



WILLIAM J. HUGHES CENTER FOR PUBLIC POLICY

THE RICHARD STOCKTON COLLEGE OF NEW JERSEY



OCTOBER 2013

MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR



With the start of Fall and the return of students to campus, the Hughes Center has ramped up for the election season. This year we are sponsoring debates between the state Senate and state Assembly candidates in Legislative Districts 1, 2 and 9.

The Stockton Polling Institute is in the midst of conducting polls in each of these legislative districts in addition to three statewide polls. Our polling efforts have brought a great deal of recognition to Stockton in the region, state, and across the country.

We encourage you to read about our Steering Committee members, both veterans and newcomers. They provide important support and insight to the Hughes Center.

As always, we encourage all of our readers to vote. The Special Election for the United States Senate is on Wednesday, October 16, 2013. The regular General Election will be held on Tuesday, November 5, 2013.

Best wishes,

Daniel J. Douglas, Director

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CANDIDATE DEBATES

The William J. Hughes Center for Public Policy is cosponsoring debates among the major-party candidates for state Senate and Assembly in three legislative districts this fall.

The Press of Atlantic City will cosponsor the debates, which will be held both on and off the Richard Stockton College campus.

“The Hughes Center is pleased that the Republicans and Democrats from each of the three districts have agreed to the debates,” said Dan Douglas, executive director of the Hughes Center.

“Candidate debates are essential to civic engagement. They give the voting public an opportunity to hear directly from both major party candidates,” Douglas said.

For each district, the Senate candidates square off at 6 p.m., followed by an Assembly candidates’ debate at 7 p.m. at the same locations.

The first of the debates was held Oct. 2 in Legislative District 2 (part of Atlantic County). Senate Candidates Jim Whelan (D) and Frank Balles (R) debated in Dante Hall, Atlantic City. A debate followed among Assembly Candidates John Amodeo (R), Christopher A. Brown (R), Vincent Mazzeo (D), and Nick Russo (D).

The debate format allows for two-minute opening statements, followed by nearly an hour of questions posed by representatives of the Hughes Center and The Press. Candidates are allowed a one-minute rebuttal and a one-minute closing statement.

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MAJOR ENDOWMENTS

Mr. & Mrs. Stephen Chazen **Mr. & Mrs. William J. Hughes and Family**

- South Jersey Industries
- New Jersey American Water Company
- Atlantic City Electric Company
- Mr. & Mrs. Steve Batzer
- Exelon Corp.
- New Jersey American Water Company
- Public Service Enterprise Group
- Salmon Ventures Limited
- Thomas H. Heist Family
- Tribhuvan & Nandita Singh
- Verizon



Sarah Lodato

The Stockton Polling Institute is launching its second year of operation with a slate of fall election polls, including polling in New Jersey's race for governor.

The Institute is planning three statewide election polls, which will gauge public

opinion on the gubernatorial matchup between Republican incumbent Chris Christie and Democrat Barbara Buono, a state senator. The polls will also measure voter preferences in the U.S. Senate race between Republican Steve Lonegan and Democrat Cory Booker prior to the Oct. 16 special election to succeed the late Sen. Frank Lautenberg.

In addition, the Polling Institute, which is operated by the Hughes Center, will conduct polls in three legislative districts: the 2nd, which covers most of Atlantic County; the 1st, which covers Cape May County and parts of Atlantic and Cumberland counties; and the 9th, which covers southern Ocean County and includes parts of Atlantic and Burlington counties, including Galloway Township where Stockton College is located.

Hughes Center Director Daniel Douglas said the polls provide a platform for southern New Jersey residents as well as voters statewide to express their opinions.

"Providing a voice for the region advances the Hughes Center's mission of civic engagement," Douglas said.

The new polls follow a year of growth for the Stockton Polling Institute. The call center in N wing on the Stockton campus was established in September 2012 with 24 telephone interviewer stations and a staff of about 60 interviewers. Currently, 32 interviewers at a time can work the phones. And Polling Institute staff, the majority of which are Stockton students, now numbers 100 part-time workers.

Lizbeth Hernandez



Jazzmen Maxwell



Joseph Orlandi

LEGISLATOR-IN-RESIDENCE

The Hughes Center has announced that New Jersey state Senate President Steve Sweeney and Assemblyman Brian Rumpf of the 9th District will be Stockton College's Legislators-in-Residence during the 2013-14 academic year.

Rumpf, a Republican, represents the district that is home to Stockton College. Rumpf will visit the Stockton campus to speak and meet with students and faculty during the Fall semester. Sweeney, a Democrat from the 3rd District, became President of the New Jersey Senate in 2010. He is scheduled to participate in the Spring semester.

