THE YEAR OF TRUMP AND THE PANDEMIC
With a unique blend of public sector insight and private sector expertise, O'Toole Scrivo delivers effective and innovative solutions to its clients, especially when the stakes are highest.
New Jersey Education Association:
200,000 proud advocates for members, students, and great public schools.
Straightforward Solutions.

Areas of Expertise

- Cannabis law
- Real Estate
- Labor Law
- Public Procurement
- Litigation
- Environmental Law
- Public Finance
- Tax
- Municipal Law
- Government and Regulatory Affairs
- Healthcare Law
- Corporate Law
- Banking and Bankruptcy

DeCotiis Paramus
61 South Paramus Road, Ste. 250
Paramus, NJ 07652
Tel: (201) 928-1100
Fax: (201) 928-0588

DeCotiis New York
80 Red Schoolhouse Rd., Ste. 110
Spring Valley, NY 10977
Tel: (845) 352-0206

DeCotiis Jersey City
Harborside Financial Center
2500 Plaza 5, 25th Floor
Jersey City, NJ 07311

www.decotiislaw.com
EDITOR’S NOTE

This is my 47th year around New Jersey politics. Each year has been fascinating and memorable in its own way, some clearly more than most. But there’s never been a year like 2020.

The global coronavirus pandemic has had a profound effect on the lives of every American. More than a million people have died of COVID-19, including 228,000 Americans and nearly 15,000 New Jerseyans.

For better or for worse – that’s for the voters to decide – President Donald Trump has sparked a passion for politics over the last four years that I’ve never seen before. New Jersey has seen a spike in voter registration, the advent of grass root political groups, massive numbers of regular people following politics on social media, and an astonishing amount of money.

Tip O’Neill famously said that all politics is local, but that’s not necessarily true this year. All day, every day, it’s all about the presidency. This is indeed a national election. People who might not have been able to name their Member of Congress four years ago can now calculate Electoral College math in their heads and avidly follow U.S. Senate races as far away as Montana and Alaska. More than any time since the Civil War, people take their politics personally.

The pandemic has changed how campaigns were run this year. Candidates were taken off the field for months during stay-at-home orders and strict social distancing guidelines. Some candidates found new ways to campaign – most learned to use virtual platforms like Zoom – but few candidates got to run the kind of race they initially imagined.

Over the years, I’ve heard many political operatives attest to a certain thrill of the finality of Election Day. It’s always been an immovable deadline. You run your campaign, you start voting at 6 AM -- I’m old enough to remember when it was 7 AM – the polls close at 8 PM and then you wait for a winner.

In 2020, that too is no longer the case.

COVID led Governor Phil Murphy to order elections to be held primarily through vote-by-mail ballots this year. Some New Jerseyans began voting in September. Election officials have mailed nearly 6.1 million ballots to voters, who have a choice of returning their ballots through secure drop-boxes, the U.S. Postal Service, or at their local polling place on Election Day – and every voter has the choice of voting in-person, albeit by paper ballots. Voting machines are reserved for a small number of voters requiring special assistance.

Election night might be surreal. In at least three hotly-contested congressional races, several countywide contests and scores of competitive and emotionally-charged municipal campaigns, who may not know who won and who lost. That’s because the inevitability of the results is more unpredictable than ever.

The counting of votes commenced ten days before Election Day and will continue for at least eleven days after – almost certainly more. Appropriately postmarked vote-by-mail ballots can arrive as late as November 10; ballots without a postmark that arrive by November 5 will also be accepted. Election officials won’t even begin to tally provisional paper ballots until November 11. Someday, we’ll all know the winners and losers. But the only promise I can make is that I’ll tell you as soon as I know.

Please remember to vote, track you ballot, be well and be safe,

– David Wildstein
Editor

Special thanks to Kevin Sanders, Nikita Biryukov and Harrison Lavelle, who may turn out to be the next Steve Kornacki or David Wasserman. A brilliant young political analyst, Harrison wrote the first draft of this voter guide and provided invaluable assistance as a New Jersey Globe Fellow this summer. He is a rising star and I’m grateful for his efforts.
WHEN NEW JERSEY
Governor Phil Murphy was in the Oval Office last August discussing the coronavirus pandemic, President Donald Trump asked him if he thought he could win New Jersey.

Murphy deftly avoided answering the question.

That didn’t matter. Trump knew the answer. He totally knew.

While the nation has never seen a presidential election like this one — with an infinite level of daily unpredictability and constant perplexity that has sucked the oxygen out of every room everywhere and makes the outcome of the race a brainteaser — there is one certainty: New Jersey’s 14 electoral votes are not in play.

Joe Biden has a lock on New Jersey.

New Jersey is one of the bluest states in the nation, with more than 1 million more Democrats than Republicans. The state has not gone Republican in a presidential election since George Bush carried it over Michael Dukakis in 1988.

Four years ago, Hillary Clinton won New Jersey by 14 percentage points over Trump, a plurality of 546,345 votes.

Still, Trump carried 9 New Jersey counties, adding two that went for Barack Obama in 2012: Salem and Gloucester. A total of 75 municipalities voted for Obama swung over to Trump in 2016, while 22 towns that preferred Mitt Romney -- half of them in Morris and Somerset counties – flipped to Clinton.

New Jersey hasn’t seen many statewide presidential polls, but one released in October by Stockton University has Biden ahead by 20 points, 56%-36%. Trump’s favorables were upside-down, 36%-50%.

So while there are no uncertainties as to the outcome of New Jersey — save, perhaps, the ability of county election officials to count a statewide election conducted almost entirely through vote-by-mail ballots before the Electoral College meets on December 14 – there are a few things to watch for on election night.

One of them is Morris County, which might be the Normandy of the 2020 election in New Jersey.

Morris hasn’t voted for a Democratic presidential candidate since Lyndon B. Johnson in 1964 — and before that Woodrow Wilson in 1912. Morris voted against Franklin D. Roosevelt four times.

Morris still has 24,903 more Republicans than Democrats, but unaffiliated voters are still the largest voting block in the county and they tend to lean Republican.

Romney won Morris by 25,000 votes in 2012 and Trump by 11,000 four years later.

In September, Cook Political Report House Race editor (and Somerset County native) David Wasserman listed Morris as one of fourteen historically red counties in the nation where Biden has a “decent-to-excellent” chance to win.

Trump’s performance in Morris County — once the place a GOP statewide candidate historically counted on a landslide win to offset massive losses in next-door Essex County — could help determine the outcome of races for Congress in the 7th and 11th districts, and special elections for State Senate and Assembly in the Morris-based 25th legislative district.

As the U.S. Senator from Delaware for 36 years, Biden was essentially New Jersey’s 3rd senator.

Cape May, Cumberland and Salem counties are sort of like a suburban Delaware — or maybe, Delaware is actually a suburb of Vineland. Either way, people in South Jersey have been watching the former vice president for two generations.

But the Deep South of New Jersey was Trump Country in 2016 and the matchup of Trump vs. Biden in this region of the state is one of the things to keep an eye on — especially as it relates to races for Congress in the 2nd district, a control election for the Cumberland County Board of Freeholders — always competitive contests in Salem, and a possibly aggressive challenge by Democrats for two freeholder seats in Cape May.

The Stockton poll had Trump and Biden statistically tied in the eight South Jersey counties. More importantly, the Monmouth University poll — the gold standard of New Jersey polls — had Biden with a statistically even 48%-45% lead over Trump in the 2nd congressional district. That’s a district Trump won by four points against Hillary Clinton.

Trump beat Clinton in Gloucester County.
in 2016, albeit narrowly: he won the county by just 674 votes, a margin of just one-half of one percent. That’s significant because it’s the only county in New Jersey that Trump won that is entirely controlled by Democrats. While Biden will almost surely emerge the victor of New Jersey’s 14 electoral votes on November 3, the stakes of some major races not even on the ballot this year will be deeply affected. The identity of the next President of the United States will determine which party will occupy the U.S. Attorney’s Office in New Jersey, and who will name U.S. District Court Judges from the state. And until we know whether Donald Trump or Joe Biden is president, we won’t be able to properly forecast next year’s race for Governor of New Jersey. Trump’s re-election would almost certainly make Phil Murphy the favorite of re-election; that might already be the case. But a Biden presidency adds some mystique to 2021.

Consider these two things: when Bill Clinton ousted George Bush in 1992, the incumbent Democratic governor was defeated by a Republican, Christine Todd Whitman. And sixteen years later, when Democrats captured the White House, New Jersey replaced Democratic Gov. Jon Corzine with Republican Chris Christie.
VOTER REGISTRATION:
Democrats: 2,498,976
Republicans: 1,425,319
Unaffiliated: 2,362,169
Conservative: 16,253
Constitution: 17,138
Green: 11,496
Libertarian: 18,199
Natural Law: 6,928
Reform: 2,009
Socialist: 7,699
Total: 6,366,186
Eligible: 5,979,694

PAST ELECTION RESULTS:
2016: CLINTON 55.5%, +14.1% (+546,345)
2012: OBAMA 58.4%, +17.8% (+647,533)
2008: OBAMA 57.1%, +15.5% (+602,215)

2016 PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION RESULTS
Images courtesy of Afzal Zifan

NEW JERSEY GLOBE RATING:
SAFE DEMOCRATIC
# New Jersey Presidential Vote in 2016

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>COUNTY</th>
<th>Hillary Clinton</th>
<th>Clinton %</th>
<th>Donald Trump</th>
<th>Trump %</th>
<th>Trump Margin</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Atlantic</td>
<td>60,924</td>
<td>51.0%</td>
<td>52,690</td>
<td>44.1%</td>
<td>-8,234</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bergen</td>
<td>231,211</td>
<td>54.2%</td>
<td>175,529</td>
<td>41.1%</td>
<td>-55,682</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Burlington</td>
<td>121,725</td>
<td>54.2%</td>
<td>89,272</td>
<td>39.7%</td>
<td>-32,453</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Camden</td>
<td>146,717</td>
<td>63.4%</td>
<td>72,631</td>
<td>31.4%</td>
<td>-74,086</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cape May</td>
<td>18,750</td>
<td>37.5%</td>
<td>28,446</td>
<td>57.0%</td>
<td>9,696</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cumberland</td>
<td>27,771</td>
<td>50.4%</td>
<td>24,453</td>
<td>44.0%</td>
<td>-3,318</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Essex</td>
<td>240,837</td>
<td>76.2%</td>
<td>63,176</td>
<td>20.0%</td>
<td>-177,661</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gloucester</td>
<td>66,870</td>
<td>46.9%</td>
<td>67,544</td>
<td>47.4%</td>
<td>674</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hudson</td>
<td>163,917</td>
<td>73.2%</td>
<td>49,043</td>
<td>21.9%</td>
<td>-114,874</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hunterdon</td>
<td>28,898</td>
<td>39.7%</td>
<td>38,712</td>
<td>53.2%</td>
<td>9,814</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mercer</td>
<td>104,775</td>
<td>65.6%</td>
<td>46,193</td>
<td>28.9%</td>
<td>-58,582</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Middlesex</td>
<td>193,044</td>
<td>58.0%</td>
<td>122,953</td>
<td>37.0%</td>
<td>-70,091</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monmouth</td>
<td>137,181</td>
<td>42.3%</td>
<td>166,723</td>
<td>51.5%</td>
<td>29,542</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Morris</td>
<td>115,249</td>
<td>44.9%</td>
<td>126,071</td>
<td>49.1%</td>
<td>10,822</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ocean</td>
<td>87,150</td>
<td>31.1%</td>
<td>179,079</td>
<td>63.9%</td>
<td>91,929</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Passaic</td>
<td>116,759</td>
<td>58.8%</td>
<td>72,902</td>
<td>36.7%</td>
<td>-43,857</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Salem</td>
<td>11,904</td>
<td>39.6%</td>
<td>16,381</td>
<td>54.4%</td>
<td>4,477</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Somerset</td>
<td>85,689</td>
<td>53.4%</td>
<td>65,505</td>
<td>40.8%</td>
<td>-20,184</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sussex</td>
<td>24,212</td>
<td>32.0%</td>
<td>46,658</td>
<td>61.8%</td>
<td>22,446</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Union</td>
<td>147,414</td>
<td>66.4%</td>
<td>68,114</td>
<td>30.7%</td>
<td>-79,300</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Warren</td>
<td>17,281</td>
<td>34.3%</td>
<td>29,858</td>
<td>59.2%</td>
<td>12,577</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>2,148,278</strong></td>
<td><strong>55.45%</strong></td>
<td><strong>1,601,933</strong></td>
<td><strong>41.35%</strong></td>
<td><strong>546,345</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Source:** New Jersey Division of Elections
COMING SOON

