



NJ Election Update November 7, 2018

New Jersey's gubernatorial and state legislative elections are held in odd-numbered years. However, when Democrat Phil Murphy was sworn in to be NJ's next Governor earlier this year, he tapped a number of lawmakers to serve in his cabinet. The vacancies these appointments created as well as other circumstances required eight special legislative elections to fill the unexpired terms of the departed lawmakers. A summary of those contests are provided below. It should be noted that all of the successful candidates have been serving as "Acting" lawmakers for most of the year and are of the same party affiliation as their predecessors. Accordingly, there are no significant changes to report in terms of composition/control of the New Jersey Legislature as a result yesterday's special elections. Democrats continue to control the Senate (25-15) and the Assembly (54-36).

Included below for your information is also a summary of the 2018 New Jersey federal elections where Democrats picked up 3 House seats and another race (CD-3) is too close to call.

NJ SPECIAL ELECTION RESULTS

The New Jersey State Legislature greatly shifted following last November's State Senate and General Assembly elections, as well as some members of the Legislature leaving for the newly-formed Murphy Administration. Eight special elections were held on November 6th, alongside the congressional campaigns, to fill 10 vacant seats in the NJ Legislature.

In District 38 (Bergen County), Senator Joe Lagana (D), Assemblyman Chris Tully (D), and Assemblywoman Lisa Swain (D), won their seats, with the only special election for the state's upper house. Lagana rose from the Assembly to the Senate, following the resignation of former Senator Bob Gordon who joined the NJ Public Utilities Board.

In District 5 (Camden County), Assemblyman William Spearman (D) won his seat following the resignation of Arthur Barclay.

In District 15 (Mercer County), Assemblyman Anthony Verrelli and Assemblywoman Verlina Reynolds-Jackson won their seats following the swearing in of former Assemblyman Reed Gusciora, as Mayor of Trenton, and the resignation of Assemblywoman Liz Muoio to become State Treasurer.

In District 22 (Middlesex County), Assemblywoman Linda Carter (D) won her seat following the death of Assemblyman Gerry Green.

In District 32 (Hudson County), Assemblyman Pedro Mejia (D) won his seat following former Assembly Speaker Vincent Prieto's resignation to become president and CEO of the New Jersey Sports & Exposition Authority.

In District 34 (Essex County), Assemblywoman Britnee Timberlake won her seat following the resignation of Assemblywoman Sheila Oliver who was sworn in as Lieutenant Governor of New Jersey.

In District 36 (Bergen County), Assemblyman Clinton Calabrese won his seat following the resignation of Marlene Caride who became the Commissioner of the Department of Banking and Insurance.

NEW JERSEY HOUSE AND U.S. SENATE ELECTION RESULTS

Senate

The “Blue Tide” struck New Jersey, as 3 districts shifted from Red to Blue, contributing to the overall Democratic control of the U.S. House of Representatives. Though Republicans still have the Senate Majority, New Jersey’s incumbent **Bob Menendez** (D) was one of the seats which remained blue.

Menendez was challenged by **Bob Hugin** (R) for U.S. Senate. Menendez, who has held the position since 2006, successfully won the bid for his third term, though not easily. Menendez won by 10 points after facing severe significant from Hugin. Menendez, however, appealed to the mostly blue state’s disdain for Hugin’s close relationship to the pharmaceutical industry and **President Trump**. In the final week before election day, polls indicated that Menendez was ahead by 15 points, despite Hugin pouring more than \$35 million of his own wealth into his campaign.

House

Following the retirement of Republican Representatives – **Frank LoBiondo** of the 2nd District and **Rodney Frelinghuysen** of the 11th District - these two seats were now open to a possible Democratic shift. State Senator **Jeff Van Drew** (D), bid against **Seth Grossman** (R), a pro-Trump former Atlantic City Councilman and Atlantic County Freeholder. Though popular and favored to be the victor, Van Drew and Grossman still had a close fight until the end, ultimately leading to Van Drew’s victory of the 2nd Congressional seat with a 6 point lead.

In the 11th, Democratic candidate **Mikie Sherrill**, a former federal prosecutor and U.S. Navy Pilot, challenged Republican **Jay Webber**, a lawyer and member of the State General Assembly. While a Democrat has not held the seat since 1980, final results showed that Sherrill won with a 12 point lead.

In the 3rd District, **Andy Kim** (D), a former White House national security official, challenged the incumbent **Tom MacArthur** (R), who has held the position since 2014. Kim was popular among young voters and proved to be a challenge for the incumbent. MacArthur currently holds a 1% advantage with provisional ballots yet to be counted.

In the 4th District, incumbent **Chris Smith** (R), who has held the seat since 1981, was expected to win, and though successful, it was not an easy win as his opponent **Josh Welle** (D), Navy Veteran and entrepreneur, raised over \$1 million in his campaign. Smith, however, won with a lead of 13 points

In the 5th District, **Josh Gottheimer** (D) was seeking his seat for a second term. Though the incumbent, Gottheimer faced opposition from **John McCann** (R), a former Cresskill Councilman and general counsel to the Bergen County Sheriff's Department who’s record indicates his penchant for bipartisan work. However Gottheimer proved to be the winner, with a lead of 12 points.

In the 7th District, **Leonard Lance** (R) who has held the 7th District seat since 2009, faced significant opposition from challenger **Tom Malinowski** (D), a former diplomat who served as Assistant Secretary of State for Democracy, Human Rights, and Labor under **President Obama**. While initial polls showed an even race, it was Malinowski who emerged as the surprising victor with a 2 point lead.

Notably, **Donald Norcross** (D) will remain in his seat for the 1st District, **Frank Pallone Jr.** (D) will remain in his seat for the 6th District, **Albio Sires** (D) will remain in his seat in the 8th District, **Bill Pascrell Jr.** will remain in his seat for the 9th District, **Donald Payne Jr.** (D) will remain in his seat for the 10th District, and **Bonnie Watson Coleman** (D) will remain in her seat for the 12th District.