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**INTRODUCTION** — *by John Van Vliet*

What had been known as the Millennials List has, like Millennials themselves, grown and matured in its own right. Now dubbed “Rising Generations,” the individuals showcased in this Insider NJ publication are, many of them, Millennials, but also Generation Z, the up-and-coming generation out of school and making their impact in the workplace and in politics as the future face of New Jersey leadership. The Rising Generations features here are representative of the younger side of New Jersey’s great movers and shakers, but may also serve as role models for Gen Z and the youngest generation yet, Gen Alpha (born 2012 and on)—the children of Millennials and elder Gen Z.

Politics and commerce are generally dominated by the grey-haired elite, as ascendancy takes time and work. But leadership opportunities are not, and ought not to be, exclusive of younger faces. Some have come into such positions on their own, by creating the businesses and roles they find themselves captaining. Others have put their time, talent, and energy into contributing to entities

and causes they believe in and champion. On the political scene, younger voices are on center stage in New Jersey. The Garden State hasn’t sent a Republican to the US Senate since 1972, save the brief appointees Nicholas Brady and Jeffrey Chiesa, but the man who sought to break that streak was Republican US Senate candidate Curtis Bashaw, a Baby Boomer entrepreneur who found his calling and passion in the hospitality industry. His opponent was CD-3 Congressman Andy Kim, a “Xennial” (that is, the cusp of Gen X and Millennial, those born 1977-1983) at age 42. Kim went into the State Department and became a civilian national security advisor in Afghanistan and later to President Obama. Although Kim won, both candidates represented historic opportunities for New Jersey’s junior-Senate seat given their backgrounds, representing demographic shifts in political representation.

The younger face on the state-level is Kim’s. Nationally, the figure is that of Millennial VP-elect, Senator JD Vance of Ohio. For context, the youngest Vice

President of the United States of America was John C. Breckinridge, only 36-years-old while serving under James Buchanan. Future president Richard Nixon was 40 when he became Vice President to Dwight Eisenhower. In a curious contrast, looking at 2024, the third-youngest Vice President-elect is running alongside the oldest President-elect in US history, Donald Trump, 78. Trump now holds that record since President Joe Biden, 81, stepped away from seeking re-election in favor of his own Vice President, the 59-year-old Kamala Harris. In either instance, there would have been an elevated possibility that a re-elected Biden or Trump would not be able to finish his second term, leaving either

Harris—born late 1964 so technically a Baby Boomer, or a “Xoomer” on the cusp of Gen X—or Vance, a Millennial, as acting-president.

The returning Trump Administration (minus former Vice President Mike Pence—a vocal opponent of his former boss following the January 6th insurrection when crowds threatened to hang him for certifying the 2020 election), is looking more generationally diverse than the first. Americans can anticipate seeing a wide stretch of ages and experiences in the transition. The new-again incoming president’s core shows where generations have joined in the national movement, spearheaded by the billionaire Baby

Boomer 45th/47th president; alongside Gen X mega-billionaire advisor Elon Musk; Millennial millionaire JD Vance; and Millennial billionaire advisor Vivek Ramaswamy.

In New Jersey, such heavy portfolios are far less common in the halls of power. Nevertheless, the saturation of younger generations in key positions of leadership in both the public and private sectors provides a source of strength for the Garden State’s vibrant and innovative society now, and in the days ahead.



*John Van Oliet*  
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## 1. ANDY KIM

There are few New Jersey figures who have had such a meteoric rise and a profound effect on the state's political landscape than Congressman Andy Kim. First elected to Congress in 2018, Kim launched his Senate candidacy in the fall of 2023 – considered a long-shot at the time – following the indictment of then-Senator Menendez. He proved naysayers wrong at nearly every step of way. One of those steps happened to be his lawsuit which ended the 'county party line' in the Senate primary, which subsequently will have the

effect of reshaping primary politics in the Garden State into the future. That alone warrants Kim as among the most consequential figures in New Jersey politics, not just this year, or this past election cycle, but at large. Kim ranked #1 on the 2023 edition of this list, which stated he 'faces a challenging primary, to be sure, with establishment support coalescing behind First Lady Tammy Murphy, but he's posted impressive fundraising hauls and has been able to generate enthusiasm from rank-and-file Democrats and from the progres-

sive wing of the Democratic Party. Should Kim prevail in the primary, and in the general election, he would be among the youngest in the Senate.' And so it came to be. Kim ascends to the Senate, one of its youngest members and the first Korean-American in the chamber. For the time being, his influence in the chamber will be muted, as a freshman in the minority party, but there's no dispute that, as a driving catalyst for the 'end of the party line', his influence led to one of the most important shifts in New Jersey politics.





