



the
POWER
LIST 2016

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PolitickerNJ

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Welcome to another edition of our annual PolitickerNJ Power List, a rigorous exercise of pure reason that would undoubtedly make Immanuel Kant proud.

Now as you try to figure out what Kant has to do with New Jersey politics, or do a quick Google search to find out who he was, we'd like to take this opportunity to congratulate all the individuals who made this year's Power List and explain the basic rationale behind their selection.

First of all, front-running Democratic gubernatorial contender Phil Murphy and his team all either went on to this year's list or went way up, as the number one slot demonstrates. Governor Chris Christie's people fell, as the once powerful Republican leader's influence wanes. Those players affiliated with doomed gubernatorial candidates Senate President Steve Sweeney and Jersey City Mayor Steven Fulop either drop substantially or come completely off the list. Those two politicians remain powerful, but they

won't see governor come 2018.

As we went to press we added Kellyann Conway, the Jersey-born campaign manager of President-elect Donald J. Trump, and noted the diminished capacities of those diehard Hillary Clinton backers who lost the presidential contest.

As always, please note that this list does not include elected officials, judges, or former governors.

Finally, please do not be offended if you don't find your own name in this list, or rack your brain if you occupied the Power List last year but now do not. Chances are you'll be back, and so will we, come 2017. For now, please enjoy this year's Power List and remember the inspirational words of the late Oscar Levant, "The only difference between the Democrats and the Republicans is that the Democrats allow the poor to be corrupt, too."

See you in Atlantic City for the League of Municipalities Conference, and see you in a few weeks for our 2016 Year in Review!

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The 2016 PolitickerNJ Power List

1 Phil Murphy

Democratic candidate for Governor

The former Goldman Sachs executive and former U.S. ambassador to Germany wooed the northern county Democratic chairs as part of an aggressive pre-2017 campaign that made him the clear front-runner heading into next year's primary. A great retail politician with money to burn, Murphy has built real political muscle in those counties critical for a Democrat to win in New Jersey, starting with Middlesex, Essex, Passaic, Hudson and Bergen.



2 George Norcross

South Jersey Democratic Power Broker

The boss of the bosses absorbed a loss when Murphy arrayed the northern counties against him, and by the time it's over his political power in the era post Gov. Chris Christie may wane significantly. But South Jersey still maintains the most unified Democratic Party caucus in the legislature and it may take a Democratic Primary to drop Norcross farther down this list.



3 Paul Fishman

U.S. Attorney

New Jersey's top cop will go down in history as the man who presided over the prosecution of Bridgegate. His critics wanted Christie behind bars for the George Washington Bridge lane closures fiasco, and while that may or may not come to pass, the trial buried whatever was left of the ambitious Republican governor's reputation.



4 John Currie

Democratic State Party Chairman

The party leader delivered 90 delegate votes to winning candidate Hillary Clinton at the Democratic Convention in Philadelphia and is regarded by Democratic Party insiders as that key leader who put together the coalition to make Phil Murphy the front-runner for the Democratic nomination for Governor. A veteran from a politically charged county, Currie has the skills of an old football coach who knows how to put his ego on the side in order to win games.



5 Kevin McCabe

Middlesex County Democratic Committee Chairman

First elected to the position of Central Jersey power in 2013, McCabe proved capable this year when he held together the Middlesex legislative delegation and substantially influenced the direction of the gubernatorial election. Middlesex will fight Essex for legislative leadership, but stands in a good position to cut a deal with either Norcross or that jumble of northern party chairs who beat Norcross to cohere behind Murphy.

Senator Cory Booker congratulates Mo Butler, George Helmy and all those recognized on the PolitickerNJ 2016 Power List!

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- Archibald MacLeish

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6 Bill Mullen

President, NJ Building Trades Council

As long as Senate President Sweeney remains installed in the state senate, Mullen will always hold the keys to the kingdom. Mullen sits at the control panel of 15 interlocking building trades and 13 county councils representing 150,000 workers.



7 Leroy Jones

Essex County Democratic Committee Chairman

The man from East Orange proved the difference-maker in the gubernatorial sweepstakes when he assessed his county, found more support among rank and file members for Murphy than Sweeney, and threw his support behind the Goldman Sachs veteran along with his fellow northern chairs. Even when it seemed absurd, Jones always told PolitickerNJ that Essex would be united and that Essex would be with those other members of the Quad County Alliance: Hudson, Passaic and Bergen. He was right.



8 Chris Porrino

New Jersey State Attorney General

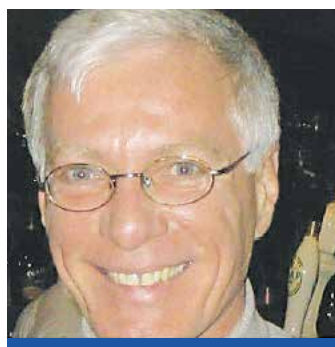
As Christie teeters toward the finish line of his term, the top lawyer in his administration has proved a strong voice in the administration. Early takedowns include the toppling of a heroin mill, a secured guilty plea from former Assemblyman Robert Schroeder of Bergen, and the arrest of the Dunellen School Board president for child porn. Don't mess with him.

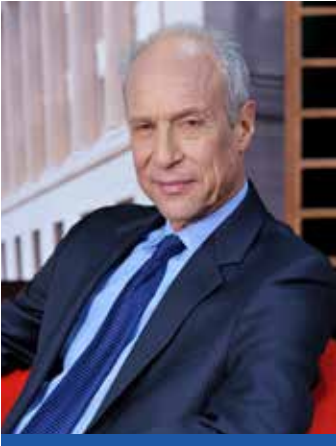


9 Brad Lawrence/ Steve DeMicco

Campaign Consultants

The veteran dynamic duo of Message and Media successfully piloted Phil Murphy into a very strong front-runner status to succeed Christie as governor of New Jersey. They made the most of a good product as they consistently defined Murphy as a vibrant, larger-than-life filler of that vacuum created by Christie's prolonged absences.