Last year's Legislators-in-Residence were Assembly Speaker Sheila Oliver and state Sen. Chris Connors, a Stockton graduate.

STEERING COMMITTEE SPOTLIGHTS

CHARLES PESSAGNO



Steering Committee member Charles E. Pessagno is Regional Executive Vice President of the NIA Group/Marsh McLennan Agency, an independent subsidiary of Marsh Inc., the world's largest insurance broker.

Pessagno serves as Branch Manager of the Cape May office. Prior to a 2010 merger with Marsh McLennan, he had served since 2000 as president of NIA Group Associates with offices in Cape May and Mount Laurel.

His record of public service includes appointments as a commissioner of the N.J. Expressway Authority, as a commissioner of the Delaware River & Bay Authority, and as a trustee of Atlantic Cape Community College. Pessagno has also served as treasurer of Upper Township.

Pessagno serves as director of the Newfield Investment Corp., a post he has held since 1995. He has also been director of First Jersey National Bank.

The insurance executive has been active in numerous area community organizations, including: the Annual Burdette Tomlin Hospital Gala (co-founder); Atlantic Cape Community College Foundation (past president); the Marine Mammal Stranding Center (board member); U.S. Constitutional Council of the 13 Original States (trustee); the South Jersey Boy Scout Council; Baidoa Orphanage Foundation (trustee); Hendricks House (director); and Cape Regional Medical Center Pediatrics Unit Appeal (co-chairman).

Pessagno graduated with a BS degree from Bethel College and received his MBA from Drexel University.

MICHAEL TUOSTO



Michael R. Tuosto is General Manager of Public Affairs for Public Service Enterprise Group (PSE&G). He focuses on PSE&G's nuclear power interests, primarily in New Jersey and Delaware.

That work earned Tuosto and his team at the Salem and Hope Creek Nuclear Generating Stations the national Top Industry Practice Award from the Nuclear Energy Institute in Washington in 2010.

Mr. Tuosto served in various managerial positions with PSE&G before assuming his current role. As Corporate Human Resources officer, he coordinated all contacts between PSE&G and federal and state government agencies charged with fair employment enforcement responsibilities.

He is active in industry boards, including the American Gas Association's Washington Representatives Committee, which he has chaired. Mr. Tuosto served as Chairman of the Electric Industry's Human Relations Committee and chaired the National Drug Abuse Task Force. He has also written a number of articles related to the industry.

Currently he serves on the governmental affairs committees of the Chamber of Commerce of Southern New Jersey and of the Delaware State Chamber of Commerce. He has served as President of Beta Gamma Sigma, the National Business Honor Society's Metropolitan New York Chapter, on the Rutgers Alumni Federation, and as Chair of the New Jersey Utilities Association's Human Resources Committee.

Mr. Tuosto received his B.S. Degree cum laude from Rutgers University and was awarded his MBA from the State University, graduating summa cum laude. A Rutgers Trustee for 13 years, he chaired the Board and was later elected to the Rutgers Board of Governors. He was elected Trustee Emeritus of the University following two board terms.

NEW STEERING COMMITTEE MEMBERS

The William J. Hughes Center for Public Policy welcomes three new members of its Steering Committee: David P. Tilton, President and CEO of AtlantiCare health care system; Mark Blum, publisher of *The Press of Atlantic City*; and Dr. Tina M. Zappile, Assistant Professor of Political Science, have joined the committee that guides the Hughes Center.

Tilton directs a staff of more than 4,460 employees and 550 physicians providing services at AtlantiCare Regional Medical Center (ARMC), the AtlantiCare Foundation, AtlantiCare Health Services, AtlantiCare Health Plans, and AtlantiCare Behavioral Health (ABH). He joined ARMC as administrator of its Mainland campus in 1987, and continues as its CEO.

Blum worked previously at The Press as its Controller. He has served in several media companies including Knight Ridder, Gannett, BH Media, and others, and has been active in charitable and community activities throughout his career.

Zappile received her Ph.D. in political science in 2011 from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, where she received an M.A. in economics in 2007. Dr. Zappile also received an M.A. in political science from the University of Nevada, Las Vegas, in 2004. She joined the Stockton College faculty in August 2012.