THE 2020

NEW JERSEY GLOBE POWERLIST

YEAR IN REVIEW

Sea of Reeds

MEDIA

BOOK AND FILM GLOBE • CALIFORNIA GLOBE • FINE ART GLOBE • MODERN CONSENSUS
NEW JERSEY GLOBE • ROCK AND ROLL GLOBE • WINE AND WHISKEY GLOBE
WINNING TOUGH CAMPAIGNS.
THE RECORD TO PROVE IT.

Jamestown Associates

WINNER OF OVER 100 AWARDS
for Outstanding TV, Video, Radio, and Mail

Visit JamestownAssociates.com and see how we can help you win.
In his third U.S. Senate campaign, Democratic incumbent Cory Booker faces a challenge from Dr. Rik Mehta, a Republican making his first bid for public office.

No matter the outcome, the Booker vs. Mehta matchup has made history: it’s the first time both parties have nominated a non-white candidate for statewide office.

Booker is making his seventh bid for office in New Jersey. He ousted an incumbent to win a Newark City Council seat 22 years ago and then lost a run for mayor in 2002 that propelled him into national prominence. He came back four years later to easily win the mayoral race and served seven years before Frank Lautenberg’s death in 2013 gave him an opportunity to run in a special election for U.S. Senate.

Now seeking a second full term in the U.S. Senate, this is the first election in the 51-year-old Booker’s political career that he faces an opponent that is younger than he is. Mehta is 43. This is not the race Booker wanted to be running in.

He spent 348 days as a candidate for the Democratic nomination for President, traversing America in a bid to break out of a pack that numbered 29 candidates seeking to take on President Donald Trump. He participated in five presidential debates and raised $22.1 million, but dropped out in January after the path to victory appeared closed.

Now he has his sights set on another six years in Washington, and he is the favorite to win again in heavily-Democratic New Jersey.

There is a vast difference between the two U.S. Senate candidates. Simply put, Booker is a liberal Democrat and Mehta is a conservative Republican.

Booker has spent four years assembling one of the most anti-Trump records in the Senate, especially on confirmation votes for cabinet posts and federal judges. Mehta said he would vote to confirm a Trump nominee to the U.S. Supreme Court, even if a vacancy where to occur after he took office on January 3 and before Biden was inaugurated on January 20.

Mehta contributed $5,400 to the Trump Victory Fund and was among a group of Republicans at Trump’s fundraiser in Bedminster hours before the president announced that he had tested positive for COVID-19.

He’s been a boisterous critic of Gov. Phil Murphy’s handling of the coronavirus pandemic. When New Jersey Attorney General Gurbir Grewal said he would prosecute the Atilis Gym in Bellmawr for opening despite the governor’s executive order, Mehta became the gym’s greatest ally. He opened a campaign headquarters at the gym.

Mehta was a political unknown when he jumped into the race for the Republican nomination for U.S. Senate last year. There’s no doubt that he’s an enormously accomplished man with an impressive resume. He’s about as far away from career politician as you can get.

Mehta is a pharmacist and a lawyer, a biotech entrepreneur – he founded a regulatory technology company and a biotherapeutics company that developed treatments for rare diseases -- and a former consumer safety officer at the U.S. Food and Drug Administration.

Republicans rallied behind his candidacy and he won organization endorsements in 18 of the state’s 21 counties and won a five-candidate primary by 8,7547 votes.

But now Mehta faces an uphill fight in a state where Democrats are 18-0 in U.S. Senate races and where struggling daily newspapers making do with about one-third of the reporting staff they had just a decade ago have largely ignored his candidacy.

Booker reported a war chest of $5.2 million after the 3rd quarter of this year. Mehta raised had just $61,934 – and still owes himself $315,000 that he loaned his campaign during the primary.

New Jersey has not elected a Republican to the U.S. Senate since 1972, when Clifford Case, a liberal three-term GOP Senator who ran with the backing of organized labor in New Jersey, coasted to a 62% win and a landslide 780,281-vote plurality. Since that election 48 years ago, every state but Hawaii has elected a Republican to the U.S. Senate.

Monmouth hasn’t polled the New Jersey Senate race since April, when Booker had a 23-point lead over Mehta. A September Emerson poll had Booker 24 points up, and the October Stockton poll showed Booker leading Mehta by 25 points, 57%–32%. To be clear, Mehta knows his chances for an upset are bleak. He’s had his eyes wide open the entire time. Even so, there are two things worth watching in the Booker vs. Mehta contest:
The last three U.S. Senate races all had different circumstances, yet they turned out relatively the same: in 2018, Bob Hugin spent over $40 million – most of it his own – and finished with 42.8% of the vote against Bob Menendez; in 2014, a Republican year nationally, former Reagan speechwriter Jeffrey Bell spent $600,000 against Booker – who spent $16.9 million – and receive 42.3%. In the 2013 special election against Booker, former Bogota Mayor Steve Lonegan – the Koch Brothers’ man in New Jersey – received 44%. Will Mehta fall around where Republicans typically seem to fall in New Jersey U.S. Senate races? The other question that could decide whether Mehta has a political future is how the first statewide candidate of Asian Indian descent does among New Jersey’s growing South Asian community.

The growth of New Jersey’s Asian population is up more than 1400% over the last 50 years; between 2000 and 2010, the state’s South Asian population increased by nearly 73%.

It will be interesting to look at Mehta’s final tally in the five municipalities in New Jersey with the largest Asian Indian communities: Edison, Woodbridge, South Brunswick and Piscataway in Middlesex County, and Jersey City in Hudson County. All five of those municipalities are heavily Democratic and Booker will likely win them, but one of the keys to judging Mehta’s success as a candidate will be his ability to outperform other Republicans in those places.
Booker will look to surpass Menendez’s 59% showing in 2012. If he gets himself into the north of 60% range, he’ll be the first Senate candidate to do that since Bill Bradley when he won 64% in 1984.

Three other candidates are running for the Senate: Green Party nominee Madelyn Hoffman, Long Valley small businesswoman Veronica Fernandez and Daniel Burke, a supporter of Lyndon LaRouche. Only Hoffman, who has run for governor twice and U.S. Senate once, has any organization behind her; the Green Party has 11,496 members in New Jersey. The other two candidates have no discernable support beyond those who signed their nominating petitions.
DEMOCRAT Donald Norcross (D-Camden) faces Republican Claire Gustafson, a former Collingswood school board member, in a staunchly-Democratic district.

Norcross, a former South Jersey AFL-CIO president and the only electrician in Congress, is the brother of one of New Jersey’s most powerful political powerbrokers, George E. Norcross III.

In Congress, Norcross has a close political ally of House Speaker Nancy Pelosi and serves as vice chairman of the House Progressive Caucus. His voting record enabled him to win support from key New Jersey public employee union leaders, like New Jersey Education Association President Marie Blistan and CWA state director Hetty Rosenstein, despite issues the two have had with the congressman’s older brother.

He became chairman of the House Armed Services Committee’s Tactical Air and Land Forces Subcommittee, which positions him to watch out for the Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst in South Jersey. He also has a seat in the House Education and Labor Committee.

Norcross, 61, began his electoral career when he won a State Assembly seat in 2009. He served just two days in the lower house when he won a special election to fill a vacant seat in the State Senate. That’s where he was serving in 2014 when Rep. Rob Andrews resigned, and Norcross won a special election to replace him.

Gustafson, a 59-year-old mother of five, might be the kind of Republican candidate who might do well in politics if not for the circumstances of her residency. She lives in Camden County – specifically in Collingswood, the Montclair of the South, and has no real path to winning higher office.

She calls herself “unapologetically Republican” and is a strong supporter of President Donald Trump.

Republicans lost the 1st district in the 1974 Watergate landslide, when Jim Florio defeated four-term incumbent John Hunt, and have held on to it ever since.

**VOTER REGISTRATION:**

- DEMOCRATIC: 255,616
- REPUBLICAN: 97,207
- UNAFFILIATED: 195,743

**PAST ELECTION RESULTS:**

- 2018: NORCROSS 64.4%
- 2016: NORCROSS 59.9%
- 2014: NORCROSS 57.4%

**PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS:**

- 2016: CLINTON 60%, TRUMP 36%
- 2012: OBAMA 66%, ROMNEY 34%
FIRST DISTRICT: DONALD NORCROSS VS. CLAIR GUSTAFSON

NEW JERSEY GLOBE RATING: SAFE DEMOCRATIC

REP. DONALD NORCROSS
PHOTO BY Kevin Sanders for the New Jersey Globe

FORMER COLLINGSWOOD BOARD OF EDUCATION MEMBER CLAIRE GUSTAFSON
PHOTO BY Gustafson for Congress
Welcome to the Capital of Neurosciences.

The human brain and spine are astoundingly complex. Treating them requires a hospital just as sophisticated. A combination of technology and specialists united by a single, defining purpose — putting you and your family at the center of exceptional care. From brain tumors and spinal disease to cerebrovascular diseases like stroke and aneurysms, if it involves the brain or spine, there’s only one Capital.

capitalneuro.org

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Government And Regulatory Affairs</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PUBLIC CONTRACTING &amp; PROCUREMENT</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LABOR, EMPLOYMENT, &amp; NEGOTIATIONS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PUBLIC FINANCE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AFFORDABLE HOUSING (COAH)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>REAL ESTATE &amp; LAND USE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENVIRONMENTALLY PROTECTED LANDS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LITIGATION MATTERS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MUNICIPAL PROSECUTION</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Cherry Hill Office
457 Haddonfield Road, Suite 500
Cherry Hill, NJ 08002

Hoboken Office
221 River Street, 9th Floor
Hoboken, NJ 07030

(877) 567-5293
MALAMUTLAW.COM

Your support makes all the difference.

autismspeaks.org/together
PARTY SWITCHER Jefferson Van Drew had an inauspicious first day in the U.S. House of Representatives.

