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# Message from the Editor INSIDER NJ 2020 MILLENNIALS IT'S ALL YOU NOW, OR MOSTLY, LET'S FACE IT.

It's all you now, or mostly, let's face it.

You were handed a tumultuous world to live in, bookended by 9-11 and COVID-19. The fact that we even got hit at all in 2001 is a matter of shameful government incompetence on the actionable intelligence front. That we took that event and twisted it into our own preposterous version of trying to make lemonade out of lemons in Iraq just further entrenched us in a bleary period of U.S. foreign policy.

In New Jersey, if you're a Democrat, you've seen a governor resign and two more recruited from Wall Street, whose vantage point in that world – to hear them tell it – supposedly gave them a keen understanding of the working class lives the rest of us lead. The Republicans gave us Bridgegate, which they want the rest of us to forget about.

In the following pages you will find an accounting of some the rising minds on the Garden State political scene. This list should be seen less as a 'power list proper' and more a guide to emerging talents, and some inspirational narratives, making their way in New Jersey politics. There are a great many of them – and many with great promise. If you were on the list last year, but aren't this year, don't fret – our aim with this publication is to highlight different talents and narratives, not simply rehash last year's list.

In light of what we've waded through in the public arena these last two decades, I would exhort you only to do better than what you received.

No one's saying you had anything to do with the train wreck you inherited, but now you have to step up and shovel out of the narcissist shambles you inherited, and you must find a way to do better.

The bar, frankly, is low.

Run with it.

It's your damn time.

You didn't contribute to the sins that should torment those in front of you, still plagued by nagging 19th century prejudices and intent on being photographed amid their decayed portents of power.

Go take what you deserve.

We need you to step up and be so much better than what we have been.

Max Pizarro

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### **1. FABIANA PIERRE-LOUIS**



Routinely downtrodden by its own lack of seriousness, entrenched corruption, the long shadow of New York City, the history of a racist governor who became the state's only U.S. president to have cut his teeth on politics here, and a jagged "tale of two cities" culture, New Jersey this year even in the middle of the COVID-19 crisis, finally had what could only be described as a majestic moment.

The Senate passage on August 27th of Fabiana Pierre-Louis to be an associate justice makes the 39-year old the first African-American woman to sit on the New Jersey State Supreme Court. The Senate voted 39-0 in favor of the nominee, and took pains to note the high quality of her candidacy as Pierre-Louis and her family waited in the wings, aligned with a rare story of grandeur for all of New Jersey – and a fairly beat-up country.

The impeccably credentialed judge's rapid professional ascent makes her the youngest Justice by far on the New Jersey Supreme Court, giving her an additional unique perspective and assuring her place at the top of this year's InsiderNJ Millennial List. It's a monumental and paradigm-shifting moment, not just for the judicial system, but for the entire younger generation, which will have a true peer for the first time on the Supreme Court. She could conceivably be a sitting Justice for decades, ruling on cases and issues that may not even yet be on the horizon.

The daughter of Haitian immigrants, born in New York, raised in Irvington, Pierre-Louis clerked for former Associate Justice John Wallace. She is a graduate of Rutgers-Camden and worked as an associate in Montgomery McCracken's White Collar and Government Investigations practice group. She then served for nine years in the United States Attorney's Office for the District of New Jersey as an Assistant U.S. Attorney and the Attorney-in-Charge of the Camden Branch Office, the first woman of color to hold that position in the history of the District. Prior to serving as the Attorney-in-Charge of the Camden Office, Pierre-Louis also served as the Attorney-in-Charge of the Trenton Branch Office from November 2016 to December 2018 and was the first woman of color to hold that position as well. In addition to working in both Trenton and Camden, Pierre-Louis worked in the Newark Office in the General Crimes Unit and the Organized Crime and Gang Unit.

"It wasn't until 1994 – 218 years since our state's founding and 47 years after our current Constitution took effect – that Associate Justice James Coleman took his seat as the Court's first Black jurist," said Governor Phil Murphy, who nominated Pierre-Louis. "It took only 16 years, when Justice Wallace was removed, before the African American experience and perspective was again absent. Justice cannot be blind if those who sit on our highest and most powerful bench are not surrounded by colleagues who encompass the full range of the American experience, whether it be racially or generationally, or both.

"And, so, today, we are making a powerful statement of where and how these values guide us," the governor added. "Fabiana brings with her a sharp legal mind and a perspective which will be greatly beneficial to the proceedings of our Supreme Court."

### **2. MEGAN COYNE AND PEARL GABEL**





The two women in charge of the state's digital media team, along with Edwin Torres, have revolutionized the state's use of social media, particularly with New Jersey's official Twitter account this year, attracting national attention in the process. The @NJGov account (with the descriptor of 'OFFICIAL Twitter of the Garden State – the Pizza and Bagel Capital of the World and greatest state in the nation. Central Jersey exists. Wear a mask.') now boasts over 338,500 followers as of September 2020 and has sparked engagement in a way that few, if any, government social media accounts have in the past. They've captivated the audience with a Jersey edginess and assertiveness – most notably evidently, perhaps, in the response to when someone posited 'Who let New Jersey have a Twitter': 'your mom'. While the Twitter account certainly is an homage to that Jersey attitude we all love, Covne and Gabel have also tapped into something more fundamental yet powerful: creatively using social media platforms to get the attention of residents in a relatable way, and then effectively using those platforms to impart public information to a wider audience.

CONGRATULATIONS TO Ethan Andersen Communications Director



#### Named to Insider 100: Millennials List



Your story is our strategy.

