



PENNSYLVANIA INFLUENCERS

BY ALEX ROARTY AND SEAN COIT

The Pennsylvania Influencers list is made up of the Commonwealth's top business, legal and civic leaders, whose opinions are respected by peers and elected officials alike. The writers consulted with a wide variety of geographically and politically diverse individuals who helped identify these 100 people as the "insiders who insiders turn to when in need." The group is a mix of donors, organizers, confidants and consultants. These are the people whose opinions matter in the Keystone State.

Alex Roarty has covered politics in Pennsylvania for a variety of media outlets, including a stint as PolitickerPA's Harrisburg correspondent. He is currently an editor and staff writer for PoliticsPA, an online publication that focuses on the behind-the-scenes action in Harrisburg and for campaigns statewide. He put together the Republican list. Sean Coit, a graduate of St. Joseph's University, is an assistant editor and writer for PoliticsPA and has been published in the Philadelphia *Inquirer*. He put together the Democratic list.

TOP 10 REPUBLICANS

Rob and Chris Gleason

Rob, the Republican state chairman, has an active role in statewide races and has done a good job trying to fill leadership void in a party without a sitting governor or U.S. Senator. His brother Chris raises the money as the party's finance director.

Bob Asher

Consummate behind-the-scenes power broker remains the first name people mention when putting together a list like this.

Richard Mellon Scaife

His money alone would put him in the top 10, but the editorial perch afforded by his conservative *Tribune-Review* newspaper also makes him one of the most powerful media voices in the state.

John Brabender

His reach extends beyond Pennsylvania, but he remains the go-to consultant for many statewide candidates. Brabender was the senior strategist for Tom Corbett's campaign and helped mastermind Tom Ridge's election victories.

Mike Long

Long is the campaign guru who has helped mastermind Republican dominance in the state Senate in recent years despite the state's leftward shift.

Fred Anton

The long time Pennsylvania Manufacturers' Association leader funds much of the conservative infrastructure in the state, such as the right-of-center think-tank Commonwealth Foundation.

Rob Bickhart

A fundraiser extraordinaire, Bickhart is now the national finance director for the Republican National Committee.

David Girard-diCarlo

The former Ridge and Bush money man turned U.S. Ambassador to Austria is back in the U.S. and at a new law firm that likes political action.

Rick Santorum

The former senator can be seen on Fox News and can be read in the Philadelphia *Inquirer*. While he lost his seat, the voters in Iowa and New Hampshire love him. Presidential rumblings have once again put him in the national spotlight.

Daniel F. Fee, President of The Echo Group

Among Pennsylvania's "Top Influencers"
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THE NEXT 40 REPUBLICANS

Jim Roddey

A former popular Allegheny County executive and current county GOP chair; clout grows as western Pennsylvania continues to vote more conservatively

Pat Deon

The chairman of the Southeastern Pennsylvania Transportation Authority and a board member on the Pennsylvania Turnpike Commission

Rob Wonderling

Affable former state senator, now head of the powerful Greater Philly Chamber of Commerce

Manny Stamatakis

Former head of the Delaware River Port Authority, remains a stalwart fundraiser

Nick deBenedictis

Former Thornburgh administration official is still a political heavyweight

Tom Ridge

Former governor's endorsement is still sought-after by most Republicans in the state

John Templeton, Jr.

Wealthy philanthropist, donates to Republican efforts both in state and nationally

Luke Bernstein

State GOP executive director who runs a tight ship

Chris Bravacos

Consulting firm Bravo Group is consistent top performer

Brian Nutt

Campaign manager for gubernatorial Republican frontrunner Tom Corbett

Chris Lilik

Founder of grassroots.com, Pennsylvania's Drudge Report

Leslie Gromis Baker

Fundraiser and strategist with roots in the Ridge administration, well respected by all