10 Michael Aron

NJTV Chief Political Correspondent

The dean of New Jersey political reporting and host of On the Record and Reporters Roundtable continues to wield tremendous influence as the most consistent voice of reason in a state otherwise routinely dedicated to myriad absurdities. He's really the only person left standing who can be trusted.



11 Michael Critchley

Criminal Defense Attorney

Even though ultimately found guilty, Bridget Kelly's lawyer from Critchley, Kinum and Denoia did a masterful job in defense of his client during the Bridgegate trial by showing rat's nest upheaval at the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey to divert from his own client's role in the mess.

Congratulations to all of the individuals named to PolitickerNJ's Power List



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12 Patrick Murray

Pollster and Political scientist

Long the leading expert in polling and prognosticating New Jersey politics, Monmouth University's Murray took his career to another level this year with national campaign polls that everyone in the political universe routinely relied on for the most accurate campaigns and elections intel. He's also brilliant with the off-the-cuff quote.



13 Lou Stellato

Bergen County Democratic Committee Chairman

The party leader was the prime mover behind a movement by the northern Democratic chairs to back an alternative to Senate President Steve Sweeney, the preferred candidate of Norcross and South Jersey. Maybe Stellato didn't prove as compelling a figure as Currie, but he was that original battler who insisted on rallying the northern counties together to resist rule under Norcross.



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14 Ray Pocino

Vice President and Eastern Regional Manager, LIUNA

The Laborers leader has all-weather gear political preparation, overseeing the operations of 40,000 workers in the New Jersey area, and will pivot easily from Christie world to Murphy world, if such a shift occurs.



15 Thomas Scrivo

Chief Counsel to Governor Christie

Christie's influence has waned considerably since Bridgegate and Bridgegate revisited. The governor may be underwater politically. But the staunch-the-bleeding appearance on his staff last year of the highly regarded Scrivo was arguably the biggest bright spot.



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16 Charles Wowkanech

President, New Jersey AFL-CIO

The veteran chieftain stands at the apex of the biggest organized labor union in New Jersey, a pro-labor state. He technically sports the grandest labor headdress among all the competing union chiefs, third only to Mullen and Pocino among labor bosses.



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17 John Graham

Principal, Fairview Insurance

The North Jersey Democratic Party power-broker is one of Hillary Clinton's closest friends in New Jersey and a key mover behind shifting the fulcrum of New Jersey power back to the north from long dominant South Jersey.



18 Dale Florio

Lobbyist

The politically savvy former chairman of the Somerset County Republican Committee has built a professional profile as one of the most respected insiders in New Jersey politics, leading the high octane West State Street firm Princeton Public Affairs.



19 Mike Kempner

CEO, MWW

The genius CEO runs the most politically well-connected public relations firm in the state, with tentacles stretching around the world, and into the corridors of Washington, D.C. power.



20 George Gilmore

Chairman, Ocean County Republican Committee

The long-serving leader of the Ocean GOP is the linchpin of the Kim Guadagno for Governor Campaign and the most powerful Republican chairman in the state. He intimidates, both intellectually and in the catfish swamp climes that characterize New Jersey politics. Powerful.



21 Maggie Moran

Managing Partner, Kivvit

The Democratic Party power player made the transition to national-level issue advocacy and corporate communications, while always maintaining sizeable influence in her home state.



22 Michael DuHaime

Partner, Mercury

Christie's presidential campaign didn't get very far, but that wasn't the fault of DuHaime, who loyally did the best he could with a damaged brand. His public affairs firm is one of the best connected in the state.

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**Kathleen Crotty
Fellowship** – for their
well-deserved
inclusion in this year's
Power List.



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23 Bill Maer and Kelly Stewart Maer

Democratic Party operatives

The husband and wife team make their mark respectively at Public Impact Strategies and Capital Health Systems, and cast a broad net of influence. Both have close ties to Democratic State Party Chairman Currie, Stewart Maer as treasurer of the state party and a key Clinton world operative.



24 George Helmy

State Director, U.S. Senator Cory Booker

Likeable, accessible and effective, he's the go-to guy now for Cory Booker world on all statewide matters.



25 Michelline Davis

Executive Vice President, Chief Corporate Affairs Officer at St. Barnabas Health

The Democratic Party power player is a key fundraiser for New Jersey Democrats, and an all-utility player in the deep sea of Essex County Democratic politics.

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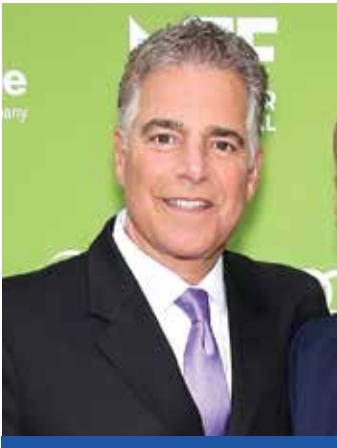
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26 Steve Adubato

Host, NJ Capitol Report

The NJTV broadcasting mainstay broadened his influence this year when Rutgers University Press published his book, *Lessons in Leadership*. The key to Adubato's success all these years is his insistence on making New Jersey - and Newark - the main story.