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# **3. BRYCE ROBINS**

Robins was elected to his first term on the Leonia Board of Education as a senior in high school. During his first term on BOE, Robins was also a student at George Washington University in Washington DC, and traveled home to Leonia every two weeks via Amtrak or bus to attend Board meetings – a four hour commute of approximately 500 miles roundtrip. He even took a part-time job waiting tables to pay for commuting costs in order to serve on BOE. Among his initial campaign pledges was to increase student representation on



the BOE – and now, two students sit in advisory roles on the board. Having served as the BOE President, Robins was elected to his second term in 2019. Drawing from his unique experience, he offers the following advice for his peers: "when you're young, people see you as young first, not the position you're in. They'll say 'that kid on the board' but not 'that board member' – it's something to overcome, that's fine, if you just do what's right.

### 4. BRITTANY O'NEILL

The Chief of Staff to Senator Mike Testa and Assemblymembers McLellan and Simonsen, O'Neill was at the heart of the operations during last year's most-watched legislative race which resulted in the wipe-out of LD1's Democratic incumbents by the Republican challengers. With all eyes on Testa, she remains critical in guiding the freshman Senator, who is seen in many circles as a potential candidate for higher office and the most promising GOP figure in the Legislature.



# **5. MICHAEL SULEIMAN**

The young Atlantic County Democratic Organization chairman is in the spotlight with CD2 Rep. Van Drew's party switch from Democrat to Republican, and again with the CD2 Democratic primary earlier this year, presiding over the only open county convention. Atlantic County, and Suleiman, will remain critical heading into the final stretch of the CD2 race, one of the most-watched in the nation.



# **6. FELISHA REYES-MORTON**

The youngest councilmember in the City of Camden, Reyes-Morton overcame a traumatic childhood and has made it a priority to apply the lessons she learned, and the skills she's honed, to her leadership on the Council. In an interview with the Philadelphia Inquirer in early 2020, Morton Reyes said she sees local government opportunities as 'ways to avoid future generations and my own children — from having to mature before time because of their circumstances'.



# 7. ZACHARY DOUGHERTY

Described by a neighbor last year as the 'living example' of President John F. Kennedy's 'ask not what your country can do for you, ask what you can do for your country', Doherty is a Monmouth University student who has maintained an active presence on the state level for gun control legislation – Governor Murphy signed legislation into law last year of which Dougherty was a key advocate – and in his hometown of Toms River on behalf of his fellow students. Advocating for schools repairs and upgrades in 2019, Dougherty said, 'as a senior I could easily leave it to the next generation and close the door behind me. I owe everything to the school district that helped me be the best I can be'.



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### **8. TONY PERRY**

Having cut his teeth serving as Chief of Staff to former Republican Senator Joe Kryillos, Perry is now serving his second year as Mayor of Middletown – home of Governor Murphy – in Monmouth County. The rising Republican star continues to impress observers with his leadership skills.



### 9. SARAH NEIBART

An active presence in Republican circles and confidante of former LG Guadagno, Neibart ascended to the mayoralty of Mendham Township, becoming the youngest female Republican mayor in the state. She's a clarion young conservative voice who founded the Fair Property Taxes For All New Jersey' group.



### **10. ANTWAN MCLELLAN**

After serving on the Ocean City Board of Education, and two terms as an Ocean City Councilman, the freshman Republican Assemblyman was elected in 2019 alongside Senator Testa in 2019's much-watched and contentious LD1 battle, becoming the second African-American Republican lawmaker in the Legislature's history.



# **11. WILL CUNNINGHAM**

Overcoming homelessness to attend Brown University and work for the House Oversight Committee, the openly gay former CD2 Democratic primary candidate received accolades for a strong and moving debate performance calling for action on social justice and criminal justice reform, using his personal experiences to illustrate the importance of the issues. During the campaign, the Philadelphia Inquirer noted that 'his is a generation whose time has come'. Cunningham's former campaign staff recently have launched a nationwide progressive PAC.



### **12. TOMMY RUSSO**

An attorney specializing in workers compensation law, Russo was elected to the Howell council in 2018, and started a first-of-its-kind internship program for high school students to gain first-hand experience with the workings of local government.



### 13. JESSE O. KURTZ

The youngest councilman in Atlantic City – and its lone Republican, since the defeat of Mayor Don Guardian in 2017 – won re-election earlier this year in a nail-biter race.





#### CONGRATULATIONS TO

Christina Zuk and Regina Appolon Named to Insider 100 Millennials List

#### AND

#### Sam Weinstein Named to Millennials to Watch



# **14. CRISTINA PINZON**

The Stateside Affairs founder has become a major player among young New Jersey politicos and serves as a bridge between the state's political players and the Latino community.



### **15. BRANDON MCKOY**

The President of New Jersey Policy Perspective, McKoy and his team – among them, Communications Director Louis DiPaolo – offer rapid-pace analysis on key policy issues facing the state, and are widely read and relied-upon by the Governor's Office and Legislature.



### 16. VIN GOPAL

The Monmouth County star, the youngest member of the state Senate, is a relevant force in the Statehouse and has surrounded himself with a team of young talent, among them: Dyese Davis, Aislinn Brennan, Toni Gingerelli, Joe Libutti, Kin Badger, and Matt Anderson.



### 17. A'DORIAN MURRAY-THOMAS

The founder of SHE WINS, a leadership organization for young girls in Newark, Thomas – who lost a parent to homicide – was elected at age 23 to the Newark Board of Education last year, becoming the youngest female elected to the board in its history.



