

Election Basics - Seeing Through the Politics

October - November 2007

Out **IN** Tarsey

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5th ANNIVERSARY ISSUE!

Seeing Through The Politics: A Guide to November's Legislative Race

By Anthony Bullett

The advent of nearly every general election brings with it some political pundit declaring that it is an historic election for one reason or another. This time it is Out IN Jersey strongly urging members of the LGBTI community to vote in this historic election as we initiate expanded political coverage and our first ever endorsement of candidates. It is a new feature for this publication and a necessary one as each election – be it for local, state, or federal officials – either serves to move us forward toward full equality, or stymies the progress that has been made.

This is an historic election because all 120 seats in the New Jersey State Legislature are open and the outcome could well determine the approval of marriage equality. Currently, there are Democratic majorities in both the Senate and General Assembly. The Democratic majorities over the past few years were key to our progress toward full marriage equality that began with domestic partnerships and continued with civil unions. With a Democratic majority in the next session of the Legislature, the vote on marriage has a better chance of passage. As such, it would be easy for us to endorse only Democratic candidates. However, we do cross party lines and support those few Republicans

who stand with us.

Our endorsement process included looking at votes on three key pieces of legislation: 1) A3787 which established civil unions, 2) S362 which amended the Laws Against Discrimination to include transgendered people and, 3) S2820 – The Bloodborne Disease Harm Reduction Act (though not a specific LGBT issues, it does provide an effective weapon for AIDS reduction by establishing needle exchange programs). For an historical perspective we looked at A3743 which established domestic partnerships. Discussions were also held with LGBT individuals from throughout the state, and in some cases contact was made with candidates seeking their positions on marriage equality.

In addition to a victory on marriage, we expect movement in the Legislature on other issues as well. The hate crimes bill needs to be improved and the legislature must work to consolidate the statutes governing the dissolution of relationships; currently the are procedures for divorce and separate regulations for the dissolution of civil unions and domestic partnerships, which together make for confusing situations for the legal community and for lesbian and gay couples who choose to dissolve their relationships. We need a serious and thoughtful discussion on Governor Corzine's forthcoming proposal on asset

monetization. The Legislature should revise its recently passed ban on dual office holding so that it takes effect immediately and includes those who also work for government entities. There should be comprehensive ethics reform that includes a ban on "pay to play" at all levels of the government. Finally, we need a comprehensive pension reform bill that does away with all of the special deals agreed to by both the Legislative and Executive branches and that restricts who can be part of the state paid pension plan.

The bottom line

We need to elect a legislature that is not only responsive to the specific needs of the LGBTI community, but one that also takes action on lowering spending, reducing property taxes, making needed investments in infrastructure, and reforming education at all levels. Our legislators must be held accountable for the support they receive. We urge members of the community to vote en masse on Election Day – Tuesday, November 5th (last day to register or change your address is October 16th). We are advocating that the community vote to retain the Democrat majorities in both the Senate and General Assembly. We are also imploring the Republicans to get on board for marriage and to work with Democrats to make our state more livable and affordable.

SOUTHERN NEW JERSEY Districts 1 – 11 and 30

Our endorsements are noted in blue. Incumbents are in bold and noted with an asterik *

District 1: Jeff Van Drew
Nicholas Asselta*
Nelson Albano*
Michael J. Donohue
Matthew Milliam
R. Norris Clark

District 1 comprises the counties of Cape May, Cumberland, and Atlantic including the communities of Cape May, the Wildwoods, Stone Harbor, Avalon, Vineland, and Millville. This is a competitive district where the Democrats are slowly unseating the Republicans in the state offices. Assemblyperson Van Drew won his seat in 2001 by beating an incumbent Republican and it was his strong showing in 2005 that helped to sweep Assemblyperson Albano into office ousting

another incumbent Republican. This year the Democrats are hoping that Van Drew's popularity will help capture the remaining Republican seat. Both Van Drew and Albano have been supporters of our community in the Assembly while Asselta voted against domestic partnerships and civil unions. We would expect Mr. Milliam, an owner of a trucking company, to follow the voting patterns of his running mates.