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## 2. LAMONICA MCIVER

The former Newark Central Ward Councilwoman was the youngest elected to the city's governing body, and earlier this year succeeded the late Rep. Donald Payne to represent the 10th Congressional District. Prevailing in a special election during the summer, and

then winning a full-term in November, Congresswoman McIver is the youngest member of the state's congressional delegation, and the state's second African-American female federal representative. As she embarks on a new chapter in her public service career, one of

her lasting achievements during her tenure as Newark's Council President was the passage of the ordinance lowering the voting age for Board of Education elections, saying it's 'good for young people, good for Newark, and good for New Jersey'.



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## 3. YENJAY HU & ANJALI KRISHNAMURTI

The two students are leaders of the New Jersey chapter of Vote16 and are strong advocates for lowering the voting age to 16 in local elections. The move to lower the voting age has gained traction in various municipalities around the

state, specifically as it pertains to local Boards of Education elections. The Governor himself has expressed support, saying in October that ‘school board elections directly impact the day-to-day lives of 16 and 17-year-old stu-

dents, and we have the opportunity to instill in them the lifelong value of voting. Casting your ballot is a simple and effective way to help shape the future. I look forward to the day this bill lands on my desk’.



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## 4. MATT PLATKIN

One of the youngest Attorneys General in the nation, Attorney General Platkin is the state's top law enforcement officer and top lawyer. As his tenure continues, he has shown an increasing independence, shown over the past

year in his office's pursuit of one of the state's most powerful political bosses on corruption charges, and his pre-ruling declaration that he wouldn't appeal the 'county line' decision during the Democratic Senate primary. Platkin wields

tremendous influence in shaping the state's legal landscape, and as Governor Murphy's time in office winds down, many are asking the question: what's next for Platkin?





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## 5. BRITNEE TIMBERLAKE

Having served as an Essex County Commissioner, and several terms in the Assembly, Timberlake was elected to the Senate representing the 34th Legislative District in November 2023, and is among the upper chamber's youngest members. She continues to be a strong advocate on issues affecting younger residents on the state.



## 6. ROB MENENDEZ, JR.

The Congressman this year stared down a primary challenge that tested his mettle, and tested his family name. He beat back the challenge handily, proving his political staying power. Before the arrival of Congresswoman McIver, he was the youngest member of the state's Congressional delegation, and is still amongst the youngest in the nation.



## 7. TIM HILLMANN

A veteran of the Statehouse and Governor Murphy's Administration, Hillmann ascended to the Chief of Staff post earlier this year as the Governor heads into the final stretch of his tenure. Hillmann will have an impact on the Governor's final legislative goals and initiatives – and legacy.



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## 8. DYESE DAVIS

The Chief of Staff to 11th Legislative District Senator Vin Gopal, Dyese holds several leadership roles, and was elected Monmouth County Democratic Committee Chairwoman this summer, succeeding David Brown, becoming a trailblazer as the youngest African-American woman to lead a county party organization.



## 9. VIN GOPAL

The 11th Legislative District Senator is immensely influential in just about every corner of the state and is one of the youngest in the Legislature. A proven vote-getter who led his slate to a full victory in November 2023, Gopal has been a powerful voice on a range of issues, including student literacy, education funding, and pre-K expansion.



## 10. A'DORIAN MURRAY THOMAS

First elected to the Newark Board of Education, the city's youngest, in 2023 Murray-Thomas was just elected to serve on the Essex County Commission Board, the youngest on the county's governing body. She is a NAACP NextGen Leadership Fellow and is the founder and CEO of SHE Wins, Inc., a leadership program for middle school and high school girls in Newark, with a focus on those affected by violence.





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## 11. JUSTIN MUSELLA

The Republican Councilman in Parsippany is an effervescent campaigner with a strong ground game, and has built his own network of local support, which he hopes will propel him further as he mounts a strong candidacy in the Republican mayoral primary in 2025. Outside of his council service, Musella has advocated for Republican engagement of young voters.



## 12. RAJ MUKHERJI

Having served several terms in the Assembly and now serving in the Senate representing the 33rd Legislative District, Mukherji is a leading voice for the younger generation in the Legislature. He's been on the forefront of the movement to lower the voting age, saying that '16-, 17-year-olds should be enfranchised, should be able to vote in every election', noting to naysayers that the 'sky will not fall when we do it.'



## 13. ZACH DOUGHERTY

The recent college graduate has long-been a young activist for youth empowerment and involvement in state politics and government, and his advocacy led to the passage of legislation to establish a Legislative Youth Council. This November, he made a play for a Toms River council seat.





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## 14. PARIMAL GARG

Having served as the chief counsel to Governor Phil Murphy for over four years, Garg had legal influence over the legislative process, judicial nominations, executive orders, and the state's civil litigation. He now is a Partner at Lowenstein Sandler LLP.