27 Bill Spadea

Host, 101.5 FM

The smart and energetic Spadea - who also hosts My9's Chasing - was a one-man radio band when he took on the gas tax hike. Once a challenger to then-Congressman Rush Holt, the Princeton Republican showed how to make use of the bully pulpit on an important issue.

Assemblyman Jamel Holley Congratulates Everyone Recognized on the PolitickerNJ 2016 Power List!

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-President Barack Obama

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28 Julie Roginsky

*Comprehensive
Communications Group*

The veteran Democratic Party operative and ubiquitous Fox News contributor helped steer Phil Murphy to undisputed frontrunner status through the grueling backroom wars of the 2017 pre-primary. Tough.



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29 Mo Butler

*Managing Director,
Mercury*

The Essex County-based Democratic Party insider - a former state director for U.S. Senator Cory Booker - works for DuHaime and remains an influential player in the North Jersey political bloodstream.



30 Mary Pat Christie

First Lady of New Jersey

She's managed to stay in the background and dignified as her husband has unravelled dismally.



31 Kevin Hagan

Princeton Public Affairs

Close to Senate President Steve Sweeney, Hagan has deep roots in New Jersey Democratic Party politics going back nearly two decades now and is a heavy hitter for one of the state's top firms.



32 Angelo Genova

Attorney

The senior partner and co-founder of Genova Burns remains one of the most lethal courtroom operators in the state of New Jersey. Here's a nightmare scenario: sitting on a witness stand with this guy coming around the corner of a table and bearing down on you with his first question.

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33 Al Gaburo

*Chairman, Somerset County
Republican Committee*

The native of Raritan and longtime GOP operative has a dual role as a state street lobbyist with Princeton Public Affairs. Watch him. He'll be instrumental in jump-starting support beyond his home county for Assemblyman Jack Ciattarelli's gubernatorial bid. He'll be motivated to see his legislator succeed, as Gaburo will want Ciattarelli to top the GOP ticket in Somerset as he tries to fend off the Democrats' challenge in LD16.



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34 Steven Goldstein

*Marriage Equality
Activist*

There aren't many people out there in New Jersey politics who are played by actor Steve Carrell in a major motion picture, but Goldstein is, in the drama film *Freeheld*. He's the George Washington of New Jersey's LGBT community.



35 Kelly-Anne Conway

*Republican Party
Operative*

A Camden native, Donald Trump's campaign manager proved a tough and capable ally for the President-elect.

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36 Joe Hayden

Defense Attorney

Originally from Newark, a veteran of the Civil Rights movement, the veteran lawyer commands instantaneous respect as one of the state's foremost experts on legal defense, and proved a key commentator on the Bridgegate Trial. Here's a tip in this cruddy world called Jersey: keep Hayden's number handy in case of a legal jam.



37 Kevin Drennan

Executive Director, NJ Senate Democrats

The highly respected Drennan has the ear of Sweeney and did a good job - while it lasted - of helping to set a policy agenda for the Senate President in the lead up to Sweeney pulling the plug on his 2017 gubernatorial bid.



38 Tai Cooper

Chief Policy Advisor for the City of Newark

A veteran of the office of the late U.S. Senator Frank Lautenberg, Cooper has considerable reach at all levels of government and deep ties in her hometown. Substantive.



39 Chris Russell

GOP Operative

The founder of Chris Russell Consulting, LLC will play a significant behind the scenes role next year as a consultant to the Republican gubernatorial campaign of Assemblyman Jack Ciattarelli and the campaigns of Donna Simon in LD16.



40 Wendell Steinhauer

President, New Jersey Education Association

Seeking to make a statewide statement, the organization jumped out early in the gubernatorial contest with a promise of delivering a 2017 endorsement. Part of Senate President Steve Sweeney's problem was the target he had on his back put there by this group. He didn't make it to filing day.



41 Roger Bodman

Senior Partner Public Impact Strategies

The veteran Republican insider has deep roots in the establishment, and is that seminally calm, reassuring voice on the Republican landscape. As a former commissioner of transportation, he goes back to the Kean administration, and bears that brand of gravitas and dignity.



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

Sun-Tzu, *The Art of War*

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42 Bill Pascrell III

Princeton Public Affairs

Straddling both sides of the state in Trenton and North Jersey, the Passaic County corporation counsel wields extra heft as the son of U.S. Rep. Bill Pascrell (D-Paterson).



43 Middy Baraka

Chief of Staff, Newark Mayor Ras Baraka

The brother of the mayor thrives on the trench warfare elements of citywide politics and always has the mayor's back. Newark insiders describe Middy as the second most powerful person in Brick City after his brother.

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44 Brigid Harrison

Professor of Political Science, Montclair University

Harrison wrote one of the most-read pieces of the year: a column on the prospects of the legislature impeaching Governor Chris Christie at the height of the Bridgegate trial. She's everywhere.



45 David Cruz

Correspondent, NJTV News

There are not many people who could play back-up quarterback to Michael Aron, but Cruz is one of the most skillful reporters in the state, who takes snaps under center the way Steve Young filled in for Joe Montana. Excellent on urban issues, particularly up north, and equally sure-footed in the halls of Trenton.

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46 Bill Stepien

GOP Operative

Bounced out of Christie's administration, Stepien shook off Bridgegate to reemerge as a top flight Republican campaign strategist who will play a critical role behind the scenes for 2017 gubernatorial prospect Kim Guadagno.



47 Elnardo Webster

Attorney, IWWT

His power derives from deep New Jersey roots and from inner circle status in the world of U.S. Senator Cory Booker. Partnered with the savvy John Inglesino, a former Morris County Republican freeholder and Christie confidant.