District 2: James Whelan
James "Sonny" McCullough*
Blondell Spellman
Vince Polistina
Joseph Kuehner
John Amodeo

District 2 comprises most of Atlantic County including Atlantic City. This district is one of the crown jewels sought by the Democrats who have chipped away at this longstanding Republican district that is now almost equally split between the two parties in terms of voter registrations. For many years the district was represented by Republican Senator Bill Gormley, a staunch advocate for the casino industry. Senator Gormley resigned earlier this year and was replaced by Egg Harbor Township Mayor James "Sonny" McCullough, a decidedly more conservative Republican than Gormley. Senator McCullough is also employed by the South Jersey Transportation Authority which means he now has three government jobs (a triple dipper) showing the hypocrisy of the Republicans who say they want a ban on

dual office holding but said nothing when Senator McCullough was elected. Assemblyperson Whelan is a former Atlantic City mayor who is now completing his first term in the Assembly. The Democrats are banking on his strength to capture this district and we endorse the Democratic slate for this election.

District 3: **Stephen Sweeney***
Mark Cimino
John Burzichelli*
Phil Donohue
Douglas Fisher*
Jeffrey Stepler

District 3 comprises all of Salem County and parts of Cumberland and Gloucester Counties in southwestern New Jersey. At 788.55 square miles, District 3 is the state's largest district and least densely populated with only 265 people per square mile. As a largely rural area one would think this would be a rather conservative district that would be a Republican stronghold. But, like most of South Jersey, the demographics are changing and with it the politics of the district. The three Democratic candidates have all been in office since 2001 and are pro labor and pro gay rights. As such, we expect that this district will remain in the Democratic column.

District 4: **Fred Madden, Jr.***
John Jankowski
Paul Moriarity*
Shelley Lovett
Sandra Love
Patricia Fratticcioli

District 4 comprise ten municipalities in Gloucester and Camden counties located south of Camden. In 2003 this was the battleground district with Senator Madden, a former acting superintendent of the New Jersey State Police, defeating his Republican opponent by just 63 votes. The two candidates spent nearly \$6 million on the Senate race. This time around it appears things are much tamer. We endorse Senator's Madden's bid for re-election and with a name like Sandra Love, what is not to love?! While Assemblyperson Moriarity, a former television news reporter in Philadelphia, has been a friend to our community we offer him a qualified endorsement simply because he also serves as Mayor of Washington Township. Since the Legislature has not taken dual office holding seriously enough it is time the people voiced their concern about this issue that increases the public pensions of these officials while adding to the billions in under-funded pension liabilities. Both political parties must reach out more and become committed to diversity in every respect to end this unsavory practice of dual (and triple) office.

District 5: **Dana Redd**
Hans Berg
Joe Roberts*
Edward Torres
Nilsa Cruz-Perez*
Jonathan Mangel

District 5 comprises portions of Gloucester and Camden Counties in and around the City of Camden. It is the poorest of all the districts. A Democratic stronghold, largely due to the domination of Camden, it is also a Democratic powerbase as it is currently represented by the powerful (former) chairman of the Senate Appropriations Committee Wayne Bryant, and the Speaker of the General Assembly Joe Roberts. But, just as Camden is often rocked by scandal, the district finds itself in the midst of scandal with the indictment this spring of Senator Byrant on federal corruption charges. He chose not to seek reelection and is being replaced on the ticket by Camden City Councilperson Dana Redd. Speaker Roberts has been a true friend to our community and has pledged to bring the same sex marriage vote to the floor. In offering him our support, we are expecting him to produce for us. Assemblyperson Cruz-Perez is not supported due to her abstention on civil unions (she did support domestic partnerships). She, too, is a double dipper of sorts as she is employed by the Camden County Improvement Authority. As for the Republican candidates in this district we applaud them for their efforts since the party abandoned the district in 2005.

District 6: **John Adler***
Joseph A. Adolf
Louis Greenwald*
Bradley Mattison
Pamela Lampitt*
JoAnn Gurenlian

District 6 comprises 16 communities in northern Camden County including Cherry Hill. It is another Democratic stronghold represented by Senator John Adler, Chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee, Assemblyperson Louis Greenwald, chairman of the Assembly Appropriations Committee, and first-termer Assemblyperson Pamela Lampitt, Vice-Chair of the Assembly Higher Education Committee. We support their reelection bids as they have voted for us on key legislative issues.