Stan Rapp

Harrisburg lobbyist at Greenlee Partners is known for strong House ties

Christine Toretta

National committeewoman

Jeff Coleman

Go-to consultant for many base conservatives

Glen Meakum

Radio host, active in western Pennsylvania Republican efforts

Dan Meuser

Former Congressional candidate and northeast PA money man

Roger Richards

Northwest Pennsylvania mover-and-shaker

Charles Snelling

Longtime Lehigh Valley power broker

Vince Galko

One of select group of Pennsylvania GOP consultants trusted to run major races

Lawrence Tabas

Legal counsel's expertise makes him indispensable in most Republican efforts

Bernie Comfort

Runs the very successful Anne Anstine program

Matt Brouillette

CEO of conservative think-tank Commonwealth Foundation, sought out under Harrisburg's Capitol dome

Skip Brion

The all important Chester County GOP chair

John McNichol, Sr.

Powerful Delaware County party boss

Alan Novak

His firm is a repository of ex-GOP staffers (and knowledge)

Charlie Gerow

GOP media presence, Quantum Communications

Jerry Morgan

Newly appointed state GOP congressional liaison

Peg Luksik

GOP candidate and important anti-abortion activist

Roy Zimmerman

Former Pennsylvania attorney general oversees \$8 billion Hershey Trust

R.J. Harris

Radio voice of central Pennsylvania's Republicans

Renee Amoree

Deputy chair of Republican state party

David James

Still Pennsylvania's inside guy at the RNC

Alan Walker

Longtime money man is co-finance chair for Corbett's campaign

Ken Braithwaite

HAP Regional Executive who "gets" healthcare and can translate its importance to politicians

Colin Hanna

Former Chester County Commissioner runs conservative "Let Freedom Ring" organization

Elsie Hillman

The grand dame of Pennsylvania "big tent" Republican politics, remains influential

David Urban

Well-respected former Specter chief of staff, gets things done on both sides of the aisle in D.C.

Mark Holman

Former Ridge chief of staff and Department of Homeland Security official, still connected in his home state

Todd Nyquist

Now professionally teamed up with Mike Long, former top Senate aide

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TOP 10 DEMOCRATS

David L. Cohen

Cohen is first an executive VP at Comcast but is really much more. In November, Philadelphia Magazine said Cohen "wears more hats and wields more power than any Philadelphian in recent history." Tied to Rendell, Obama, the University of Pennsylvania, and others, Cohen knows and influences everyone.

John Estey

An attorney with Ballard Spahr, Estey is Rendell's former chief of staff and chairman of the Philadelphia Regional Port Authority. He's also out front for his law school classmate's campaign for governor (Dan Onorato). Estey's presence at Ballard Spahr ensures the firm's continued influence.

Neil Oxman

If you're running a statewide campaign in Pennsylvania, Oxman is the first person you call for advice on how to do it.

Ken Jarin

An attorney at Ballard Spahr, Jarin is also the chief labor negotiator for the Commonwealth and the city of Philadelphia and a must-know for anyone with political ambitions in Philadelphia or statewide.

Matt Casey

One of the most talented trial lawyers in Pennsylvania at his firm, Ross Feller Casey, Casey is young, extremely sharp, and connected. Plus, he is a very close adviser to his brother, Sen. Bob Casey.

Shanin Specter

A founding partner of Kline Specter, Shanin Specter is one of the most successful lawyers in the country and an opinion maker among Pennsylvania's powerful trial lawyers. He is also the closest adviser to his father, Sen. Arlen Specter.

Bob Brady

He's not on this list as a Member of Congress, but rather as the head of the Philadelphia Democratic Party. Little happens in Philadelphia politics without Brady's knowledge and approval.

Alan Kessler

Rendell named Kessler finance chair of the Pennsylvania Democratic Party, and with good reason. When Democrats need to raise money in Pennsylvania, Kessler is the first person called. Kessler is the chairman of the U.S. Postal Service Board of Governors, and is known as a strong advocate for clients.

Mary Isenhour

The Democratic Party executive director is as influential as she is well-liked throughout the commonwealth.

T.J. Rooney

As the Democratic chairman in a state with a Democratic governor, Democratic state House chamber, two Democratic U.S. senators and 12 Democratic U.S. House members, Rooney is a guy who knows everyone.