The job for each House member was simple: say the name of who you want for Speaker. Not everyone voted for Pelosi or McCarthy. Eighteen votes were cast for ten other individuals.

Asked to declare his choice for Speaker, the newly-elected Democratic congressman rose for the first time on the House floor and said “No.” That caused some noticeable laughter in the House chamber and immediately enhanced Van Drew’s name ID among his colleagues.

At the end of the vote, the Clerk of the House went back to Van Drew and after a quick tutoring session, he voted present.

Van Drew, a 65-year-old right-of-center Democratic freshman, seemed destined to spend his career as a back bencher. It was a tough adjustment for the longtime legislator.

All but two of Van Drew’s seventeen years in the New Jersey Legislature were spent with a South Jersey Democratic ally having his back – either Joe Roberts as Majority Leader and then Speaker, or Senate President Steve Sweeney.

Van Drew frequently sought and received dispensation to vote against legislative Democrats to protect his Republican-leaning seat. He spent his entire career in the majority party and leadership was typically positioned to accommodate him.

In Washington, Van Drew faced the reality that he wasn’t in Trenton anymore. Leadership doesn’t give passes on key issues to Democratic incumbents in conservative districts.

His gave Trump a four-point win in 2016, and Van Drew only won his own race by six points against a controversial Republican who was refused support by the national and state GOP.

When he became one of two House Democrats to refuse to support the impeachment of President Donald Trump, Van Drew became a national media sensation. Suddenly this New Jersey Democrat was appearing on Fox News.

Back in New Jersey, Van Drew was in trouble.

Atlantic County Democratic Chairman Michael Suleiman told Van Drew he could not guarantee the congressman a primary victory unless he voted to impeach Trump. Some of the state’s top Democrats, including Gov. Phil Murphy, Senate President Steve Sweeney and U.S. Sen. Bob Menendez, declined to endorse Van Drew’s re-election.

A Democratic Congressional Committee poll showed Van Drew would lose the primary if he stuck with Trump. Brigid Callahan Harrison, a well-known political science professor, said she might fight Van Drew for the Democratic nomination.

So, Van Drew called the White House and set up a meeting with the President. He had decided to switch parties.

Trump quickly embraced him. After all, it was a great narrative for the president: 30-year Democratic officeholder gets to Washington, realizes Pelosi is the devil and Democrats had shifted too far to the left and declares his “undying support” to him.

Republicans worked to clear the field for him. The front-runner for the GOP nomination, David Richter, switched to the 3rd district race.

In January, Trump came to Wildwood to hold a rally for Van Drew. And Democrats began their campaign to make Van Drew a one-term congressman. But first came a fierce primary.

For a little while, it looked like Harrison had the nomination. She won the endorsements of Sweeney and six Democratic county chairs. Eventually, she’d secure endorsements from U.S. Senators Bob Menendez and Cory Booker.

Instead, the race went an entirely different way. Amy Kennedy, a 42-year-old former public school teacher, mental health advocate and mother of five, decided to get into the race.

Kennedy is the wife of Patrick J. Kennedy, a 42-year-old former public school teacher, mental health advocate and mother of five, decided to get into the race.

Kennedy is the wife of Patrick J. Kennedy, a former seven-term Rhode Island congressman and a member of one of America’s most storied political families. His father was Ted Kennedy, and his uncles were John F. Kennedy and Robert F. Kennedy.
She had strong roots in Atlantic County, where her father, Jerry Savell, served as a freeholder and as a councilman in both Pleasantville and Absecon.

Kennedy beat Harrison and three others for the organization line in Atlantic County. Booker eschewed the organization line to instead run with Harrison in Atlantic and Ocean counties.

In the primary, she picked up the endorsement of Gov. Phil Murphy, loaned $500,000 to the campaign, and got Martin Luther King III to campaign for her.

Along with progressive Democrats, she mounted an insurgency that dealt a rare loss to the South Jersey Democratic machine. Kennedy carried all eight counties and won the nomination by a 62%-22% margin.

Van Drew won the Republican primary with 82% after capturing all eight lines. He signed up former White House political director Bill Stepien – now Trump’s campaign manager -- to help run his race.

Republicans gave Van Drew a speaking slot at the Republican National Convention on the same night Trump accepted the nomination. But the GOP bumped him to before 9 PM, so he didn’t get the national audience he wanted. Kennedy benefited from Van Drew’s speech too. Her campaign said they raised $100,000 in online donations the night he spoke. In the 3rd quarter of 2020, Kennedy outraised Van Drew. She brought in over $2.3 million, while the now-Republican congressman’s haul was a little over $1 million.

Van Drew has raised $3,731,415 since taking his seat in Congress in January 2019. That’s more than $2 million less than three other freshmen New Jersey House members elected in 2018 have raised for their re-election bids.

A Monmouth University poll conducted in October showed Kennedy leading Van Drew by five points, 49%-44%, with just 5% of registered voters in New Jersey’s 2nd district still undecided. One of the key points of the poll was that barely any Democrats had stuck with Van Drew; Kennedy was getting 94% of the Democrats. Van Drew was doing well with Republicans, but was still falling just a little short at 89%.

In the presidential race, Joe Biden holds a three-point lead over Trump, 48%-45%, in a district that Trump carried by a 50%-46% margin against Hillary Clinton four years ago. Trump has a 45%-51% job approval rating in NJ-2. Biden has an 8-point lead, 48%-40%, among 2nd district independents.

Trump has upside-down favorables of 41%-52% in the 2nd, but Biden is also slightly underwater at 45%-48%. In a Stockton University debate, Kennedy showed that it was fine for her handlers to take the bubble wrap off of her. She is ready for this race.
Van Drew reminded voters why he’d been winning elections for decades. He was civil, respectful, and affable. And he distanced himself a little from Trump, explaining that his “undying support” was for the presidency and not for the man himself. There’s a ton of outside money coming into NJ-5 and not a lot of room for Van Drew to grow.

It’s not clear if Van Drew is running a 2016-style campaign in 2020. He held on to more than $1 million until at least September 30, something that might not be the best idea in a vote-by-mail election where votes are increasingly being cast before Election Day.

So here’s stating the obvious: Van Drew’s success or failure might rest on how well Trump does against Biden in a district he won last time, but where many voters are as familiar with the former Vice President – he represented next-door Delaware in the U.S. Senate for 36 years. Coattails matter.

**NEW JERSEY GLOBE RATING:**
**TOSS UP**

---

**NJ-2**

**Atlantic County:** All 23 municipalities.

**Burlington County:** Bass River Township and Washington Township.

**Camden County:** Waterford Township.

**Cape May County:** All 16 municipalities.

**Cumberland County:** All 14 municipalities.

**Gloucester County:** Clayton, East Greenwich Township (part), Elk Township, Franklin Township, Harrison Township, Mantua Township, Newfield, Pitman, South Harrison Township, Swedesboro and Woolwich Township.

**Ocean County:** Barnegat Light, Beach Haven, Eagleswood, Harvey Cedars, Little Egg Harbor Township, Long Beach Township, Ship Bottom, Stafford Township (part), Surf City, Tuckerton.

**Salem County:** All 15 municipalities

---

**VOTER REGISTRATION:**

- **DEMOCRATS:** 173,489
- **REPUBLICANS:** 154,645
- **UNAFFILIATED:** 195,222

---

**PAST ELECTION RESULTS:**

- 2018: VAN DREW 52.9%
- 2016: FRANK LOBIONDO (R) 59.2%
- 2014: LOBIONDO 61.5%

---

**PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS:**

- 2016: TRUMP 50%, CLINTON 46%
- 2012: OBAMA 54%, ROMNEY 46%
Nine months into 2020...

Who's with us?

Despite it all...  
Congrats to David & NJ Globe 
for another stellar year covering “this thing of ours.”  
(RIP Nick)

Checkmate
STATEGIES

CHRIS RUSSELL
Chris@checkmatewins.com

MICHAEL V. LAWLER
Mike@checkmatewins.com

JOHN LYONS
john@checkmatewins.com

ANDREW RUSSANO
Andrew@checkmatewins.com

checkmatewins.com
12 Broad Street, Suite 303B, Red Bank, NJ 07701

The Road to Recovery Begins with Infrastructure

Greg Lalevee
Chairman

Mark Longo
Director

#BUILDINGOURRECOVERY

ELEC825 is the labor management fund of Operating Engineers Local 825

@ELEC825
ELEC825.org
WE ARE ESSENTIAL
To Our Families... And To Yours

PROTECT Our State
PROTECT Our Families
PROTECT Essential Workers

COMMUNICATIONS WORKERS OF AMERICA, AFL-CIO
NEW JERSEY

DENNIS TRAINOR
CWA DISTRICT 1 VICE PRESIDENT

HETTY ROSENSTEIN
CWA NJ AREA DIRECTOR
THE CLOSEST congressional race in New Jersey during the mid-term election two years ago was in the 3rd district, where Democrat Andy Kim, a former Obama White House staffer, defeated two-term Republican congressman Tom MacArthur by just 3,973 votes, a 50%-49% margin.

Now Kim faces Republican David Richter, the former CEO of one of the nation’s largest construction companies, in a bid to win a second term in a district that Donald Trump carried by six points in the last presidential election.

In an interesting twist, Kim has turned into a Human Fundraising Machine – sort of the Josh Gottheimer of the South – while Richter has not pumped as much of his own money into the race as some Republicans thought; he has struggled to raise money from others.

After the 3rd quarter of the year, Kim found himself with a 12:1 cash-on-hand advantage over his millionaire opponent.

Kim raised $2,070,401 in the 3rd quarter and has a $6,572,235 fundraising haul since entering Congress in January 2019 – without taking corporate PAC money. He had $2,202,307 in his war chest.

Richter raised just $568,793 during the 3rd quarter and had $180,430 cash-on-hand. The Republican put in $100,000 of his own money after the primary election, upping his total personal investment to $700,000.

Still, despite the money, Kim has good reason to be concerned.

Trump appears wildly popular in the Ocean County portion of the district, which made up 43% of the total votes cast in the 3rd district in the 2016 presidential election.

Kim is just the second Republican to represent NJ-3 since before the Civil War. If he beats Richter, he’ll be the first Democrat to win a second term since Nathan Stratton did it in 1852.

In the last election, Kim took out MacArthur by winning 59% of the vote in Burlington while holding the Republican congressman to 61% in Ocean.

The 38-year-old Kim, the first Korean American to represent New Jersey in Congress, grew up in Marlton before winding up as a Rhodes Scholar – Pete Buttigieg was one of his classmates at Oxford – and then going to work at the U.S. Department of State.