## 15. ROBERT ARACE

The Republican Mayor of Manchester Township, aged 31, just won a seat on the Ocean County Board of Commissioners and will be the youngest on the government body.



## 16. BEN DZIOBEK, KAYLEIGH LAVORNIA, SHAYLA NUNN AND SUNNI VARGAS

The four recently launched 'Gen Z For New Jersey', a political action committee aimed at empowering and energizing young leaders across the state and ensuring generational representation in government.





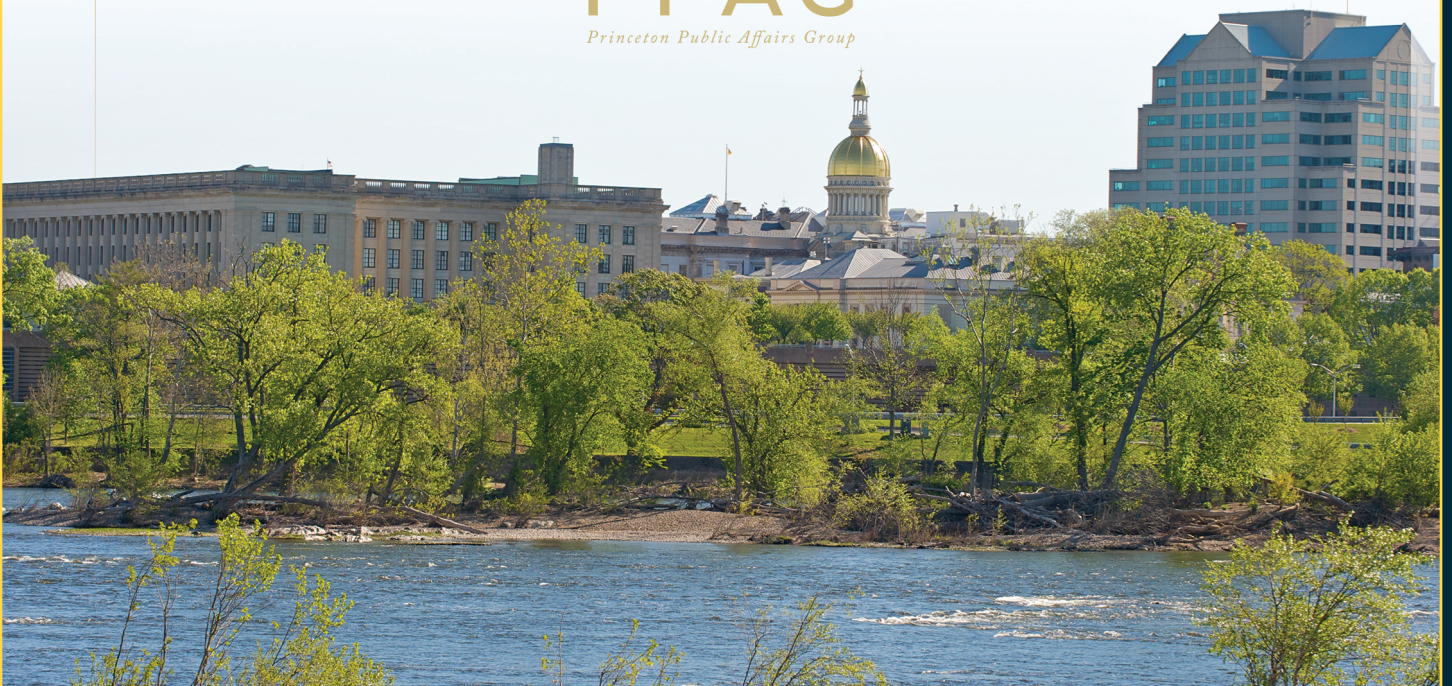
Congratulations to  
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## 17. AMIR JONES

An Essex County Undersheriff for the past 15 years, Jones easily won election as Essex County Sheriff this past November, and will be the county's first African-American in the position.



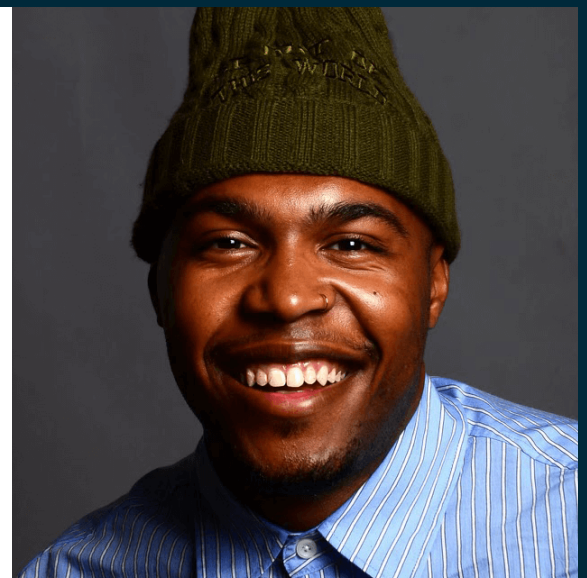
## 18. KATIE BRENNAN

The Jersey City native changed the state's political and governmental landscape for the better with her strong advocacy for reform on how sexual assaults and allegations are handled by government and campaigns. She's running for Assembly in the 33rd Legislative District's Democratic primary in 2025.