48 Hetty Rosenstein

NJ State Director

What appears will be the absence of a bloody 2017 Democratic Primary probably narrows somewhat the coming influence of public sector unions on upcoming elections, but Sweeney never found a way out of a statewide gate in part because of leaders like Rosenstein.



49 Pat Colligan

President, NJ Police Benevolent Association

The labor leader has repeatedly proved that he is not afraid to speak out on any issue, at any time. Witness his personal exhortation to President Barack Obama on police labor issues as the president touched down in Camden.

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50 Vin Gopal

Monmouth County Democratic Chairman

Republicans who control countywide politics in Monmouth sneer when Gopal pops up high on lists like this, but what they miss is the chairman's reach and influence within Democratic Party circles. A natural leader who develops relationships better than anyone in the state, he's the likely successor to John Currie as state chairman.



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CONGRATULATIONS TO NOT JUST THOSE ON THE POWER LIST; BUT TO ALL OF THOSE WHO ENTER THE ARENA.

"It is not the critic who counts; not the man who points out how the strong man stumbles, or where the doer of deeds could have done them better. The credit belongs to the man who is actually in the arena, whose face is marred by dust and sweat and blood, who strives valiantly; who errs and comes short again and again; because there is not effort without error and shortcomings; but who does actually strive to do the deed; who knows the great enthusiasm, the great devotion, who spends himself in a worthy cause, who at the best knows in the end the triumph of high achievement and who at the worst, if he fails, at least he fails while daring greatly. So that his place shall never be with those cold and timid souls who know neither victory nor defeat." — Theodore Roosevelt

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51 Joey Muniz

North Bergen Democratic Party Operative

The veteran influencer has the ears of both powerful Senator Nick Sacco and Speaker Vincent Prieto. He is Hudson County.



52 Trish Zita and Adam Kaufman

Kaufman Zita

The veteran principals manage one of New Jersey's top government affairs firms.



THE POLITICAL VOICE OF NEW JERSEY WOMEN



The Women's Political Caucus of New Jersey (WPCNJ), founded in 1972, is a chapter of the National Women's Political Caucus and is the authoritative voice for women in New Jersey politics. WPCNJ is a *multi-partisan* organization dedicated to increasing the number of women in elected and appointed positions in government, protecting reproductive freedom, and promoting equal rights for women.

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New Jerseyans for A Better Tomorrow thanks Steve Sweeney for his strong and thoughtful leadership fighting for New Jersey.

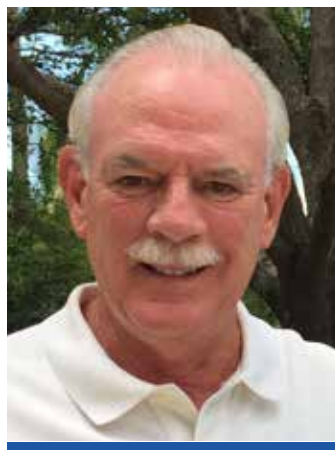
We will continue to support his fight for middle-class families and middle-class values while always putting New Jersey first.



53 Bill Layton

*Burlington County
Republican Committee
Chairman*

He usually takes a hit in presidential years, but not this year. A 2016 Republican sweep in BurlCo enhanced Layton's maintenance of a Republican majority in Burlington for the entirety of the near decade that he has served as chairman.



54 Tom Barrett

*Democratic State
Committeeman*

The inimitable nook and cranny Irishman from Essex County is an operative's operative with a rich and deep institutional knowledge of New Jersey politics derived from experience.

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**Congratulations to All on the
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55 Bill Caruso

Attorney, Archer and Greiner

The former Executive Director of the Assembly Majority Office still has unmistakably Lorenzo de Medici moves in Trenton.



56 Larry Hamm

People's Organization for Progress

The living embodiment of New Jersey, with roots in both Newark and Princeton, Hamm may well be the last unreconstructed rebel in the state, a progressive's progressive who actually does the street work to match the rhetoric.

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57 Phil Alagia

Chief of Staff, Essex County Executive Joe DiVincenzo

DiVincenzo and Alagia may have taken a hit this year owing to their staunchly loyal relations to George Norcross and Chris Christie, but they're still influential owing to alliances they have built and maintained inside Essex.



58 Adam Silverstein

CEO, Silver Strategies and Communications

Mr. Bergen County has crafted the messages for the Stellato reign of Bergen County Democrats, an era that essentially put the GOP out of business.



59 Ed Farmer

CEO and President, Millenium Strategies

Formerly the chief of staff of U.S. Rep. Bill Pascrell, Farmer is close to State Party Chairman Currie and played a major role this year in ensuring New Jersey's successful presence at the Democratic National Convention (DNC).



60 Keith Furlong

Democratic Party Operative

You've seen him before. He's the guy with the unassuming smile you meet on the sideline of a Pop Warner game or an NFL tailgate party, never knowing that he's the whispering ghost in the political machine.



61 Michele Siekerka

President and CEO of the NJ Business and Industry Association

The savvy Siekerka always finds a way into the most controversial debates subjects in the state.



62 Assad Akhter

Deputy Chief, U.S. Rep. Bill Pascrell

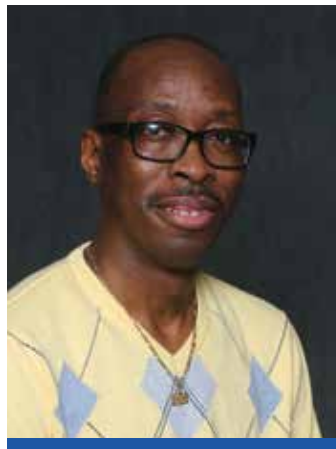
He's the Derek Jeter of North Jersey politics: the guy who shows up for work everyday and consistently gets on base and makes dazzling plays that no one ever talks about because they've grown accustomed to his work.



