izzo

President and CEO of PSE&G

Chief of the state's largest utility, Izzo has political ties on both sides of the aisle. In June, he was elected chairman of the Board of Governors of Rutgers.



55

Bari Mattes

Senior Advisor to Newark Mayor

Cory Booker trusts her and she has provided a stabilizing influence, even as Booker has faced some turmoil in the Brick City.



56

Angelo Genova

Attorney

He suffered a case of heartbreak last year when he lost his protégé, Peter Cammarano, to corruption charges, but Genova remains the foremost election law attorney in the state.



57

Bob Yudin

Bergen County Republican Chairman

The Republican chairman in New Jersey's most populous county, Yudin's stock rose with the Republican freeholder wins this election season.



58

Brian Thompson

NBC Reporter

The aggressive newsman has a veteran's sense of the political terrain and wide audience reach. Thompson can reach more voters than any other New Jersey reporter and he's a good guy to boot.



59 Ken Kurson
Political Strategist and Author

This partner at Jamestown Associates has a strong brand within Republican circles and his firm helped elect the current governor. Jamestown had a strong showing nationally on Election Day.



60 Mike Murphy and Raj Mukherji
Lobbyists

Murphy is a former Morris County prosecutor and sources say Mukherji has been tapped to be the new deputy mayor of Jersey City. Together the pair is a driving force behind Jersey City Mayor Jerry Healy and Newark Mayor Cory Booker. Their stock could have slipped when Christie took office, but they went out and got themselves a friend of the new governor, Inglesino, No. 53, to join their staff.



61 Brendan Gill
Director of State Operations for U.S. Sen. Frank Lautenberg (D-Cliffside Park)

U.S. Sen. Frank Lautenberg's highly regarded director of state operations gets the politics and the inside game. The veteran Essex County political operative who worked for both U.S. Rep. Bill Pascrell and U.S. Rep. Steve Rothman successfully managed Lautenberg's 2008 primary and general election campaigns to earn his keep as a statewide force for Lautenberg.

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INSIGHT

SUCCESS

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62

Albert Porroni

Executive Director of the Office of Legislative Services

Porroni's veteran status at the ground zero of state government gives him a special seat of power. The non-partisan OLS has tremendous sway over what gets passed and what doesn't.



63

Steve DeMicco and Brad Lawrence

Political Consultants

Though Corzine's defeat was a blow, the veteran consultants still count several front-line Democrats as clients, including Sen. Frank Lautenberg and Sen. Bob Menendez.

PolitickerNJ.com

64

Wayne Forrest

Director, Passaic Valley Sewerage Authority

By all accounts, the former Somerset County prosecutor and Christie ally applies the same no-nonsense attitude in his new job. Forrest has already shaken up the establishment infrastructure and worried long time hangers-on with his aggressive cooperation in an ongoing Attorney General's investigation of the huge North Jersey authority.



65

Bob DeCotiis and Al DeCotiis

Attorneys

Bob is managing partner at the legal heavyweight that carries the family name and Al is a former ambassador and Democratic national committeeman. The DeCotiis firm is nearly a household name and still carries tremendous political juice, despite a Corzine loss and the indictment of a former senior partner.



66

Joe Hayden

Defense Attorney

He remains one of the most sought after defense attorneys in recent memory. With his handling of Joe Ferriero's conviction and the over-turning of the law behind the charges against him, Hayden might be the name you call if Critchley is busy on your court date.



67

William Mullen

President, New Jersey State Building and Construction Trades Council

Insiders say he is one of the few union heads on the "right" side of the governor at this moment and Christie attended the trades convention at Mullen's request. He's also said to have a good relationship with Christie Deputy Chief of Staff Bill Stepien.

PolitickerNJ.com

68

Mary McDermott Noonan

Chief of Staff to U.S. Rep. Chris Smith

The veteran Smith butted heads with former Speaker of the House Tom Delay, but has a good working relationship with U.S. Rep. John Boehner, who stands to be the next speaker. The fiercely loyal Noonan has been with him for years and serves as his point of contact and buffer.



69 **Paul Josephson** **Attorney**

Though no longer the attorney for the state Democrats, Dems who find themselves in need of legal advice still turn to the veteran lawyer. The former chief counsel to Gov. Jim McGreevey, Josephson also served as presidential candidate Barack Obama's lawyer in 2008. He is still the main man for lobbying at powerful Hill Wallack.



70 **Nancy Fox** **Chief of Staff for U.S. Rep. Rodney Frelinghuysen**

Her boss sits on the House Appropriations Committee, which gives him – and his chief of staff – a say in how the pie is sliced and diced. Like No 68, with the GOP takeover of the House, senior Republicans will be on the move.