He went to Afghanistan as a civilian advisor to General David Petraeus before joining the Obama White House as a national security advisor. He ran the Iraq Director in the White House.

In Congress, Kim snared a seat on the House Armed Services Committee – a big deal for a district where the Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst is a major employer and economic engine – and one of seven Democrats picked to serve on the House Select Subcommittee on the Coronavirus.

For sure, Kim didn’t get the race he thought he would. That might have worked to his advantage.

In late 2019, Republicans appeared ready to run Kate Gibbs, a 33-year-old former Burlington County freeholder director and a top staffer at the politically influential International Union of Operating Engineers Local 825.

Richter at the time had moved from Lawrenceville to Cape May County and had emerged as the front-runner for the Republican House nomination to run against Democratic Rep. Jeff Van Drew in the 2nd district.

Van Drew threw Richter a curveball and switched parties. Initially, Richter appeared ready to battle the Democrat-turned-Republican in the GOP primary.

But after Trump and other GOP leaders endorsed Van Drew, Richter’s path to the nomination seemed hugely limited. Instead, he moved again, this time to Ocean County, to run against Kim.

Richter’s primary against Gibbs was fierce. Gibbs secured the Burlington Republican line and won a vote of the Ocean GOP screening committee. For a short time, some thought Richter was a goner.

Richter played to win. He thrashed Gibbs with opposition research and wrestled the Ocean GOP convention endorsement with an 8-vote victory. Within two weeks, the race had changed.

In the primary, Richter won Ocean by 16,888 votes (78%-22%), while Gibbs only won Burlington by a margin of 3,832 (57%-43%).
In the meantime, Kim was raising money – something that continued through July and August as Richter sought to mend fences on the Burlington side. Democrats have hammered Richter on his own business record. On his watch, Hill International lost more than $10 million during his final year as CEO and paid a $500,000 fine after the Securities and Exchange Commission found evidence of fraudulent accounting practices.

Richter says he was a victim of his own success – that he turned around a nearly-bankrupt business and took it public. He said he was ousted by a board that wanted different things. And he called the SEC fine a minor error. The GOP attack on Kim is that he’s voted with Nancy Pelosi 97% of the time, a common thread among Republican House candidates this cycle.

This race should favor Kim, given his fundraising advantage and a Democratic edge in vote-by-mail balloting, but the likelihood of an outsized pro-Trump vote in a big part of this district means that Richter is still in the race.
VOTER REGISTRATION:
DEMOCRATS: 183,496
REPUBLICANS: 168,058
UNAFFILIATED: 205,599

PAST ELECTION RESULTS:
2018: ANDY KIM 50.0%
2016: TOM MACARTHUR (R) 59.3%
2014: MACARTHUR 53.9%

PAST ELECTION RESULTS:
2016: TRUMP 51%, CLINTON 45%
2012: OBAMA 52%, ROMNEY 48%

NJ-3

Burlington County: Beverly, Bordentown City, Bordentown Township, Burlington City, Burlington Township, Chesterfield Township, Cinnaminson Township, Delanco Township, Delran Township, Eastampton Township, Edgewater Park Township, Evesham Township, Fieldsboro, Florence Township, Hainesport Township, Lumberton Township, Mansfield Township, Medford Lakes, Medford Township, Moorestown Township, Mount Holly Township, Mount Laurel Township, New Hanover Township, North Hanover Township, Pemberton Borough, Pemberton Township, Riverside Township, Riverton Borough, Shamong Township, Southampton Township, Springfield Township, Tabernacle Township, Westampton Township, Willingboro Township, Woodland Township and Wrightstown.

Ocean County: Barnegat Township, Beachwood, Berkeley Township, Brick Township, Island Heights, Lacey Township, Lavallette, Mantoloking, Ocean Gate, Ocean Township, Pine Beach, Point Pleasant (part), Seaside Heights, Seaside Park, South Toms River, Stafford Township (part) and Toms River Township.

NEW JERSEY GLOBE RATING: TOSS UP
YOUR VOTE is YOUR VOICE
MAKE SURE IT IS HEARD!

kivvit
BUSINESS OBJECTIVES CAN ONLY BE ACHIEVED BY COMBINING STRATEGIC AND AGGRESSIVE LEGAL ADVOCACY WITH GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS CAPABILITIES.

Florio Perrucci is a full service law firm with offices strategically located throughout New Jersey, Pennsylvania, and New York.

Our clients include private businesses and individuals, as well as public entities.

DOUGLAS J. STEINHARDT
dsteinhardt@floriolaw.com

FLORIOOLAW.COM
CHRISTOPHER SMITH was a 27-years-old sporting goods salesman from Old Bridge when he unseated a 13-term congressman under indictment in a solidly-Democratic congressional district in 1980.

The Almanac of American Politics predicted that he would be a one-term congressman. But Smith defied expectations. He survived a gerrymandering attempt in 1982 that took the Mercer-Middlesex district and extended it all the way to Camden County, defeating the popular ex-Senate President who drew his own district in the process.

Democratic challengers since then, one after another, have viewed the Hamilton Township Republican as beatable. Each has been reliably disappointed.

During his 40 years in Congress, Smith has emerged as a powerful advocate for human rights across the globe. Lately, he’s been a leading advocate of those in Hong Kong who have protested against China’s plan to erode freedoms previously guaranteed under an international treaty. He spent more than a decade leading an ultimately successful fight to establish an International Megan’s Law to prevent sex trafficking.

This year, Democrats nominated Stephanie Schmid, a former U.S. Department of State official who interned for Smith when she was 16.

After a decent start, Schmid seems to have fizzled out. She’s left several key Democrats thinking they’d have been better off backing one of the other contenders for the nomination: former United Nations official Christine Conforti or the forward-thinking David Applefield, who tragically died the day after the Democratic primary.

Schmid has also faced some problems with the Federal Election Commission and was forced to refund some contributions that may have violated federal campaign finance laws. Smith has raised nearly $1.2 million for his re-election bid and has $782,456 cash-on-hand.

After the 2018 election, Smith was the last Republican standing. He’s seeking re-election with the support of key labor unions, like the AFL-CIO and the New Jersey Building and Construction Trades Council, and gun safety groups like Giffords and the Brady PAC.

With 22,483 more Republicans than Democrats, New Jersey’s 4th district is the only House district in New Jersey to become more Republican over the last decade. When the last map was drawn after the 2010 census, the district had 12,193 more Republicans than Democrats. Donald Trump carried the 4th district by 14 points in 2016.

On January 3, 2021, Smith is set to tie Rep. Peter W. Rodino’s record as the longest-serving congressman in New Jersey history. If he’s re-elected this year – there’s no reason he won’t be -- he’ll break the record as soon as he takes the oath of office for his 21st term in the U.S. House of Representatives.

VOTER REGISTRATION:
DEMOCRATS: 151,723
REPUBLICANS: 173,756
UNAFFILIATED: 225,624

PAST ELECTION RESULTS:
2018: SMITH 55.4%
2016: SMITH 63.7%
2014: SMITH 67.9%

PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS:
2016: TRUMP 55%, CLINTON 41%
2012: ROMNEY 55%, OBAMA 45%
FOURTH DISTRICT: CHRIS SMITH VS. STEPHANIE SCHMID

Rep. Christopher Smith
Photo by Facebook

Democratic congressional candidate Stephanie Schmid
Photo by Kevin Sanders for the New Jersey Globe

NEW JERSEY GLOBE RATING:
SAFE REPUBLICAN

NJ-4

Mercer County: Hamilton Township and Robbinsville Township.


Ocean County: Bay Head Borough, Jackson Township, Lakehurst Borough, Lakewood Township, Manchester Township, Point Pleasant Beach Borough, Point Pleasant Borough (part) and Plumsted Township.
CONGRATULATIONS TO THE NEW JERSEY GLOBE, AND BEST WISHES ON A SAFE ELECTION SEASON FOR ALL
We Salute the Contenders, the Victors, and the Voters. Power to the People.

Federal & State Public Affairs
Strategic, Marketing & Crisis Communications

WSWDC.com | PPAG.com | PrincetonSC.com
RE. JOSH GOTTHEIMER is known as the Human Fundraising Machine.

Since announcing his first run for 5th district congressional seat in 2015, Gottheimer has raised a behemoth $18.1 million.

He’s raised nearly $6.4 million so far this cycle, and has a war chest of Brobdingnagian proportions -- $8,635,290, as of September 30 – for his race against Republican investment banker Frank Pallotta.

Pallotta loaned himself $1 million after the primary – his personal investment in his own campaign now exceeds $1.4 million – and had more than $694,000 banked.

A former Clinton White House speechwriter and Microsoft executive, Gottheimer ousted seven-term incumbent Scott Garrett in 2016 by 14,587 votes, 51%-47%, after raising $4.7 million and effectively capitalizing on the Republican congressman’s flaws and missteps.

Donald Trump carried the 5th by one percentage point in 2016 – a 4,089-vote plurality over Hillary Clinton.

Gottheimer’s district has trended Democratic in recent years; now there are 17,269 more Democrats than Republicans.

That’s a shift from a GOP registration advantage of 2,370 on Election Day 2016 when he took Garrett out. When the 5th was drawn following the 2010 U.S. Census, there were 13,085 more Republicans than Democrats.

Gottheimer is astute enough to see Republican ghosts in his district.

That’s helped guide him during his four years as the congressman from a district that sent a Republican to Congress for 36 years and voted for Trump, Mitt Romney and John McCain.

Except for the Woodrow Wilson wave and the Watergate scandal that begot Democrat Andrew Maguire for six years until the Reagan Revolution began, Gottheimer’s district had been reliably Republican since Grover Cleveland was in the White House.

In Congress, he helped start the bi-partisan Problem Solver’s Caucus. He’s waged a one-man war on what he calls Moocher States – places take more than they send to federal government each year.

Gottheimer pledged to level the playing field – he calls them claw backs – to bring more federal funds back to New Jersey’s 5th district. He claims a 108% increase in federal tax dollars “clawed backed” to the North Jersey congressional district since 2016.

Gottheimer can also be aggressive, and he’s not taking re-election for granted.

He’s on the air with a TV ad brutalizing Pallotta for his connection to sub-prime mortgages when he worked on Wall Street – and for a peculiar proposal to introduce a bill that would ban wearing masks if he wins election to Congress.

There’s no indication that Gottheimer will lose. The big question is whether Trump or Biden wins the 5th –and whether the two-term congressman will be higher or lower than the 56% he won against John McCann in 2018.
NJ-5


**Passaic County:** Ringwood and West Milford.

**Sussex County:** Andover Borough, Andover Township, Branchville, Frankford Township, Franklin Borough, Fredon Township, Green Township, Hamburg, Hampton Township, Hardyston Township, Lafayette Township, Montague Township, Newton, Sandyston Township, Stillwater Township, Sussex, Vernon Township, Walpack Township and Wantage Township.