## 19. SHAKEE J. MERRITT

A former Rutgers University-Newark Student Body President, the young political activist and organizer places an emphasis on Gen Z political engagement, including with the group 'Voters of Tomorrow', and recently served as a senior political director for Newark Mayor Baraka.





## 20. AHMED SHEHATA

Recently confirmed to serve on the New Jersey State Board of Education, as its youngest member, Shehata says that his age will be an asset in connecting with younger generations and understanding the challenges they face.



## 21. AMBER MURAD

A former Somerset County Republican commission candidate, Murad is President of the newly-formed Forward Republicans initiative, aimed at fostering the next generation of young Republican leaders in the state.



## 22. JACK DEGROOT

The 24-year old Republican won a contested primary last year for Sussex County Commissioner, and subsequently won the general election, with a vow to 'ensure that future generations will have the same opportunities I had growing up'.





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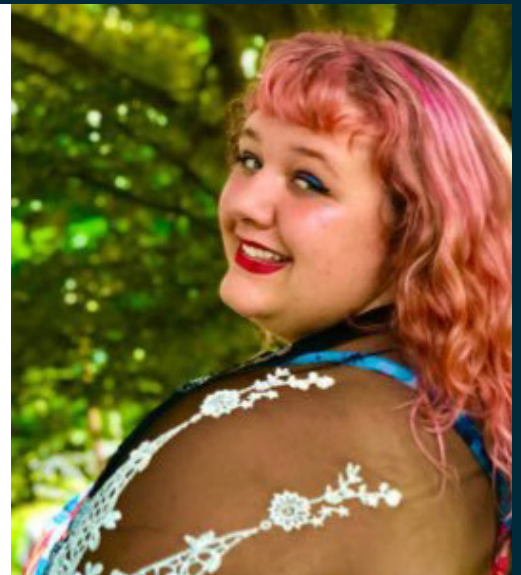
## 23. REBECCA SCHWARTZ JUAN CARLOS NORDELO KAYLEE MCGUIRE DYESE DAVIS MATT CLARKIN

Founded by Matt Anderson, the Millennials For New Jersey PAC has a proven track record of supporting young candidates in both parties across the state, and remains an influential organizing entity for young people. In addition their leadership at M4NJ, Schwartz, Nordelo, McGuire, Davis, and Clarkin are all rising stars individually.



## 24. ZOE HEATH

The founder of Sussex County Pride, Heath was elected chair of the Sussex County Democratic Committee last summer, and is currently the youngest county party organization chair in the state – by far.



## 25. JASI MIKAE EDWARDS

Overcoming teen pregnancy and homelessness, Edwards was part of the formation of a youth council in Trenton, and in 2022 was elected as a Councilwoman-at-Large in the Capital City.



## 26. MUSSAB ALI

The former Jersey City Board of Education President and Harvard graduate took a break from politics, but is making his comeback as a mayoral candidate in the city's upcoming mayoral race. He is the founder of the Ali Leadership Institute, which works to empower up and coming young leaders, and was recently chosen as one of 100 members nationally of Youth250, an organization aimed at amplifying young voices in commemorating America's 250th anniversary.



## 27. RISING ASSEMBLYMEMBERS

There are numerous Assembly members on both sides of the aisle who have a platform to advocate for issues affecting younger residents, on both sides of the aisle, among them: Cody Miller; Bill Moen; Clinton Calabrese; William Sampson; Avi Schnall; Chris Tully; Michael Venezia; Eliana Pintor Marin; Rosie Bagolie; Michael Inganamort; Paul Kanitra; Al Barlas; Brian Bergen.







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## 28. JAMES SOLOMON

The Ward E Councilman from Jersey City has been an outspoken advocate for political reform, and is a strong contender in the city's upcoming mayoral race in 2025.



## 29. PEARL GABEL, MEGAN CRYAN, SAM BERMAN, HIRA SHAIKH & JOE LIBUTTI

Individually, the five have impressive skillsets and accomplishments; together, they combine to make a powerhouse communications and public affairs team under Maggie Moran's leadership at Moxie Strategies.