71 **Charlotte DeFilippo** **Union County Democratic Chair**

Legal troubles that dogged DeFilippo for two years, and the combination of a hometown loss of the mayor's seat and a less than stellar Union County turnout for Corzine, have hurt her, but she is still on the short list of most powerful county chairs.

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72 **Mo Butler**
Newark Mayor Cory Booker's Chief of Staff

Butler came in as the harbinger of a new regime at City Hall. The idea with Butler, after the departure of Pablo Fonseca, was more policy focus and less old school deal-making.

PolitickerNJ.com

73 **Jeff Carroll**
Chief of Staff to U.S. Rep. Frank Pallone (D-Long Branch)

The chief political strategist for Pallone, Carroll was a key component in Pallone's re-election bid. Though Pallone didn't win by his usual margins, a win is a win. GOP control of the House means his boss will slip on the depth chart, but Carroll remains his go-to guy.

PolitickerNJ.com

74 **Jim Harkness**
Senate Republican Executive Director

Another member of Gov. Chris Christie's transition team, Harkness came in after the departure of U.S. Rep. Leonard Lance with the advent of Senate Minority Leader Tom Kean's regime.



75 **Bill Layton**
Burlington County Republican Chairman

It looked like lights out for Layton in 2008, but the GOP chair pushed hard for Gov. Chris Christie, helped persuade at least two key Democrats to become Republicans and celebrated Jon Runyan's 3rd District win on Election Day, though Runyan failed to carry Burlington.



76 **Harold Hodes and Bill Maer**
Lobbyists

The veteran lobbyists have shown tremendous staying power in a business known for turnover.



77 **Chris Russell**
Campaign Consultant

This consultant ran two congressional campaigns this year and went 1-and-1. Granted he won the easier of the two, guiding Republican Jon Runyan to victory in the 3rd District, but the strong showing by Republican Scott Sippelle in the 12th was arguably as impressive.



78 **Keith Davis**
Atlantic County Republican Party Chairman

The Atlantic County Republican Party chairman became chair of the chairs this year, following veteran power players Gilmore and state Sen. Kevin O'Toole (R-Cedar Grove) respectively. The position is mostly ceremonial on its face, but as the South Jersey GOP prepares to go to war with George Norcross and the Democrats in 2011, Davis is a key player for the Republicans.



79 Adam Geller
Republican Pollster

Gov. Chris Christie's pollster upped his profile during the 2009 gubernatorial election when his work predicted almost exactly the outcome of the Christie-Corzine race. He remains a key contact not only for the governor, but for state Sen. Joe Kyrillos (D-Middletown) and other Republican elected officials who want a polling read on the terrain. His 6th District poll showing Republican Anna Little down by just a point with two weeks to go was way off the mark, or he might have been higher on the list.



80 Ron Gravino
Consultant and GOP Campaign Treasurer

One way to know if you're an establishment backed Republican is to check the fine print on your campaign ads. Practically every meaningful Republican campaign in the state enlists this financial guru, including the governor, who tapped Gravino as his campaign treasurer.



81 Donald Scarinci
Attorney

The Union City kid made good has slipped on the list in the era of Gov. Chris Christie, but Scarinci remains close to U.S. Sen. Bob Menendez (D-Hoboken) and state Sen. Brian P. Stack (D-Union City) and his firm still has over 110 public accounts, which account for less than 25 percent of its revenue.



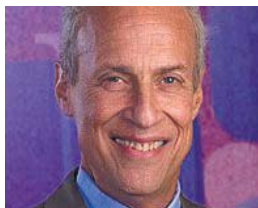
82 Angela Delli Santi
Associated Press Statehouse Reporter

The veteran Statehouse reporter was a player in the last gubernatorial campaign, breaking several front-line stories. As the media world shifts and shakes, the AP remains a steady presence.



83 Bob Master
Political Director of CWA Region 1

The largest public employees union in the state still holds some political sway despite the battles with Christie. Master has some decisions to make on how the union will handle the governor come contract negotiation time and his power could rise and fall accordingly. With all 120 seats in both houses up next year, look for labor to play a big role.



84 Michael Aron
NJN News Director

No one puts together an interview like Aron, the perennial dean of Trenton media.



85 Charles Wowkanech
President of the New Jersey AFL-CIO

Labor has taken a beating this year under Gov. Chris Christie who has pulled off several coups that were unthinkable under the previous administration, including the killing of the ARC tunnel, which labor had hoped would create thousands of jobs. Wowkanech has issues inside his own constituency as the two halves battle over the message. Still, New Jersey is a blue state and Wowkanech leads the million-member group capable of huge ground efforts in the upcoming legislative races.

Congratulations

State Senator-Elect Linda Greenstein

As she becomes the first Democratic Senator to represent the Fourteenth Legislative District in nearly twenty years and the first woman ever!