District 7: **Richard Dennison, Jr.**
Diane Allen*
Jack Connors*
Brian Propp
Herb Conaway*
Nancy Griffin

District 7 comprises several municipalities in Camden and Burlington Counties. It is an interesting district in that this more liberal, working class section of Burlington County is represented in the Senate by a Republican. Senator Allen's local celebrity status as a former news anchor in Philadelphia may have helped to propel her into the Legislature. The Republicans are hoping that lightning may strike twice with yet another "celebrity" running, Brian Propp who is a former All-Star hockey player for the Philadelphia Flyers. "Non-celebrity" Republican candidate Ms. Griffin is a local attorney. Senator Allen likes to bill herself as a moderate Republican who herself was the victim of discriminatory practices in the workplace. Yet, when it comes to our issues she is noticeably absent. She was absent from the votes both on domestic partnerships and civil unions. Assemblypersons Connors and Conaway were there and voted in favor of both. Challenger Richard Dennison has voiced his support of our civil rights and will probably be there to actually vote on them.

District 8: **Frances Bodine**
Phil Haines
Tracy Riley
Dawn Marie Addiego
Christopher Fifis
Scott Rudder

District 8 comprises several wealthy communities in Burlington County as well as vast undeveloped areas including the New Jersey Pinelands. Like District 7, the state representation is split currently between the two parties. But do not be fooled as there is a wolf in sheep's clothing. Assemblyperson Bodine switched parties earlier this year when he failed to win party support for the Republican slot. He may be a Democrat on paper but his votes are all Republican and we do not support his candidacy at all. We have not received sufficient information from the other candidates to make any endorsements. We can say that it would be nice to get Democratic votes in the Legislature from this district which has been hostile to gay and lesbian rights.

District 9: **Russell Corby**
Christopher Connors
William Coulter
Brian Rumpf*
Michele Rosen
Daniel Van Pelt

District 9 comprises southern Ocean County along with portions of Atlantic and Burlington Counties. It is primarily a coastal area where tourism is big and it is a favorite area for those aged 65 and older.

Assemblyperson Christopher Connors is campaigning to succeed his father as the senator from the district. His spot on the ticket is being filled by Daniel Van Pelt, the Mayor of Ocean Township and yet another prospective dual office holder (more Republican hypocrisy). They are being challenged by the Mayor Russell Corby of Pine Beach, Democratic State Committee member William Coulter who reportedly does not support the marriage issue, and Ocean County College adjunct professor Michele Rosen. It should be noted that as an adjunct professor, Ms. Rosen is not part of a public pension fund and thus her election would not make her a double dipper. But, because Mayor Corby would be a double dipper we offer him a qualified endorsement.

District 10: Britta Forsberg Wenzel
Andrew Ciesla*
David Wolfe*
 John Kaklamanis
Jim Holzapfel*

District 10 comprises 11 communities in Ocean County along with Manasquan in Monmouth County, Bay Head and

Mantoloking, two of the wealthiest communities in New Jersey. With wealth comes conservatism, unfortunately, and this is a Republican district. While it would be nice to see the Republican incumbents ousted, we do not have enough information to offer any endorsements.

District 11: John Villipiano
 Sean Kean
 John Napolitano, Sr.
 David Rible
 John Pimat
 Mary Pat Angelini

District 11 comprises the eastern part of Monmouth County along the New Jersey shore from Manasquan to Atlantic Highlands. It includes a few of the state's wealthiest communities – Deal, Rumson, and Spring Lake – as well as the “gay capital of New Jersey” Asbury Park. Believe it or not, but this district is now a solid Republican district. Sean Kean (pronounced “keen” and not “kane”) is a two term Assemblyperson hoping to fill the seat vacated by the Senate's oldest member, Joe Palaia. He is opposed by John Villipiano – a former NFL player, former

Ocean Township Councilmember, and former Assemblyperson. He is running with two more “Johns” – John Napolitano and John Pimat. They are opposed by David Rible and Mary Pat Angelini. As there are no incumbents running for reelection, this is the time to make some noise and vote for “the Johns.”