**Warren County:** Allamuchy Township, Belvidere, Blairtown Township, Frelinghuysen Township, Hackettstown, Hardwick Township, Hope Township, Independence Township, Knowlton Township, Liberty Township, Mansfield Township, Oxford Township, Washington, Washington Township and White Township.

---

**FIFTH DISTRICT: JOSH GOTTHEIMER VS. FRANK PALLOTTA**

**VOTER REGISTRATION:**
- **DEMOCRATIC:** 182,298
- **REPUBLICAN:** 165,029
- **UNAFFILIATED:** 214,506

**PAST ELECTION RESULTS:**
- **2018:** GOTTHEIMER 56.2%
- **2016:** GOTTHEIMER 51.1%
- **2014:** SCOTT GARRETT (R) 55.4%

**PAST ELECTION RESULTS:**
- **2016:** TRUMP 48%, CLINTON 47%
- **2012:** ROMNEY 52%, OBAMA 48%

---

**NEW JERSEY GLOBE RATING:**

LIKELY DEMOCRATIC

---

**REPRESENTATIVE JOSH GOTTHEIMER**

*Photo by Kevin Sanders for the New Jersey Globe*

**REPUBLICAN CONGRESSIONAL CANDIDATE FRANK PALLOTTA**

*Photo by Pallotta for Congress*
FIFTH DISTRICT: JOSH GOTTHEIMER VS. FRANK PALLOTTA

NJ-5 President
(R) Donald Trump 48.8%
(D) Hillary Clinton 47.7%

Results

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>County</th>
<th>%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bergen</td>
<td>D+9.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Passaic</td>
<td>R+23.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sussex</td>
<td>R+33.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Warren</td>
<td>R+28.9</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Data from Daily Kos
@HWLavelleMaps

NJ-5 2018
(D) J. Gottheimer 56.2%
(R) John McCann 42.5%

Results

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>County</th>
<th>%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bergen</td>
<td>D+23.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Passaic</td>
<td>R+7.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sussex</td>
<td>R+11.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Warren</td>
<td>R+13.8</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

@HWLavelleMaps

Margins

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Gotth.</th>
<th>&gt;0%</th>
<th>&gt;5%</th>
<th>&gt;10%</th>
<th>&gt;20%</th>
<th>&gt;30%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>McCann</th>
<th>&gt;0%</th>
<th>&gt;5%</th>
<th>&gt;10%</th>
<th>&gt;20%</th>
<th>&gt;30%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
WE KNOW WHAT IT TAKES TO WIN IN DIFFICULT SITUATIONS.

Mike DuHaime | Michael Soliman | Mo Butler

WESTFIELD
1 Elm Street
Suite 2
Westfield, NJ 07090
(908) 789-1380

TRENTON
222 West State Street
Suite 301
Trenton, NJ 08608
(609) 393-1793

Mercury.
Public Strategy • Government Relations • Public Relations • Advertising • Social Media • Polling

NEW YORK CITY | WASHINGTON | LOS ANGELES | ALBANY | HARRISBURG | PHILADELPHIA | AUSTIN | SACRAMENTO | FORT LAUDERDALE
SAN FRANCISCO | COLUMBUS | NASHVILLE | DES MOINES | COLUMBIA | HELENA | TAMPA | LONDON | MEXICO CITY | SINGAPORE

The BGill Group wishes all of our clients good luck this election season!

Brendan Gill | Alixon Collazos | Jordan Hirschhorn
Christine Russo | Christian Triana

Public Affairs | Political Consulting | Digital Media

www.bgillgroup.com  973.783.0400  info@bgillgroup.com
52 Fairfield Street, Second Fl. Montclair, NJ 07042
AFTER 32 years in Congress, Frank Pallone, Jr. is now at the peak of his political career. He chairs the House Energy and Commerce Committee, one of the most powerful on Capitol Hill. That gives Pallone jurisdiction over health care, the environment and the Internet, among many other things.

Pallone attracted two primary opponents from the progressive wings, Russ Cirincione and Amani Al-Khatahtbeh. Cirincione hit Pallone for not fully endorsing the Green New Deal. That comes with some irony, since Pallone has fought for environmental issues since serving as a Long Branch councilman and state senator before going to Congress.

In the end, Pallone coasted to a 79%-17% win over Cirincione. Al-Khatahtbeh showed some promise, but she started too late to make an impact.

The 68-year-old Monmouth County Democrat has no problem winning the general election, although that wasn’t always the case. Pallone had to fight for the seat for most of his first decade in Congress – he had a couple of close calls -- including a primary against now-State Sen. Robert Smith and the powerful Middlesex County Democratic organization 28 years ago.

The Republican candidate is Christian Onuoha, an earnest 27-year-old who is doing his party a favor by running.

And Onuoha didn’t have an easy time becoming the sacrificial lamb. He beat 25-year-old Sammy Gindi at GOP conventions in Monmouth and Middlesex counties, but then neither of them got enough signatures to get on the primary ballot.

Both had to mount write-in campaigns. Onuoha beat Gindi 508 to 99, with 38 votes going to Feiby Dawod. Onuoha comes from Middlesex, so unless he moves, the primary win could be the peak of his career in New Jersey politics.

Pallone had the chance to go to the U.S. Senate in 2002, but he didn’t want to risk his House seat in a race where Republican Doug Forrester was in the lead. If Pallone hadn’t declined, he’d be 21st in seniority in the Senate right now.

He lost a U.S. Senate primary to Cory Booker in 2013, when he didn’t have to give him up his 6th district seat. That’s the only loss of a political career that began in 1982 when he won a seat on the Long Branch Council.
NJ-6

Middlesex County: Carteret, Edison Township, Highland Park, Metuchen, New Brunswick, Old Bridge Township (part), Perth Amboy, Piscataway Township, Sayreville, South Amboy, South Plainfield and Woodbridge Township.

Monmouth County: Aberdeen Township, Allenhurst, Asbury Park, Atlantic Highlands, Deal, Hazlet Township, Highlands, Interlaken, Keansburg, Keyport, Loch Arbour, Long Branch, Marlboro Township, Matawan, Middletown Township (part), Monmouth Beach, Oceanport, Sea Bright, Union Beach and West Long Branch

REP. FRANK PALLONE, JR
PHOTO BY Nikita Biryukov for the New Jersey Globe

REPUBLICAN CONGRESSIONAL CANDIDATE CHRISTIAN ONUOHA
PHOTO BY Christian Onuoha
Here when you need us most. Now and always.

We’re making it easier to get the care you need, like chatting with a nurse or having a virtual doctor visit 24/7 at no cost.

HorizonBlue.com/Coronavirus
Best Wishes

Senator Vin Gopal
Majority Conference Leader

Chairman, Senate Military & Veterans Affairs Committee
Vice Chairman, Senate Higher Education Committee
11th Legislative District
TOM MALINOWSKI is the first Democrat to represent New Jersey’s 7th district since 1956, when Florence Dwyer unseated Harrison Williams.

The 7th district was supposed to have a Republican congressman – at least that was the intention when the new maps were drawn in 2011. When Leonard Lance sought a third term in 2012, the 7th had almost 30,000 more Republicans than Democrats.

Hillary Clinton beat Donald Trump in the 7th by one percentage point in 2016. By the time Democrat Tom Malinowski, a former Assistant U.S. Secretary of State under Barack Obama, ousted Lance in 2018, the GOP registration edge had dropped to 6,709.

Just two years later, as Malinowski seeks as a second term, NJ-7 has 9,589 more Democrats than Republicans. Once Republican strongholds, these towns have shifted heavily toward Democrats in recent elections. Places like Westfield and Summit, which used to produce multi-thousand vote margins for Republicans, now have Democratic mayors.

Still, the 7th produced more votes for GOP Assembly candidates in 2019 than for Democrats.

Republicans recruited their strongest possible candidate to win the seat back: Thomas H. Kean, Jr., the minority leader of the New Jersey State Senate and the son of one of the most popular governors in New Jersey history.

On election night 2018, Kean was the only current GOP challenger who was on anyone’s radar screen.

Kean has served in the legislature since 2001, and like his father and grandfather, is a moderate that in most years would have appealed to ticket-splitting voters in western Union and Somerset counties.

Just a couple of years ago, Malinowski might have been written off as the outgrowth of a Democratic wave election. But the rapidly changing demographics of this heavily-suburban district – the biggest urban centers of NJ-7 may be Phillipsburg and Dover – have changed the landscape.

There has never been a point in this campaign where anyone predicted Malinowski to lose, although that still may happen.

Malinowski has raised $6.4 million, but Kean has held his own with revenues of about $3.5 million. National party committees and Super PACs are playing heavily in this race.

The two candidates have sharply disagreed on health care, transportation and campaign finance reform.

The freshman congressman said that the death of U.S. Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsberg in October created a “clear and present danger” to the future of the Affordable Care Act. Kean maintained that he supported protecting patients with pre-existing conditions and said Congress needs to come up with a better plan.

The two also disputed who was best able to deliver on the Gateway tunnel project. Malinowski accused Kean of working with then-Gov. Chris Christie to stop construction of the ARC tunnel in 2010, although there is no evidence that the Republican state senator played any role in the decision. Kean thinks shutting down the ARC tunnel might turn out to be in New Jersey’s long-term best interests.

VOTER REGISTRATION:
DEMOCRATIC: 184,627
REPUBLICAN: 17,038
UNAFFILIATED: 217,151

PAST ELECTION RESULTS:
2018: MALINOWSKI 51.7%
2016: LEONARD LANCE 54%
2014: LANCE 59.3%

PAST ELECTION RESULTS:
2016: CLINTON 48%, TRUMP 47%
2018: ROMNEY 53%, OBAMA 47%
One issue that sharply divides the two candidates was over the U.S. Supreme Court’s Citizens United decision that opened the door to dark money in political campaigns. Malinowski has heavily touted his refusal to accept corporate PAC money. Kean contends that Malinowski is the beneficiary of corporate PAC money that makes its way to his re-election campaign through intermediary PACs.

Kean has hit Malinowski repeatedly over voting with House Speaker Nancy Pelosi 97% of the time. Malinowski says that Pelosi votes with him, and has refused to endorse her for re-election in the next Congress.

Most of the oxygen in this campaign was spent over allegations that Malinowski lobbied against a 2006 bill establishing a national sex offender registry while working for Human Rights Watch.

Republicans spent huge amounts of money on TV ads slamming Malinowski, something the congressman has vehemently denied.

Six individuals who worked at Human Rights Watch between 2003 and 2007 said that Malinowski was not involved in lobbying for that bill. Both candidates have strong roots in the district.

Malinowski grew up in Princeton, where his aunt, Anne Clark Martindell, represented parts of Mercer, Hunterdon and Morris counties in the New Jersey State Senate. Martindell and Tom Kean, Sr., then the Assembly Minority Leader, worked together on conservation issues in the 1970s.

The 2020 congressional race might rest on the omnipresence of the 7th district’s most famous part-time resident, Trump. The
Trump National Golf Club in Bedminster serves, at least in non-COVID times, as the Summer White House.

