
THIS WEEK IN TRENTON



PUBLIC STRATEGIES IMPACT
GOVERNMENT RELATIONS • PUBLIC AFFAIRS
ASSOCIATION MANAGEMENT

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Christie Names Key Economic Team

Governor-elect Chris Christie today announced his selection of Andrew Eristoff to serve as State Treasurer. Eristoff is a former New York Commissioner of Tax and Finance, serving under former Governor George Patacki from 2003-2006 and a former New York City Finance Commissioner, serving under former Mayor Rudy Guiliani from 1999-2002. He served as a New York City Councilman, representing a heavily Democratic Upper East side district, from 1993 to 1999, and lost a State Senate race in 2002.

Eristoff is currently a private investor and consultant in tax administration. He is a member of the Internal Revenue Service's Electronic Tax Administration Advisory Committee and a trustee of non-profit organizations including Scenic Hudson, the St. Bernard's School, the New York League of Conservation Voters Education Fund and the Hudson Highlands Land Trust.

Eristoff earned a bachelor's degree, cum laude, in politics from Princeton University in 1985 and a law degree, cum laude, from Georgetown University Law Center in 1989. He lives in Manhattan with his wife, Catherine, a managing director at Constellation Wealth Advisors, and their children. He said he and his family would move to New Jersey.

Christie also announced that he will create a Council of Economic Advisors by executive order on his first day in office, January 19th. The Chairman of the Council will be Bob Grady, a former executive at the Carlyle Group who has been a co-chair, along with incoming Chief of Staff Rich Bagger, of Christie's Transition Task Force on Budget and Taxes. Former Prudential CEO Art Ryan will serve as a member of the Council.

Christie also named Alfred Koeppe, the President and CEO of Newark Alliance and former head of PSE&G, to his second stint as Chairman of the New Jersey Economic Development Authority. Koeppe was appointed to the position by former Governor James McGreevey in 2003. He will also serve on the Council of Economic Advisors.

Sweeney Announces Leadership Team and Committee Chairs

Senate President Stephen Sweeney today announced the Senate Democratic Leadership team and committee chairs for the 2010-2011 legislative session. In addition to the Senate's three top leaders, Senate President Stephen Sweeney, Majority Leader Barbara Buono and Senate President Pro Tempore Nia Gill, Senator Paul Sarlo will serve as Deputy Majority Leader. Senator Buono will also serve as Majority Conference Leader, a position she held prior to becoming Budget Committee Chairwoman during the previous legislative session. Senators Teresa Ruiz and John A. Girgenti will serve as Assistant Majority Leaders in the new session, and Senator Sandra Bolden Cunningham will continue on as the Majority Whip.

Sweeney said that the Committee structure in the 214th legislative session will change slightly from the previous legislative session. A few committees will see their focus change, such as the Senate Environment Committee, which will also take up energy issues and be re-named the Senate Environment and Energy Committee, and the Senate State Government Committee, which will absorb the Wagering, Tourism and Historic Preservation Committee and be re-named the Senate State Government, Wagering, Tourism and Historic Preservation Committee. In addition to those committee changes, a newly-created Senate Military and Veterans Affairs Committee will consider measures important to military families and veterans.

The list of Committees, Chairs and Vice Chairs follows. Full Committee membership, as well as group numbers, meeting rooms, and committee aides, will be made public shortly.

BUDGET AND APPROPRIATIONS

Chair: Senator Paul Sarlo
Vice Chair: Senator Brian Stack

COMMERCE

Chair: Senator Nia Gill
Vice Chair: Senator Raymond Lesniak

COMMUNITY AND URBAN AFFAIRS

Chair: Senator Jeff Van Drew
Vice Chair: Senator Ronald Rice

ECONOMIC GROWTH

Chair: Senator Raymond Lesniak
Vice Chair: Senator Sandra Bolden Cunningham

EDUCATION

Chair: Senator Teresa Ruiz
Vice Chair: Senator Jim Whelan

ENVIRONMENT AND ENERGY

Chair: Senator Bob Smith
Vice Chair: Senator Bob Gordon

HEALTH, HUMAN SERVICES, AND SENIOR CITIZENS

Chair: Senator Loretta Weinberg
Vice Chair: Senator Joseph Vitale

JUDICIARY

Chair: Senator Nicholas Scutari

Vice Chair: Senator John Girgenti

LABOR

Chair: Senator Fred Madden

Vice Chair: Senator Sandra Bolden Cunningham

LAW AND PUBLIC SAFETY

Chair: Senator John Girgenti

STATE GOVERNMENT, WAGERING, TOURISM AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

Chair: Senator Jim Whelan

Vice Chair: Senator Bob Gordon

TRANSPORTATION

Chair: Senator Nicholas Sacco

MILITARY AND VETERANS AFFAIRS

Chair: Senator Jim Beach

Vice Chair: Senator Jeff Van Drew

LEGISLATIVE OVERSIGHT

Chair: Senator Barbara Buono

Sweeney Announces Senate Schedule

Senate President Stephen Sweeney announced the following meeting schedule for January – April.

January 19	Quorum call; Swearing-in of Senator-elect for District 5 Gubernatorial Inauguration
February 1	Group 3 and 4 Committees
February 4	Group 1 and 2 Committees
February 8	Group 3 and 4 Committees
February 18	Group 1 and 2 Committees
February 22	Voting Session
March 1	Group 3 and 4 Committees
March 4	Group 1 and 2 Committees
March 8	Committees at the call of the Senate President
March 11	Voting Session
March 15	Group 3 and 4 Committees
March 16	Quorum Call; Governor's Budget Message
March 18	Group 1 and 2 Committees
March 22	Voting Session