63 Bill Cortese

Executive Director, Trenton's Bad Bet

The veteran New York operative put together the battle plan that exploited the fears of voters, which killed North Jersey casinos on Election Day.



64 Kenneth Clayton

Pastor of St. Luke Baptist Church

The Paterson religious leader runs the church that serves as the spiritual home base for Assemblywoman Shavonda Sumter (D-Paterson), the Democratic Party's most likely candidate for lieutenant governor.



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66 Lizette Delgado-Polanco

Vice Chair of the Democratic State Committee

Executive Director of the Service Employees International Union New Jersey State Council, Delgado-Polanco coordinates the legislative and political agenda for seven SEIU locals representing more than 40,000 members across New Jersey in four major industries. She's also close to Currie, whose leadership style places an emphasis on delegating to loyal allies.

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67 Glenn Paulsen

*Attorney, Capehart
Scatchhart*

The former Burlington County Republican chairman remains an intimidating intellectual and strategic presence in the halls of power.



68 Kevin Brown/ Julie Diaz

*State Director 32BJ SEIU;
and Political Director
32BJ SEIU*

The two labor leaders put together a successful year of organizing airport workers at Liberty International. This is a classic case of the skills of one complementing the other to make a very compelling and dynamic duo.

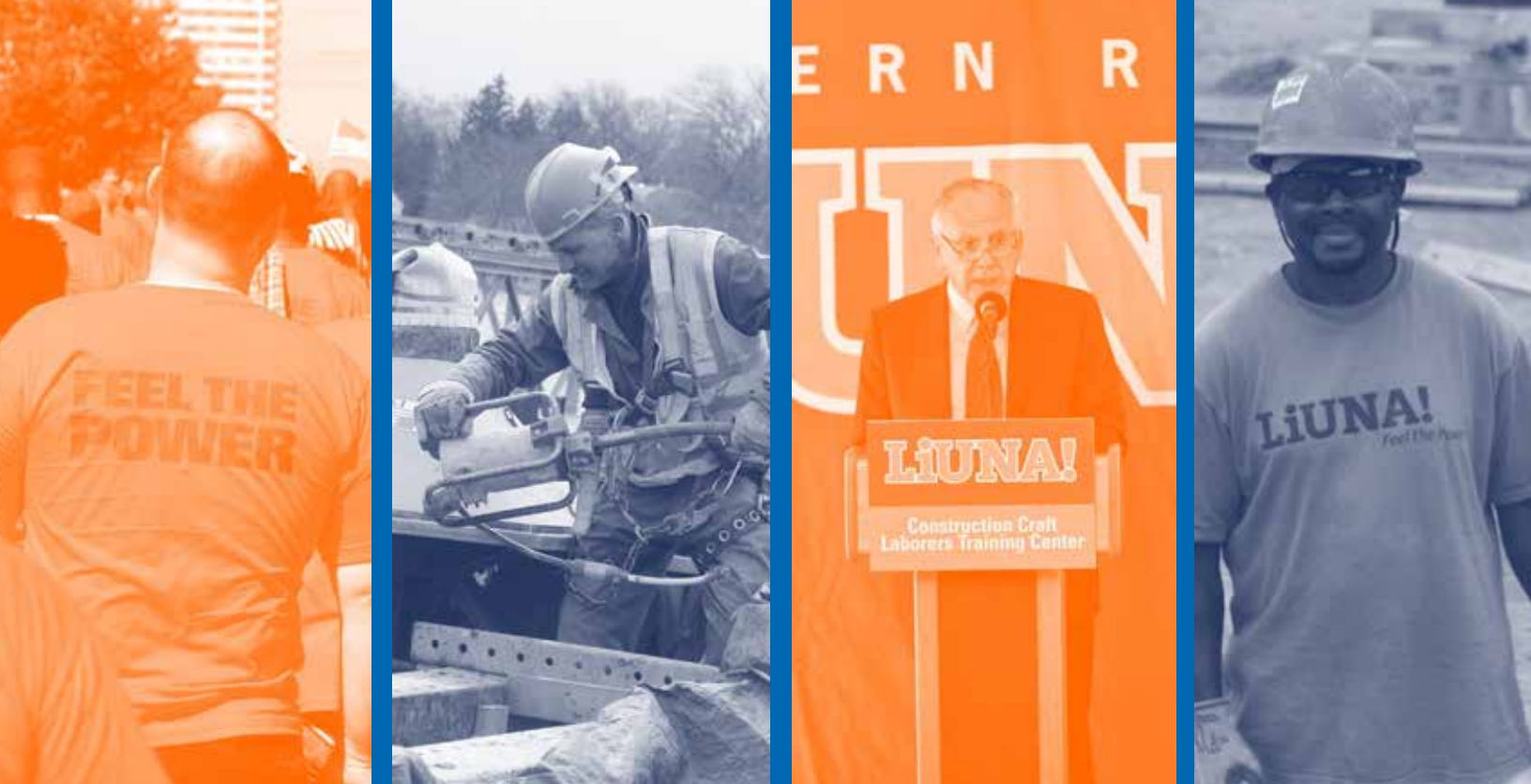


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Raymond M. Pocino, Chairman
John Duthie, Administrator

NJStateLaborersPAC 
NJLaborersPAC 





69 Eddie Donnelly

President, (Fireman's Mutual Benevolent Association) FMBA

Union overseer of the concerns of career firefighters, dispatchers and EMTs, Donnelly really developed his voice these past two years as a critic of Governor Chris Christie on public pensions and benefits.