## 30. BILLY PREMPEH

A millennial veteran and Paterson native, the three-time Republican candidate for Congress in the 9th District nearly defeated Congresswoman-elect Nellie Pou, coming within 1-point of winning in the normally-reliably Democratic district. Prempeh didn't have much support from Republican organizations – after this year's nail-biter race, that may change when he expectedly runs again in 2026.



## 31. LESLYE MOYA AND KINN BADGER

The two operatives command respect as the leadership team helping the New Jersey State Democratic Committee, and their vantage points are critical to the party as it looks to make more inroads with young voters.



## 32. SUE ALTMAN

The former Working Families Executive Director embodied generational change during her spirited, though unsuccessful, campaign in the national battleground 7th Congressional District; she'll now be in a top spot as Senator Kim's State Director, with Lauren Bustamante serving as Deputy State Director.



## 33. MAYROSE WEGMANN AND ROB MATOS-MORAN

The two serve as the directors of the New Leaders Council-New Jersey, which continues to provide foundational support and guidance for emerging young leaders around the state. The group was founded in 2011 by Justin Braz and Jackie Cornell.





**JUSTIN**   
**MUSELLA**  
*for Parsippany Mayor*



## 34. TONY PERRY

The Middletown Mayor convincingly won re-election in November and is set to begin his third term on the township committee. He hasn't shied away from criticizing state policies with which he disagrees, and is poised for higher office in the future.



## 35. NOHEMI SORIA-PEREZ

An at-Large Councilwoman in the City of Camden, Soria-Perez serves as the Chief of Staff for the 5th District legislators and has prioritized youth engagement programs in the city.



## 36. MIKE CRISPI

The 'America First Republicans' New Jersey chair was a leading booster of President-elect Trump, and had a featured speaking slot at his Wildwood rally this summer. A former podcaster who once ran for Morris County commissioner, Crispi's stock is rising and his voice more influential following the statewide results of the presidential election, which came as a shock to many – but not to Crispi. He is reportedly considering entering the Republican gubernatorial primary.





## 37. MICHAEL SULEIMAN

The Middletown Mayor convincingly won re-election in November and is set to begin his third term on the township committee. He hasn't shied away from criticizing state policies with which he disagrees, and is poised for higher office in the future.



## 38. JESSE KURTZ

The Atlantic City councilman is a veteran on the governing body and for years was the lone Republican – next year, his clout and influence will increase as another Republican joins him on the dais.



## 39. LEE CLARK

The first African-American councilman in Phillipsburg's history, Clark was elected Chairman of the local Democratic Committee earlier this year, with one of his goals being to 'engage the next generation of voters coming of age'.





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## 40. SAM DEALMEIDA

A powerful voice for young Republicans and a respected leader in the construction industry, DeAlmeida is the President of the Associated Builders and Contractors of New Jersey, the youngest-ever in the position.



## 41. ASKAR MIRZA

The 19-year old waged a winning candidacy for a Ridgefield commission seat earlier this year, serves as a Bergen County Republican committee member and is a member of the statewide Youth Council with the Department of Children and Families.



## 42. KATE MIRNE

Mirne serves as the President of the New Jersey High School Republicans, which earlier this year held a successful event featuring Republican gubernatorial and congressional candidates.





## 43. BRANDON UMBA

The former 8th Legislative District Assemblyman served in the lower chamber in the previous legislative session, one of its youngest members. He was defeated by only a handful of votes in 2023, but he's looking to make a comeback in 2025, as Republicans look to build upon their statewide electoral strength shown in this year's presidential election.



## 44. SAM JOSHI

The Edison mayor, in his early 30s, is serving his first term leading the state's fifth largest municipality, and has been outspoken on controversial issues.



## 45. TYLER BURRELL

The Councilman from Delran was first elected to the governing body at age 19 in 2019, and in November of this year won election to Burlington County's Board of Commissioners. When he is sworn-in, he'll be among the youngest county commissioners in the state.





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## 46. BRITTANY WHEELER

The newly-minted Somerset County Republican State Committeewoman has an extensive political background, including as a top staffer to Republican gubernatorial candidate Jack Ciattarelli's past campaigns, and was the executive director of a non-profit seeking to increase voter participating.



## 47. JESS ROHR

The staffer for 4th Congressional District Representative Chris Smith has managed the Congressman's campaigns, and served this year as an alternate at-large for President-elect Trump.



## 48. S. NADIA HUSSAIN

A Board of Education member in Bloomingdale, Hussain is the first Bangladeshi-American woman to serve on a board of education in the state, and was appointed to the state's Asian American and Pacific Islander Commission.



