Gov. Phil Murphy’s Mid-Term Elections

Voter’s Guide

CRAIG COUGHLIN
SPEAKER LOOKS TO FLIP SEATS

JON BRAMNICK
GOP FIGHTS FOR SURVIVAL

THE YEAR OF THE UNLIKELY VOTER

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THE RECORD TO PROVE IT.

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NEW JERSEY is most definitely a two-party state. It’s just not clear if Republicans are one of those two parties.

Since the current legislative map was drawn in 2011, Democrats have picked up seven seats in the New Jersey State Assembly and now enjoy a commanding 54-26 majority.

This is not a control election. There is no chance of a Republican Assembly Speaker on the horizon. Now it’s a question of just how many seats Democrats can win before the next round of redistricting.

Republicans are largely playing defense to hold off the Democrats from flipping even more seats, with as many as eight in play. The GOP is competing in the 1st district, where a special election for State Senate and the race for two Assembly seats are legitimately in their sights.

Looming large in the political landscape is Governor Phil Murphy, who owns the 2019 mid-term elections — for better or for worse, at least from a historical point of view. That means he’ll get to take credit for pickups and responsibility for losses, whether some of his fellow Democrats like it or not.

The low mark for Republicans was in 1973 when they finished Election Day with just 14 Assembly seats – an early harbinger of the effect of the Watergate Scandal.

Not since Nixon has national politics weighed so heavily on legislative elections. The localization of national issues is exactly what New Jersey’s founding fathers sought to avoid when they decided in 1947 to schedule state elections in odd-numbered years.

Still, it’s not immediately clear what impact Donald Trump — hugely unpopular in New Jersey, but not necessarily in every competitive legislative district — will have on local elections.

It’s Murphy, not Trump, who will own these results.

In the Year of the Unlikely Voter, it has been exceedingly difficult for operatives, pollsters and analysts to assess turnout models that had been reliably forecasted in recent years.

Extraordinarily close Assembly races are not at all unusual. Indeed, three contests over the last six years have been won by margins of under 80 votes.

New Jersey has elections where candidates for the Assembly head the ticket twice in four years, every other decade. It last occurred in 2015 and won’t happen again until 2035.

2019 is considered an off-off year, when voter turnout is about as low as it can go. Statewide turnout was at 22% in 2015 –the lowest in New Jersey history – compared to 39% in 2017 and 56% last year.

Since 2019 will be the first time a huge number of voters will receive their off-off year ballots in the mail, it’s possible that some Assembly races in 2019 will be determined by unlikely voters.

There has never been an off-off year election where so many voters won’t be encumbered with remembering to show up at the polls — instead ballots are being delivered directly to their homes.

– DAVID WILDSTEIN
Editor

Special thanks to Kevin Sanders, David Rieth and mapmaker Ben Kestenbaum
A SPECIAL ELECTION for State Senate in a Republican-leaning district pits incumbent Robert Andrzejczak (D-Middle) against Cumberland County Republican Chairman Michael Testa, Jr. They are competing for a seat left vacant when four-term incumbent Jeff Van Drew (D-Dennis) resigned following his election to Congress.

Republicans view the 1st district as competitive, but have been unable to break Van Drew’s lock, or his ability to help his running mates across the finish line. But without Van Drew on the ballot, the GOP is making a big push to pick up a Senate seat in a 2019 special.

The 1st has more registered Republicans than Democrats, and Donald Trump carried the district by 9 points in 2016.

Andrzejczak, who has won the district three times in races for the State Assembly, won a special election convention to replace Van Drew in January. The winner of the special election will fill the remaining 26 months of Van Drew’s unexpired term.

He was awarded the Purple Heart after losing his leg when a grenade exploded during his service as an Army sergeant in Iraq. Andrzejczak’s prosthetic leg is prominently featured in his TV ads and direct mail pieces.

Testa comes from Vineland, where he practices law with his father. His grandfather, an immigrant from Italy, was the first directly elected Mayor of Vineland. His maternal grandparents were Polish Jews who met in a Nazi concentration camp and emigrated to the United States to run a chicken farm. He is married to Julie Barber Testa, Miss New Jersey 2001 and now a school librarian.

He has been critical of Gov. Phil Murphy, seizing on issues like illegal immigration, Sanctuary Cities, Second Amendment rights, and the Rain Tax. He has been careful to tie Andrzejczak to Murphy.

Like Van Drew, Andrzejczak is right-of-center. He voted against the minimum wage increase and had a 93% rating by the National Rifle Association in 2017.

The Democratic senator has spent considerable time trying not to let Testa move to his right. He has declined to say if he would invite Murphy to campaign for him in his district.

Democrats have held the Senate seat since Van Drew ousted Republican incumbent Nicholas Asselta (R-Vineland) in 2007.

A

District 1: (Atlantic, Cape May and Cumberland)
Avalon, Cape May, Cape May Point, Commercial, Corbin City, Dennis, Downe, Estell Manor, Fairfield (Cumberland), Greenwich (Cumberland), Hopewell (Cumberland), Lawrence (Cumberland), Lower, Maurice River, Middle, Millville, North Wildwood, Ocean City, Sea Isle City, Shiloh, Stone Harbor, Stow Creek, Upper, Vineland, West Cape May, West Wildwood, Weymouth, Wildwood, Wildwood Crest, Woodbine
VOTER REGISTRATION:
Democratic – 42,895 (28.4%)
Republican – 45,992 (30.5%)
Unaffiliated – 59,794 (39.6%)

PAST ELECTION RESULTS:
2016: Trump + 9.3%
2017: Murphy + 0.4%
2018: Hugin + 15.2%

STATE SENATE 2017 RESULTS
Jeff Van Drew (Dem): 35,464 (64.8%)
Mary Gruccio (Rep): 18,589 (34.0%)
Van Drew Margin: +16,875

BOB ANDRZEJCZAK
Democrat
- Elected State Senate, 2019 special election convention
- Elected State Assembly, 2013 special election convention
- Elected State Assembly 2013, re-elected 2015, 2017
- U.S. Army, 2005-10. Purple Heart recipient. Vice Chair, Senate Military & Veterans Affairs Committee
- Serves on Senate Budget & Appropriations Committee

MICHAEL TESTA, JR.
Republican
- Cumberland County Republican Chairman
- Former Chairman, Vineland Downtown Improvement District
- President, Vineland Regional Dance Company
- Attorney; partner, Testa, Heck, Testa & White
If Republicans pick up Assembly seats anywhere, it will be in the 1st district, where incumbents Bruce Land and Matthew Milam are seeking re-election.

Land was first elected in 2015, when he defeated freshman GOP Assemblyman Sam Fiocchi by 2,322 votes.

Milam returned to the Assembly in January after a six-year absence, filling the seat left vacant when Bob Andrzejczak replaced Jeff Van Drew in the State Senate. He was first elected in 2007, when Van Drew left to run for the Senate, and was re-elected twice before resigning to spend more time at his business.

The last time Democrats lost the district was in 2013, when Fiocchi ousted four-term incumbent Nelson Albano.

The Assembly race is largely overshadowed by a special election for State Senate between Andrzejczak and Michael Testa, Jr., the Cumberland County GOP Chairman.

Land and Milam are from Vineland, the hometown Testa. The two Republican challengers, Erik Simonsen and Antwan McLellan, are from the Cape May county portion of the district, where Andrzejczak lives.

Simonsen is the Mayor of Lower Township and McLellan is a councilman in Ocean City.

If he wins, McLellan would become the first African American legislator from New Jersey’s deep South: Atlantic, Cape May, Cumberland and Salem Counties.

None of the four Assembly candidates are overwhelmingly popular in their own right – they lack the kind of individual base of Van Drew had when he first won and held the district – and they could be just the flotsam and jetsam of the Senate race.