Polling from both parties has shown Joe Biden ahead in NJ-7, a district that went for George W. Bush twice, and then John McCain and Mitt Romney.

The stronger Biden performs, the better it is for Malinowski. And there’s a point where Democratic dominance at the top of the ticket could preclude the chance for Republicans to reclaim a House seat, they held for 62 years.

Kean could benefit from independent-minded voters who might prefer a moderate Republican to watch over a Democratic president. He will gain from some solidly conservative, pro-Trump voters in Western Morris and Warren counties who are willing to ignore aspects of Kean’s record in exchange for a vote against Pelosi in a House leadership election.

One big unknown is how strong the Kean name still is in New Jersey. Governor Kean hasn’t been on the ballot in 35 years, and Senator Kean has only represented part of the district in the state legislature. Both candidates have run exceptionally strong campaigns. Both have attracted some of the best political operatives and strategists in the state.

This race could go either way, yet it’s also possible that in a hugely peculiar election year that the margin won’t reflect the perceived closeness of this contest. In NJ-7 in particular, it’s fair to comment on what might be at stake.

If Malinowski wins – along with Josh Gottheimer in the 5th and Mikie Sherrill in the 11th – it makes it difficult for the three Democrats to shed Republican towns when New Jersey draws new congressional districts next year.

Kean, if he is victorious, would basically be happy to pick up everything Gottheimer and Sherrill don’t want – sort of a big game of redistricting Go-Fish.

A Kean win could mean a 12-year string of GOP representation for this district under the next map. If voters re-elect Malinowski – and if Biden wins the presidency – it’s possible that NJ-7 will be on the table again two years from now.

NEW JERSEY GLOBE RATING: TOSS UP

NJ GLOBE VOTERS GUIDE 2020

NJ-7

Essex County: Millburn.

Hunterdon County: Alexandria Township, Bethlehem Township, Bloomsbury, Califon, Clinton Town, Clinton Township, Delaware Township, East Amwell Township, Flemington, Franklin Township, Frenchtown, Glen Gardner, Hampton, High Bridge, Holland Township, Kingwood Township, Lambertville, Lebanon Borough, Lebanon Township, Milford, Raritan Township, Readington Township, Stockton, Tewksbury Township, Union Township and West Amwell Township.


Somerset County: Bedminster Township, Bernards Township, Bernardsville, Branchburg Township, Bridgewater Township, Far Hills, Green Brook Township, Hillsborough Township, Millstone, Montgomery Township, North Plainfield, Peapack-Gladstone, Raritan, Rocky Hill, Somerville, Warren Township and Watchung.

Union County: Berkeley Heights, Clark, Cranford, Garwood, Kenilworth, Mountainside, New Providence, Scotch Plains (part), Springfield, Summit, Union Township (part), Westfield and Winfield Township.

Warren County: Alpha, Franklin Township, Greenwich Township, Harmony Township, Lopatcong Township, Phillipsburg and Pohatcong Township.
SEVENTH DISTRICT: TOM MALINOWSKI VS. TOM KEAN

NJ-7 President
(D) Hillary Clinton 48.6%
(R) Donald Trump 47.5%

Results

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>County</th>
<th>%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Essex</td>
<td>D+40.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hunterdon</td>
<td>R+13.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Morris</td>
<td>R+9.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Somerset</td>
<td>D+5.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Union</td>
<td>D+12.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Warren</td>
<td>R+19.1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Data from Daily Kos
@H WLavelleMaps

NJ-7 2018
(D) T. Malinowski 51.7%
(R) L. Lance 46.7%

Results

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>County</th>
<th>%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Essex</td>
<td>D+38.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hunterdon</td>
<td>R+9.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Morris</td>
<td>R+4.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Somerset</td>
<td>D+8.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Union</td>
<td>D+16.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Warren</td>
<td>R+11.0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

@H WLavelleMaps
ALBIO SIRES emigrated from Cuba in 1962, at age 11, the same year as the Bay of Pigs Invasion.

Now in his eighth term in the U.S. House of Representatives, Sires chairs the House Foreign Affairs Subcommittee on the Western Hemisphere.

This has been a meteoric rise for the former high school basketball star who spent years as a political outsider fighting City Hall and losing some local elections.

As long ago as 1986, Sires was the Republican candidate for Congress in the district he now represents. Democrat Frank Guarini crushed him by a 71%-27% margin. He won 43% in a race for Hudson County freeholder the following year, also as a Republican.

In 1993, Sires led a movement to recall six-term West New York Mayor Anthony DeFino. Voters voted to recall him from office by a 4,266 to 3,774 vote margin, but then immediately re-elected DeFino by a vote of 4,302 to 4,087. Two years later, DeFino retired and Sires succeeded him as mayor.

Sires backed Gov. Christine Todd Whitman for re-election in 1997 against Democrat James E. McGreevey. Two years later, Hudson County Democrats dumped four-term incumbent Louis Romano from the organization line and backed Sires for State Assembly. He won the Democratic primary by almost 10,000 votes.

Hours after McGreevey was elected governor in 2001 – and Democrats captured a majority in the State Assembly for the first time in a decade -- Sires found himself to be one of the luckiest men in the history of the state.

Team McGreevey wanted to make sure that Bayonne’s Joe Doria didn’t become Assembly Speaker, so his allies put together enough votes to give the job to Sires.

While serving as the third most powerful state officeholder, Sires kept his more important job – as Mayor of West New York.

He went to Congress in a November 2006 special election as a replacement for Bob Menendez, who had been appointed to the United States Senate.

Sires has had no trouble winning re-election. He was on the winning side of a Hudson County Democratic warette in 2018, and led a campaign that helped his close ally win the West New York mayoral race in 2019.

In 2020, Sires faced two primary opponents: progressive Hector Oseguera and Will Sheehan, a promising U.S. Naval Academy graduate from Bayonne.

In the end, the challenge was much ado about nothing. Sires won 70%-27%, as candidates with the backing of the Hudson County Democratic organization always do.

In the general election, Sires faces attorney Jason Todd Mushnick.

It would be easy to dismiss Mushnick entirely – he’s mounted virtually no campaign, raised no money, and couldn’t produce a photo – but sometimes sacrificial lamb Republicans from Hudson County wind up spending sixteen years in Congress.
EIGHTH DISTRICT: ALBIO SIRES VS. JASON TODD MUSHNICK

NJ-8

Bergen County: Fairview.

Essex County: Belleville and Newark (part)

Hudson County: Bayonne (part), East Newark, Guttenberg, Harrison, Hoboken, Jersey City (part), Kearny (part), North Bergen, Union City, Weehawken and West New York.

Union County: Elizabeth

NEW JERSEY GLOBE RATING: SAFE DEMOCRATIC

REP. ALBIO SIRES
PHOTO BY Kevin Sanders for the New Jersey Globe

JASON MUSHNICK
PHOTO BY Ballotpedia
GET THE EXPERTS FROM PSI ON YOUR SIDE

414 River View Plaza,
Trenton, NJ 08611
609-393-7799
NJPSI.COM
ROUND WORLD CONSULTING

is proud to support

NEW JERSEY GLOBE

&

WOULD LIKE TO WISH

ALL OF OUR CLIENTS

SUCCESS ON NOVEMBER 3rd

Sean M. Darcy, President
PO Box 397, Belmar, NJ 07719 | 609-610-0543
BILL PASCRELL is 83, but put him in a cage fight with any other congressman and it’s entirely conceivable that the tough-as-nails streetfighter from Paterson would emerge victorious.

The former high school teacher worked his way up the political ladder, going from school board member to Passaic County Democratic Chairman to assemblyman to mayor of the state’s third-largest city.

In 1996, at age 59, Pascrell became a congressman.

The Passaic County-based congressional district had sent a Democrat to Congress since Charles Joelson won the seat on a ticket with John F. Kennedy in 1960, until the Republican wave in Bill Clinton’s 1994 mid-term election. One-term Democrat Herb Klein was defeated by Bill Martini, a Passaic County freeholder (and now a federal judge.)

Pascrell challenged Martini, and in a district where Clinton beat Dole by 24 points, 58%-34%, he unseated the freshman GOP congressman by a narrow 51%-48% margin.

Since then, he’s won eleven straight general elections with ease – he’s never dropped below 61% and he’s won his last two races with 86% in 2016 and 81% in 2018.

Eight years ago, it looked like Pascrell might be on the way out.

New Jersey lost a House seat after the 2010 census and the new map put Pascrell and fellow Democratic Rep. Steve Rothman in the same district.

The new district was more Bergen than Rothman, and at first, Pascrell was dismissed as a goner. His prospects were bleak enough that he momentarily considered running again for his old job as mayor in 2014, if he lost his seat in Congress.

In what might be one of the best campaigns of the decade, Pascrell was a bulldog. He turned out a huge number of votes in Paterson and overpowered Rothman by a not-even-close 61%-39% margin.

This year, progressive Zina Spezakis spent $305,000 of her own money challenging Pascrell in the Democratic primary. Pascrell obliterated her, 81%-17%.

Now in his 24th year in Congress, Pascrell recently assumed the chairmanship of the powerful House Ways and Means Oversight Subcommittee following the death of John Lewis.

Unencumbered by the need for any filter, Pascrell has emerged as one of New Jersey’s most vociferous critics of Donald Trump.

In his bid for a 13th term – the last one under the current map – Pascrell faces Republican Billy Prempeh, a young Air Force veteran. Prempeh has been loud on social media, but this is a solid Democratic district.
NINTH DISTRICT: BILL PASCARELL, JR. VS. BILLY PREMPEH

NJ-9

Bergen County: Carlstadt, Cliffside Park, Cresskill, East Rutherford, Edgewater, Elmwood Park, Englewood, Englewood Cliffs, Fort Lee, Garfield, Hasbrouck Heights, Leonia, Little Ferry, Lyndhurst, Moonachie, North Arlington, Palisades Park, Ridgefield, Ridgefield Park, Rutherford, Saddle Brook, South Hackensack, Teaneck (part, also 5th), Tenafly, Teterboro, Wallington and Wood-Ridge

Hudson County: Kearny (part), Secaucus.

Passaic County: Clifton, Haledon, Hawthorne, Passaic, Paterson and Prospect Park.

NEW JERSEY GLOBE RATING: SAFE DEMOCRATIC

REP. BILL PASCARELL
PHOTO BY Kevin Sanders for the New Jersey Globe

REPUBLICAN CONGRESSIONAL CANDIDATE BILLY PREMPEH
PHOTO BY billy2020nj.com
“Our state has never faced a more difficult challenge than the COVID-19 crisis, and when we needed him the most, Governor Phil Murphy rose to the occasion. By putting our health and safety ahead of all other concerns, listening to science and following data, Governor Murphy has saved lives and helped us weather this unprecedented storm. **Now, he's leading New Jersey forward, stronger and fairer than ever.” – Chairman John Currie

---

**The New Jersey Democratic State Committee thanks Governor Murphy for his extraordinary leadership during the COVID-19 crisis.**

John Currie, Chairman  
Peg Schaffer, Vice Chair  
Saily Avelenda, Executive Director
New Jersey Globe Power Hour

New Jersey Globe, the undisputed leader in political news coverage in the Garden State, has launched the New Jersey Globe Power Hour, a 60-minute weekly radio show on WABC 770. Hosted by the Globe’s editor in chief, David Wildstein, the New Jersey Globe Power Hour will cover the state’s political players with the same unmatched nose for news, scoops, and intrigue that has made the site the go-to first read for elected officials, lobbyists, political junkies and anyone who needs to know what’s happening from Trenton to Washington.

