



## MEMORANDUM

FROM: Riker, Danzig, Scherer, Hyland & Perretti LLP  
DATE: November 4, 2009  
SUBJECT: New Jersey 2009 General Election Results

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On Tuesday, November 3, 2009, New Jersey voters selected, by a 49 to 44 to 6% margin, Republican Chris Christie over Democratic incumbent Governor Jon Corzine and Independent Chris Daggett, despite momentum gained by the Governor over the last several weeks. Christie is the former U.S. Attorney for New Jersey. Daggett, the independent and former NJDEP Commissioner, garnered over 130,000 votes which was significantly more than any of the other 9 independent challengers.

The voters also elected, for the first time, a Lieutenant Governor, Republican and Monmouth County Sheriff Kimberly Guadagno. The Lieutenant Governor will serve a four-year term concurrent with the term of the Governor.

The Democrats retained control of the Assembly where they presently hold a 48-32 margin. The Republicans picked up one seat in the 4th legislative district, so the Democrats' margin in the Assembly slips to 47-33 on January 12, 2010, when the new legislative session begins.<sup>1</sup>

There were only two special elections in the State Senate where Democrat Jim Beach (District 6) and Republican Mike Doherty (District 23) defeated their respective challengers.<sup>2</sup>

With the announced resignation of Assembly Speaker Joe Roberts in January, the legislative leadership positions in both houses are expected to be hotly contested in the coming weeks. Assemblywoman Sheila Oliver (D-34) and Assemblyman Joe Cryan (D-20) are rumored to be slated to fill the Speaker and

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<sup>1</sup> The Democrats retain control (23-17) of the Senate until the full Senate is up for election in 2011.

<sup>2</sup> In 2010, there is also expected to be a special election for the seat currently occupied by State Senator Dana Redd (D-Camden), who is serving her first term representing the 5<sup>th</sup> district. Redd won the Camden Mayor's seat in Camden's mayoral election. With the ban on dual office holding taking effect in 2008, Senator Redd can no longer hold both seats after January 2010 and has said she will resign when she is sworn in as Mayor.

Majority Leader spots, while Senator Steve Sweeney (D-3) has challenged Senate President Dick Codey (D-27) for the top spot in the Senate, with Senator Barbara Buono (D-18) reported to be the new Senate Majority Leader. Senator Tom Kean (R-21) will likely keep his position as Minority Leader, but there are rumblings about challenges for the Minority Leader post currently held by Assemblyman Alex DeCroce (R-26) in the Assembly Republican caucus.

There were many contested Assembly races in the 40 legislative districts, but only a few races of note:

**District 1 (Atlantic/Cape May/Cumberland):** Democratic incumbent Assemblymen Nelson Albano and Matthew Milam narrowly held their seats against Republican challengers Michael Donohue and Frank Conrad by a vote of 28 to 26 to 24%.

**District 3 (Cumberland/Gloucester/Salem):** Democratic incumbents John Burzichelli and Celeste Riley will keep their seats in a very close race between Riley and Republican challenger Dr. Robert Villare by a 28 to 25 to 24% margin.

**District 4 (Camden/Gloucester):** Democratic incumbent Paul Moriarity retained his seat while one of the Republican challengers, Domenick DiCicco, defeated the Democrat Bill Collins who was running for the seat occupied by Assemblywoman Sandra Love. DiCicco is the Chief Legal Officer of Zurich Insurance' North American Claim Operation. This was the one seat picked up by Republicans in this election.

**District 5 (Camden/Gloucester):** Democrats Donald Norcross and his running mate, Camden City Councilman Angel Fuentes, handily defeated Republicans Brian Kluchnik and Stephanie Velez-Gentry. Norcross ran for the seat of Assemblyman and Speaker Joe Roberts who announced his retirement this summer and Fuentes ran for the seat now occupied by Assemblywoman Nilsa Cruz Perez who did not seek re-election.

**District 14 (Mercer/Middlesex):** Democratic incumbents Linda Greenstein and Wayne DeAngelo held onto their seats in this 28 to 27 to 23% challenge by Republicans restaurateur Rob Calabro and attorney Bill Harvey.

**District 18 (Middlesex):** Democratic incumbents Assemblymen Peter Barnes and Patrick Diegnan faced a strong challenge by Republicans Joseph Sinagra and Robert Jones. The Democrats retained their seats in this race.

**District 22 (Middlesex/Somerset/Union):** Democratic incumbents Assemblyman Gerald Green (D-Plainfield) and Assemblywoman Linda Stender (D-Fanwood) edged out the Republican challengers former Scotch Plains Mayor Dr. Martin Marks and Bo Vastine by a 27 to 26 to 24% margin.

**District 25 (Morris):** Republicans Assemblyman Michael Patrick Carroll (R-Morris Township) and attorney Anthony Bucco, the son of State Senator Anthony Bucco (R-Boonton) defeated Democratic challengers Wendy Wright and Rebekah Conroy. Assemblyman Rick Merkt will vacate his seat as a result of his unsuccessful gubernatorial election bid in June.

**District 36 (Bergen/Essex/Passaic):** Democratic incumbent Assemblyman Fred Scalera and Gary Schaer defeated Republican challengers Carmen Pio Costa and Don Diorio by 29 to 28 to 22% margins.

Assembly seats will be vacated by the following 9 incumbents: Sandra Love (D-4); Joseph Roberts (D-5); Nilsa Cruz-Perez (D-5); Daniel Van Pelt (R-9); Joseph Vas (D-19); Michael Doherty (R-23); Rick Merkt (R-25); Harvey Smith (D-31) and John Rooney (R-39)<sup>3</sup>.

In the wake of the election, the following members will be sworn in to take those vacant seats: Domenick DiCicco (R-4); Donald Norcross (D-5); Angel Fuentes (D-5); DiAnne Gove (R-9); Craig Coughlin (D-19); Erik Peterson (R-23); Anthony Bucco (R-25); Charles Mainor (D-31); and Robert Schroeder (R-39). Biographies are attached.

On the local front, there were a number of contests at the freeholder level, including Bergen, Burlington, Camden, Cumberland, Gloucester, Hunterdon, Monmouth, Salem and Union Counties. Republicans picked up a crucial seat in Monmouth to regain control there. Their other pick-ups were in Bergen (2), Passaic (3), Cumberland (1) and Salem (1). Democrats retained control in Bergen, Camden, Cumberland, Gloucester, Mercer, Salem and Union Counties, while Republicans maintained control in Cape May, Burlington, Hunterdon and Ocean Counties.

The "Green Acres, Water Supply and Flood Plan Protection Farmland and Historic Preservation Bond Act of 2009", authorizing \$400 million in open space bonds, was passed by New Jersey voters by a 52 to 48 margin.

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<sup>3</sup> It is unclear whether Assemblyman Anthony Chiappone (D-31) will take his seat in the Assembly in January after defeating his challengers, Republicans Irene Kim Asbury and Manie Day. Chiappone was indicted this summer for cashing his legislative staffers paychecks for his personal and campaign bank accounts. His running-mate is police detective Charles Mainor, who ran for the seat held by Assemblyman Harvey Smith (D-31) who was also indicted over the summer.