70 Analilia Mejia

Executive Director, NJ Working Families Alliance

The consummate street organizer, Elizabeth-native Mejia is also arguably Labor's best TV presence, and can and will press the issue in any debate. Sought after and respected.



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71 Donald Scarinci

Attorney, Scarinci Hollenbeck

Scarinci's been around for awhile and has deep roots in North Jersey politics and in the political trenches dug by his childhood friend U.S. Sen. Bob Menendez.



72 Marcia Marley

President, BlueWave NJ

The Montclair resident leads one of the most respected progressive organizations in the state and has the dual advantage of living in the same town as Essex County Freeholder Brendan Gill, a close adviser to number one on this list.



73 Mike Soliman

Partner, Mercury

The former state director for Menendez, Soliman has a high on the professional foodchain presence at one of the most potent public affairs firms in the state.



74 Ginger Gold Schnitzer

Director of Government Relations, New Jersey Education Association

The no-nonsense Gold directs NJEA's efforts in electing NJEA PAC-endorsed candidates to public office. Power? The NJEA signaled its willingness to deny Senate President Steve Sweeney (D-Gloucester) political support for a gubernatorial run. Sweeney bowed out of the contest early.

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PRESIDENT of LUPE PAC Patricia Campos-Medina	Board Members of LUPE PAC Idida Rodriguez Lizette Delgado-Polanco Analilia Mejia	2015 LUPE PAC Latina Pioneer Julie Diaz
--	--	---

LUPEPAC is a non-partisan political action committee whose mission is to increase the number of Latinas in elected and appointed office in the State of New Jersey. We promote and support progressive Latinas running for local, state and federal office.



75 Mark Albiez

Chief of Staff, Jersey City Mayor Steven Fulop

Fulop didn't make it to the big dance, and so Albiez slides from where he was the past two years, but the tell-it-like-it-is Hudson County veteran continues to wield considerable influence.



76 Erica Daughtrey

Communications Director for U.S. Rep. Albio Sires (D-Hudson)

The veteran political hand from Bayonne has close ties to Menendez, Bayonne Mayor Jimmy Davis, and Assemblyman Nick Chiaravalloti. She's that finger always on the pulse player in Hudson's circus maximus.

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Louis Greenwald
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To The 2016
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ON THE POWER LIST

DALE BILL AL KEVIN
FLORIO PASCRELL III GABURO HAGAN



77 Steve Ayscue

South Jersey Democratic Party Operative

His connective tissue to George Norcross III continues to make the veteran a formidable and intimidating presence in any political campaign. This guy is warpaint-ready for any political contest. Watch for him in the event that U.S. Rep. Donald Norcross ever decides to move up the federal foodchain.



78 Trish Mueller

CLB (Cammarano, Layton & Bombardieri Partners)

The 2008 state director of the Barack Obama campaign, South Jersey's Mueller has 15 years worth of relationships built out of her years as political director for the Northeast Regional Council of Carpenters. Close to Norcross, mover and shaker Assemblyman Troy Singleton, and Carpenters Chief John Ballantyne.



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**Harry Hurley,
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Congratulations to this year's deserving 2016 PolitickerNJ.com Power List recipients.

79 Michael Muller

Senior Strategist, Totten Communications

In addition to his private sector duties, Muller heads up the New Jersey Democratic Assembly Campaign Committee (DACC) where he built a reputation soundly defeating Republicans. He'll be in battle mode now as Democrats look to eradicate Christie-saddled Republicans from the State of New Jersey.



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Eddie Donnelly
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– Robert F. Kennedy



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**80 Idida
Rodriguez**

Partner, 1868 Public Affairs

The Paterson native is one of the most battle-tested operatives in New Jersey, and can usually be found in the long shadows of tough North Jersey campaigns. Very close to her business partner, Leroy Jones, and to state Senator Nellie Pou of Passaic.



**81 Marie
Blistan**

*Vice President, New Jersey
Education Association*

Blistan has a strong hand within the powerful organization, which in 2015 contributed the cash that cleared the Legislature of several swing district Republican lawmakers.



82 Tom Bracken

*President and CEO,
New Jersey Chamber of
Commerce*

The business leader backed the controversial Transportation Trust Fund (TTF) replenishment package that included a 23 cent gas tax hike, which passed out of the legislature.



83 Steffie Bartley

*Pastor, New Hope
Memorial Baptist Church*

Respected in the church community, Bartley of Elizabeth emerged this past year particularly as a champion for African American rights as head of the New Jersey Chapter of the National Action Network, a civil rights group started by the Rev. Al Sharpton.



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**84 Sean Darcy/
Laura Matos**

Democratic Party Operatives

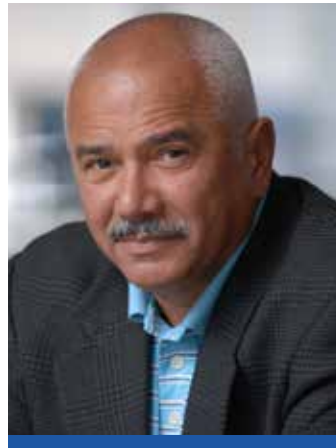
The ultimate Democratic Party power couple, as the CEO of Round World Darcy handles campaign accounts of major Democrats, while Matos serves as general manager for the New Jersey office of Kivvit. This is that Mr. and Mrs. Smith combo you were looking for.



85 Al Alvarez

Phil Murphy for Governor

The veteran Democratic Party attorney played a key role in developing Murphy's Hispanic outreach and advising the frontrunning 2017 candidate for governor. A good courtroom lawyer, too.