## 49. CRISTINA ZUK SAM WEINSTEIN REGINA APPOLON

The three represent the future of the state's most influential lobbying and advocacy firm, Princeton Public Affairs Group. Zuk is a respected Statehouse veteran, and Weinstein and Appolon managing the firm's cannabis practice.



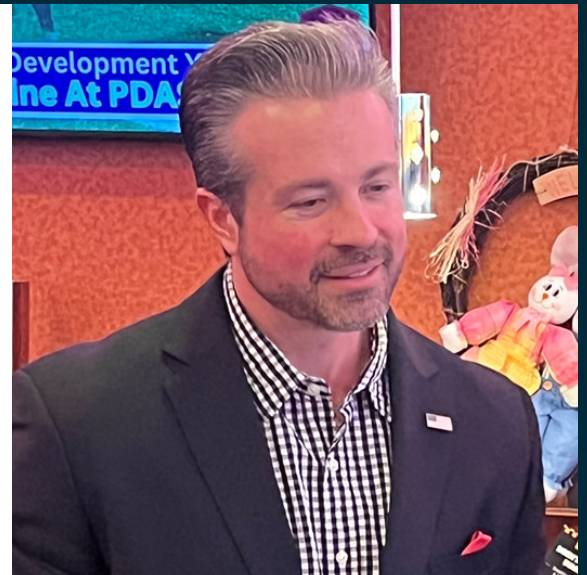
## 50. MICHAEL MANNING

Elected as President of the New Jersey Young Republican Federation in April 2024, Manning is prioritizing building a visible and diverse coalition of younger Republicans in the state.



## 51. ALEX ZDAN

A talented corruption-fighting journalist, the former 'Power and Politics' host waged a Republican primary campaign for the US Senate earlier this year; he recently formed a PAC, saying 'authentic leadership is the antidote to the poison in our politics'.





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## 52. SABEEN MASIH AND EASH HAUGHTON

Masih and Haughton both work with Capital Impact Group. Masih has been on the forefront of working to change the state's political climate for women, as well as empowerment; Haughton served as New Jersey Young Democrats Vice President.



## 53. OSNER CHARLES

Osner is a rising star at powerhouse lobbying firm MBI focusing on business development, touting a strong background in economic development due to his past experience leading governmental departments in the cities of Paterson and East Orange. He was a key player in the local implementation of national mentorship and youth programs.



## 54. FABIANA PIERRE LOUIS AND RACHEL APTER WAINER

The two Associate Justices on the New Jersey State Supreme Court are the youngest on the state's highest judicial body, and both yield tremendous influence in shaping the state's legal landscape in the future.





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**DAVID PARANO  
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## 55. MICAUL VARGAS AND ASSATTA MANN

The two organizers with the New Jersey Institute of Social Justice have been key in laying the groundwork and leading the charge for the effort to lower the voting age in local elections.



## 56. MATT ROONEY

The attorney is the founder and editor of SaveJersey has been a leading conservative commentator for over 15 years, and is sought-after for his insights and analysis on political trends in the state.



## 57. HASANI COUNCIL

The Newark Board of Education President also serves as Chief of Staff to Councilman Patrick Council, and has a history of fighting for social justice and advocating for his peers.



## 58. PHIL SWIBINSKI

The President of Hudson-based Vision Media and Marketing Inc., Swibinski took the helm of the family business that includes scores of clients, including elected officials, county party organizations, and candidates.



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## 59. NICHOLAS CARRA

The Republican Mayor of Raritan Borough, in his late 20s, served as an aide to former Senator Bateman, and is entering the Republican primary for Assembly in the 23rd Legislative District, with the backing of the Somerset County Republicans.



## 60. TREVOR MULHALL & SARAH SEABOLDT

The two are up-and-comers at lobbying firm MBI, with Mulhall having legislative experience and Seaboldt having served as Chief of Staff in the 16th Legislative District; she also serves as Finance Chair of PAM's List.



## 61. CRISTINA PINZON

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## 62. CHANE JONES

An associate corporation counsel in Newark, Jones is the Founder of “Black Girl in the Legal World”, a blog which provides support and empowerment for young black females in the legal world.



## 63. NATE HOWARD AND ADAM HOFFMAN

Howard is the President of the New Jersey College Democrats, making it a priority to engage younger voters as part of the Democratic coalition. Hoffman served as President of the New Jersey College Republicans, and has taken vocal stances against campus cultures that he argues inhibits conservative viewpoints.



## 64. JASON CILENTO

The Republican is currently serving his second term as Mayor of Dunellen, and is among the first mayors in the state to endorsed Senator Bramnick in the 2025 Republican gubernatorial primary, making the case that a ‘center-right candidate is needed’ to win the Governorship.