District 30: Steven Morlino
 Robert Singer*
 Jeffrey Williamson
Joseph Malone*
 Sharon Atkinson
Ronald Dancer*

District 30 comprises parts of Ocean, Burlington, Mercer and Monmouth Counties and is located in the geographic center of the state. It is currently a Republican district but there are spirited races here that we would like to see go the Democrats' way. Incumbent Senator Singer has been in the Senate since 1993 and is opposed by Howell Township Democratic Chair Steven Morlino. Mr. Morlino's running mates are Jeffrey Williamson of Lakewood and Shan Atkinson of Cookstown.

CENTRAL NEW JERSEY Districts 12 – 25

Our endorsements are noted in blue. Incumbents are in bold and noted with an asterik *

District 12: **Ellen Karcher***
 Jennifer Beck
Mike Panter*
 Declan O'Scanlon
 Amy Mallet
 Caroline Casagrande

District 12 comprises much of western Monmouth County and the northeastern end of Mercer County (Hightstown and East Windsor). A once solidly Republican district and home to the former powerful Senate President John Bennett, it is now a district that remains in play for both parties. Indeed, registrations between the two parties are evenly split. The race for the Senate pits first term incumbent Ellen Karcher, herself the daughter of the late Speaker of Assembly Allan Karcher, against first term Assemblyperson Jennifer Beck. It is a close call between these two women as both of them stand with us. In fact, Beck is noted for saying on the Assembly floor advocating for a vote on same sex marriage and not civil unions. Both of these women are touting ethics reform as Karcher did last time but has been unsuccessful in getting such legisla-

tion passed. Both, too, resigned their local offices when they were elected to the Legislature. We give Karcher the edge, but note that Beck supports of our community. Beck's running mate, Declan O'Scanlon barely lost his Assembly bid in 2005 and is trying once again to join Beck in Trenton. He is running with Caroline Casagrande. Our endorsements are for the Democratic candidates.

District 13: Leonard Inzerillo
Joe Kryillos, Jr.*
 Patricia Walsh
Amy Handlin*
 Robert Brown
Samuel Thompson*

District 13 is comprises northern Monmouth County and Old Bridge in Middlesex County. It is currently a Republican district and lately the most competition has been among the Republicans vying to be on the general election ballot. Of the Republican incumbents, we can say good things about first term Assemblyperson Amy Handlin – who

broke from her district colleagues and voted in favor of civil unions. As a dual officer holder (she is also a Monmouth County Freeholder) we can only offer a qualified endorsement of her. Information on the Democratic candidates was not available so we are not offering any endorsements.

District 14: Seema Singh
 Bill Baroni
Linda Greenstein*
 Adam Bushman
 Wayne DeAngelo
 Thomas Goodwin

District 14 comprises southern Middlesex County and two large townships in central Mercer County. The district is known for its large concentration of state workers who reside here. Neither party can lay claim to this always contentious district. The Senate race has second term Assemblyperson Bill Baroni, who when he was first elected in 2003 was the only non incumbent Republican to be elected in the Assembly, against Seema

Singh, the former Ratepayer Advocate appointed by former Governor McGreevey. We applaud the candidacy of Ms. Singh who is the first Asian American female candidate, but we cannot support her given serious controversies during her tenure as the Ratepayer Advocate. Assemblyperson Baroni, a shining star among Republicans who has stood with us and been honored by us, is a Republican we can enthusiastically support. We also enthusiastically support the reelection of Linda Greenstein. Information on the other Assembly candidates was not available so we are not offering further endorsements. We can say that split ballots are the norm for this district where candidates are judged on their characters versus just their party affiliations.