# **18. SABEEN MASIH**

The Capital Impact Group vice president, and founder of the Asian Americans of Trenton Networking Group, has emerged as a critical young voice over the past year, specifically with her role as a member of Senator Loretta Weinberg's Workgroup on Sexual Harassment, Assault, and Misogyny in New Jersey Politics.



### **19. JOHN FRANCIS ROMAN**

First elected in 2017, stemming from his off-the-line primary victory, Roman has proven himself to be a street-smart campaigner and ward advocate who doesn't shy away from speaking out on local issues. He's a key local ally of Union County Democratic Chairman and Senator Nick Scutari.



### **20. NABILA BAPTISTE**

The Deputy Director of the New Jersey Democratic State Committee has impressed observers with her work ethic and talent – and was recently named the manager for Democratic presidential candidate Joe Biden's campaign in New Jersey.



### **21. RYAN PETERS**

The Burlington County lawmaker, a Navy Seal, has been among the most vocal Republicans in the Assembly, and survived a strong Democratic challenge in 2019, placing him – along with LD1 Senator Testa – among the bright prospects for the NJGOP's future.



### 22. MUSSAB ALI AND Abeera saeed

Saeed and Ali co-founded the Ali Leadership Institute, a mentoring program that aims to promote civics understanding and train the next generation of leaders. Ali is the youngest Muslim elected official in the nation, serving on the Jersey City Board of Education, and is attending Harvard Law School. Saeed is a Yale University student and Jersey City native who helped manage Ali's winning campaign.



### **23. VICTORIA NAPOLITANO**

The Moorestown GOP Councilwoman served as Mayor (the youngest woman ever) and recently became a mother, and has made it a point to bring her young daughter to council meetings, telling SunNewspapers that 'I hope that serves as an example that young women can step up to take leadership positions and be involved in things like this'; after 8 years in office, she opted against seeking re-election this year.



### 24. AXEL OWEN

Having previously helmed LD11 Senator Vin Gopal's winning 2017 campaign, Owen is managing the NJ CAN 2020 ballot referendum passage effort, putting him at ground-zero of one of the most important issues for young people: the legalization of marijuana.



### **INSIDER NJ 2020** MILLENNIALS \*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

### **25. BILL MOEN**

Having served as Camden County Freeholder and Senator Cory Booker's South Jersey State Director, Moen ascended to the Assembly last year following the retirement of Assemblywoman Egan Jones. He's the prime sponsor of legislation to establish 'baby bonds', which has become a priority proposal of Governor Murphy's recently.



# **26. ANTHONY FASANO**

First elected to office at the age of 19 to the Hopatcong Board of Education, Republican Fasano was elected in 2019 to the Sussex County Freeholder Board, making him one of the youngest freeholders in the state.

### **27. SCOTT SALMON**

The former CD7 Democratic primary candidate is establishing himself as a go-to elections lawyer, representing clients such as Rep. Malinowski and Paterson's Bill McKoy, who's locked in one the most contentious VBM-related elections cases in the state.



### **28. BRIANNA VANNOZZI**

An ace reporter in her early 30s, Vannozzi is a trusted and reliable journalist with the venerable NJTV, and just became the new anchor NJTV's Nightly News.



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### **29. PHIL SWIBINSKI**

One of the most impactful and connected operatives in the state, Swibinski took the helm of the family business, Vision Media, and has clients all around the state, including the NJDSC and Governor Murphy, putting him and the firm at the center of the state's political power structure.

### **30. PARIMAL GARG**

Governor Murphy's Deputy Chief Counsel has been at the center of the Front Office's major legal decisions, and is poised for even greater influence with the departure of Chief Counsel Matt Platkin.

### **31. BRITNEE TIMBERLAKE**

Essex's youngest state legislator, Timberlake had a standout legislative year with her impassioned advocacy for mortgage and rent relief during COVID-19, most notably with 'The People's Bill'.

### **32. MARSHALL SPEVAK**

The brand-name Spevak, a veteran operative and former NJ Young Democrats President, recently left the Casino Redevelopment Authority for a new position with venerated powerhouse firm MWWPR.









### **33. MATT ANDERSON**

The founder of Millennials For NJ, along with Board of Directors members Rebecca Schwartz, Matt Clarkin, Kaylee McGuire, and Juan Carlos Nordelo, had a standout year guiding millennial candidates across the state, with a large number of them on the winning end of Election Day in 2019.

### **34. INTASHAN CHOWDHURY**

The rising star from the Bengali community – one of the fastest growing and politically active in the state – became the youngest business administrators in state history last year, and continues to navigate small town politics and government while forging connections around the state.





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# **35. ZELLI IMANI THOMAS**

The Black Lives Matter organizer and Paterson educator, who along with local activists like BOE Commissioner Corey Teague, has been an outspoken social justice advocate for years.

### **36. RAJ MUKHERJI**

The LD33 Assemblyman is a veteran legislator at this point, having been first elected in 2015 after serving as Deputy Mayor of Jersey City.

### **37. KATE DELANEY**

The Collingswood Democratic Chair was elected last year in a local county committee primary race upset, and remains a key young progressive voice in South Jersey.

### **38. CHRISTIAN FUSCARINO**

The Director of Garden State Equality, leading a dedicated staff and committed volunteers and advocates, continues to work day-and-night to highlight and solve critical challenges facing the LGBTQ community in the state while maintaining GSE's status as one of the most influential organizations in the state.