If Andrzejczak wins, so do Land and Milam. Should Testa capture the Senate seat, the Assembly race could go either way.
R. BRUCE LAND
Democrat

- Elected State Assembly, 2015, re-elected 2017
- Retired Prison Guard, NJ Department of Corrections, 1983-2008
- Vice Chair, Tourism, Gaming and the Arts

MATTHEW W. MILAM
Democrat

- Elected State Assembly, 2019 special election convention
- Vice Chair, Cumberland County Economic Development Board, 2005-13
- Retired businessman, served as president of Foundry Service Corporation

ERIK SIMONSEN
Republican

- Mayor, Lower Township, elected 2016
- Former Lower Township Councilman
- Athletic Director, Lower Cape May Regional High School
- Former Special Education teacher
- Singer/Songwriter/Musician
- Resident of Lower

ANTWAN MCCLELLAN
Republican

- Councilman, Ocean City, elected 2012, re-elected 2016
- Former Ocean City Board of Education member
- Personnel Director, Cape May County Sheriff’s Department
Who Won Each Municipality in New Jersey Legislative District 1 in 2016, 2017, and 2018

2016 Presidential Election Results in New Jersey Legislative District 1 By Municipality

RESULTS
Donald Trump (GOP) - 54.64%
Hillary Clinton (DEM) - 45.36%
50,760 / 42,144
Margin - Trump (GOP) +9.28% (+8,616)

2017 Gubernatorial Election Results in New Jersey Legislative District 1 by Municipality

RESULTS
Phil Murphy (DEM) - 50.2%
Kim Guadagno (GOP) - 49.8%
27,291 / 27,075
Margin - Murphy (DEM) +0.4% (+216)

2018 Senate Election Results in New Jersey Legislative District 1 By Municipality

RESULTS
Bob Hugin (GOP) - 57.58%
Bob Menendez (DEM-INC) - 42.42%
42,448 / 31,269
Margin - Hugin (GOP) +15.16% (+11,179)

Source - NJ SOS
THE 2ND DISTRICT is one of two in the state that elected a Republican senator and two Democratic assemblymen in 2017. That’s more of a testament to State Sen. Chris Brown’s personal popularity than the Democratic-leanings of what was once a highly competitive legislative district.

For six years, the 2nd elected a Democratic senator, Jim Whelan, and two Republican assemblymen. Republicans tried twice to oust Whelan, one of a small group of Atlantic City mayors who never got in trouble.

At the same time, Democrats worked to pick up Assembly seats, losing until 2013 when Northfield Mayor Vince Mazzeo ousted three-term incumbent John Amodeo by a mere 40 votes.

Mazzeo is now the mayor of Brigantine. winning his third term in 2017 by nearly 7,000 votes.

When Whelan retired in 2017 – he later died in office – Brown won the Senate seat and Buena Vista Township Committeeman John Armato captured the open Assembly seat by almost 5,000 votes.

On paper, Republicans put together a fine slate. John Risley is a longtime freeholder who has won municipal office in three different municipalities. Phil Guenther spent 26 years as the mayor of Brigantine.

But the district has changed over the last decade. When the 2nd was drawn after the 2010 Census, there were 9,246 more Democrats than Republicans. Now the Democratic registration edge has jumped to 14,855.

Those numbers shouldn’t disqualify Republicans – Brown won by 3,544 (54%-46%) – since Atlantic County voters are adept at ticket splitting.

The challenge for Republicans has been money. The 2nd is an example of the kind of district where a vibrant Assembly Republican leadership PAC might have pumped in enough resources to put Risley and Guenther up on television before the vote-by-mail ballots were mailed out.

Mazzeo and Armato have been up on TV and in the mailboxes for weeks, and it’s unlikely that they’ll be taken out now.

VOTER REGISTRATION:
Democratic – 53,185 (35.5%)
Republican – 37,330 (24.9%)
Unaffiliated – 57,406 (38.3%)

PAST ELECTION RESULTS:
2016: Clinton + 11.8%
2017: Murphy: + 17.3%
2018: Menendez + 2.3%

STATE ASSEMBLY 2017 RESULTS
*Vince Mazzeo (Dem): 27,601
John Armato (Dem): 25,683
Vince Sera (Rep): 20,814
Brenda Taube (Rep) 20,611

STATE ASSEMBLY 2015 RESULTS
*Chris Brown (Rep): 18,959
*Vince Mazzeo (Dem): 18,279
Colin Bell (Dem): 17,433
Will Pauls (Rep) 16,907

NEW JERSEY GLOBE RATING: LIKELY DEMOCRATIC
VINCE MAZZEO  
Democrat  
- Elected State Assembly, 2013, re-elected 2015, 2017  
- Chairman, Assembly State and Local Government Committee  
- Northfield City Councilman, 2003-07  
- Mayor of Northfield, 2007-14  
- Owner, B.F. Mazzeo Fruit and Produce, Inc.

JOHN ARMATO  
Democrat  
- Elected State Assembly, 2017  
- Buena Vista Township Committee, 2015-17  
- U.S. Air Force, 1967-71 (25th Infantry Division)  
- Member, Plumbers & Pipefitters Local 322  
- Richard Volunteer Firefighter  
- Chairman, Buena Vista Municipal Drug Alliance

JOHN W. RISLEY, JR.  
Republican  
- Elected County Freeholder, 1995-2004, 2012-date  
- Former Linwood City Councilman  
- Former Somerset Point City Councilman  
- Former Egg Harbor Township Deputy Mayor  
- Former President, Mainland Regional Board of Education  
- President, L.O. Thomas and Company, Inc.

PHILIP J. GUENTHER  
Republican  
- Mayor of Brigantine, 1993-2019  
- Superintendent, Atlantic County Special Services and Vocational School District  
- Former English and Social Studies teacher, Atlantic City High School
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DEMOCRATIC incumbents John Burzichelli (elected 2001) and Adam Taliaferro (elected 2015) face Republicans Edward Durr, a commercial truck driver, and Beth Sawyer, a member of the Woolwich Land Use Board and an successful candidate for local office in 2005.

The 3rd has not gone Republican since Jack Collins and Gary Stuhltrager ran for the last time in 1999. Burzichelli, a former Paulsboro mayor who lost to Stuhltrager by 3,915 votes in 1999, has now won nine consecutive Assembly races wide comfortable margins.

Taliaferro, a former Gloucester County Freeholder, won the seat in a 2015 special election convention after Celeste Riley was elected Cumberland County Clerk.

This is the home district of Senate President Steve Sweeney.

NEW JERSEY GLOBE RATING: SAFE DEMOCRATIC
DEMOCRATIC incumbents Paul Moriarty (elected 2005) and Gabriela Mosquera (elected 2012) face Republicans Paul Dilks and Stephen Pakradrooni, Jr.

The 4th District last elected a Republican in 2009 when Domenick DiCicco won an upset victory. Democrats redistricted him into the 3rd in 2011.

Dilks won 33% of the vote in a 2018 congressional run against Rep. Donald Norcross. Pakradrooni owns an auto body shop.
DEMOCRATIC incumbent William Spearman (elected 2018) is running with former Camden County Freeholder William Moen.

Moen, the South Jersey Director for U.S. Senator Cory Booker, is seeking to replace retiring Assemblywoman Patricia Egan Jones.

The Republicans are running Nick Kush, who challenged Spearman in a 2018 special election, and Kevin Ehret, who lost Assembly bids in 2015 and 2017.

Democrats last held the 5th district legislative seats without interruption since the Camden City-based district was first created in 1973.
DEMOCRATIC incumbents Louis Greenwald (elected 1995) and Pamela Lampitt (elected 2005) face Republicans John Papeika and Cynthia Plucinski.

Greenwald is the Assembly Majority Leader.

Republicans last won the 6th in 1995, when John Rocco was re-elected to his ninth term. In that election, Greenwald ousted incumbent Lee Solomon, now an Associate Justice of the New Jersey Supreme Court. Rocco gave up his seat in 1997 to run unsuccessfully for the State Senate.