86 Fred Caraballo

*Professor Emeritus,
Seton Hall University*

The former assemblyman from Newark wields considerable influence as one of New Jersey's chief legal experts and academics. Caraballo is maybe the state's last-standing pure intellect with any political history.



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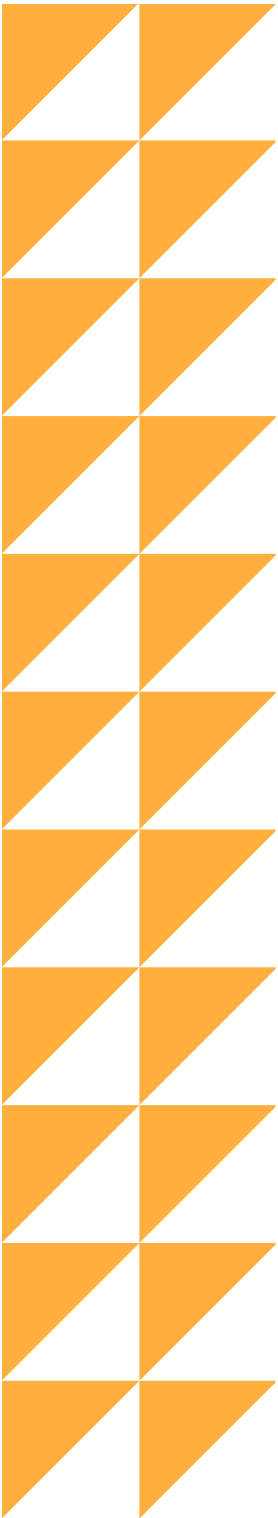
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87 Bob Sommer

CEO at Awsom Associates LLC

The silky Democratic Party operative has connections everywhere.



88 Jennifer Krimko / Lisa Miller

Directors, Building a Better NJ Together

The veteran GOP team will play an integral role in advancing the financial interests of Lieutenant Governor Kim Guadagno for Governor in 2017.



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89 James Gee

Chief of Staff

U.S. Rep. Bonnie Watson Coleman

Gee has built a political empire out of Trenton, going back to his years as a prime time adviser in the Corzine years.



90 Ann Twomey

Founder and President of Health Professionals and Allied Employees (HPAE)

Twomey embodies gravitas as the pioneering union leader who grew her outfit from a round table of small bore outrage in the 1970s to its current 11,000-strong.

New Jersey Republicans have unique challenges.

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Rick Rosenberg | rick@chrisrussellconsulting.com

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91^{AI} Komjathy/ Eileen Kean

Komjathy and Kean

The government affairs crew chiefs offer veteran expertise as the skeleton crew comprising one of New Jersey's best respected government affairs firms.



92 Jennifer Holdsworth

Democratic Party Operative

New Jersey's offering to Clinton world, the Bergen player and attorney holds considerable sway with Democratic State Party Chairman Currie.

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93 Krista Jenkins

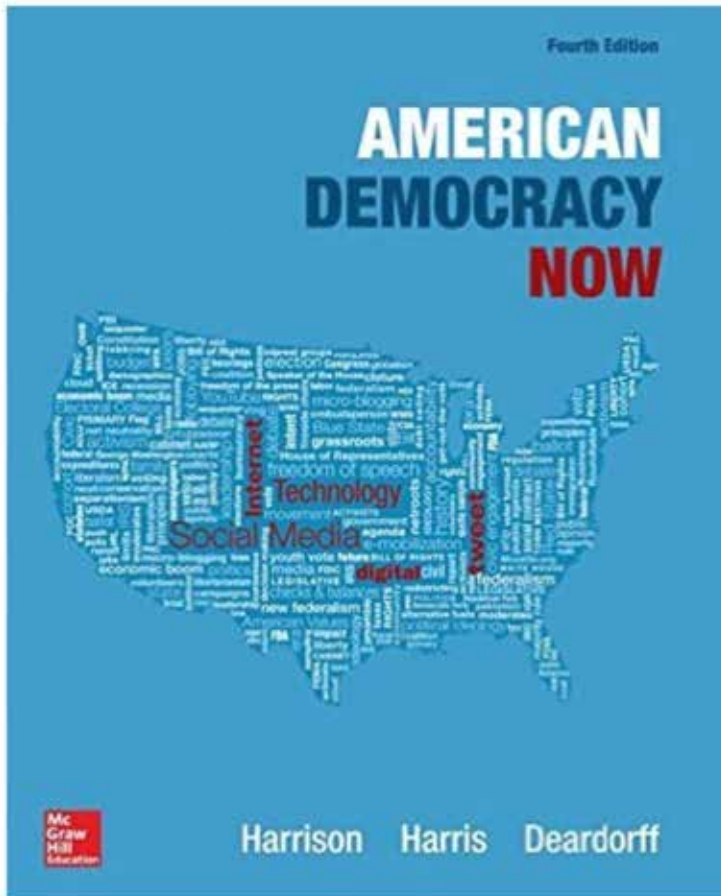
*Professor of Political Science and Policy
Director, Fairleigh Dickinson University*
FDU's steady hail of always eagerly anticipated polls gives Jenkins another platform of influence both statewide and beyond.



94 Ben Dworkin

Director of the Rebovich Institute for New Jersey Politics

The ever-quotable Dworkin routinely pulls the most discussed political personalities and experts in the state to his widely-respected forums at Rider University.



**McGraw Hill
Publishers
congratulates
Dr. Brigid
Callahan Harrison**

**Author,
American Democracy Now**

**for inclusion on
PolitickerNJ's
Power 100 List**



95 Al Abdel-aziz *Democratic Party operative*

He lost his 2016 bid in Paterson's Ward 6, but Abdel-aziz expanded his political universe and given his closeness to Democratic State Party chairman John Currie, must be considered a favorite for an open assembly seat in Paterson.