District 15: Shirley Turner*

Bob Martin
Bonnie Watson Coleman*
Sylveste r“Bobby” Bryant

Reed Gusciora*
Norbert Donnelly

District 15 comprises of most of Mercer County including several wealthy suburban communities such as Princeton as well as the not so wealthy Trenton. It is a solid Democratic district and the Republican candidates are not much more than placeholders on the ballot. The legislative team is led by Senate President Pro Tempore Shirley Turner and includes Assemblypersons Reed Gusciora, the legislature’s only openly gay member, and Bonnie Watson Coleman. This is the team, enough said.

District 16: Christopher Bateman

Michael Fedun
Pete Biondi*
William Kole
Denise Coyle

District 16 comprises several very wealthy communities in Morris County and a few less wealthy communities in Somerset County. Senator Kavanaugh is retiring (thank goodness) and current Assemblyperson “Kip” Bateman is looking to replace him. Bateman has consistently voted with us on major issues and we expect that he would continue to support us in the Senate. Assemblyperson Biondi is seeking reelection along with Somerset County Freeholder Denise Coyle. They are opposed by attorney Michael Fedun and 21-year old upstart William Kole, a student at Fairleigh Dickinson University. Biondi has been a supporter of gay issues and the Democratic candidates have voiced their support of our issues leaving only to question where Ms. Coyle stands on gay and lesbian rights.

District 17: Bob Smith*

John Costello
Joseph Egan*
Matthew House
Upendra Chivukula*
Leonard Messineo

District 17 comprises Franklin Township in Somerset County as well as New Brunswick and four other municipalities in Middlesex County. The Democrats hold a decisive edge here and the three incumbents, Senator Bob Smith, and Assemblypersons Joseph Egan and Upendra Chivukula (the first South Asian to be elected to the legislature) should be reelected. We have been able to count on their support and look forward to working with them in the new legislature.

District 18: Barbara Buono*

Daniel Brown
Peter Barnes III*
William England
Patrick Diegnan*
Joseph Sinagra

District 18 comprises the very densely populated central Middlesex County. The Democrats hold a 2:1 edge in registrations and its legislative team are strong supporters of our community and we are glad to support their reelection bids. They are opposed by East Brunswick attorney Daniel Brown, South River resident William England, and former Helmetta Council President Joseph Sinagra.

District 19: Joseph Vitale*

Donald Nelson
John Wisniewski*
Paul Danielczyk
Joseph Vas*
Reyes Ortega

District 19 comprises the highly densely populated, very diverse, and industrial eastern Middlesex County. All three of its representatives have voted consistently in favor of LGBTI issues. We offer full support for Vitale and Wisniewski and qualified support for Vas who is a dual office holder as he is also the Mayor of Perth Amboy. Their opponents are Donald Nelson of Woodbridge, Iselin realtor Paul “Daniels” Danielczyk, and Perth Amboy restaurateur Reyes Ortega.

District 20: Raymond Lesniak*

Linda Gaglione
Neil Cohen*
Joseph Cryan*

District 20 is comprises most of Union County. We enthusiastically support the

reelection of its legislative team. Senator Lesniak is a strong supporter of marriage equality and pleasantly surprised us earlier this summer by writing about his support in his blog. Assemblyperson Cryan serves as the Chairman of the State Democratic Party.

District 21: Gina Genovese

Thomas Kean, Jr.*
Bruce Bergen
Eric Munoz*
Norman Albert
Jon Brammick*
George DeCarlo
(Green Party)
Ryan Reyes
(Green Party)

District 21 is comprises the affluent, predominantly white, and well-educated communities of Morris County and portions of Somerset and Union Counties. It is a Republican district led by Thomas Kean, Jr., son of the former governor and former (and future?) U.S. Senate candidate. Senator Kean has both talked the talk and walked the walk (surprisingly) and has earned our support. However, he is opposed by an openly gay candidate, Gina Genovese, a Committeemember and former Mayor of Long Hill Township. This is history in the making as we have the opportunity to elect the first openly gay member of the Senate of New Jersey and so we are throwing our support to Ms. Genovese. We are also going out on the limb in this district to endorse the Green Party candidates who are Berkeley Heights residents George DeCarlo and his civil union partner Ryan Reyes. Can you just imagine a legislative district represented by three members of our community? It is probably too good to happen, unfortunately. But if the Republicans prevail as expected, at least they are friendly ones with whom we can discuss the issues and even get their support.

