

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.

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 rightof-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" POLITICS MAGAZINE

One of Pennsylvania's "Top 10 Consultants" PA2010.COM

One of the 100 people "most likely to have an impact" on government and politics in Pennsylvania THE PENNSYLVANIA REPORT

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Top 50 Influential Democrats in Pennsylvania

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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 grassrootspa.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 Toretti**

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 moverand-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 indispensible in most Republican efforts

#### **Bernie Comfort**

Runs the very successful Anne Anstine program

#### **Matt Brouilette**

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 politicos

#### **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**

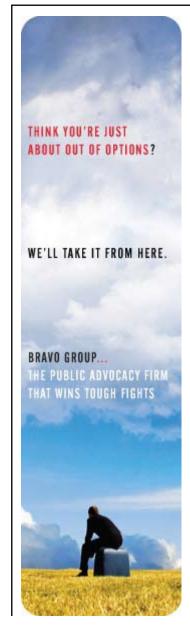
Well-respected former Specter chief of staff, gets things done on both sides of the aisle in D.C.

#### **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



# 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 Ballad 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.

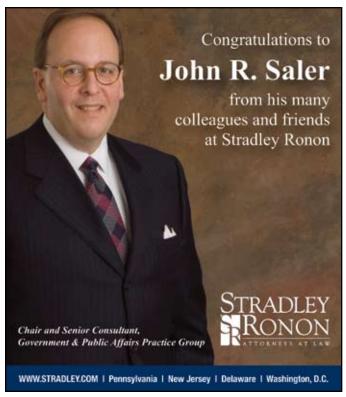
#### Mary Isenhour

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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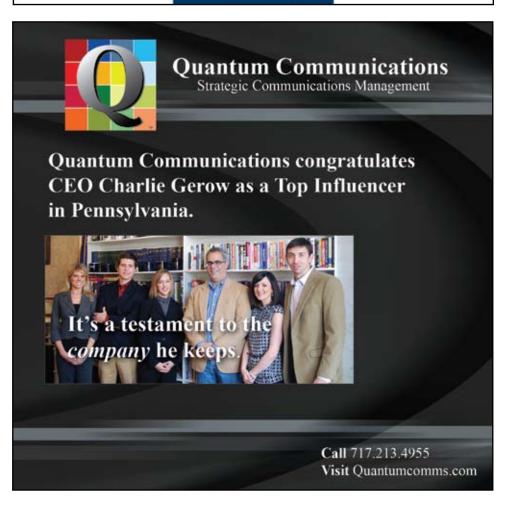
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# THE NEXT 40 DEMOCRATS

#### Steve Wojdak

Harrisburg's top lobbyist at Wojdak & Associates

#### **Mark Aronchik**

Attorney at Hangley Aronchick 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, wellconnected 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 Govenor

#### **Saul Shorr**

Princpal 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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