Every week’s Power Hour will feature interviews with power players and discussion of the week that was and the week that’s coming.

DETAILS:
New Jersey Globe Power Hour airs every Saturday from 5-6 pm on WABC and WLIR

Facts about WABC/WLIR reach/audience

Listeners Per Week - 309,000
• Weekly Time Spent Listening - 3:30
• Median Age - 59
• The New Jersey Globe Power Hour will be simulcast on WLIR, broadening reach of the show and hitting weekenders on Eastern Long Island

CONTACT:
KEVIN SANDERS
General Manager
201.724.0340
kevin@njglobe.com
THE COOK Political Report calls New Jersey’s 10th district is one of the ten most Democratic congressional districts in the United States, and would send a stuffed turtle to Congress – as long as he or she won the primary.

For more than 80 years, the 10th was represented by nationally prominent legislators whose legacies continue today: Republican Fred Hartley, the sponsor of the Taft-Hartley Act, who served from 1929 to 1949; Democrat Peter Rodino, who chaired the House Judiciary Committee during Watergate – and who won the seat when it was a swing district and held it from 1949 to 1989; and Democrat Donald Payne, a trailblazer who became the state’s first Black congressman in 1989 and chaired the Congressional Black Caucus and the House Foreign Affairs Subcommittee on Africa and Global Health.

Payne died in March 2012 at age 77, less than a month before the filing deadline.

The winner of the Democratic primary was Donald Payne, Jr., a Newark city councilman and Essex County freeholder and the son of the late congressman. With the Essex organization line, Payne defeated Newark City Councilman Ronald C. Rice by a 60%-20% margin, with State Sen. Nia Gill finishing third with 17 in a six-candidate race.

Payne is not likely to be remembered the way Hartley, Rodino and his father are, but he has secured a subcommittee chairmanship – he runs the Homeland Security Emergency Preparedness, Response and Communications panel – when Democrats took control of the House.

It’s not clear how long the 61-year-old Democrat will remain in Congress, largely because that is completely dependent upon retaining support of the Essex Democrats. He is under the political protection of his uncle, 88-year-old former Assemblyman William Payne, still a powerful and respected figure in Newark.

Payne might struggle if he faced a real race. He’s an extraordinarily sluggish fundraiser, but he’s not disliked and sometimes underserved by the quality of those around him.

In 2020, he faced two opponents in the Democratic primary. Eugene Mazo, an accomplished Rutgers law professor whose work on election matters has won him national acclaim, is the kind of deep thinker that in another part of the state could be the next Andy Kim or Tom Malinowski. Payne won 88%-7%.

Republicans have nominated Jen Zinone, a Bayonne community leader running as a conservative in a district that gave Donald Trump just 13% four years ago.

Zinone is working harder than most Republicans do in a district where hitting 15% would be a moral victory.

In a district like the 10th, where the last Republican to get more than 40% of the vote was George Addonizio in 1956, Zinone’s best hope is that she does well enough in blue collar Bayonne to serve as a launching pad for a city council seat in 2022.

VOTER REGISTRATION:
DEMOCRATIC: 298,346
REPUBLICAN: 29,937
UNAFFILIATED: 170,994

PAST ELECTION RESULTS:
2018: PAYNE 87.6%
2016: PAYNE 85.7%
2014: PASCRELL 85.4%

PAST ELECTION RESULTS:
2016: CLINTON 85%, TRUMP 13%
2012: OBAMA 88%, ROMNEY 12%
TENTH DISTRICT: DONALD PAYNE, JR. VS. JEN ZINONE

NJ-10

Essex County: Bloomfield (part), East Orange, Glen Ridge, Irvington, Maplewood, Montclair (part; also 11th), Newark (part; also 8th), Orange, South Orange, and West Orange (part).

Hudson County: Bayonne (part), Jersey City (part).

Union County: Hillside, Linden, Rahway, Roselle, Roselle Park, Union Township (part)

NEW JERSEY GLOBE RATING: SAFE DEMOCRATIC

REP. DONALD M. PAYNE, JR.
PHOTO BY Kevin Sanders for the New Jersey Globe

JEN ZINONE
PHOTO BY Jen Zinone for Congress Facebook
The only impossible journey is the one you never begin.

- Tony Robbins
We think this sums it up...

**PARANO & ASSOCIATES**
women won the right to vote in 1920, the campaign between freshman Democratic Rep. Mikie Sherrill and Republican Rosemary Becchi is just the fifth time both major parties have nominated a woman to run against each other for the U.S. House of Representatives.

In the 650 congressional races in New Jersey since women won the right to vote 100 years ago, two major party women running for Congress happened just four times before Sherrill vs. Becchi.

The incumbent two years ago was Rodney Frelinghuysen, a pedigreed Republican who had been in Congress for 24 years and was at the pinnacle of his 44-year political career as chairman of the almighty House Appropriations Committee.

Frelinghuysen, the great-great-great-great grandson of a Revolutionary War General who served as New Jersey’s U.S. Senator from 1793 to 1796, was facing a political insurgency following the election of Donald Trump.

The longtime congressman had made some fatal mistakes.

His refusal to hold Town Hall meetings helped launch a formidable grassroots organization, NJ 11th for Change. When Frelinghuysen wrote to the employer of a leader of that group complaining about her activism, he found himself unable to keep his head above water.

Frelinghuysen’s district had become more Democratic after he gave up GOP towns for the greater good of a Republican map in 2011. The 11th had 24,176 more Republicans than Democrats in 2012; by Election Day 2018, the GOP edge had shrunk to 6,159.

Frelinghuysen’s general election percentage had dropped below 60% for the first time in 2016. Trump carried the district by one point that year, five points behind where Mitt Romney was in 2012.

Sherrill appeared out of thin air in 2017 to emerge as a challenger to Frelinghuysen, who had never had a serious general election challenge in a career that began in 1974.

For Democrats, she was out of central casting in a district that had sent a Republican to Congress for 34 years. Sherrill was an Annapolis graduate, a U.S. Navy helicopter pilot, an Assistant U.S. Attorney, and a mother of four. Sherrill did so well raising money – more than $1.2 million by the end of 2017 – that she frightened Frelinghuysen into retirement.

She won her House race by 46,262 votes, 47%-42%, against a veteran Republican assemblyman in a Democratic wave election.

Even before she went to Congress, Democrats began touting the 48-year-old Sherrill as a possible statewide candidate. That speculation continues.

At first, Republicans struggled to find a candidate. One unknown contender got in the race, but withdrew after struggling to be taken seriously because he was living in California and had never lived in New Jersey before – and because he had posted some strange stuff online.

For a while, it looked as though the nomination would go to Republican stalwart Larry Casha, but early this year the GOP had a different idea.

They convinced Rosemary Becchi, a former U.S. Senate Finance Committee tax
ELEVENTH DISTRICT: MIKIE SHERRILL VS. ROSEMARY BECCHI

counsel and lobbyist, to drop her challenge to Tom Kean, Jr. in the 7th district Republican primary and take on Sherrill instead. Republicans then got Casha to drop out and cleared the field for Becchi.

Becchi had barely begun to situate herself to her new district when the coronavirus pandemic temporarily halted her ability to campaign in person. It severely limited her fundraising opportunities; she raised $1.3 million, while Sherrill brought in almost $6.2 million.

Fundraising challenges for Becchi have enabled Sherrill to build a war chest. As of the middle of October, she had nearly $3.7 million cash-on-hand.

Sherrill and Becchi emerged as candidates with vastly different beliefs, disagreeing on abortion, guns, health care and law enforcement. Sherrill hammered her opponent for her work as a Washington lobbyist, while Becchi criticized the incumbent for voting with House Speaker Nancy Pelosi 99% of the time.

NJ-11

**Essex County:** Bloomfield (part), Caldwell, Cedar Grove, Essex Fells, Fairfield, Livingston, Montclair (part), North Caldwell, Nutley, Roseland, Verona, West Caldwell, West Orange (part).

**Morris County:** Boonton Town, Boonton Township, Butler, Chatham Borough, Chatham Township, Denville, East Hanover, Florham Park, Hanover, Harding, Jefferson Township, Kinnelon, Lincoln Park, Madison, Mendham Borough, Mendham Township, Montville, Morris Plains, Morris Township, Morristown Town, Mountain Lakes, Parsippany-Troy Hills, Pequannock, Randolph Township, Riverdale, Rockaway Borough, Rockaway Township and Victory Gardens.

**Passaic County:** Bloomingdale, Little Falls, North Haledon, Pompton Lakes, Totowa, Wanaque, Wayne and Woodland Park.

**Sussex County:** Byram Township, Hopatcong, Ogdensburg, Sparta Township and Stanhope.

NEW JERSEY GLOBE RATING: LIKELY DEMOCRATIC

REP. MIKIE SHERRILL.
PHOTO BY Kevin Sanders for the New Jersey Globe

REPUBLICAN CONGRESSIONAL CANDIDATE ROSEMARY BECCHI
PHOTO BY Courtesy of Rosemary Becchi
The 11th now has 8,088 more Democrats than Republicans, and leaders from both parties seem to agree that Sherrill is on her way to being re-elected.

For Sherrill, that’s not accidental. She’s been campaigning non-stop for three years and has been an active incumbent in her district. The Democrat seems to have captured her district in a way that is reminiscent of the way Republican Christopher Smith was able to hold on to a Democratic seat in the 1980s.

In her first bid for public office, this is not the campaign Becchi imagined or wanted. But taking on Sherrill was, by all accounts, the right move for her. It’s unlikely that she could have overtaken Kean, who dominated Republican conventions held before COVID-19 hit.

Becchi has made some rookie mistakes, but seemed to become more relatable late in the campaign when she addressed personal health challenges in her family and highlighted her relationship with her young autistic nephew.

As a freshman congresswoman, Sherrill landed the chair of the House Science Space and Technology Subcommittee on Environment – an impressive task considering her vote against Pelosi for Speaker on her first day in Congress.

As Sherrill spends more time in Washington, she will undoubtedly find some of the luster of her life story replaced with scrutiny of her voting record.

Sherrill seems to know that, since she’s careful to remain somewhere between liberal and moderate in a district that still leans, albeit slightly, to the Republican side of the center. Strong personal and political relationships with conservatives – and some Republicans – give her cover.
CONGRESSWOMAN Bonnie Watson Coleman has enjoyed a storied and trailblazing career in New Jersey politics, and one that began at age 52 after a long career in state government.

