

SWEENEY VICTORY TOUR UNDERSCORES STATUS AS GUBERNATORIAL FRONTRUNNER

MARK J. MAGYAR | NOVEMBER 7, 2013

Tuesday wins, Senate presidency, and South Jersey fund-raising prowess make him the early favorite



Fifteen hours after Gov. Chris Christie used his reelection victory rally to state his case for the 2016 Republican presidential nomination, Senate President Stephen Sweeney (D-Gloucester)

William Pascrell (D-N.J.) would be a fiery candidate, but he and the other congressmen would have to give up their House seats if a Christie resignation set up a 2016 race, while 2017 would be a free shot, as it was for Pallone and Holt this year.

Jersey City Mayor Steven Fulop is the latest Democratic wunderkind, but just took office six months ago. Booker, who ran an indifferent campaign and won his Senate seat by a narrower margin than expected in an October 16 special election, will have to run for Senate again in 2014. If Booker decided to run for governor two or three years later against Sweeney, he would not be able to count on the support he received from most Democratic counties when he launched his U.S. Senate bid last June.

"The South Jersey folks are comfortable with Sweeney, which makes it easy for him to negotiate in the Legislature because he knows he has a significant number of votes he can count on," Douglas said, referring to the 18 seats out of 21 held by Democrats in seven districts covering Camden, Gloucester, Atlantic, Cape May, Cumberland, Salem, and southern Burlington counties.

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