NEW JERSEY GLOBE RATING:
SAFE DEMOCRATIC
DEMOCRATIC incumbents Herbert Conaway (elected 1997) and Carol Murphy (elected 2017) face Republicans Peter Miller and independent Kathleen Cooley.

The GOP had initially decided not to run anyone against Conaway and Murphy, who was labeled “The Bear” by the Burlington County Times after she outmaneuvered Mount Laurel Republicans in their attempt to move next year’s November partisan local election to a May non-partisan race to avoid being on the ballot with President Donald Trump.

But Miller ran unopposed off the line in the GOP primary, giving the Democrats a sudden opponent.

Republicans last won the 7th district Assembly seats in 1995. Democrats won them back two years later when Diane Allen moved up to the Senate and remained there until her retirement in 2017.

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NEW JERSEY
The 8th District hasn’t elected a Democrat to the New Jersey Legislature since John Sweeney won in the 1973 Watergate landslide. Jim Saxton unseated Sweeney two years later and the district has been Republican ever since.

Democrats almost won on their own two years ago, when George Youngkin held incumbent Dawn Addiego to 52% in the Senate race. Assemblyman Joe Howarth won by 645 votes and Ryan Peters, a freeholder making his first bid for the Legislature, won by 350 votes. It was the closest Assembly race in the state.

In January 2019, the 8th got a Democratic senator when Addiego switched parties after serving as a Republican legislator for eight years. She doesn’t face the voters for another two years.

Addiego’s party switch led to the defeat of Howarth, her longtime friend and political ally, in the Republican primary. The Burlington County Republican organization concluded that Howarth had also pursued a party switch and dumped him from the ticket.

Howarth, denying he ever considered switching parties, rebranded himself as a MAGA Republican in an off the line bid to keep his seat.

The GOP recruited their strongest possible candidate, Jean Stanfield. Stanfield had served nearly 18 years as the Burlington County Sheriff and was one of the county’s most popular politicians.

Stanfield and Peters defeated Howarth by a 2-1 margin in the June primary.

The Democratic candidates are Gina LaPlaca, once a top aide to Assembly Speaker Joe Roberts, and Mark Natale, an attorney and Evesham Democratic County Committeeman.

While it may be unimaginable that Stanfield could lose the general election, the 8th now has 6,856 more Democrats than Republicans and Democrats are pouring huge amounts of money into the district in an effort to flip two seats – and bolster the clout of the South Jersey legislative delegation.

The Burlington County Republican machine was one of the best in the state and it allowed them to control county government for more than a decade, even as Burlington became increasingly more Democratic. That was a testament to strong local political

continued >
The 8th is a prime example of how Assembly Minority Leader Jon Bramnick’s struggle to hold his own Assembly seat could cause Republicans to lose. Bramnick is pumping money into his own re-election campaign, leaving Burlington Republicans to pick up the tab for Peters and Stanfield.
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Steve Swetsy  
Executive Director
Republican incumbents Brian Rumpf (elected 2003) and DiAnne Grove (elected 2009) face Democrats Sarah Collins, a public school teacher, and Wayne Lewis, a professional poker player who was a Bernie Sanders delegate to the 2016 Democratic National Convention.

Republicans have held the 9th since the district was created in 1981, after population growth in Ocean County necessitated a second legislative district.

DiANNE GROVE
REPUBLICAN Assemblyman Greg McGuckin (elected 2011) is running with former Brick Councilman John Catalano.

Catalano is seeking the open seat of Republican David Wolfe, who is retiring after 28 years in the State Assembly.

The Democratic candidates are Democratic State Committeewoman Eileen Della Volle and Erin Wheeler, the president of a local teachers union.

Republicans have held the 10th district seats since 1991.
Democrats

Eric Houghtaling and Joann Downey narrowly ousted two Republican incumbents in 2015 and then won re-election by more than 5,500 votes two years later.

In that race, former Monmouth County Democratic Chairman Vin Gopal ousted three-term Republican State Sen. Jennifer Beck by nearly 4,200 votes, 54%-46%.

Now it looks as if Republicans have completely given up on the 11th. The only thing that keeps Houghtaling and Downey from being safe is the strength of the Monmouth County Republican Party, which still controls all of county government.

Republicans did not persuade top tier recruits – like Freeholder Director Thomas Amone – to run this year, although Houghtaling and Downey were no stronger four years ago than GOP challengers Mike Amoroso and Matthew Woolley are right now.

Amoroso is the Freehold Township Board of Education President, and Woolley is a former Chief of Staff to Assemblyman Sean Kean, who represents the next-door 30th district.

Houghtaling and Downey have benefitted from being members of the majority party. They both have committee chairmanships as sophomore legislators, and Democrats are spending just enough in the district to make sure they don’t have the kind of election night surprise Mary Pat Angelini and Caroline Casagrande got in 2015.

The Assembly Republicans are essentially AWOL in the 11th.
ERIC HOUGHTALING  
Democrat  
- Elected State Assembly, 2015, Re-elected 2017  
- Chairman, Assembly Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee  
- Assembly Deputy Majority Leader  
- Mayor of Neptune Township, 2013  
- Deputy Mayor of Neptune Township, 2012  
- Neptune Township Committee, 2011-15  
- Member, International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 300  
- Former Representative, Monmouth and Ocean Counties Central Labor Council  

MICHAEL AMOROSO  
Republican  
- President, Freehold Township Board of Education  
- Member, New Jersey School Boards Association  
- Owner, Amoroso Construction  

JOANN DOWNEY  
Democrat  
- Elected State Assembly, 2015, Re-elected 2017  
- Chair, Assembly Human Services Committee  
- Assembly Majority Parliamentarian  
- Former Deputy Attorney General of New Jersey  
- Trial Attorney, Dimian and Masterpalo  

MATTHEW WOOLLEY  
Republican  
- Chief of Staff, Assemblyman Sean Kean  
- Deputy Director of Strategic Initiatives, Bob Hugin for U.S. Senate  
- Robotic Camera Operator/Studio Technician, SportsNet New York  
- Former Political Affairs Specialist, Comcast
District 12: (Burlington, Middlesex, Monmouth and Ocean)
Allentown, Chesterfield, Englishtown, Jackson, Manalapan, Matawan, Millstone (Monmouth), New Hanover, North Hanover, Old Bridge, Plumsted, Roosevelt, Upper Freehold, Wrightstown

**Republican Incumbents**
Ronald Dancer (elected 2002) and Rob Clifton (elected 2011) face a challenge from Democrats Malini Guha and David Lande.

Lande is making his second bid for the Legislature: he won 41% of the vote against State Sen. Samuel Thompson in 2017.

The 12th was created in 2011 and extends from Old Bridge in Middlesex County through Western Monmouth to Jackson and Plumsted in Ocean County. With some adjustments, the seats could be in play after redistricting, but it isn’t now.

**New Jersey Globe Rating:**
SAFE REPUBLICAN

Ronald Dancer
Republican Assemblywoman

Serena DiMaso (elected 2017) is running with Monmouth County Freeholder Gerald Scharfenberger.

Scharfenberger is seeking the seat of Republican Amy Handlin, who is not running for re-election after fourteen years in the State Assembly.

The Democratic candidates are Allison Friedman, who lost to Handlin and Declan O’Scanlon in 2013 by more than 19,000 votes, and Barbara Singer.

Republicans ended a twelve-year winning streak by Democrats in the 13th district in 1985 and have held the seats continuously since then.

New Jersey Globe Rating:
SAFE REPUBLICAN
DEMOCRATIC incumbents Wayne DeAngelo (elected 2007) and Dan Benson (elected 2011) face Republicans Thomas Calabrese and Bina Shah.

Republicans have not won an Assembly seat in the 14th since 2005 and the days of the Mercer/Middlesex district being politically competitive have been over more than a decade.

They only thing worth watching now is the intramural battle between DeAngelo and Benson as they both eye Linda Greenstein’s State Senate seat.

