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FALL 2014

Capital Impact Group is one of the "Big Shots on State Street"

-The Star Ledger

Movers and Shakers

Governor Chris Christie last month announced new leadership positions for the state's Department of Transportation (DOT) and Board of Public Utilities (BPU). To the position of NJ DOT Commissioner, Christie named **Jamie Fox**, an experienced transportation leader with public and private sector experience, including as a former DOT Commissioner, NJ Transit Board Chairman, and Deputy Executive Director of the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey.



Selected to serve as BPU commissioners are: **Richard Mroz**, a former Chief Counsel to the Whitman Administration, who will serve as President; **Assemblyman Upendra Chivukula**, Chairman of the Assembly Telecommunications and Utilities Committee; and Commissioner **Joseph Fiordaliso**, a serving BPU Commissioner who is being reappointed to a third term.

Governor Christie's Deputy Chief-of-Staff **Lou Goetting** is leaving the front office to return to the private sector as a public policy and management consultant.

Kieran Tintle, former Director of Legislative and Departmental



ODM client **BUF Health and Human Services** joined Horizon NJ Health in hosting a free successful Back-to-School Health Fair last month. Horizon's community nurses were on site conducting a variety of no-cost health screenings, while the company's lovable canine mascot "NJ" greeted and danced with the children.

Grassroots campaign season is in full swing! Delivering earned media and third-party support, ODM is currently managing more than a half dozen issue advocacy projects through our New Jersey and Delaware offices.



SAVE THE DATE

Capital Impact Group

Affairs for **Governor Christie**, recently left the administration to accept an external affairs position at First Energy.



New Jersey Business and Industry Association named **Michele Siekerka** its new President. Michele was formerly Deputy Commissioner of NJDEP.

Former Star-Ledger reporter, **Deborah Howlett**, will now serve as the new Communications Director for the New Jersey chapter of the ACLU.

David Brogan will be joining the New Jersey Apartment Association as the group's new Executive Vice President for Government Affairs and Strategic Development.

Cheryl Quinio-Blodgett has accepted the position of Political Director at CWA Local 1039.

Veteran Gannett political reporter **John Schoonejongen** is leaving Statehouse press row for a position at Fordham University, where he is an alumnus.

Congratulations to Senate Majority Executive Director **Kevin Drennan**, who was named to NJBIZ's "Forty Under 40" award of New Jersey's best and brightest young businesspeople.



The National Association of Counties recently recognized the New Jersey Association of County's Executive Director, **John Donnadio**, as Recruiter of the Year.

Congratulations to **Senator Van Drew** and **Assemblyman Andrzejczak's** Legislative Director, **Jonathan Atwood**, and his wife, on the birth of their first baby, Jackson.

Jay Redd, Deputy Executive Director and General Counsel for the Senate Majority Office, will be given the 2014 Young Alumni Award by the Edward J. Bloustein School of Planning and Public Policy at their Alumni Awards Celebration on November 14, 2014.

[State House Happenings](#)

and Open Door Media's

Annual Holiday Cocktail Reception

Thursday, December 11th
4:00 p.m.- 7:00 p.m.

134 West State Street
Trenton, New Jersey



NJ TTF crisis prompts debate over gas tax increase

With the state's Transportation Trust Fund (TTF) facing bankruptcy in 2015, New Jersey legislative leaders have been calling for solutions to our state's transportation funding crisis, including an increase in the gas tax to raise revenue.

Assembly Speaker Vincent Prieto has held several public hearings throughout the state, while **Senate President Steve Sweeney** has called for more funding for our local and state roads.

Last month, a coalition of business groups, labor unions, and transportation advocates, including **AAA Clubs of NJ**, held a news conference to discuss ways to fund improvements to our state's roads and mass transit system. Headed by **NJ Chamber of Commerce President Tom Bracken**, Forward NJ called for several reforms including a stable source of funding for transportation projects, consolidation of the state's five transportation agencies and authorities, and increased reliance on public-private partnerships to finance major initiatives.

Governor Christie--who has joined his Republican legislative colleagues in opposing a gas tax increase in the past--has said all options to fund the Transportation Trust Fund remain on the table.

Paid Sick Leave becomes focus of city and state agendas

As a number of cities enact Paid Sick Leave ordinances, the state Legislature is deliberating statewide legislation to mandate the policy for all New Jersey employers. Currently, the state's two largest cities, Newark and Jersey City, have earned sick leave requirements, and six other municipalities have introduced similar ordinances and ballot initiatives. The proposed legislation, A-2354/S-785, would require employers to offer five days of paid leave (for businesses with less than 10 employees) or nine days of paid leave (for businesses with more than 10 employees). To date, only the state of Connecticut has implemented a statewide requirement for Paid Sick Leave.

[Election Watch](#)



On November 4th, voters will go to the polls to choose their federal representatives. Due to recent redistricting efforts, most congressional races in New Jersey are viewed as "safe seats" that favor the incumbent. However, New Jersey has several vacant seats this year, with three members of Congress retiring.

GOP Challenger Bell runs on unconventional message in race for US Senate

In the race for U.S. Senate, Republican Jeff Bell is challenging Incumbent Democratic **U.S. Senator Cory Booker**. A former U.S. Senate candidate in 1978 and 1982, Bell's unusual campaign platform is returning the nation's currency to a gold standard, meaning that no money could be printed without gold to back it. With less than a month left until Election Day, Booker leads by 15 points, according to the latest Monmouth University poll.

CD 1 - Camden and Gloucester Counties

State Senator Donald Norcross is strongly favored to fill the vacancy of **Congressman Rob Andrews**, who resigned his position. Norcross is running against Republican candidate Garry Cobb, a former Philadelphia Eagles linebacker, in a district that is considered safe for Democrats.

CD 3 - Burlington and Ocean Counties

In the most competitive congressional race in New Jersey, Democratic **Burlington County Freeholder Aimee Belgard** is facing Republican business executive **Tom MacArthur** to replace **Congressman Jon Runyan** in the third congressional district. While the seat is currently held by a Republican, President Obama won the district by 5 points in 2012. National pundits view this race as a toss-up.

CD 12 - Mercer, Middlesex and Somerset Counties

With Democratic **Congressman Rush Holt** retiring, **Assemblywoman Bonnie Watson Coleman** is heavily favored to defeat Republican physician **Alita Eck**, who ran unsuccessfully in the GOP senatorial primary last year. A victory by either candidate would be historic, as the district has never before been represented by a woman.

Client Spotlight



**Independent Association of Franchise Owners
DUNKIN' DONUTS and BASKIN-ROBBINS**
With approximately 700 Dunkin' Donuts and Baskin Robbins

shops operating statewide, New Jersey runs on Dunkin'! Each and every store is owned by an individual franchisee--a small business owner who works, lives in and supports the local community. These small, local businesses employ as many as 12,000 individuals in aggregate and generate millions of dollars in economic activity in the Garden State. The tax, regulatory, and healthcare policies enacted by the state legislature impacts every franchise owner and their employees, as well as their ability to grow their business here in New Jersey.

TESLA

Tesla's **Jim Chen**, regulatory affairs and general counsel for the innovative automobile manufacturing company, recently served as keynote speaker at the Commerce and Industry Association of New Jersey and COMMERCE Magazine "Best Practices" award event which drew hundreds of business leaders from around the State.



Capital Impact Group
134 West State Street
Trenton, NJ 08608
609-989-5885
www.cignj.com

Gene Mulroy* Gerry Gibbs* Jeanette Hoffman
Danielle Van Drew* Clarisa Romero* Briana Perez