# **39. FATIMA HEYWARD**

The President of the New Jersey Young Democrats has taken on a visible and active role in New Jersey heading into the 2020 presidential election, which many young voters believe to be one of the most important of their lifetimes.



### **40. HAZIM YASSIN**

The young Red Bank Councilman was elected in 2018, and spearheaded an effort to raise COVID-19 relief funds from a bipartisan group of election officials earlier this year.



### **41. BRITTANY CLAYBROOKS**

The East Orange councilwoman is the youngest on the city's governing body, and has a diverse public service background, including her work with the Congressional Black Caucus and Young Invincibles, a national non-profit that advocates on behalf of millennials.



# **42. CRYSTAL PRUITT**

In addition to serving as Assemblyman Zwicker's Chief of Staff and a Franklin Township Councilwoman, Pruitt has been in the spotlight this year with her role as a member of Senator Weinberg's Workgroup on Sexual Assault, Harassment, and Misogyny in NJ Politics.





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### **43. AL ABDELAZIZ**

A political veteran, Abdelaziz remains one of the youngest confidantes of NJDSC and Passaic County Chairman Currie, and is the youngest Councilman in the City of Paterson, having run for a full term last year unopposed.



The Warren County Republican won a freeholder seat in 2019, becoming the youngest member on the governing body in decades. A former Pohatcong mayor, he was an ardent advocate for obtaining COVID-19 stimulus aid for the county.

### **45. JASON CILENTO**

The former Republican Council President won the mayoral race in Dunellen last year, having made it a priority to bridge the gap between older and younger residents.

### **46. CHRISTINA ZUK**

A veteran operative and millennial power player, Zuk is part of the venerable Princeton Public Affairs team, and sits on the boards of several non-profit organizations. She's been recognized for her efforts to help build the bench for Democratic women running for office.









# **47. BRIAN PLATT**

The Jersey City Business Administrator – the youngest in the city's history – Platt has worked to modernize and innovate city operations. He's consistently been recognized nationally as a local government standout influencer.

### **48. JULIA FAHL**

First elected in 2018, Fahl has settled into her role as Mayor of Lambertville, and excels at local retail politics. The partner of Kari Osmond, Rep. Watson Coleman's District Director, Fahl has made it a priority to encourage other women to seek public office.

# **49. SETH LEVIN**

The former Chief of Staff to Assemblyman Freiman now serves as Chief of Staff to Assemblywoman Quijano, and scored a legislative victory with Governor Murphy's December signing of legislation enabling undocumented immigrants to obtain driver's licenses.

### 50. SAM JOSHI

The 'young whip' on the Edison Council, now serving as its Vice President, Joshi has made it a priority to make the town's bidding process for contracts more competitive for minority, women, and veteran-owned businesses.









# BLACK TRANS LIVES MATTER



### **51. LENA COHEN-HAWKINS**

A staffer for LD28 Assemblywoman Cleopatra Tucker, Cohen-Hawkins is a motivational speaker and co-founder of Women Operating In Opulence, a non-profit dedicated to advancing women of color.

### **52. PAUL KANITRA**

In his early 30s, Kanitra ascended to the Point Pleasant Beach mayoralty after defeating the incumbent in a GOP primary, due in part to his campaign work ethic and responsiveness to residents.

### **53. BRIAN QUIGLEY**

A widely respected legal intellect, Quigley departed from the Assembly Majority Office, but played a major role in developing the Assembly's virtual voting amid the COVID-19 pandemic. Veteran attorney Joe Hayden said of Quigley: 'wherever he lands he will make a significant mark'.

### **54. LAMONICA MCIVER**

The youngest member of Newark's City Council got her start in politics as a teenager working to increase youth participation in government, and is the founder of Newark G.A.L.S., which seeks to empower the next generation of young female leaders.











# **55. ADAM TALIAFERRO**

The young LD3 lawmaker, representing Senate President Sweeney's home district in the Assembly, defeated the odds by overcoming paralysis due to a spinal-cord injury after being given only a small chance to ever walk again. Today, he serves as the Assembly Deputy Majority Leader.



### **56. REGINA APPOLON**

The former Chief of Staff to LD31 Assemblywoman Angela McKnight and Deputy COS to former Assemblyman Wisniewski, she was influential in the passage of the CROWN Act, which gained nationwide traction. Appolon recently made the move to powerhouse Trenton firm Princeton Public Affairs.

# **57. GABRIEL TANGLAO**

The son of Filippino immigrants, the young NJEA Associate Director and public education advocate holds two master's degrees and has worked on key education issues, including student debt.





### **58. AMY DEGISE**

As one of the youngest county party chairs and one of the few female chairs in the state, DeGise continues to remain a generational change figure as head of the Hudson County Democratic Organization.



### INSIDER NJ 2020 MILLENNIALS

# **59. ERIN DELANEY**

The youngest member of Garfield's council - on which her father also sits – has elected office experience coupled with government management experience, serving as Clerk in the neighboring LD35 boroughs of Elmwood Park and Prospect Park.

### **60. SARAH SOOY**

Capturing a Somerset County freeholder seat in 2018 along with Shanel Robinson - the first Democratic victories there since the 1980s - Sooy ascended this year as the Freeholder Board's Deputy Director.

### **61. GILMAN CHOUDHURY**

A popular educator in his early 30s, Choudhury was appointed the interim Paterson Ward 2 Councilman following the election debacle which resulted in a tie and an upcoming special election. He's proved to be a calming presence amid turbulent times for Ward 2.