NEW JERSEY GLOBE RATING: SAFE DEMOCRATIC
HANDS DOWN the best Republican Assembly challenger in the state this year is Jennifer Williams, the Trenton Republican Municipal Chair who is seeking to become New Jersey’s first openly transgender legislator. A candidate who works as hard as Williams in a more Republican-friendly district would scare a Democratic incumbent.

Democrats have a 3-1 voter registration advantage in the 15th, which hasn’t sent a Republican to the Assembly since John Hartmann scored an upset win in the 1991 anti-Florio GOP landslide. He only lasted two years, although Republican Dick LaRossa was able to hold on to his State Senate seat until 1997.

The Democratic incumbents are Verlina Reynolds-Jackson (elected 2018) and Anthony Verrelli (elected 2018), both strong vote-getters. Reynolds-Jackson won a special election last year after Elizabeth Muoio was named State Treasurer. Verrelli won his seat following Reed Gusciora’s election as Mayor of Trenton.

JENNIFER WILLIAMS

NEW JERSEY GLOBE RATING: SAFE DEMOCRATIC
REPUBLICANS HELD the 16th district seat through the Watergate landslide, but that was before Democratic cartographers strategically replaced Bridgewater and Bedminster with Princeton and South Brunswick during the 2011 round of redistricting.

In a 2012 special election following the death of Peter Biondi, Democrats came within 980 votes of winning an Assembly seat, 50.5%-49.5%)

Donna Simon held the seat in 2013, when Gov. Chris Christie won the district by 20,000 votes, but lost her seat to Democrat Andrew Zwicker by a razor-thin 78 votes. The district had become so Democratic that popular Assemblyman Jack Ciattarelli came within 534 votes of losing re-election.

Ciattarelli gave up his seat to run for governor in 2017. Zwicker won a second term, beating Simon by 4,559 votes and Somerset County Freeholder Mark Caliguire by 5,192. Democrat Roy Freiman, a political newcomer, won the second seat; he outpolled Simon by 3,040 votes.

The district has changed so much that State Sen. Christopher Bateman, a Somerset GOP icon, was held to just 52%.

Donna Simon held the seat in 2013, when Gov. Chris Christie won the district by 20,000 votes, but lost her seat to Democrat Andrew Zwicker by a razor-thin 78 votes. The district had become so Democratic that popular Assemblyman Jack Ciattarelli came within 534 votes of losing re-election.

For Somerset County Republicans, unseating Zwicker and Freiman is not their top priority.

Democrats picked up two freeholder seats in 2017 – one of them Caliguire -- making November 5 a control election. If they can oust longtime GOP freeholder Pat Walsh, Democrats will have a 3-2 majority on the Somerset County Board of Freeholders – controlling county government for the first time since Lyndon Johnson’s 1964 landslide.

Caliguire is running his third race in three years, teaming up with Christie Madrid. Both are former Montgomery Mayors.

Zwicker and Freiman have been up on cable TV for weeks, but by mid-October there had been little activity on the part of the Republican challengers. Caliguire has been a more active candidate than Madrid.

This race could easily be in the Likely Democratic column, but it is the Year of the Unlikely Voter. To be clear, Somerset County no longer resembles the place where Raymond Bateman used to win elections.
ANDREW ZWICKER
Democrat
- Elected State Assembly, 2015, Re-elected 2017
- Chairman, Assembly Science, Innovation and Technology Committee
- Head of the Science Education Department, Plasma Physics Laboratory, Princeton University
- Candidate for the Democratic nomination for Congress (NJ-12), 2014

ROY FREIMAN
Democrat
- Elected State Assembly, 2017
- Hillsborough Township Sustainability Committee, 2017
- Vice President of Strategy and Analytics, Prudential Financial
- Chartered Life Underwriter and Chartered Financial Consultant

MARK CALIGUIRE
Republican
- Somerset County Freeholder, 2011-18
- Montgomery Township Mayor, 2009-11
- Montgomery Township Committeeman, 2003-11
- Montgomery Township Republican Municipal Chairman
- Former General Counsel and Vice President of Government Affairs for Meadowlands Hospital Medical Center
- Former New Jersey Deputy Attorney General
- Partner, Florio Perrucci Steinhardt & Cappelli

CHRISTINE ZURICH MADRID
Republican
- Mayor of Montgomery, 2015 and 2018
- Montgomery Township Committeewoman, 2012-18
- Director, Division of Temporary Disability and Family Leave Insurance, New Jersey Department of Labor, 2010 to 2018
STATE ASSEMBLY 16TH DISTRICT

2016 Presidential Election Results in New Jersey Legislative District 16

Results
Hillary Clinton (DEM) - 57.47%
Donald Trump (GOP) - 42.53%
59,785/44,235
Margin - Clinton (DEM) +14.94% (+15,550)

2017 Gubernatorial Election Results in New Jersey Legislative District 16

Results
Phil Murphy (DEM) - 53.12%
Kim Guadagno (GOP) - 46.88%
34,072/30,066
Margin - Murphy (DEM) +6.24% (+4,006)

2018 Senate Election Results in New Jersey Legislative District 16

Results
Bob Menendez (DEM-INC) - 54.4%
Bob Hugin (GOP) - 45.6%
49,466/41,462
Margin - Menendez (DEM) +8.8% (+8,004)

Who Won Each Municipality in New Jersey Legislative District 16 in 2016, 2017, and 2018

Overall Loyalty
- Clinton Guadagno Hugin
- Clinton Murphy Menendez
- Trump Guadagno Hugin
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NCUMBENTS  Joseph Egan (elected 2001) and Joseph Danielson (elected 2015) face Republicans Maria Concepcion Powell, who once ran for President of Mexico, and Patricia Badovinac.

With a Middlesex County Democrat as Assembly Speaker, both incumbents chair committees.

Egan is the chairman of the Assembly Labor Committee and is the Business Manager of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 456. He spent 22 years as a New Brunswick City Councilman. Danielson chairs the Oversight, Reform and Federal Relations Committee; he is the Franklin Township Democratic Municipal Chairman.

Democrats have been undefeated in the 17th since the district was drawn in 1973.
**STATE ASSEMBLY**

**18TH DISTRICT**

District 18: (Middlesex)

East Brunswick,
Edison, Helmetta,
Highland Park,
Metuchen,
South Plainfield,
South River

**INCUMBENTS** Nancy Pinkin (elected 2013) and Robert Karabinchak (elected 2016) are seeking re-election against Republicans Robert Bengivenga and Jeffery Brown. Bengivenga ran for the Assembly six years ago and lost to Pinkin by 3,479 votes.

Pinkin, a former East Brunswick Council President, chairs the Assembly Environment and Solid Waste Committee. Karabinchak is a former Edison Councilman and serves as Deputy Majority Whip.


**NANCY PINKIN**

**NEW JERSEY GLOBE RATING:**

SAFE DEMOCRATIC
Assembly Speaker Craig Coughlin, at the pinnacle of a political career that began as a 25-year-old South Amboy School Board member in 1983, is seeking re-election to a fifth term. He’s also poised to return as Speaker for another two years after wresting the job away from Vincent Prieto.

Coughlin’s running mate is Yvonne Lopez, who won the seat in 2017 when John Wisniewski left to run for governor.

The Republican candidates are Rocco Genova and Christina Onuha.

Republicans won the 19th in the 1991 anti-Florio landslide and held it in 1993. Democrats easily ousted the GOP incumbents in 1995 and have held the district with little difficulty since then.
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NCUMBENT DEMOCRATS Annette Quijano (elected 2008) and Jamel Holley (elected 2015) face Republicans Charles Donnelly and Ashraf Hanna.

Donnelly ran in 2013 and finished 18,839 votes behind Quijano. Hanna ran for State Senate in 2017 and got crushed by Joe Cryan – a 20,749-vote, 84%-16% margin.

Democrats haven’t lost the Elizabeth-based district since it was created in 1973. No Republican has represented Union County since Cryan won an Assembly seat 18 years ago.
Best Wishes

Senator Vin Gopal
Majority Conference Leader
11th Legislative District
THE MINORITY LEADER of the New Jersey State Assembly is facing the toughest race of his political career in a district that was drawn to elect Republicans but is now tilting Democratic.