STEERING COMMITTEE

Dr. Edward H. Salmon, Chairman
Ambassador William J. Hughes

David Baker
Steve Batzer
Mark Blum

Yvonne Bonitto-Doggett
Hon. Fred Butler
Edward Graham
Dr. Anne Harlan
Vincent Maione

Hon. Steven P. Perskie
Charles Pessagno
David Tilton
Richard Tolson
Michael Tuosto
Jennifer Young
Dr. Tina M. Zappile

Dr. Herman Saatkamp, President

Dr. Harvey Kesselman, Provost & Executive Vice President
Dr. David L. Carr

Ben Peoples, Student Representative
Jessica Carey, Student Senate Public Policy Committee Chair
Sharon Schulman, CEO External Affairs & Institutional Research
Daniel J. Douglas, Director

RESEARCH BRIEF

The Hughes Center has published a research brief that documented how the outcomes of three close New Jersey Assembly races in 2011 could have been reversed by voters who were in the voting booth, but did not vote.

The research by John Froomjian, Senior Research Associate for the Hughes Center, studied the impact of the undervote, or ballot rolloff, on the 2011 legislative elections. The terms refer to when voters participate in an election but for various reasons fail to vote in certain races.

Froomjian's research showed that Assembly election results in the 1st, 7th, and 38th Legislative Districts could have been reversed by voters who went to the polls but failed to cast votes in their Assembly races.

Ballot rolloff was found in every state Senate and Assembly election, representing 6 percent of potential Senate votes statewide and more than 8 percent of potential Assembly votes.

Statistical analysis showed that rolloff was strongly related to how lopsided an election matchup was. The larger the margin of victory, the greater the number of voters who failed to cast votes.

Stockton Polling Institute survey data confirm the research findings. The Institute found in a statewide poll of 811 likely voters in October 2012 that one in eight respondents said they did not vote in every race on the ballot in the last election, which for most was the 2011 legislative election. Close to 50 percent of those who skipped parts of the ballot cited factors such as not enough information available, not interested in the race, not liking the candidates, and feeling their votes don't matter.

All 120 seats of the state Legislature are up for election on November 5.

"As we prepare to elect a new state Legislature this year, the fact that so many voters who go to the polls felt disaffected in 2011 should be cause for concern," Froomjian said.

A press release on Froomjian's research and link can be found at: <http://intra.web.stockton.edu/eyos/extaffairs/content/docs/pressrel/StocktonHughesCenterVoterStudy2013PressRelease.pdf>

His research was originally done as part of a master's thesis. Froomjian received his Masters of Public Administration from Rutgers University-Camden on May 23.

He is also the lead researcher and author of an article that was published September 20 in the peer-reviewed *International Journal of Public Administration*. The article outlines best practices and strategies for administrators to communicate with hard-to-reach populations, including immigrants, low-income residents and transient populations.

CANDIDATE DEBATES

Continued from page 1

Locations, dates, and candidates for the remaining debates are as follows.

• **District 1: October 21, 2013**

(Cape May County, parts of Atlantic and Cumberland counties)
Old Courthouse, Cape May Court House
Senate Candidates: Jeff Van Drew (D) and Susan Adelizzi-Schmidt (R)

Assembly Candidates: Nelson Albano (D), Bob Andrzejczak (D), Sam Fiocchi (R), and Kristine Gabor (R)

• **District 9: October 23, 2013**

(parts of Atlantic, Burlington and Ocean counties)
Campus Center Theatre, Stockton College

Senate Candidates: Chris Connors (R) and Anthony Mazzella (D)
Assembly Candidates: DiAnne Gove (R), Brian Rumpf (R), Peter Ferwerda III (D), Christopher McManus (D)



New Jersey Division of Elections

<http://nj.gov/state/elections/voting-information.html>

FEEDBACK SURVEY

**PLEASE TAKE A SURVEY
TO TELL US WHAT YOU THINK
OF THE HUGHES CENTER
NEWSLETTER.**

[CLICK HERE FOR SURVEY](#)

RECENT COLUMNS

- Golden, Carl (2013). "[Opinion: Ticket splits and coattails.](#)" *NorthJersey.com*. September 22.
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- Golden, Carl (2013). "[Carl Golden/ N.J. Senate needs timetable for approving judges.](#)" *The Press of Atlantic City*. August 30.
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- Golden, Carl (2013). "[It's time to limit senatorial courtesy.](#)" *APP.com*. August 26.
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- Golden, Carl (2013). "[Opinion: Christie and the State's High Court -- When World's Collide.](#)" *NJ Spotlight*. July 16.
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- Golden, Carl (2013). "[Opinion: At a minimum - the wages debate in New Jersey.](#)" *NorthJersey.com*. July 7.
- Golden, Carl (2013). "[Opinion: Buono Needs to Hit Christie Where He's Weakest -- Economy, Jobs, Taxes.](#)" *NJ Spotlight*. July 2.
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- Golden, Carl (2013). "[Opinion: Buono -- Free-Falling Without a Chute?](#)" *NJ Spotlight*. June 12.
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