### **62. SARA TODISCO**

Elected in 2018 after serving on the council, the Garwood mayor is the youngest in the town's history, and has made it a priority to increase communication, including via social media, between government and residents.









## **63. ANDREW RUSSANO**

Russano serves as the Executive Director of the Hunterdon County GOP, in addition to working with go-to GOP operative Chris Russell at Checkmate Strategies, and helped revitalize the Hunterdon County Young Republicans.



### **64. DYESE DAVIS**

The Neptune Township resident, who got her start on the township's Youth Advisory Council, quickly advanced in millennial Senator Gopal's office, now serving as his Chief of Staff. She sits on the Brookdale Community College Board of Directors – the only person of color and only person under 30 on the board.

### 65. ALYANA ALFARO-POST

The former PolitickerNJ/Observer NJ reporter headed to the Front Office's press operation early on in the Murphy Administration, and has advanced from press aide to Deputy Press Secretary, and now Press Secretary.



### 66. BRIAN FITZHERBERT

The two-time former CD2 GOP primary candidate took the helm of the Atlantic County Young Republicans amid the rise of Republican Senator Testa and Rep. Van Drew's party switch; he's taking a crack in 2020 at a freeholder seat in Atlantic County.





#### Matt Anderson Chairman, Millennials for NJ

# **67. DIGNA TOWNSEND**

CD1 Rep. Donald Norcross' outreach director is a co-founder of the South Jersey Young Democrats Black Caucus, and sits on the executive board of the Gloucester County NAACP.



### **68. DANIEL GOLABEK**

Golabek began attending council meetings in his early teens, and eventually was elected to the Council, and served as Acting Mayor after the resignation of Mayor Caramagna. Golabek's brother, Jakub, serves on the BOE.



### **69. ANDREW TRENK**

The young operative is an up-and-coming pro, and is steeped in Paterson politics, particularly at the side of Councilman McKoy in Ward 3's contentious May all-VBM election.



### 70. MEDINAH MUHAMMAD

The former Essex County public information officer and Montclair University graduate serves as Chief of Staff to Assemblywoman Britnee Timberlake, herself a millennial.



# 71. LEE CLARK

Chair of the Warren County Young Democrats, Clark, who works for the NJ League of Conservation Voters, made history in Phillipsburg last year when he was appointed to a council seat, becoming the first African-American on the governing body.



### 72. MASON ROBINSON

The Somerville native, vocal and unapologetic since the killing of George Floyd, has been hitting the streets and leading the Black Lives Matter movement in the area. 'We've got to continue to push', Robinson said recently, adding that 'I'm from this town, no one's going to tell me to move along'.

### Bla Liv Mat

### 73. KAYLEE MCGUIRE

The Burlington County resident is regarded as a rising star, focusing on health and human services policy in the Assembly Majority Office. She chairs the NJ Young Democrats recentlyformed Disabilities Caucus.



### 74. KATIE CERICOLA

Host of the 'Millennial Minute' podcast, Cericola sought a Bergen County freeholder seat in 2019, and was re-elected Chair of the Bergen County Young Republicans, with an aim of increasing younger GOP local candidates.



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**Steve Swetsky** Executive Director



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Kevin Kelleher Deputy Executive Director

## 75. ALYSSA KAYE DAWSON

The former Guadagno aide was for a time the youngest GOP female councilmember in the state, and ran last year for Bergen freeholder alongside Katie Cericola. She serves as Chief of Staff to LD39 Assemblywoman Schepisi.

### 76. JOSEPH SIGNORELLO

Part of the fifth generation of a family with deep roots in Roselle Park, Signorelli was elected mayor of the town in 2018. In 2019, he was among the first endorsees of fellow millennial and former presidential candidate Pete Buttigieg.

### 77. AHMED SHEHATA

The Rutgers graduate and Eagleton Institute fellow has been a Linden Board of Education member since 2018.

### **78. HECTOR OSEGUERA**

The former CD8 Democratic progressive primary challenger ultimately lost to incumbent Rep. Sires, but not before turning heads late in the game with his progressive issues-oriented campaign.







### **INSIDER NJ 2020** MILLENNIALS

### **79. ZACH MYSHKOFF AND RICH CASTALDO**

The Middlesex-based Republican operatives launched Olympus Strategies last year, aiming to modernize GOP campaigns. Among their clients is GOP Senate candidate Dr. Rik Mehta.

# **80. IMANI OAKLEY**

The attorney and former Working Families NJ legislative director is a die-hard progressive and advocate for the advancement of African-American women. She sits on the board of the non-profit **Rights Restoration Project.** 

### **81. CHRIS TULLY**

Now the senior Assemblyman in LD38, Tully got his start as a former Councilman in Bergenfield and working for CD5 Rep. Gottheimer.

### **82. CLINTON CALABRESE**

The young LD36 Assemblyman from Bergen County is the second youngest lawmaker in the Legislature.











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# **83. ALLISON PELTZMAN**

The millennial communications director for the ACLU-NJ, Peltzman's communications expertise and precision have been a key part in the influential organization's policy victories.



## **84. ETHAN ANDERSEN**

The Communications Director for Princeton Strategic Communications is talented, well-traveled, and multi-lingual, and was admitted to be part of the prestigious Forbes Communication Council.

## **85. JERRELL BLAKELY**

The Trenton Councilman has a strong background in public education, got lead the effort to bring Leadership Civics to Trenton's public schools.



## **86. VIN CINIELLO**

A principal with powerhouse public relations firm Kivvit, Ciniello has won awards and accolades for his labor advocacy initiatives and has managed organizing campaigns around the nation.



