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**LAURIE
MCCABE**

The wife of Middlesex County Democratic Committee Chairman – a policy nerd from the office of healthcare precision machine state Senator Joe Vitale (D-19) – could be headed for an assembly majority leadership position. If she stays where she is now, she'll wield just as much power in the legislative office that gave birth to Speaker-elect Craig Coughlin.



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**SHARIQ
AHMAD**

Truly one of the most book-smart individuals in New Jersey politics, the Rutgers Presidential Scholar also worked for Menendez, and serves as chief of staff to Assemblyman Robert Karabinchak (D-19). 2017 marked the biggest year of his fledgling political career, as he displaced Keith Hahn to win (by one vote) the chairmanship of the Edison Democratic Committee. That's a big and potentially very powerful chairmanship of the biggest town in one of the state's most politically important counties.



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LARRY HAMM

No idea or issue passes impacting urban populations and/or social justice without the once over – and usually vigorous advocacy - from the legendary leader of the People's Organization for Progress. Watch him in 2018 as Black Ministers look to make a statement in the Essex County Executive's contest.



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**PEG
SCHAFFER**

No one pushes her around, which is a big plus in this business. The Somerset County Democratic Chair, a principal at her own law firm of Schain Schaffer and Rafanello, snagged a clerk last week when her candidate, Steve Peter, deposed veteran Republican Brett Radi. Overseeing a county where there is visible Trump backlash and that went for Obama, Clinton and Murphy, Schaffer also stands to play a major role in the section of the candidate who will oppose U.S. Rep. Leonard Lance (R-7).