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## 65. JOHN VAN VLIET

A veteran Insider NJ reporter and columnist, Van Vliet's articles are a master class in writing, with current events and trends analyzed often through the lens of history. As news becomes increasingly truncated, he expects the most from readers, and he delivers the most.



## 66. FRANKIE VELEZ AND BRITTANY CLAYBROOKS

Frankie Velez and Brittany Claybrooks: The two are running on Mayor Steve Fulop's primary slate for Assembly in the 34th Legislative District; former East Orange Councilwoman Claybrooks has been unafraid to go up against the establishment, running in the 10th Congressional District primary earlier this year, while Velez made history as the youngest councilman elected in Belleville's history. He'll be among the youngest candidates running statewide next year.



## 67. CHRISTIAN FUSCARINO

The long-time Executive Director of Garden State Equality is a leading advocate for the state's LGBTQ+ community, and has cemented the organization's standing as a powerful force that delivers results. Under Fuscarino's leadership, along with a strong team and powerful allies around the state, Garden State Equality has been at the forefront of addressing issues specifically relating to LGBTQ+ youth, including transgender student protection.



## 68. FATIMA HEYWARD

Currently serving as the President of the New Jersey Young Democrats, Heyward prioritizes diversity and inclusion in politics and holds numerous leadership roles, including being a member of the state's Amistad Commission, the youngest on the board.



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## 69. LAUREN ALBRECHT

An unabashed and unafraid fighter for her causes, Albrecht is a leader in Garden State Equality’s efforts to protect LGBTQ+ students, and her strong advocacy runs from the Statehouse to local school boards – with results to show for it.



## 70. JOHN FRANCIS ROMAN

Though he’s stepping down at the end of this year, the 6th Ward Councilman in Linden is well-respected in Union County and beyond, with a reputation for being a staunch advocate for his ward residents, and the city as a whole.



## 71. JAMES KERN

The veteran Republican, who once served as one of the youngest mayors in the state, easily won re-election to his third term on the Warren County Board of Commissioners this year, and is still the governing body’s youngest member.



## 72. QUINTON LAW

A rising star in South Jersey, Law made history as Moorestown's youngest and first African-American member of the town's council.



## 73. ANDRES ACEBO

The youngest-known to serve as the head of a public state university, the New Jersey City University President has won accolades for his leadership in higher education and for guiding the university through its fiscal challenges.



## 74. INTASHAN CHOWDHURY

The former Business Administrator from Prospect Park, the youngest in the state, has a reputation for crafting innovative solutions to local challenges, and made strides in municipal modernization for the town.







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## 75. PETRA GASKINS

Gaskins overcame homelessness at a young age, and was elected to the New Brunswick Council in 2022; earlier this year, she became the Chief of Staff to 30th Legislative District Senator Joseph Cryan, and previously served as 16th Legislative District Senator Andrew Zwicker's Chief of Staff.



## 76. HARRY CLEWELL

The Municipal Chair of the New Providence Democratic Committee is a former mayoral candidate and is a rising star attorney focusing on election law at Genova Burns LLC.



## 77. HARRIS LAUFER

A former staffer to Senate President Scutari, Laufer serves as a Springfield Township Committeeman and leads the Jewish Federation of New Jersey.





## 78. HABIB KADER

A former press staffer to Senator Booker, Kader is a key ally to Paterson Mayor Andre Sayegh, serving as his Chief of Staff, and will play a major role as the mayor looks towards the future.



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## 79. ALEX KEISER

The Chief of Staff to 34th Legislative District Senator John McKeon, Keiser was first-elected to the Springfield Township Committee in 2018, the youngest elected official in Union County at the time. Having served in past as Springfield Mayor, he was re-elected this November to another term.



## 80. KYLE HANSON

Elected in November of 2023, Hanson became the youngest Mayor of Barrington when he was sworn-in to office in January 2024. He serves as the Chief of Staff to 5th Legislative District Assemblyman Bill Moen.



## 81. JASON KRANE AND JASMINE METELLUS

The Senior Development Director at the New Jersey League of Conservation Voters, and the organization's chief fundraiser, Krane has a passion for mitigating the effects of climate change, and was recently honored with the 'Outstanding Non-Profit Advocate Award' from the Association of Professional Fundraisers. Metellus is the NJLCV's Government Relations and Politics Manager, is the former Chief of Staff to 28th Legislative District Senator Burgess, serves as the President of the Essex County Young Democrats, and actively mentors high school and college students.





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## 82. ANDREW TRENK

The Essex-based operative has ties around the state, and is the proprietor of the growing Missing Sock Laundry empire.



## 83. LIAM STARKEY

The 18-year old won election to the Brielle Board of Education in November, having launched his candidacy as a high school student.