# **87. THERESA VELARDI**

The former Monmouth County GOP Executive Director and former staffer for Assemblywoman DiMaso sits on the Board of Monmouth County GOP Federation of Women, and ran for council in Aberdeen last year.

## **88. MIKE DEFUSCO**

The media executive and former mayoral candidate secured a second term on the Hoboken Council last year. The only openly gay member of the city's governing body, DeFusco has been outspoken and vocal on key issues affecting the city.

### 89. HENRY DE KONINCK AND MATT KRAYTON

The principals at political strategy and communications firm Publitics – along with Sam Leibman – continue to receive awards for their innovative work on behalf of their diverse client base.

## 90. SAM DEALMEIDA

Having made a play for the LD10 Republican Assembly seat last year making the case for outreach to younger voters, DeAlmeida was recently named the Government Affairs Liaison for the Associated Builders and Contractors of New Jersey.









# **91. KAYVON PAUL**

With a background working on campaigns and for Garden State Equality, he's a rising star at MBI focusing on helping non-profits navigate the government process.



The former campaign manager for CD7 Rep. Malinowski's winning campaign in 2018, she's now his Chief of Staff as the freshman Congressman gears up for re-election.





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# **93. JADE KOHUT**

The 27-year old Kohut serves as the Jefferson Township GOP Chair in Morris County, the first transgender woman to hold the position.



## 94. ALANA BURMAN

Advancing quickly through the ranks, the Mercer-County based Burman serves as Assistant Director at Duane Morris Gov't Services, handling major clients in a wide range of industries.



# **95. DAVID SPECTOR**

A former LD4 staffer, the Camden County native served as the youngest Bellmawr Councilman and now works as a Government Representative at the NJDOL.



# **96. MATT CONLON**

Having served as one of youngest Board of Education members in the state, the former West Milford GOP Chair and NJ State Young Republican Federation chair is seeking a freeholder seat in Passaic County this year.



# **97. LEE SCHNEIDER**

The Republican Deputy Mayor of Hainesport in Burlington County is an active conservative voice, and earlier this year backed eventual CD3 primary victor David Richter.



### **98. JOE SARNO**

The Union County resident, who ran for freeholder in 2018, serves as Chair of the New Jersey Federation of Young Republicans.



## 99. KASON LITTLE

The young Elizabeth-based Black Lives Matter activist has been outspoken on social justice and education issues, and earlier this year announced his candidacy for Council.



### **100. RYAN MICHAEL MCDONALD**

The young conservative has been an active supporter of President Trump's in New Jersey, and is the creator of the NJ1st Facebook page. He's currently working on writing a book on political activism.





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#### **MILLENNIALS TO WATCH**

Adam Guzjewiski: Katz Government Affairs Aimee Foccoraccio: North Bergen CARES coordinator Alea Couch: Senate Democrats staffer **Alex Cuccinniello:** Bergen County Young **Republicans Vice Chairman Alex Keiser:** Springfield Committeeman Alex Soloman: Senate Republican Office staffer Alexander Moskovitz: NJ High School Democrats President **Alexis Bailey:** Kaufman Zita Group legislative researcher **Alexis Degnan:** NJ Brewers Association Executive Director Alisha DeLorenzo: Deputy Director GSE **Amanda Karpinski:** Aide to Bergen County Freeholder Amoroso Amit Jani: Heads up 'South Asians For Biden' caucus **Amy Johnston:** Former COS to Assemblyman Rooney Andrea Katz: NJDHS Chief of Staff Andres Acebo: Rising star at DeCotiis Law Andrew LaBruna: Dumont Mayor Andrew Musick: NJBIA Government Affairs Andrew Regenstreich: Rising star in the development world **Angela Faith** – Office Manager for CD4 Rep. Smith Anna Wong: CD5 Indivisible founder Anthony Miragliotta: Wayne GOP Chairman Antoinette Miles: Outreach Director for Rep. Kim Archange Antoine: Activist and Roselle mayoral candidate Ashley Bennett: Atlantic County Freeholder and former CD2 primary candidate Ashley Davis: Plainfield Councilwoman Ashley Rosone: Former NJ College Republicans President

Ashton Burrell: Human Relations Council Chairman Assad Akhter: Passaic County Freeholder Athina Fassau: Assembly aid Aylon Berger: Co-Founder of NJ High School Democrats **Beau William Huch:** Legislative Director for Senator O'Scanlon Ben Silva: Sussex Dems Committeeman Bijan Terani: Progressive Democrats of NJ Communications Director **Billy Prempeh:** CD9 GOP candidate Brandon Bernier: Roselle Councilman Brandon Givens: Democratic State Committeeman Brandon Pugh: Former Moorestown BOE member Brian Thomas: Neptune City Councilman Brittany Wheeler: Former COS to Assemblyman DePhillips, now working on the Ciattarelli GOP campaign Bryana DeVeux: Assembly Majority Office staffer Caitlin Giles McCormick: Flemington Councilwoman Caitlin Mota: Vision Media spokeswoman Carl Benedetti Jr.: Ewing Township BOE member Cat Tung: Assembly Majority Office staffer Chackeema Cruikshank: Staffer to Senator Menendez Charity Jeffries: COS to Assemblymen Armato and Mazzeo Charlene Walker: Faith in NJ Charlie Kratovil: Founder of NewBrunswickToday Chris DiPiazza: Paramus Councilman Chris Flores: Aide in Senator Menendez's office Christian Callegari: COS to Assemblyman Schaer Christopher Scales: Aide in Governor Murphy's Office