District 22: Nicholas Scutari*

Rose McConnell
Linda Stender*
Bryan DesRochers
Gerald Green*
Robert Gatto

District 22 comprises several municipalities in Middlesex, Somerset and Union Counties, including those eye catching refineries on the New Jersey Turnpike. It is another traditionally Democratic district represented by Senator Scutari and Assemblypersons Gerry Green (Deputy Speaker Pro Tempore) and Linda Stender, a third termmer who narrowly lost her bid to unseat a GOP congressman last year. They are opposed by former Somerset Freeholder Rose McConnell, and Robert Gatto of North Plainfield and Rahway resident, Bryan DesRochers.

District 23: Harvey Baron
Leonard Lance*
 Dominick Santini, Jr.
Michael Doherty*
 Peter Maurer
Maria Karrow*

District 23 comprises all of Warren County and all but two municipalities in Hunterdon County. It is the most populous district, yet one of the most least densely populated districts. It is also the second largest district in terms of land area and includes the scenic treasures of the Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area and the New Jersey Highlands. It is represented by three members of the GOP led by Senate Minority Leader Leonard Lance, who would possibly be the new Senate President should a Republican majority be elected. We are surprised and disappointed that Senator Lance, a rather reasoned person who is the son of the late Senate President Wesley Lance who was “the architect” of the state constitution, for consistently voting against us. So it should come as no surprise or disappointment to him that we do not endorse his reelection. We are endorsing the Democratic slate sort of sight unseen with the expectation of drawing their support on LGBTI issues.

District 24: Edwin Selby
 Steven Oroho
 Toni Zimmer
Allison Littell McHose*
 Patrick Walsh
 Gary Chiusano

District 24 comprises portions of Hunterdon and Warren Counties. It is a traditional Republican district as it boasts the highest percentage of Republicans among registered voters (34.9%) and the lowest percentage of Democrats (10.3%). Senator Robert Littell has represented the district for 40 years – 32 years the General Assembly and the last 18 years in the Senate. His daughter, Allison Littell McHose, is an Assemblyperson from this district, which made this the first father-daughter legislative team. Senator Littell is retiring after a contentious primary fight. Sussex County Freeholder Steven Oroho is seeking to replace him. Current Assemblyperson Gug Gregg lost his bid for the Senate nomination and is replaced by Gary Chiusano, a Sussex County Freeholder and Mayor of Frankford Township (wow, a potential triple dipper!). How about voting instead for Senate candidate Edwin Selby, a college professor along with Assembly candidates Toni Zimmer of Sparta and Patrick Walsh of Budd Lake? We believe they are the better choices.

District 25: Frank Herbert
Anthony Bucco*
 Dana Weber
Rich Merkt*
 Marshall Gates
Michael Patrick Carroll*

District 25 comprises several Morris County communities which are 1) wealthy, 2) not ethnically diverse, 3) conservative, and 4) rather anti-gay. We will not even mention the Republican incumbents who are seeking reelection. Just vote the Democratic ticket for Frank Herbert of Rockaway Township for Senate and Assembly candidates Dana Weber of Lake Hopatcong and former Roxbury Township Councilmember Marshall Giles. We need some friends in this district!

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NORTHERN NEW JERSEY Districts 26 – 40

Our endorsements are noted in blue. Incumbents are in bold and noted with an asterik *

District 26: **Wasim Khan**
Joe Pennacchio
David Modrak
Alex DeCroce*
Wayne Marek
Jay Webber

District 26 comprises communities in Passaic and Morris Counties and is another traditional GOP district. Let us make a new tradition here! Assemblyperson Joseph Pennacchio is seeking the Senate seat held by the retiring Robert Martin. Reportedly, Pennacchio will run for Frank Lautenberg's seat in the U.S. Senate next year. Assembly Minority Leader Alex DeCroce is seeking reelection along with newcomer Jay Webber. Dr. Wasim Khan, an India born doctor is the Democratic candidate for Senate while another doctor and cancer research scientist Dr. David Modrak of Montville is campaigning for the Assembly with Wayne Marek of Morris Plains.