Changing voter trends are not Jon Bramnick’s only problem. He suffered some self-inflicted wounds after his law firm website suggested that they were ready to “discredit” victims of sexual assault as part of their arsenal of defense tactics.

Bramnick wound up pulling about a third of his firm’s criminal law section off his website, including a section that offered to help offenders get removed from the Megan’s Law registry.

The 21st district has seen voter registration shift somewhat dramatically. When the lines were drawn for redistricting in 2011, there were 4,357 more Republicans than Democrats. Eight years later, there are now 5,236 more Democrats than Republicans.

While Bramnick won comfortably in 2017, his running mate, Nancy Muñoz, had a relatively close call. She won by 1,554 votes, finishing third or fourth in Westfield, Cranford, and her hometown of Summit.

In that race, Bramnick made sure to save himself. He ran 1,010 votes ahead of Muñoz after doing his own TV ads and direct mail. This year, he’s done a lot of the same and has left Muñoz stranded.

The strategy is not without merit. If Bramnick loses, then Muñoz is likely a goner too.

The challenge for Democrats is to get voters to change their minds about the likeable Bramnick, which isn’t easy even in a climate where local voters may not agree with him on key issues.

Bramnick has tried to get ahead of the Democrats on some things, even to the extent that he’s doing a little bullshitting.

He’s backpedaling his 100% rating from the National Rifle Association, and attempting to take credit for an Equal Pay Law that he voted against a few years ago when Chris Christie told him to.

Democrats have come to believe this race is winnable and it’s one of the Democratic Assembly Campaign Committee’s target races.

The challengers, Lisa Mandelblatt and Stacey Gunderman, have never held office before and have no record to attack. They’ve been knocking on doors since the spring -- clearly at a more frenetic pace than Bramnick, although not necessarily more active than Muñoz.

Another problem for the incumbents is the presence of two Republicans on the ballot as Independent Conservatives.

Former Scotch Plains Mayor Martin Marks would be tickled to be the spoiler in Bramnick’s re-election bid. If Marks and his often controversial running mate, Harry P. Pappas, are targeting conservative Republicans as accurately as they claim, they might be responsible for the first defeat of a sitting Assembly Minority Leader in at least 100 years.
**JON BRAMNICK**
Republican
- Elected State Assembly, 2003 special election convention
- Assembly Minority Leader
- Westfield Republican Municipal Chairman
- Partner, Bramnick Rodriguez Grabas, Arnold & Manga

**LISA MANDELBLATT**
Democrat
- Board of Trustees, Edna Mahan Correctional Facility for Women
- Union County Chair, Tom Malinowski for Congress
- Attorney, Willkie, Farr and Gallagher
- Public School teacher
- Candidate for the Democratic nomination for Congress (NJ-7), 2018

**MARTIN MARKS**
Independent Conservative
- Former Mayor of Scotch Plains
- Former Scotch Plains Councilman
- Former candidate for Congress, State Senate and Assembly
- Dentist

**NANCY MUÑOZ**
Republican
- Elected State Assembly, 2009 special election convention
- Assembly Minority Whip
- Registered Nurse

**STACEY GUNDERMAN**
Democrat
- Former New Providence Democratic Municipal Chair
- Account Executive, Communications and Technology Solutions
- Actress/Casting Assistant, Strangers with Candy

**HARRY P. PAPPAS**
Independent Conservative
- Former Springfield Township Committeeeman (Republican)
- Former Union County Democratic Chairman
District 22:
(Middlesex, Somerset and Union)

District includes the Middlesex County municipalities of Dunellen Borough and Middlesex Borough; the Somerset County localities of Green Brook Township and North Plainfield Borough; and the Union County municipalities of Clark Township, Fanwood Borough, Linden City, Plainfield City, Rahway City, Scotch Plains Township and Winfield Township.

DEMOCRATIC incumbents James Kennedy (elected 2015) and Linda Carter (elected 2018) face just one Republican opponent, former Garwood Mayor Patricia Quattrocchi.

The 22nd district was created as part of the 2001 redistricting, when a Republican seat was eliminated in favor of one that heavily favored Democrats. There were some competitive races in the 22nd – former Scotch Plains Mayor Martin Marks came within two percentage points of Jerry Green in 2009 – but in a district that includes Plainfield, Linden and Rahway, the GOP is no longer competitive.
Republican incumbents John DiMaio (elected 2009) and Erik Peterson (elected 2009) face Democrats Denise King and Marisa Trofimov.

The 23rd district includes parts of Hunterdon, Somerset and Warren counties and is one of the most Republican in the state. DiMaio and Peterson are among the state’s most conservative legislators, as is the senator from the district, Michael Doherty.

Watch for DiMaio, the Assembly Republican Budget Officer, to emerge as a leading candidate for Minority Leader if Jon Bramnick loses re-election.
Republican incumbents Parker Space (elected in 2013) and Hal Wirths (elected in 2017) face Democrats Deana Lykins and Dan Smith.

Outside his district, Democrats view Space, who has a confederate flag tattoo in his arm, as the bogeyman. At home, he’s enormously popular and won re-election in 2017 by more than 11,000 votes.

Wirths is popular with organized labor after spending more than seven years as state Labor Commissioner under Gov. Chris Christie. He’s won a bunch of endorsements.

Lykins, a corporate insurance counsel, is waging an aggressive in the staunchly Republican district. She was a deputy counsel at the New Jersey Office of Legislative Services and an assistant counsel to the Senate Democrats from 2002 to 2005. It’s not hard to imagine her winding up in a top Democratic administration post someday.

Smith is a former municipal court judge.

Democrats haven’t won this district since Robert Shelton beat Republican Assemblyman Walter Keough-Dwyer in the 1973 Watergate landslide.
SMOOTH, CHOPPY, OR SOMEWHERE IN BETWEEN, TRUST THE TEAM.
Assemblyman Anthony M. Bucco (R-Boonton) was already in a tough campaign for re-election to a sixth term on September 16 when his father, seven-term State Senator Anthony R. Bucco (R-Boonton) died unexpectedly of a massive heart attack.

Now the 25th district race has edged into the Bizarro World.

Bucco won a special election convention to replace his father in the State Senate but decided to remain in Assembly race instead of withdrawing and allowing Republicans to pick a replacement candidate.

The GOP was concerned that Bucco’s exit would put his seat in jeopardy, and the Morris County Republican Committee didn’t have the financial resources to pay for the reprinting of vote-by-mail ballots since the senator died just days after the deadline to replace a candidate.

Now Bucco has handed Democrats a valid issue: a vote for Bucco is a vote for an unnamed candidate who will represent the 25th district until a November 2020 special election. Voters are being asked to trust Morris County Republicans to pick someone on their behalf, rather than make the choice themselves.

Running with Bucco is Brian Bergen, a Denville Councilman and West Point graduate who served as a U.S. Army helicopter pilot. Bergen won the Republican primary for the seat of Michael Patrick Carroll (R-Morris Township), who is retiring after 24 years in the New Jersey Legislature.

The Democrats have nominated Lisa Bhimani and Darcy Draeger.

Bhimani, a physician, won 48% of the vote as a State Senate candidate against Anthony R. Bucco in 2017. Draeger is living a Green Acres life, trading in her Wall Street career to be a full-time farmer in Chester. Bucco has unfairly and inaccurately called Draeger a fake farmer, but her sheep, chickens and seven beehives prove differently.

While the Morris County district, which also includes Bernardsville in Somerset, has been represented by Republicans in the State Assembly since 1980, Democrats have made major gains in recent years. Hillary Clinton won the 25th, albeit by just 18 votes, and Democratic congressional candidates Mikie Sherrill and Tom Malinowski combined for a 9,479-vote win in 2018.