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We congratulate our partner

Richard W. Hayden

for being named one of the


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on being named one of the top
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by *Politics Magazine*.

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THE NEXT 40 DEMOCRATS

Steve Wojdak

Harrisburg's top lobbyist at Wojdak & Associates

Mark Aronchik

Attorney at Hanglely Aronchik Segal & Podlin knows all the right people in Philadelphia

Jef Pollock

New York based pollster, Global Strategy Group

Rich Sestak

Brother, close advisor to U.S. Rep. Joe Sestak

Connie Williams

Former state senator whose endorsement matters

Ron Dinicola

Former Erie congressional candidate is a key player in northwest Pennsylvania

Dan Fee

President, The Echo Group, former Rendell spokesman and campaign veteran

Clifford Levine

Attorney at Thorp Reed & Armstrong, former chair of Obama for President Western Pennsylvania Steering Committee

Gregory Rost

Chief of staff for the president of the University of Pennsylvania is a Philly political veteran

Steve Irwin

Partner at Pittsburgh's Leech Tishman Fuscaldo & Lampl, connected with countless organizations in Pittsburgh

Gabe Morgan

Pittsburgh director for the SEIU, one of Pennsylvania's most important labor representatives

John Dougherty

IBEW business manager still holds sway in Philadelphia

Peter Buttenweiser

Philanthropist, major donor

Virginia McGregor

Sister of Scranton Mayor Chris Doherty, close adviser and strategist

John Saler

Lobbyist and chairman of government and public affairs at Stradley Ronon, whose counsel is sought by many including Mayor Nutter and Senator Casey

Ken Snyder

Former Rendell adviser, well-connected consultant

Gerald McHugh

Philadelphia attorney at Raynes McCarty, powerful within Philadelphia Trial Lawyers Association

Larry Ceisler

Principal at Ceisler Jubelirer, whose insight is sought by political insiders and corporations across the state

Mark Nevins

Partner at Dover Strategy Group, campaign expert now working with Chris Doherty

Robert Borski, Jr.

Influential former congressman, founded lobbying firm Borski Associates

Dick Hayden

Lobbyist at CHH Partners, close to Gov. Rendell and Mayor Nutter

Joe Brimmeier

Western Pennsylvania political operative, executive director of Pennsylvania Turnpike Commission

Brigid Sullivan

Exec. director of Allegheny County Democrats, an up and comer

Murray Ufberg

A go-to-guy in the northeast with Rosenn Jenkins & Greenwald

Holly Kinser

Lobbyist with Wojdak & Associates, close ties to Rendell and Nutter

Mark Alderman

Former Wolf Block chairman, an attorney at Cozen & O'Connor

John Verbanac

Principal at Summa Development, has the ear of Pittsburgh Mayor Luke Ravenstahl

Michelle Singer

A major Rendell fundraiser, now works at Comcast with Cohen

Jim Burn

Chairman of Allegheny County Democrats

Pat Brier

An attorney at Stevens & Lee, Brier is connected with Sen. Casey and U.S. Rep. John Murtha

Ed Mitchell

Edward Mitchell Communications, closely tied to U.S. Rep. Paul Kanjorski

Josh Morrow

Campaign manager, Tom Knox for Governor

Saul Shorr

Principal at Shorr Johnson Magnus, top-tier campaign consultant

Steve Cozen

Attorney at Cozen & O'Connor, heads one of Pennsylvania's top firms

Marcel Groen

Montgomery County Democratic Chair

Kevin Kinross

Campaign Manager for Dan Onorato, Democratic frontrunner for Governor

Larry Platt

Publisher of politically insightful Philadelphia Magazine, almost ran for Congress in '08

Al Boscov

Owner of Boscov's Department stores, has a civic and political sensibility

Adrian King

Attorney at Ballard Spahr, resourceful former Rendell Cabinet member, said to be "most powerful PEMA Director ever"

Bill George

Pennsylvania AFL-CIO president is an important voice for organized labor

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