District 27: **Richard Codey***
Marc Cinque

Meyerowitz
John McKeon*

District 27 comprises several communities in Essex County including a portion of Newark. Its delegation is led by Senate President Richard Codey who served two years as Governor (and was Acting Governor earlier this year) following the resignation of Jim McGreevey. Senator Codey has been transformed into a supporter of LGBTI rights and we are basing our marriage rights on his leadership. As of press time, incumbent assemblyperson Hackett resigned and no replacement had yet been named to join assemblyperson McKeon, a loyal supporter, on the ticket. The Republican Senate candidate is North Caldwell resident Marc Cinque and he is joined by Mark Meyerowitz of West Orange. There is only one General Assembly candidate for the GOP and Edward Marable, Jr. is running as an Independent for the Assembly.

District 28: **Ronald Rice***
Herbert Glenn
Ralph Caputo
Michael Lewis
Cleopatra Tucker

Andrew Bloschak

District 28 comprises the City of Newark and has the largest concentration of African American voters of any district. As such, you guessed it, this is a strong Democratic district where Republicans need not apply. The real political battle in this district was in the primary as Newark Mayor Cory Booker sought to further solidify his power by fielding a slate of candidates to oust the incumbents. For the most part he was successful except his chief adversary and former mayoral opponent Senator Ron Rice won his race over Booker's candidate. Sen. Rice's running mates did not fare as well and so there will be two new faces coming to Trenton next year. The all but sure new representatives are Ralph Caputo, Vice President of the Essex County Board of Freeholders, and Cleopatra Tucker who will take the seat once occupied by her late husband and former Assemblyperson and Newark City Councilperson Donald Tucker. Our support for Caputo is qualified because of dual office restrictions. The Republican placeholders are Herbert Glenn for Senate and Assembly candidates Michael Lewis and Andrew Bloschak.

District 29: **Teresa Ruiz**
Al-Samar Douglas
Grace Spencer
Miguel Sanabria
Alberto Coutinho
Elaine Guarino

District 29 comprises much of Newark and the neighboring community of Hillside in Union County. It is second only to the 28th District in percentage of African American voters and fourth highest in Hispanics. But, while it is a Democratic district it is one with a twist. First of all, there are a whole slew of candidates from nine different parties! Essentially, the Republicans have no shot so let us move past them. There is a race within the race for Senate. Assemblyperson William Payne was expecting to be rewarded for years of loyal party service by being selected to run for the seat vacated by Sharpe James. But the powers that be said it was time for new blood and selected Teresa Ruiz to run instead. Assemblyperson Payne is not one to go down without a fight so after skipping the primaries he is back challenging Ruiz as an Independent. Since we are only dealing with the major party candidates we

endorse Ruiz and thank Assemblyperson Payne for his past support.

District 31: Sandra Bolden
Cunningham

Louis Vernotico
Anthony Chiappone
L. Harvey Smith

District 31 comprises Bayonne and part of Jersey City. It is the smallest district in terms of land area but is very densely populated by a highly diverse mix of people. It is a Democratic stronghold where Republicans are not a factor. So, welcome Sandra Bolden Cunningham (widow of the late Jersey City Mayor and State Senator) to the Senate and former Jersey City Council President, Interim Mayor and State Senator L. Harvey Smith. While Bayonne Councilmember and former Assemblyperson Anthony Chiappone will most assuredly be elected too, we are not offering him our endorsement due to his non support of marriage equality.

District 32: **Nicholas Sacco***
John Pluchino
Joan Quigley*
Edward O'Neill
Vincent Prieto*
Jacob Hahn

District 32 comprises parts of Bergen and Hudson Counties and is solidly, solidly Democratic as it has the highest percentage of Democratic voters in the state. So, here we welcome back the incumbents and we look forward to their continued support of LGBTI issues.