It’s not immediately clear whether Bucco will spend down his war chest to zero to hold a seat he has no intention of keeping, especially since he will be on the ballot again in November 2020 when he runs in a special election to fill the remaining 14 months of his father’s term.

It is clear that the Assembly Republicans had depended on Bucco to fund this race and they don’t have the money to carry Bergen on their own.
STATE ASSEMBLY 25TH DISTRICT

ANTHONY M. BUCCO
Republican
- Elected State Senator, Special Election Convention, 2019
- Partner, Johnson, Murphy, Hubner, McKeon, Wubbenhorst, Bucco and Appelt
- Captain, Boonton Volunteer Fire Dept.
- Former Boonton School Board member
- Former Counsel, Morris County Republican Committee

LISA BHIMANI
Democrat
- Physician, Obstetrics and Gynecology Department, Overlook Hospital
- Vice Chair, Morris County Democratic Committee
- Candidate for New Jersey State Senate, 2017
- Founding Member, Morris County Women’s Political Caucus
- March for Our Lives movement leader

BRIAN BERGEN
Republican
- Elected Denville Councilman
- Former U.S. Army Apache Helicopter pilot
- United States Military Academy at West Point graduate
- Former Denville Zoning Board member
- Former Council, Morris County Republican Committee

DARCY DRAEGER
Democrat
- Full-time farmer
- Chester Township Democratic Municipal Chair
- Retired Director of Global Equity Research, UBS AG
- Morris County Chair, Malinowski for Congress

Voter's Guide 2019
NCUMBENTS  Jay Webber (elected 2007) and BettyLou DeCroce (elected 2012) face a challenge from Verona Democratic Municipal Chair Laura Fortgang and Jefferson Democratic Municipal Chair Christine Clarke.

State Democrats haven’t sensed an opportunity to flip the 26th, where Republicans won by more than 7,000 votes in 2017, despite Webber losing the towns that are also in the 11th congressional district last year by 5,667 votes.

Webber faced millions in negative ads from Democrat Mikie Sherrill. He’s not having that kind of money spent against him this time. And West Milford, where Republicans win by a 2-1 margin, isn’t in NJ-11.

DeCroce has won labor endorsements. Still, of the races that the New Jersey Globe views as Safe Republican,

NEW JERSEY GLOBE RATING:
SAFE REPUBLICAN

Democrats may do the best in the 26th. The district hasn’t elected a Democratic legislator since Dean Gallo defeated John Sinsimer in 1975.
DEMOCRATIC incumbents John McKeon (elected 2001) and Mila Jasey (elected 2007) face Republicans Mauro Tucci, Jr. and Michel Dailey.

The Essex-based 27th district was originally designed in 2011 to be one of those districts that would elect Democrats unless there was a Republican tide, but now the Morris County towns in the district have been trending Democratic.

McKeon and Jasey are among a group of Assembly Democrats viewed as more independent of the leadership than the rest, but that hasn’t left them off Speaker Craig Coughlin’s team. McKeon chairs the Financial Institutions and Insurance Committee, while Jasey is the Higher Education Committee Chair.

Tucci has a political pedigree – his father is a Nutley Commissioner – but there is little sign that he’s in the race to win.
RALPH CAPUTO was first elected to the New Jersey State Assembly in 1967 as a Republican and served two terms before losing the 1971 GOP primary. He later switched parties and won a seat on the Essex County Board of Freeholders as a Democrat in 2002. He returned to the Assembly in 2007 when he and Cleopatra Tucker defeated incumbents Craig Stanley and Oadline Truitt in the Democratic primary.

Caputo and Tucker face Republicans Joy Bembry-Freeman and Antonio Pires. Pires ran for Essex County Sheriff in 2015 and won 21% against incumbent Armando Fontoura.

In 2017, Caputo and Tucker were re-elected by margins of more than 6-1.

NEW JERSEY GLOBE RATING: SAFE DEMOCRATIC

RALPH CAPUTO, right, with freshman Assemblyman THOMAS H. KEAN in 1967.
Proud to work with the underdogs!
Always pushing forward!

Parano and Associates
There is no district in New Jersey more Democratic than the 29th, where Republicans make up just 6% of the registered voters.

Incumbents Eliana Pintor Marin (elected 2013) and Shanique Speight (elected 2017) faces Republicans Charles Hood and Jeannette Veras.

Pintor Marin has emerged as one of the state’s leading legislators after becoming the Assembly Budget Committee chair in 2018 and co-chairing the Legislative Select Committee that investigated the hiring of Al Alvarez.

Speight comes from Newark’s Central Ward, the home of U.S. Senator and Democratic presidential candidate Cory Booker.
There may be a point where the Lakewood-based 30th district becomes politically competitive – if the Vaad finds that Democratic legislators will mean more state funding – but that point hasn’t come yet.

Sean Kean was elected to the Assembly in 2002 after Thomas Smith died in office, and move up to the Senate upon Joseph Palaia’s retirement in 2007. Redistricting – and Chris Christie – screwed him over in 2011 and he returned to the Assembly. His running mate, Ned Thompson, was elected in 2017 when Dave Rible resigned to take a state job.

Democrats are running Jason Celik and Steven Farkas. Farkas was the Democratic candidate for Congress against Frank LoBiondo in 2002 and lost 69%-29%.

Thompson’s name is mentioned as a potential Minority Leader candidate if Jon Bramnick loses.

Sean Kean

NEW JERSEY GLOBE RATING: SAFE REPUBLICAN
DEMOCRATIC Incumbents Nicholas Chiaravalloti (elected 2015) and Angela McKnight (elected 2015) face Republicans Jason Todd Mushnick and Mary Jay Palange.

Chiaravalloti was essentially re-elected last year when Bayonne Mayor Jimmy Davis won re-election. He’ll be around as long as Davis is mayor – and maybe a little longer.

McKnight is politically weaker and could get dropped at some point – the Jersey City member of the 31st district delegation has had seven legislators in 20 years – but 2017 will be a cakewalk.

NEW JERSEY GLOBE RATING:
SAFE DEMOCRATIC
Democratic incumbents Anjelica Jimenez (elected 2011) and Pedro Mejia (elected 2018) face Republicans Ann Carletta and Francesca Curreli in the solidly-Democratic 32nd district.

With State Sen. Nicholas Sacco winning re-election as Mayor of North Bergen with 69% of the vote and Gabe Rodriguez defeating West New York Mayor Felix Roque earlier this year, there is no path for any opposition in a district the Republicans held from 1921 to 1922 and again from 1986 to 1988.
DEMOCRATIC Incumbents Raj Mukherji (elected 2013) and Annette Chaparro (elected 2015) face Republicans Holly Lucyk and Fabian Rohena.

A former Deputy Mayor of Jersey City, Mukherji is viewed as a rising star in the Legislature – possibly a future Assembly Speaker, if the post returns to Hudson County someday. He is also a favorite of State Senator/Union City Mayor Brian Stack, who delivers huge numbers on Election Day.

Mukherji and Chaparro were re-elected in 2017 by a 6-1 margin against Lucyk.

RAJ MUKHERJI

NEW JERSEY GLOBE RATING: SAFE DEMOCRATIC
LONGTIME labor leader Tom Giblin wields tremendous gravitas within the Assembly Democratic Caucus as befits his long career as a political powerhouse.

Giblin began a career in the legislature in 2005 after serving as an Essex County Freeholder, Surrogate, Democratic County Chairman and New Jersey Democratic State Chairman. His election came 32 years after he came within 1,079 votes of winning an open Assembly seat in the 1973 Watergate landslide.

His running mate is Britnee Timberlake, a former Essex County Freeholder who won a 2018 special election convention to replace Lt. Gov. Sheila Oliver.

The Republicans candidates are Irene DeVita, who won 17% of the vote against Timberlake last year, and Bharat Rana.

Independent Clenard Childress, Jr., a conservative minister, is making his eighth run for the Assembly.