Her father, John S. Watson, was a political legend in Mercer County. He became the first Black to serve on the Board of Freeholders in 1970, spent six terms in the New Jersey State Assembly, and served as Chairman of the powerful Appropriations Committee.

Watson Coleman ran for her father’s old Assembly seat in 1997 and scored a near 2-1 victory in a year when the heavily Democratic legislative district still had a Republican state senator. She won re-election by big margins eight times.

From 2002 to 2006, Watson Coleman served as New Jersey Democratic State Chair, the first Black and the second woman to hold the job. In 2006, she became the Assembly Majority Leader. She sought to become the Assembly Speaker after the 2009 elections, but the post went to Sheila Oliver, an Essex County Democrat who was the beneficiary of a deal that replaced Richard Codey as Senate President with Steve Sweeney.

Watson Coleman got a career lifeline in 2014 when Democrat Rush Holt retired after sixteen years in Congress. She won a tough primary by 5,514 votes against State Sen. Linda Greenstein, 43%-28%, in a field that included Assemblyman Upendra Chivukula and future Assemblyman Andrew Zwicker.

In a district that became safe Democrat after the last round of redistricting, Watson Coleman has easily won three general elections.

She became the first Black woman to represent New Jersey in Congress, and was for four years the only woman in the New Jersey delegation. Now there are two.

Over the last few years, Watson Coleman has won the most important fight of her life: she successfully battled cancer.

Now, as a 75-year-old, three-term congresswoman, she has a seat on the powerful House Appropriations Committee.

She has allied herself squarely with the progressive wing of the Democratic Party, in New Jersey and in Washington. She is one of the most stridently anti-Trump members of the New Jersey delegation.

Her Republican opponent this year is Mark Razzoli, an Old Bridge councilman and retired Jersey City police officer who switched parties in 2019 after losing a Democratic primary for mayor.

Razzoli is one of just two incumbent officeholders in the state to challenge a sitting Member of Congress. His campaign has been relatively quiet, especially in comparison to his bid for mayor.

The barometer of success for Razzoli is how he does in his hometown against Watson Coleman, who carried the Republican-controlled Old Bridge with 53% in 2018. The only place Razzoli really has to go is if a retirement or redistricting opens up a State Assembly seat, and his future viability might be determined by his performance on November 3.

**VOTER REGISTRATION:**
DEMOCRATIC: 232,328
REPUBLICAN: 82,738
UNAFFILIATED: 198,614

**PAST ELECTION RESULTS:**
2018: WATSON COLEMAN 69%
2016: WATSON COLEMAN 63%
2014: WATSON COLEMAN 61%

**PAST ELECTION RESULTS:**
2016: CLINTON 65%, TRUMP 32%
2012: OBAMA 67%, ROMNEY 32%
TWELFTH DISTRICT: BONNIE WATSON COLEMAN VS. MARK RAZZOLI

NJ-12

Mercer County: East Windsor Township, Ewing Township, Hightstown, Hopewell Borough, Hopewell Township, Lawrence Township, Pennington, Princeton, Trenton and West Windsor Township

Middlesex County: Cranbury Township, Dunellen, East Brunswick Township, Helmetta, Jamesburg, Middlesex, Milltown, Monroe Township, North Brunswick Township, Old Bridge Township (part, also 6th), Plainsboro Township, South Brunswick Township, South River Borough, and Spotswood Borough

Somerset County: Bound Brook, Franklin Township, Manville and South Bound Brook

Union County: Fanwood, Plainfield, Scotch Plains (part).

NEW JERSEY GLOBE RATING: SAFE DEMOCRATIC

Rep. Bonnie Watson Coleman
Photo by: bonnieforcongress.com

Republican Congressional Candidate Mark Razzoli
Photo by: markrazzoli.com
NEW JERSEY STATE SENATE AND ASSEMBLY
25TH DISTRICT

SENATE: ANTHONY M. BUCCO VS. RUPANDE MEHTA
ASSEMBLY: AURA DUNN VS. DARCY DRAEGER

THIS NOVEMBER, New Jersey will have two special legislative elections in legislative district 25. Both elections were triggered when long-time Republican State Senator Anthony R. Bucco died of a heart attack last September.

He had held the seat since ousting a Democratic incumbent in 1997, and had been re-elected by stable margins during most of his tenure.

Anthony M. Bucco was facing a difficult campaign for re-election to the State Assembly in 2019 when his father died. He 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.

Democrats nearly ousted Senator Anthony R. Bucco in 2017 and made a big play to pick up two Assembly seats in the 25th in 2019.

Bucco won by more than 3,000 votes, despite being perhaps the only candidate in New Jersey history to tell voters he had no intention of taking the Assembly seat if he won.

Republicans picked Aura Dunn, a former district director for Rep. Rodney Frelinghuysen and a onetime U.S. Senate staffer and Sesame Street lobbyist, to take Bucco’s Assembly seat. (Actually, they picked her twice. She filled Bucco’s vacancy in November, but had to leave the legislature for a short time before the GOP was able to reseat her in January.)

On March 15, at the start of the coronavirus pandemic, Mehta won the endorsement of the Morris County Democrats in an online convention by just two votes against former Morris Township Mayor Jeff Grayzel.

Mehta won 136 to 134, with attorney Cliff Dawkins finishing third with 71 votes.

Darcy Draeger, a farmer and Chester Democratic Municipal Chair, is making her second bid for the Assembly after losing to Bucco and Brian Bergen last year.

Some say this is the Charlie Brown district, where Democrats keep convincing themselves they can win, but rarely do. They haven’t won a State Senate seat in the 25th since 1993, and no Assembly seats since 1977.

Four years ago, Hillary Clinton carried the 25th over Donald Trump by a mere 18 votes. Since then, Democrats have bridged the GOP voter registration edge from about 16,000 more Republicans than Democrats to just 4,195.

VOTER REGISTRATION:
DEMOCRATIC: 51,605
REPUBLICAN: 55,800
UNAFFILIATED: 59,005

PAST ELECTION RESULTS:
2019: BUCCO 27%, BERGEN 26%, BHIMANI 24%, DRAEGER 23%
2017 SENATE: BUCCO 52%, BHIMANI 48%
2017 ASSEMBLY: CARROLL 26%, BUCCO 26%, MORAN 24%, CORCORAN 24%

2016: CLINTON 65%, TRUMP 32%
2012: OBAMA 67%, ROMNEY 32%
In 2018, Mikie Sherrill and Tom Malinowski won the 25th by a combined 9,479 votes. So, for this race, all eyes are on the top of the ticket.

Democrats have polling that shows Joe Biden with a big lead in the 25th. They expect U.S. Senator Cory Booker to carry the district and see Sherrill winning her towns by big margins. They’re hoping Malinowski can keep the western 25th towns from being a blowout against Tom Kean, Jr.

That’s a big advantage for Mehta and Draeger, who could be the recipient of the kind of coattails Democrats haven’t seen in this district since Brendan Byrne swept three Democrats into the legislature — and one to the Board of Freeholders — in 1973.

Mehta has emerged as a strong candidate and has a compelling life story as someone who became an American citizen just four years ago.

But Bucco is a skilled campaigner and tactician and has taken this election seriously.

He’s got a solid base among Republicans – he’s pro-life and has an 87% rating from the National Rifle Association, and has won endorsements from the New Jersey Education Association, the AFL-CIO, and the state PBA.

He’s also used his incumbency well. He’s emerged as a critic of Gov. Phil Murphy’s decision to close businesses during the global health pandemic and has taken a leading role in calling

**NEW JERSEY GLOBE RATING:**
**LEANS REPUBLICAN**

**NJ-25**

**Morris County:** Boonton Town, Boonton Township, Chester Borough, Chester Township, Denville Township, Dover, Mendham Borough, Mendham Township, Mine Hill, Morris Township, Morristown, Mount Arlington, Mountain Lakes, Netcong, Randolph, Rockaway Borough, Roxbury, Victory Gardens, Washington and Wharton Borough.

**Somerset County:** Bernardsville.

**STATE SEN. ANTHONY M. BUCCO**

**PHOTO BY** Nikita Biryukov for the New Jersey Globe

**DEMOCRATIC STATE SENATE CANDIDATE RUPANDE MEHTA**

**PHOTO BY** RupandeMehta.com
out massive lines and bureaucratic failures at the state Motor Vehicle Commission. Still, he faces the first federal election year race of his political career. More than one out of four voters who have cast mail-in ballots either have never voted for Bucco or haven’t voted for him in at least the last three elections.

Both parties agree that Dunn’s fate is largely tied to Bucco’s. She has run in two primaries and two special election conventions, but this is the first time Dunn’s name will appear on a general election ballot. Dunn needs Bucco’s coattails as much as Mehta needs Biden’s.

Dunn has been a strong advocate of children and families during her short time in the legislature. She learned some hard lessons from her early campaigns and has told her own story: her father was a Vietnam veteran who won a Purple Heart in the Marine Corps, and she grew up in a single parent home where her mother was a construction worker.

She’s also hurled the same attacks against Draeger that the GOP used last year, inaccurately called Draeger a fake farmer – something her sheep, chickens and beehives prove differently.

Draeger has been campaigning non-stop since late 2018 and has the benefit of campaigning last year. She gave up a career in finance to work on her farm, and like Sherril, she’s staked out a more moderate position on issues than Mehta.

Democrats think they can eke out an Assembly seat even if Bucco wins, but a Mehta victory would give them a clean sweep. Bucco has been underestimated in the past and has shown that’s not a smart strategy.
New Jersey District 25 Map Series

2012 Results
- Romney: 53.7%
- Obama: 45.3%
- R: +8.6%

2016 Results
- Clinton: 48.14%
- Trump: 48.12%
- D: +0.02%

2017 Results
- GOP: 52.3%
- DEM: 47.7%
- R: +4.6%

2019 Results
- GOP: 52.7%
- DEM: 47.3%
- R: +5.4%

Made by @HWLavelleMaps using QGIS
Data from NJ Board of Elections
Assembly Results calculated by combining Dem and Rep totals

New Jersey Senate District 25 Election - 2017

Results
- Bucco Sr: 30,659 (52.2%)
- Bhimani: 28,131 (47.8%)
- R: +4.4%

Made by @HWLavelleMaps
Data from NJ Board of Elections
McELROY, DEUTSCH, MULVANEY & CARPENTER LLP

A DIVERSE PRACTICE THAT PLACES THE CLIENT FIRST.

As one of the largest law firms in New Jersey, MDM&C is proud to represent and support industry and commerce throughout the state. Our unwavering commitment to clients has earned MDM&C a statewide and national reputation for integrity, innovation, and quality.

1300 MOUNT KEMBLE AVENUE, P.O. BOX 2075, MORRISTOWN, NJ 07962-2075
WWW.MDMC-LAW.COM

New Jersey Firefighters Mutual Benevolent Association

PROUDLY ANSWERING THE CALL FOR ALL NEW JERSEY’S RESIDENTS!

Ed Donnelly, President
Wayne Wolk, Vice President
Troy Powell, Treasurer
Rick Myers, Secretary