

Local | News | Sports | Obituaries | Opinion | Columnists | Blogs | Real Estate | A & E | Food | Shopping | Events | Travel | Video | More

Bergen | Passaic | Morris | Essex | Hudson | Sussex | Towns | High Schools | Community | Shore News

NORTHJERSEY.COM : NEWS : OPINION/LETTERS

Opinion: For Barbara Buono, an uphill battle

SUNDAY MAY 5, 2013, 6:35 AM

BY CARL GOLDEN

THE RECORD

[PRINT](#) | [E-MAIL](#)

Carl Golden, a former press aide to Govs. Tom Kean and Christie Whitman, is a senior contributing analyst with the William J. Hughes Center for Public Policy at the Richard Stockton College of New Jersey.

IF THERE WERE any doubts remaining about the lack of enthusiasm on the part of New Jersey Democratic Party leaders for the gubernatorial candidacy of Middlesex County state Sen. Barbara Buono, they've been buried once and for all by events of the past few weeks.

In rapid succession, Buono, the presumptive nominee, endured the following:

‡Elizabeth Mayor Christopher Bollwage — who briefly inserted himself in the gubernatorial candidacy mix — said her campaign was uninspired and, while he said he'd vote for her, he implied he might have to be dragged to the polling place to do so.

‡Senate President Stephen Sweeney, who's been at odds with Buono frequently, said he's considering moving a tax cut bill through the Senate, reversing the party's yearlong posture and potentially handing Governor Christie a major accomplishment for his reelection campaign.

TYSON TRISH / STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

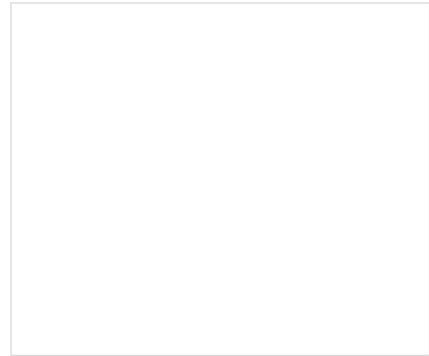
State Sen. Barbara Buono

‡Essex County Executive Joe DiVincenzo continued to host and praise Christie and, when asked if Buono would be welcome at his upcoming fundraising event, sneered: "She can buy a ticket."

‡Essex County Democratic Party chairman Phil Thigpen admitted he knew many fellow party members who refused to support Buono and muttered: "She's got a lot of work to do."

‡Anonymous party sources spoke of opposition to Buono's reported choice for state party chair, even though historically both parties have given their gubernatorial nominees the courtesy of selecting the leader followed by full committee ratification. Others broke ranks and expressed support for her prerogative, highlighting the internal division.

On her own



[NorthJersey.com](#) — [Top Stories](#) — [Most Read](#)

Obamacare deadline extended one day as customers rush to website

Dublin: Crying foul over 'Duck Dynasty' flap

Authorities try to contain oil leak in Clifton

Wyckoff police say video led to counterfeiting arrest of Paterson pair

'Chilly Christmas' on the way after North Jersey sees record warm weather

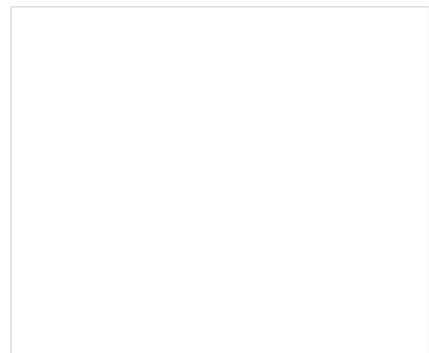
Horseback protesters urge France: No new taxes

US moves troops in prep for more action in S Sudan

At Christmas, a rare collaboration to restore an ancient church

Ho Ho Holy: 2 popes exchange Christmas greetings

Bolivia's president criticizes American's escape



Both DiVincenzo and Newark leader Steve Aduato Sr. enjoy close relationships with Christie and have vested interests in continuing them. Some party insiders have predicted a DiVincenzo endorsement of Christie, although the county executive's actions so far have been tantamount to one, and more definitive public comment isn't necessary.