TOM GIBLIN
DEMOCRATIC incumbents Shavonda Sumter (elected 2011) and Benjie Wimberly (elected 2011) face just one Republican opponent, Tamer Mamkej. Another Republican, Robert Cartalemi, withdrew from the race after the primary election and was not replaced on the general election ballot.

Both 35th district legislators have clout in Trenton. Sumter is the Majority Conference Leader and Wimberly became chairman of the Housing and Community Development Committee following the death of Jerry Green last year.

Wimberly has outpolled Sumter in each of their four campaigns, although the distance between the two is relatively close. Both are viewed as potential competitors down the road, if a State Senate or congressional seat open.

Republicans haven’t won the 35th district since 1993.
DEMOCRATS flipped an open Republican Assembly seat in the 36th in 2005 when Paul DiGaetano left to mount a quixotic bid for the GOP gubernatorial nomination.

Gary Schaer, who was and still is the Passaic Council President, won his first race by more than 9,000 votes against longtime Garfield Councilman and former Mayor Louis Aloia. The former chairman of the Assembly Budget Committee is a popular vote-getter at home, and a powerbroker in the City of Passaic.

Clinton Calabrese won his Assembly seat in 2018 after Gov. Phil Murphy nominated Marlene Caride as the state Commissioner of Banking and Insurance. The scion of Cliffside Park’s royal family, he won 64% in a special election for the seat last year.
DEMOCRATS have prevailed rather easily in the 37th district since it was first drawn in 1973.

Gordon Johnson was elected in 2001 after serving briefly as the Bergen County Sheriff.

Johnson was the first legislator to endorse Murphy for the Democratic gubernatorial nomination, back in 2016 when Steve Fulop and Steve Sweeney were still in the race. Then Johnson came out in support of Craig Coughlin for Assembly Speaker against incumbent Vincent Prieto.

Prieto stripped Gordon of his Assembly Commerce and Economic Development Committee chairmanship. Johnson got the job back after Coughlin won, and also became the Speaker Pro-Tempore after Jerry Green passed away.

Valerie Vainieri Huttle, the daughter of a Hudson County Assemblyman, first ran for office in 1997 in a strong challenge to State Sen. Louis Kosco (R-Paramus). She served as a Bergen County Freeholder before replacing Loretta Weinberg in the Assembly in 2003.

Johnson and Vainieri Huttle face Republicans Angela Hendricks and Gino Tessaro.

NEW JERSEY GLOBE RATING: SAFE DEMOCRATIC
District 38: (Bergen and Passaic
Bergenfield, Fair Lawn, Glen Rock, Hasbrouck Heights, Hawthorne, Lodi, Maywood, New Milford, Oradell, Paramus, River Edge, Rochelle Park, Saddle Brook

From 1973 until just recently, the 38th was one of New Jersey’s premier battleground districts with Senate and Assembly seats flipping with great frequency. That’s no longer the case, especially in a district that now has 21,474 more Democrats than Republicans.

Just six years ago, Republicans came within just 56 votes of winning an Assembly seat and 443 votes of winning two. Now the GOP lacks the financial resources to compete.

The Democratic incumbents, Christopher Tully and Lisa Swain, were both elected in special election conventions in 2018 amidst a game of political musical chairs.

State Sen. Bob Gordon was appointed to the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities and Assemblyman Joseph Lagana moved up to the Senate to replace him. Lagana’s running mate, Tim Eustace, wanted the Senate seat and when he didn’t get it, took a job as deputy executive director of the North Jersey Water Commission.

Tully, Rep. Josh Gottheimer’s district director and a former Bergenfield Council President, and Fair Lawn Mayor Lisa Swain were picked for the two Assembly seats.

In a 2018 special election, Tully and Swain beat their Republican opponents by more than 14,000 votes.

The Republican candidates – and the political environment – are better now and the 2019 candidates, Paramus Councilman Christopher DiPiazza and Rochelle Park Mayor Michael Kazimir, should do a little better.

DiPiazza and Kazimir have not been able to raise much money, and with Assembly Minority Leader Jon Bramnick defending his own seat, there’s been no real help from the Assembly Republican Victory campaign committee.

New Jersey Globe Rating: Safe Democratic

Christopher Tully, left, and Lisa Swain, center with state Sen. Joseph Lagana
DEMOCRATS think they can pick up one seat in the 39th district, where they view Assemblyman Bob Auth as vulnerable. They don’t see Assemblywoman Holly Schepisi as beatable.

The GOP incumbents have been down this road before.

In 2017, Schepisi and Auth found themselves as the targets of then-Speaker Vincent Prieto’s last-ditch effort to keep his job by disrupting the legislative math by throwing big money at the 39th in order to grab two seats.

Despite the money and the attacks, Schepisi won by 5,032 votes and Auth by 3,613.

Westwood Mayor John Birkner and Emerson Councilman Gerald Falotico are the Democratic Assembly candidates. They do not like each other, especially as they both believe only one of them can win. Birkner is a deeply flawed candidate who has survived the level of scrutiny once provided by an equally defective daily newspaper.

With both factions of the New Jersey Democratic Party eager to make friends with newly-elected Bergen County Democratic Chairman Paul Juliano, resources are flowing into the 39th, where Democrats have not won since 1977.


Schepisi was elected in 2011 and Auth in 2013.
HOLLY SCHEPISI
Republican
- Elected State Assembly, 2011, Re-elected 2013, 2015, 2017
- Former Oakland Public Defender
- Former Prosecutor for Old Tappan and Westwood
- Former Township Attorney, River Vale
- Vice President, Holy Name Medical Center

BOB AUTH
Republican
- Elected State Assembly, 2013, Re-elected 2015, 2017
- Old Tappan Republican Municipal Chairman
- Former Chairman, Northeast Republican Organization (NERO)
- Chief Executive Officer, Plaza Travel and Insurance Services
- Former teacher, North Bergen

JOHN BIRKNER, JR.
Democrat
- Mayor of Westwood, elected 2007, Re-elected 2011, 2015
- Former President, Utility Workers Union of America, AFL-CIO Local 534
- Consultant, Bigler Associates
- Environmental Health Specialist, Bergen County Utilities Authority

GERALD FALOTICO
Democrat
- Elected Emerson Councilman, 2013, Re-elected 2016
- Retired Mahwah Police Officer
- Former President, Mahwah PBA
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Sean M. Darcy, President

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**District 40:** (Bergen, Essex, Morris and Passaic)

Allendale, Cedar Grove, Franklin Lakes, Ho-Ho-Kus, Little Falls, Midland Park, Pequannock, Pompton Lakes, Ridgewood, Riverdale, Totowa, Waldwick, Wayne, Woodland Park, Wyckoff

**REPUBLICAN** incumbents Christopher DePhillips (elected 2017) and Kevin Rooney (elected 2017) are seeking re-election to their second terms in the New Jersey State Assembly.

Rooney won a special election convention to replace Scott Rumana, who was nominated for a Superior Court Judgeship. DePhillips took the seat of David Russo, who retired in 2017 after 28 years in the Assembly. Both are former Wyckoff mayors.

The Democratic candidates are running Little Falls Councilwoman Maria Martini Cordonnier and former Bergen County Freeholder Julie O’Brien. O’Brien entered the race after Ridgewood Councilman Michael Sedon withdrew.

Republicans have not lost the 40th since it was first created in 1973.

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NEW JERSEY GOVERNORS – PRE- MIDTERM ELECTION APPROVAL NUMBERS

Chris Christie (R)
Elected 2009
58%-38%
Quinnipiac:
October 12, 2011
MIDTERM:
Assembly, -1
RE-ELECT: Won, 60%-38%.