#### **MILLENNIALS TO WATCH**

**Clayon Gonzalez:** Camden BOE candidate **Cody McLaughlin:** NJ Outdoor Alliance Board Member

**Connor Munsch:** Aide to Rep. Gottheimer **Connor Schmeigel:** NJ Food Council Associate Director

Dan Harris: Aide to Speaker Coughlin Dan Smith: Key adviser to Speaker Coughlin Danielle Ireland-Imhoff: Passaic County Clerk Dave Pilmenstein: Activate Media founder David Grant: Deputy Director of Gov't Affairs for NJ Realtors

**David McMillan:** Aide to Trenton Mayor Gusciora

David Sands: Bergen County communications David Vitali: Optimus Partners Vice President Davon McCurry: NJDEP Legislative Affairs Daysi Gonzalez: Prospect Park BOE member Demetrius Terry: Hudson-based activist Derek DeLuca: Assembly Minority Office staffer

**Eashwayne Haughton:** Aide to Assemblywoman Reynolds-Jackson

**Elton Armady:** Plainfield Councilman **Emily Gil:** Englewood Black Lives Matter activist

Emy Quispe: 32BJ Policy Coordinator Evan Covello: Works for Millennium Strategies Fahim Abedrabbo: First Muslim Arab-American elected school board member in Clifton Francesco Fasolo: Elmwood Park Councilman Francine Glaser: Fanwood Councilwoman Francine Mel:

**Garret Racz:** Aide to Assemblyman Benson **Gary LaSpisa:** Insurance Council of NJ Vice President

Giancarlo Tello: Immigration Activist

Greg Vartan: Summit Councilman Guillermo C. Artiles: McCarter and English attorney Hamza Abdelghani: North Bergen Housing Authority Commissioner Hanna Mori: State Director for Cory Booker Harris Laufer: Assembly aide Harrison Neely: Veteran GOP operative Hilary Becket Chebra: Southern NJ Chamber of Commerce Gov't Affairs Iris Delgado: DACC Executive Director J.D. Bryden: Union County Young Republicans Chairman Jacob Rudolph: Executive Director of the Pride Network Jade Bechelli: Assembly Majority Office staffer James Belford Damiano: Little Falls Mayor James Eaddy: Progressive activist James Pillion: Young Americans For Liberty State Chairman James Solomon: Jersey City Councilman Jane Rosenblatt: NJDEP Deputy Chief of Staff Jarrett Branch: BLEXIT NJ Assistant State Director Jasmine Story: Eatontown Councilwoman Jason Bergman: Associate at Parano and Associates Jason DeAlessi: Fuerza Strategy Group owner Jason Krychiw: Union Township Committeeman Jeff Martin: Hamilton Mavor Jen Ehrentraut: Garden State Equality Board Member Jen Lehman: Senior advisor to Assembly Majority Leader Greenwald Jenna Mellor: NJ Harm Reduction Coalition

Jerrel Harvey: Murphy press aide

Jessica Stewart: South Jersey fundraiser

#### **MILLENNIALS TO WATCH**

Joe Forte: NJ LGBTQ Democrats Vice Chair Johanna Calle: NJ Alliance for Immigrant Justice John Bingham: Former NJ College Democrats President John Mulholland: Chief of Staff to Assemblywoman Murphy John Van Vliet: Insider NJ contributor Jon Chebra: NJDCF Policy Director Jonathan Atwood: South Jersey Ports Corporation Chief of Staff Jonathan Sternesky: NJHMFA Policy and Legislative Affairs Manager Jorge Eduardo: Bloomfield County Committeemember Juan Carlos Nordello: COS to Assemblywoman Lopez Julianna Vogt: Member of the HCDO's executive team Justin Braz: Murphy Deputy Chief of Staff for Legislative Affairs Justin Goldsman: Our Revolution-Essex County founder Kaitlyn Wojtowicz: Planned Parenthood of NJ VP of Public Affais Kari Osmond: District Director for Rep. Watson Coleman Kate Gibbs: Former CD3 GOP primary candidate Kate Triggiano: Red Bank Councilwoman Katie Brennan: NJ Mortgage and Finance Agency Chief of Staff Katie Wertheimer: COS to Assemblywoman Vainieri Huttle Keith Benson: Camden Education Association President Kelly Ruffel: Passaic County Deputy Administrator

**Kennith Gonzalez:** Former GOP Hudson County Executive candidate Kevin Tober: GOP operative **Kimelle Ash:** Aide to LD7 Senator Singleton Koren Frankfort: Hudson-rooted policy brain and fundraiser Lance Taylor: Murphy appointment aid Laurie Lalicon: Policy for First Lady Tammy Murphy Leslye Moye: Morris County Democrats **Executive Director** Liz Coulter: Member of Senator Weinberg's toxic workplace panel Liz Mahn: Senate Democrats Deputy Budget Director MacKenzie Robertson: Insider NJ contributor Marelyn Rivera: Aide to Governor Murphy Maria Andrade: Newark Hispanic Commission Maria del cid Kosso: Legislative Director for NJDOH Maria Rodriguez-Gregg: Former GOP Assemblywoman Marie Guervil: Aide to Governor Murphy Mariel DiDato: Former LD13 candidate Mark Gyorfy: Morris Township Councilman Margweesha Guthrie: NJYD Black Caucus Chair Marvin James: Staffer to Assemblyman Verrelli Matt Clarkin: Parsippany Mayor Soriano's COS **Matt Gilson:** Bergen County GOP operative Matt Kitchen: Keansburg Democratic Chair Matt Marinello: Atlantic Health Systems Government Affars Matt Platkin: Governor Murphy's Chief Counsel Matt Rooney: Founder of SaveJersey Matt Woolley: Former LD11 GOP candidate Matthew Moench: Bridgewater Township Mayor

