

POLICIES, POLITICS AND PANDEMICS  
~NJ UPDATE~

**David A Smith**

# PRESIDENT

- Still being counted but Biden has possibly 293-306 elector votes (270 needed to win) and is winning the popular vote by more than 5m
- 306 electoral votes is 57% of votes available
- Record number of votes for both Biden, likely to hit 80m
- Biden - oldest person to win the Presidency
- Harris - first female VP and first person of color
- Biden only 4th challenger in 100 years to beat an incumbent

US SENATE  
NJ SEAT

**Booker 2.24m 57%**

**Mehta 1.6m 41%**



## CONGRESSIONAL RACES

Everything stays the same

Close races

# GOVERNORS RACES

- For state Governor's races, all the drama and intrigue found in the federal election this year did not translate down the ballot to statewide elections.
- As expected, most incumbents easily won re-election with few close races.
- Republicans retained seats in Indiana, Missouri, New Hampshire, North Dakota, Utah, Vermont and West Virginia and picked up the governorship in Montana.
- Democrats successfully defended three seats in Delaware, Washington and North Carolina where Democratic Gov. Roy Cooper won reelection.

# STATE LEGISLATIVE ELECTIONS

- With redistricting on the horizon, both parties were looking to flip chambers, create trifectas and break the opposing party's trifectas.
- Republicans look likely to win a trifecta in Alaska and New Hampshire
- Make gains across the country, including in blue states like Maine, Nevada and New York.
- Democrats did not flip any chambers with the only major success being a supermajorities in the Senate and House

# GENERAL INFO ON STATE VOTE AND VOTING PERCENTAGES

## Municipal Races

- NJ turnout, record 4.4m mail votes, 72% of 6m ballots issued
- Bergen County had highest number of votes at 472,961
- Hunterdon county had 85% of 98k ballots returned
- Pine Valley had 100% of returned ballots
- Biden NJ votes: 2.3m (57%)
- Trump NJ votes: 1.65m (41%)



SPECIAL  
LEGISLATIVE  
ELECTION  
(25TH LD)

- **Senator Bucco winning by 1700**
- **Aura Dunn winning by 800**



2021 STATE STREET SHUFFLE

## 2021 GUBERNATORIAL RACE

Likely Republican primary challengers:

- Jack Ciattarelli
- Doug Steinhardt
- John Bramnick

Murphy primary challengers:



PANDEMIC  
RELATED  
INITIATIVES

- PL 2020 c. 39 (A4126)- Permits local units to waive interest for delinquent water and sewer payments during emergency circumstances
- Several other bills that prohibit shutdowns or mandate interest waivers were introduced but not moved.
- AEA members were already dealing with their customers before state government involvement
- AEA updated Governor's office and DEP on activities

# NEXT 18 MONTHS

- Covid19 issues
- Cares act funding use
- FY2022 Budget
- Cannabis implementation
- Nursing homes
- DEP/AG continuing to go after companies for water contamination (Solvay, Honeywell and Arkema)
- Tax Credit Program Reform-- Legislation being developed
- Electric Vehicle expansion
- EMP-- Move away from natural gas, propane and fuel oils to electric

**BILLS INTRODUCED YEAR AFTER YEAR INCLUDING:**

BOIL WATER NOTIFICATIONS, PUBLIC NOTICE REQUIREMENTS, OPRA CHANGES, DISPOSABLE WIPES, WAIVING INTEREST RATES FOR STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENTS AND HOUSING AUTHORITIES, USE BASED WATER FEES, SHARED SERVICE LEGISLATION, WASTEWATER FACILITY LICENSING AND STORMWATER ISSUES.

**Specific Bills that impact  
Environmental Authorities**



**IMPORTANT ISSUES**

**Connection fee fix-- AI288 (Greenwald)  
Clarifies Connection Fee law**

**AI710 (Burzichelli) and S2207 (Sarło)--  
Authorizes alternative procedure for sale of  
sewerage authorities**

Keys areas of concern:

- Provides an alternate method to determine Fair market value
- Ends citizens voting on referendums-- municipalities pass with municipal governing body vote
- Requires sale to public utility
- Provides for depreciation on improvements to be incorporated for book and ratemaking purposes
- Last session as S3870, passed SEG and SBA