Jon Corzine (D)
Elected 2005
49%-40%
Quinnipiac:
October 25, 2007
MIDTERM:
Senate +1, Assembly -1
RE-ELECT: Lost, 45%-49%

Jim McGreevey (D)
Elected 2001
35%-52%
Quinnipiac:
September 24, 2003
MIDTERM:
Senate +2, Assembly +3
RE-ELECT: N/A

Christie Whitman (R)
Elected 1993
48%-46%
Eagleton:
October, 1995
MIDTERM:
Assembly, -1
RE-ELECT: Won, 47%-46%

Jim Florio (D)
Elected 1989
23%-73%
Eagleton:
September, 1991
MIDTERM:
Senate -10, Assembly -21

Tom Kean (R)
Elected 1981
52%-38%
Eagleton:
October, 1983
MIDTERM:
Senate -2, Assembly -1

Brendan Byrne (D)
Elected 1973
18%-79%
Eagleton:
September, 1975
MIDTERM:
Assembly -17

Bill Cahill (R)
Elected 1969
46%-49%
Eagleton:
September, 1971
MIDTERM:
Senate -7, Assembly -20
The New Jersey Democratic State Committee is working with grassroots advocates and progressive voters to grow the Democratic Party. We are committed to electing Democrats who will fight to protect our values right here in New Jersey and in Washington. This year alone NJDSC has:

- Brought over 2,000 grassroots activists together for the NJDSC Conference, a record number
- Helped register more than 84,000 new Democratic voters
- Connected with the Democratic base through TeleTown Halls with Governor Murphy
- Added thousands of new emails to our database to recruit campaign volunteers and stay connected with New Jerseyans
- Provided new tools to Democratic campaigns and voters to help get people to the polls on Election Day
- Trained hundreds of new candidates and operatives to build the next generation of Democratic leaders
- Provided financial and operational support to county parties and Democratic campaigns throughout the state

Help Us Keep Building the Democratic Party

John Currie, Chairman
Peg Schaffer, Vice Chair
Kevin Olasanoye, Executive Director

Paid for by the New Jersey Democratic State Committee • 194-196 West State Street, Trenton, N.J. 08608
New Jersey Globe 2019 Assembly Race Ratings

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<td>Tully D-38</td>
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</table>

# Amy Handlin (R-13) and Michael Patrick Carroll (R-25) have announced that they will not seek re-election to the State Assembly in 2019.
**Joe Howarth (R-8) was defeated for renomination in the Republican primary by Jean Stanfield.**
# Matthew Milam won a January special election convention to replace Bob Andrzejczak, who resigned to take his seat in the State Senate.
New Jersey Globe 2019 State Senate Race Ratings

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SAFE Democratic</th>
<th>Likely Democratic</th>
<th>Leans Democratic</th>
<th>Toss Up</th>
<th>Leans Republican</th>
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*Andrzejczak (D-1)

*Jeff Van Drew resigned from the Senate on January 1, 2019 to take his seat in Congress. Bob Andrzejczak won a special election convention to fill the vacancy and was sworn in on January 14, 2019.

New Jersey Globe 2019 County Executive Race Ratings

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SAFE Democratic</th>
<th>Likely Democratic</th>
<th>Leans Democratic</th>
<th>Toss Up</th>
<th>Leans Republican</th>
<th>Likely Republican</th>
<th>Safe Republican</th>
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DeGise (D-Hudson) Hughes (D-Mercer) Levinson (R-Atlantic)

New Jersey Globe 2019 Sheriff Race Ratings

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SAFE Democratic</th>
<th>Likely Democratic</th>
<th>Leans Democratic</th>
<th>Toss Up</th>
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<th>Likely Republican</th>
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Schillari (D-Hudson) Scott (D-Middlesex) Berdnik (D-Passaic) #OPEN (R-Burlington) #OPEN (R-Somerset) Brown (R-Hunterdon) Golden (R-Monmouth) Cannon (R-Morris) Mastronardy (R-Ocean) Strada (R-Sussex) McDonald (R-Warren)

*Somerset County Sheriff Frank Provenzano (R) has announced that he will not seek re-election.
# Burlington County Sheriff Jean Stanfield (R) is resigning on May 1 and will seek the Republican nomination for State Assembly.
Burlington County Sheriff Jean Stanfield (R) is resigning on May 1 and will seek the Republican nomination for State Assembly.

Somerset County Sheriff Frank Provenzano (R) has announced that he will not seek re-election.

Jeff Van Drew resigned from the Senate on January 1, 2019 to take his seat in Congress. Bob Andrzejczak won a special election convention to fill the vacancy and was sworn in on January 14, 2019.

Salem County Clerk Gilda Gill (R) is not seeking re-election.

Hudson County Clerk Joseph Ryglicki (D) is not seeking re-election.

New Jersey Globe 2019 County Clerk Race Ratings

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SAFE DEMOCRATIC</th>
<th>LIKELY DEMOCRATIC</th>
<th>LEANS DEMOCRATIC</th>
<th>TOSS UP</th>
<th>LEANS REPUBLICAN</th>
<th>LIKELY REPUBLICAN</th>
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<td>Ripa (D-Camden)</td>
<td>Riley (D-Cumberland)</td>
<td>*OPEN (R-Salem)</td>
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*Salem County Clerk Gilda Gill (R) is not seeking re-election.

New Jersey Globe 2019 Surrogate Race Ratings

<table>
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<th>SAFE DEMOCRATIC</th>
<th>LIKELY DEMOCRATIC</th>
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<th>LEANS REPUBLICAN</th>
<th>LIKELY REPUBLICAN</th>
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<td># OPEN D-Hudson</td>
<td>LaCorte (D-Union)</td>
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<td>*OPEN (R-Morris)</td>
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*Morris County Clerk John Pecoraro (R) is not seeking re-election.

# Hudson County Clerk Joseph Ryglicki (D) is not seeking re-election.

New Jersey Globe 2019 Register of Deeds & Mortgages Race Rating

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SAFE DEMOCRATIC</th>
<th>LIKELY DEMOCRATIC</th>
<th>LEANS DEMOCRATIC</th>
<th>TOSS UP</th>
<th>LEANS REPUBLICAN</th>
<th>LIKELY REPUBLICAN</th>
<th>SAFE REPUBLICAN</th>
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<td>*OPEN (D-Essex)</td>
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</table>

* Essex County Register of Deeds & Mortgages Dana Rone (D) is not seeking re-election.
New Jersey Globe 2019 Freeholder Race Ratings

<table>
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<tr>
<th>SAFE DEMOCRATIC</th>
<th>LIKELY DEMOCRATIC</th>
<th>LEANS DEMOCRATIC</th>
<th>TOSS UP</th>
<th>LEANS REPUBLICAN</th>
<th>LIKELY REPUBLICAN</th>
<th>SAFE REPUBLICAN</th>
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Coursey (D-Atlantic-2)  
Amoroso (D-Bergen)  
Ortiz (D-Bergen)  
Sullivan (D-Bergen)  
McConnell (D-Camden)  
Rodriguez (D-Camden)  
**Graham (D-Essex)  
Koontz (D-Mercer)  
Melker (D-Mercer)  
Armwood (D-Mercer)  
Kenny (D-Mercer)  
*OPEN (D-Middlesex)  
Duffy (D-Passaic)  
Lepore (D-Passaic)  
Granados (D-Union)  
Kowalski (D-Union)  
Williams (D-Union)  
Barber (D-Cumberland)  
Sparacio (D-Cumberland)  
Christy (D-Gloucester)  
DeMarco (D-Gloucester)  
+O’Connell (D-Burlington)  
Ware (D-Salem)  
Hayes (R-Cape May)  
Thornton (R-Cape May)  
Walsh (R-Somerset)  
Tiver (R-Burlington)  
Griscom (R-Salem)  
Gatto (R-Atlantic-AL)  
Dase (R-Atlantic-4)  
Lanza (R-Hunterdon)  

* Suzanne Lagay (R-Hunterdon), Blanquita Valenti (D-Middlesex), Gerald Scharfenberger (R-Monmouth) and George Graham (R-Sussex) are not seeking re-election.  
+ Daniel O’Connell (D) won a special election convention following the resignation of George Youngkin (D)  
** Lebby C. Jones (D) died in January 2019; Essex Democrats elected Romaine Graham (D), who will run in a special election for Jones’ unexpired term.