District 33: **Brian Stack**
Ruben Ramos, Jr.
Caridad Rodriguez:

District 33 comprises several municipalities in Hudson County and has the highest percentage of Hispanic voters and second highest percentage of Democratic voters. So, it is no wonder there are no Republican candidates. The news is that there will be a new legislative team from this district. Assemblyperson Brian Stack is moving up to the Senate seat vacated by Bernard Kenny to whom we wish a full and speedy recovery from his unfortunate accident earlier this summer. Joining Stack will be Hoboken Councilperson Ruben Ramos, Jr.

and Caridad Rodriguez who is an aide to Congressman and former Speaker of the Assembly Albio Sires.

District 34: Nia Gill*

Sheila Oliver*
Robert Bianco

Thomas Giblin*
Clenard Childress, Jr.

District 34 comprises parts of Essex and Passaic Counties. It is represented by Senator Nia Gill, known for her independence and her braids, and Assemblypersons Sheila Oliver and Thomas Giblin. The Republicans are only fielding candidates for the Assembly races. We want to go on record as *strongly* opposing the candidacy of Rev. Clenard Childress, Jr. who is a Baptist minister running to preserve "traditional marriage."

District 35: John Girgenti*

Chauncey Brown III
Nellie Pou*

District 35 comprises portions of Bergen and Passaic Counties. It is a Democratic district but we can only endorse two of the three incumbents. Senator John Girgenti has been in Senate since 1990 (and spent seven terms in the Assembly) where he is the Democratic Majority Whip. Assemblyperson Nellie Pou is the first woman and first Hispanic to serve from this district and is currently the Chair of the Assembly Appropriations Committee. Incumbent Assemblyperson Alfred Steele resigned in September and, as of press time, no replacement was announced by the Dems. This may be a plus for us as Rev. Steele, a Baptist minister, did not vote for our causes.

District 36:
Paul Sarlo*
Michael Guarino

Frederick Scalera*

Carmen Pio Costa

Gary Schaer *
Dan Diorio

District 36 comprises parts of Essex (Nutley), Passaic (Passaic City), and Bergen Counties. Elections here can be competitive so do not discount the Republicans. The incumbents are Paul Sarlo, Assistant State Majority Leader; Nutley Deputy Fire Chief Frederick Scalera; and, Passaic City Council President Gary Schaer. They are opposed by Michael Guarino of Lyndhurst (a Democrat turned Republican), Carmen Pio Costa, a real estate developer from Nutley, and Don Diorio of Carlstadt. Mr. Schaer is not endorsed due to his abstention on civil unions.

District 37: Loretta Weinberg*
Clara Nibot

Gordon Johnson*
Frank Cifarelli
Valerie Vainieri Huttle*
Wojciech Siemaszkiewicz

District 37 comprises several Bergen County communities and is also a safe Democratic district. We support the reelection of the gay supportive incumbent Dems.

District 38: Joseph Coniglio*
Robert Coletti

Robert Gordon*
John Driscoll, Jr.
Joan Voss*
Renee Czamecki

District 38 comprises the municipalities in central Bergen County. Incumbent Senator Joseph Coniglio is under federal investigation for corruption and as of press

time he was fighting to keep his name on the ballot having been requested by the party to step aside. We wish him well with his defense and hope that he is not guilty. But, as the party is not supporting him at this time, we will withhold our endorsement of his reelection. We continue to support Assemblypersons Gordon and Voss.

District 39: Joseph Ariyan
Gerald Cardinale*

Esther Fletcher
Charlotte Vandervalk*

Carl Manna
John Rooney

District 39 comprises the wealthy northern Bergen County municipalities. Senator Cardinale is particularly hostile to LGBTI issues and we would welcome his defeat, though it does not appear it will happen. Our non endorsements of the Democratic candidates reflect our lack of knowledge of them. Assemblyperson Vandervalk has voted with us on the issues and we support her reelection and stand opposed to that of our her running mate.

District 40: John Zunic
Kevin O'Toole*

Lisa Sciancalepore
Scott Rumiana
Zonie LeSmae
David Russo*

District 40 is comprised of portions of Bergen, Essex, and Passaic Counties. Assemblyperson O'Toole is hoping to fill the seat of Henry McNamara who is retiring. Scott Rumiana is hoping to join incumbent David Russo in the General Assembly. While hoping that none of the incumbents are reelected, we do not have enough information on the Democrats to offer our endorsements.



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