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86

Nick Acocella
Editor, Politifax

No, he's still not the mayor of Hoboken, and even if we still think he should be, his take on state politics more than satisfies a weekly craving for Acocella insight.



87

Carl Sharif
Newark South Ward Operative

The political master builder may have fallen out of favor with the inner circle of Mayor Cory Booker, but no matter. He crafted a stunning Central Ward campaign to get his son, Darrin, elected as Central Ward councilman against the odds.



88

Barbara Keshishian
New Jersey Education Association President

The teachers union president famously went toe-to-toe with the governor over education cuts and has come out on the short end time and time again. But she still leads a union with nearly 200,000 members and is capable of funneling a lot of money to her campaign of choice. The NJEA promises to be a player in next year's legislative free-for-all.



89

Dave Pringle
Director of the New Jersey Environmental Federation

The smart enviro wields influence with Gov. Chris Christie (he and his group endorsed Christie last year) and he remains a solid contact on environmental matters statewide.

PolitickerNJ.com

90

Robert Griffin
New CEO of Trump Entertainment Resorts

The new CEO will move in at a time when Atlantic City's future is dinner-time conversation in political circles. He will likely be instrumental in hashing out the blueprint for the seaside gambling Mecca. Griffin's recent appointment as president of the Casino Association of New Jersey ups his juice. Look for him to rise on the list in coming years.



91

Steve Ayscue
Political Strategist

The right hand of No.12, Ayscue is one of the best political strategists in the state. The ultimate "under the radar flyer," insiders say the problem with his alleged plan to plant a Tea Partier in the 3rd District was not the concept but the too-public execution.

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Meet the New Administration



DARRYL ISHERWOOD, *Editor*, is an award winning journalist who covered state and local politics for more than eight years as a reporter for the Times of Trenton and The Morning Call, in Allentown, PA. Most recently he served as a senior reporter for Fox Business Network.



MAX PIZARRO, *Deputy Editor*, a three year veteran of PolitickerNJ, scours the state for the best in local political news. Max has 12 years experience as a political reporter in NJ, Washington, D.C., Georgia and Wyoming. He is a graduate of Catholic University and won NJ Press Association Awards for news and feature writing in 1998 and 2006.



TIMOTHY CARROLL, *Staff Writer*, an award winning journalist who comes to PolitickerNJ from the Hoboken Reporter, where he covered government and politics. He'll be spending a lot of time at the state house as PolitickerNJ boosts its coverage there.

ZACH SILBER, *General Manager*, previously played a major role in Politicker.com's national expansion. A life-long political junkie with a passion for all things New Jersey, Zach spent time working with political strategists James Carville and Mary Matalin and served as a State-Federal Relations Fellow in the State of New Jersey Washington Office. He is a graduate of the George Washington University's School of Media and Public Affairs.



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92

Ben Rich
Chief of Staff, U.S. Rep. Bill Pascrell

Though this staffer falls into the same category as other congressional Democrats, Pascrell had a big night on Election Day with the Democratic sweep of Passaic County.



93

Tom Wilson
Lobbyist

The former state Republican chairman is now at Kaufman Zita Group, a top flight lobbying firm. With the GOP on the move, Wilson is a player.



94

Charlie Stile
Record Columnist

There may be others who have greater reach with their explication of Trenton politics, but no one else goes to the same level of detail, or with the same old school combination of wit, eloquence and verve, as the veteran statehouse reporter.

PolitickerNJ.com

95

Richard McCormick
President of Rutgers University

The Scarlet Knight academic routinely flexes his political muscle as he continues to expand *The State University of New Jersey*.



96

Jay Lassiter
Progressive Activist

The Blue Jersey blogger is an iconoclast, tech savvy media artiste, street warrior for marriage equality, and un-intimidated presence in the halls of Trenton power as he aggressively pursues liberal causes. He squeaked out the readers' choice poll but would have made this year's list either way.

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97

John Currie

Passaic County Democratic Party Chairman

Currie might not have survived had he lost the county-wide races on Election Day, but a Democratic sweep that included a substitute candidate for sheriff keeps him in charge.



98

Diane Gooch

Publisher Two River Times

This former congressional candidate makes the list not for her front-line political prowess, but for her behind-the-scenes fundraising. She and her husband, Michael, are among the largest donors to Republican candidates in New Jersey. They weighed into the 6th District race with an ad buy of more than \$100,000.



99

Harry Hurley

Radio Personality

The voice of South Jersey still has the inside track on politics in Atlantic County and beyond.



100

Oprah Winfrey

Media mogul

Oprah has directed millions in recent years to Newark Schools and charities including a \$100 million windfall from Facebook founder Mark Zuckerberg. She remains a fan and friend of Newark Mayor Cory Booker and would be a high profile backer should Booker seek higher office. She helped make Obama in Iowa, and now Booker wants next.



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