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96 Christian Fuscarino

*Executive Director,
Garden State Equality*

The organization still has a lot of clout in this state based on the groundwork laid by pioneer Goldstein.



97 Braxton Plummer

Murphy for Governor

A veteran from Cory Booker world, Plummer did an outstanding job of organizing African-Americans for Phil Murphy, which proved a big plus for the candidate, particularly in Newark and Trenton.

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**FAIRLEIGH DICKINSON UNIVERSITY'S PUBLICMIND
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Nate Silver's FiveThirtyEight

★ ★ ★ ★ ★
Krista Jenkins, Ph.D., Director
kjenkins@fdu.edu

Rich Higginson
richard_higginson@fdu.edu

★ ★ ★ ★ ★



98 Dave Parano

Founder, Parano and Associates

Don't mess with Parano in Bergen County. That was the message coming out of Murphy world when whole sections of the county began making the exodus to the former Goldman Sachs banker, who had the veteran Parano on the payroll.



99 Sarah Jones

Manager, Government Affairs at Horizon Blue Cross Blue Shield

A veteran of the office of U.S. Rep. Donald Payne, Jr. (D-Newark), attorney Jones has a deep base of political contacts and wields considerable influence, particularly in North Jersey.

Congratulations to all On the 2016 Power List!



Joseph N. DiVincenzo Essex County Executive

100 Patricia Campos-Medina

President, Latinas United for Political Empowerment (LUPEPAC)

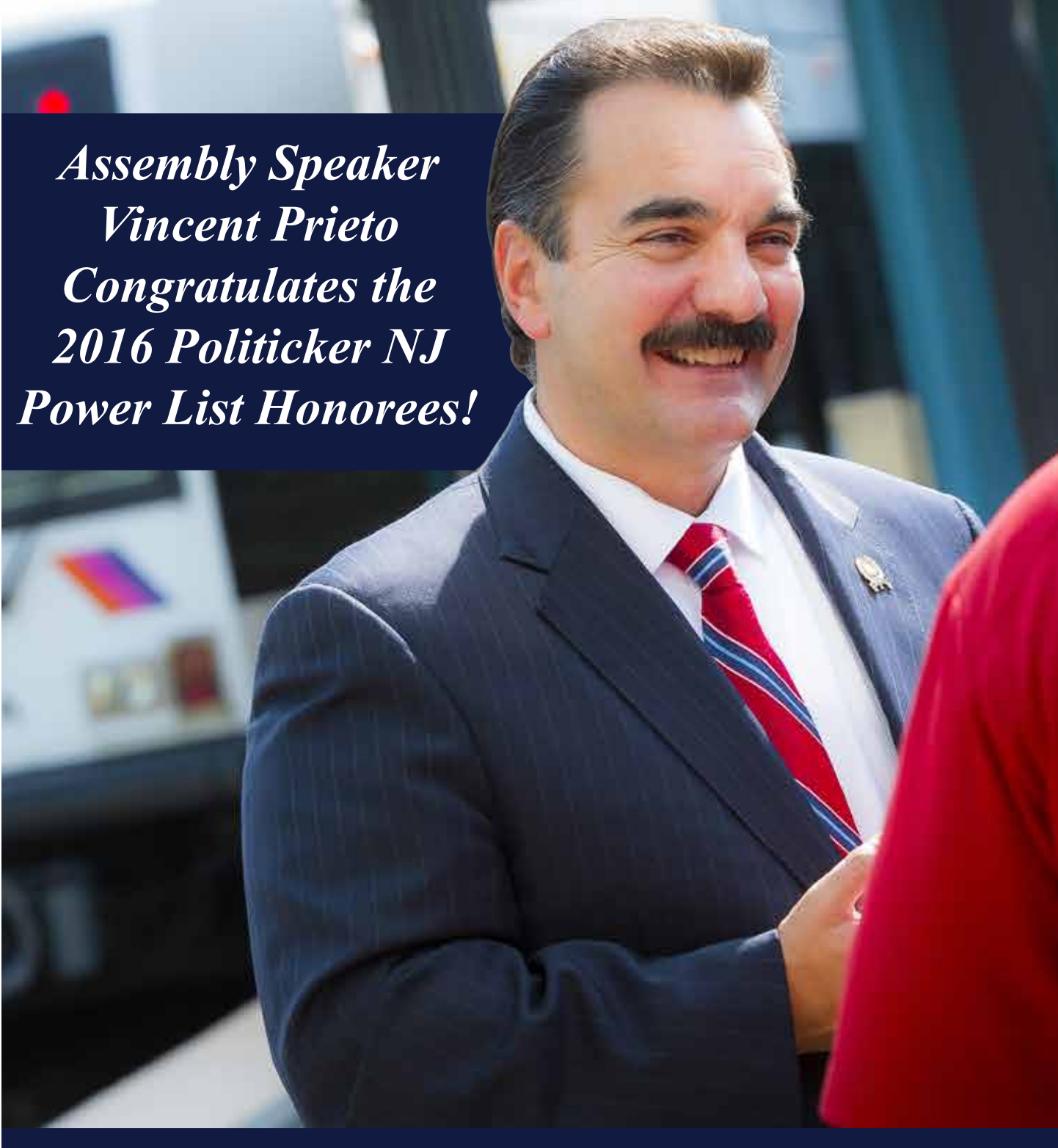
Campos has the street cred and respect both within and outside the Hispanic community, and a considerable academic background to match.



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Vincent Prieto
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