#### **MILLENNIALS TO WATCH**

Matthew Weng: Pittsman Councilman Meagan Warner: Lambertville BOE member Meet Patel: IGA aide Megan Cryan: Focuses on energy and infrastructure for Kivvit Meredith Meisenheimer: Handles communications for South Jersey Progressive Women For Change Michael Bellucci: Aide to Bergen Executive Tedesco Michael Casey: Bergen County GOP operative Michael Chang: Aide in Secretary of State's Office Michael Clancy: Monmouth County Young **Republicans President** Michael Fedorchko: Aide to Senate President Sweenev **Michael Spadoro:** Political Director for Rep. Watson Coleman Michael Thulen Jr.: USDA State Director of **Rural Development** Mickey Quinn: Democratic consultant and former Assembly Majority Office Deputy **Executive Director** Mike Delamater: Deputy Chief of Staff Office Intergovernmental Affairs **Mike Makarski:** Veteran operative now with ELEC825 Mike Mangan: Manasquan Councilman Mike Zhadanvosky: Murphy press aide **Missy Rebovich:** NJ Future Government Affairs Director Mohamed Asker: Middlesex County Freeholder **Board Aide** Mohammed Ramadan: Haledon BOE member and council candidate

Natasha Rodgers: Newark-based urban planning expert Nedia Morsy: Make The Road NJ organizer **Neil Carroll:** Bayonne Councilman **Neil Eicher:** (NJ Hospital Assocation) Nevin Perkins: Black Men United founder Nicholas Gangemi: Burlington County communications Nick Brago: NJ College Democrats Southern Regional Chair Nick Mammano: COS to Senator Lagana **Nicole Ginnis:** COS to Assemblyman Rooney Nohemi Soria-Perez: LD5 Chief of Staff **Oshin Castillo:** Paterson BOE Member Paulina Banasiak: Aide to Governor Murphy Peter Shenouda: Former Chairman at NJ College Republicans **Petra Gaskins:** Aide to Rep. Watson Coleman Pierce Gerard Frauenheim: Republican National Committee NJ State Director Priscilla Garces: Former Newark BOE candidate **Rachel Gurevich:** NJ High School Democrats Chair Raine Cuseglio: Aide to Assemblyman Chiarravalloti **Raphael Chavez-Fernandez:** Senator Menendez state director Rashan Prailow: Former Camden Council candidate **Ray Cottiers:** COS to Assemblyman DePhillips **Ray Woods:** Merchantville Councilman **Rebecca Schwartz:** Senior Aide to Murphy **Reginald Bledsoe:** Former Newark BOE member **Rob Matos:** Staffer to Senator Menendez Rob Zuckerman: Assembly staffer

#### **MILLENNIALS TO WATCH**

**Robert Arace:** Manchester GOP Club President **Robert Moran:** Outreach for Menendez **Ron Rivers:** Former LD17 Democratic primary candidate

Roxy Coburger: NJGOP Political Director Rue Ryan: Lumberton Committeewoman Ryan Doran: South Jersey-based labor leader Ryan Jones: South River Councilman

**S. Nadia Hussain:** Bangladeshi American Women's Development Initiative Co-Founder **Sadef Jaffer:** Montgomery Township mayor

**Sam Bender:** LD5 Legislative Director **Sam Weinstein:** Rising star at Princeton Public Affairs

Sandra Meola: NJ Audubon Society Sara Cullinane: Make The Road NJ Founding Organizer

Sean Keagan Foley: Former Scotch Plains BOE candidate

Sergio Granados: Union County Freeholder Shadaya Bennett: COS to Assemblywoman Speight

Shane Derris: Optimus Partners Vice President Shane Mitchell: Staffer to Senator Weinberg

**Shariq Ahmed:** Edison Democratic Organization

Shaylynne Bivens: COS to Asemblywoman Sumter

Sheena Collum: South Orange Mayor Shereef Elnahal: University Hospital President and CEO, former NJDOH Commissioner Sikaander Khan: Passaic freeholder aide

Stathis Theodoroupulous: Host of millennial podcast Jersey XYZ.

**Stephanie Lagos:** Chief of Staff to First Lady Tammy Murphy **Stephany Kim Chohan:** Highland Park Councilwoman Stephen Steglik: Mount Laurel Councilman Stephen Yellin: Summit Councilman Storm Wyche: Ran Senator Booker's NJ presidential campaign Sydney Ugalde: Legislative Aide to Assemblywoman DeCroce Theo Grayer: Former Chair of NJ High School Democrats Theo Siggelakis: Founder of Broad Street Strategies **Theresa Winegar:** Tom Kean's congressional campaign manager Thomas Bushnauskas: Aide to Passaic Freeholder Lazzara **Tim Hillmann:** Aide In Governor Murphy's Office **TJ Best:** Passaic County Freeholder Tyler Burrell: Delran Councilman Varun Seetamraju: Former NJ High School Democrats Chair Vicki Chad: Ocean County Republican Waleed Migbal: A GOTV force for Senator Brian Stack Will Gruccio: Renati Solutions Owner Yousef Saleh: Jersey City Ward D Councilman