## 84. JOEY FOX AND ZACH BLACKBURN

The young reporters for the NJ Globe deliver insightful content, with Fox offering detailed political analysis and covering the state's federal representatives in the nation's capitol, and Blackburn covering legislative events at the Statehouse.





## 85. AKEEM CUNNINGHAM

The Deputy Chief of Staff to East Orange Mayor Ted Green directs voter outreach and expansion in Essex County, and is set to lead the Essex County Urban League.



## 86. ALEJANDRA SORTO AND LIZA WEISBERG

Both with the ACLU-NJ, Sorto is a strong advocate for youth civic engagement, including lowering the voting age; Weisberg is a legal leader in efforts to expand voting rights in the state.



## 87. VIN CINIELLO, JONATHAN SCHARFF AND ERIN HOWARD

The three are rising stars at Avoq, a leading public affairs and public relations firm, each with an emphasis on public policy messaging, coalition-building, and strategic communications efforts.





Pictured above:  
**Sean M. Spiller**, President (center)  
**Steve Beatty**, Vice President (left)  
**Petal Robertson**, Secretary-Treasurer (right)

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## 88. DANIELLE IRELAND-IMHOF

The Passaic County Clerk won re-election last year, and is among the youngest county clerks in the state.



## 89. OWEN LAROCCA

The 24-year old Republican was appointed to the Stafford council earlier this year, bringing a fresh perspective to the local government.



## 90. KARLITO ALMEDA

Following his legislative work with former Senate Majority Leader Loretta Weinberg, Almeda ran for Assembly in 2021 in the 39th Legislative District, one of the youngest candidates in the state during that cycle. He now works as a Senior Vice President at the venerable Zita Group.



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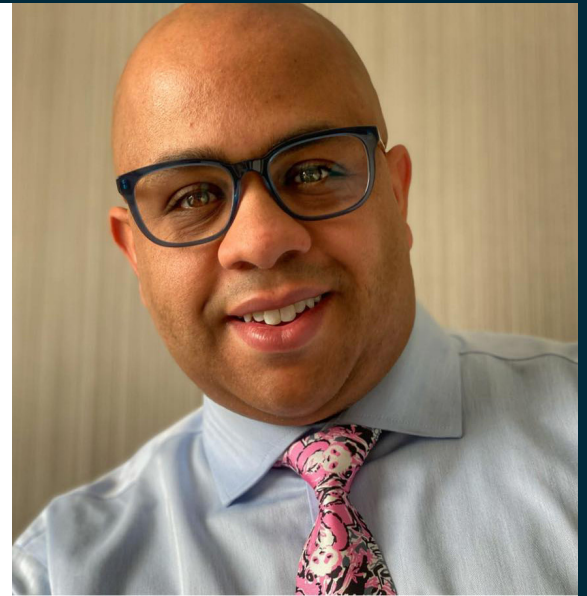
## 91. MATTHEW HAYDEN

A young litigator, Hayden serves on the Hudson County Improvement Authority and is a member of the Governor's Advisory Council on Volunteerism and Community Service.



## 92. JAY REDD

A former Trenton Board of Education President and Statehouse staffer, the attorney has hooks everywhere, and launched Stono Public Affairs with James Gee in 2022. He has worked extensively on issues relating to domestic violence and mental health.



## 93. CLAIRE ANDERSON

A strong staffer with solid legislative skills, Anderson serves as Chief of Staff to 37th Legislative District Assemblywoman Ellen Park.



## 94. TOM JONES

With his roots in Parsippany, Jones' North Jersey Research is making a mark for targeted digital campaign work.



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## 95. DEVIN MULROY

A former staffer with First Lady Tammy Murphy who worked on her maternal health initiative, Mulroy now works in the Governor's Office as a senior legislative aide.



## 96. NATASHA ALGARASAN AND ETHAN ANDERSEN

Both talented rising stars at Princeton Communications Strategies, Andersen serves as a firm partner and has a background in media communications, and Algarasan is a former Department of Health Communications Director.



## 97. ADAM GUZEWSKI AND LAURA GUNN

Both public affairs experts at Katz Government Affairs, Guziejewski served as Deputy Director of the State Funeral Directors Association, and Gunn served as Government Affairs Vice President at the NJ Chamber of Commerce.



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## 98. MATT JORDAN

After serving as Passaic County Counsel, Jordan succeeded longtime County Administrator Anthony DeNova and is the youngest county administrator in the state, providing a fresh perspective in a critical role.



## 99. DAN SMITH

The former Senior Advisor to Assembly Speaker Coughlin, Harris works at 1868 Public Affairs, and has a deep understanding of policymaking and strategy.



## 100. ROSS ZAZZARINO

The Republican, aged 23, won election to the Bernardsville council this November, and will be the youngest member of the town's government body since its creation 100 years ago.