None of this, of course, is lost on Buono. She's aware of Sweeney's efforts earlier this year to recruit a candidate other than her and she understands the view that she cannot defeat Christie, so there's no benefit in hitching the party's future to a losing cause.

While Christie remains the overwhelming favorite, recent polling reveals a decline in his support and, more troubling for him perhaps, dissatisfaction with his handling of the intertwined issues of job creation, economic recovery and the state's persistently high unemployment rate.

Buono will most certainly focus on these issues and try to make the case that a change in leadership is critical if the state is to restore its economic health and vitality.

The task is difficult enough without the added burden of looking over her shoulder at party leaders whose interest in her success appears non-existent.

Tags: [Opinion/Letters](#) | [Op-Ed](#) | [Opinion](#) | [The Record](#) | [Guest Opinion Writers](#)

More from NorthJersey.com - Opinion/Letters:

[The Record: Balancing act](#)

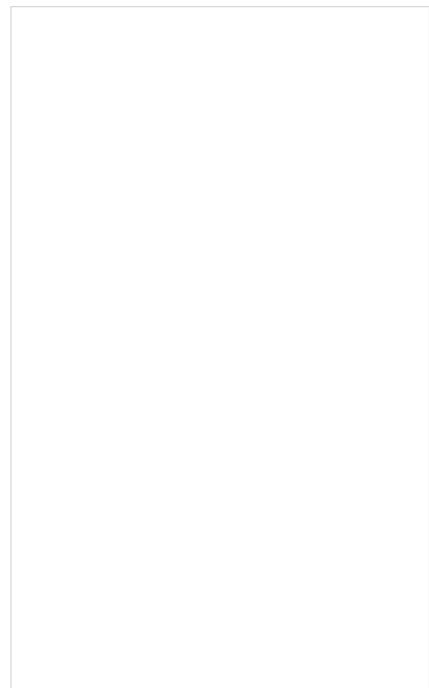
[The Record: Bad reviews](#)

[The Record: End of session rush](#)

[Evans: Institute's work is vital in city schools](#)

[Herald News: Letters, Dec. 23, 2013](#)

[Doblin: Crying foul over 'Duck Dynasty' flap](#)



[Inside NorthJersey.com](#) [Crime & Courts](#)

[Wyckoff police say video led to ...](#)
[Clifton](#) [Broadway](#)

Facebook social plugin

[Authorities try to contain oil leak in ...](#) [2013 Year in Review Bergen](#)

[Shopping](#)

[Sports](#)

[North Jersey store hours for last ...](#)

[Last-minute gift ideas for late shoppers](#) [Giants show grit in defeating Lions, ...](#)

Warren Buffett Confesses | MarketTrendSignal.com

www.MarketTrendSignal.com **Warren Buffetts Shocking Confession Will Change your Investment Strategy**

Top 12 Stocks to Buy Now | TopStockAnalysts.com

www.TopStockAnalysts.com **Panel of nation's leading analysts just announced their favorite picks**

Connect

Newsletters / Alerts
Follow us on Facebook
Follow us on Twitter
Mobile
Letters to the Editor

Advertise

NorthJersey.com
The Record / Herald News
Community Newspapers
(201) Magazine/Bergen.com
Other Magazines

Subscribe

The Record
Herald News
Community Newspapers
(201) Magazine
Customer Care

Find

Obituaries
Photographs
Books
Reprints and Permissions
Archives
Legals/Public Notices
Local Businesses

NorthJersey.com

About Us
Contact Us
Terms of Service/ Privacy
Police Blotter Policy

North Jersey Media Group

In The News
About Us / Locations
Foundation
Action Against Hunger
Green Statement
Employment Opportunities
Premiums
Events/Exposure
© 2013 North Jersey Media Group