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2016 Race for the White House

Former Texas Governor Rick Perry was the most recent candidate to throw his hat in the ring in the 2016 run for the White House, kicking off his campaign on June 4 with a rally in Addison, Texas. Perry marks the tenth Republican candidate to formally launch their campaign, one month after both Ben Carson and Carly Fiorinia made their announcements. Former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton is the leading contender for the Democratic Party's nomination.

With most candidates announced, and some soon to announce, we have included a snapshot of the current presidential running race below:

Republicans-Announced:

- Ben Carson: Announced May 4; Former head of pediatric neurosurgery at Johns Hopkins
- Ted Cruz: Announced March 23; U.S. Senator (TX); Former Deputy Assistant Attorney General in the George W. Bush administration; Former Texas Solicitor General
- Carly Fiorinia: Announced May 4; Former CEO of Hewlett-Packard; Former advisor to John McCain's 2008 presidential campaign; Challenged Senator Barbara Boxer (CA) in 2010 (unsuccessfully)
- Lindsey Graham: Announced June 1; U.S. Senator (SC)
- Mike Huckabee: Announced May 5; Former Governor of Arkansas; Fox News host; Finished third in 2008 campaign, Sat out in 2012
- George Pataki: Announced May 28; Served three terms as governor of New York
- Rand Paul: Announced April 7; U.S. Senator (KY); Ophthalmologist; Son of Ron Paul, three-time presidential candidate and former Representative
- Rick Perry: Announced June 4; Longest-serving Governor of Texas
- Marco Rubio: Announced April 13; U.S. Senator (FL); Former speaker of the Florida House
- Rick Santorum: Announced May 27; Served as U.S. Senator (PA) from 1995-2006; Runner-up for the GOP nomination in 2012

Republicans-Soon to Announce:

- Jeb Bush: Slated to announce June 15; Son and brother of presidents; Served two terms as governor of Florida
- Chris Christie: Governor of New Jersey (second term); Previously served as a U.S. attorney
- Bobby Jindal: Slated to announce June 24; Governor of Louisiana; Previously served in the U.S. House
- John Kasich: Slated to announce after June 30; Governor of Ohio
- Scott Walker: Slated to announce in June/July (until after the state budget is signed); Governor of Wisconsin

Democrats-Announced:

- Lincoln Chafee: Announced June 3; Former U.S. Senator, Governor and Mayor (RI)
- Hillary Clinton: Announced April 12; Former Secretary of State; former Senator from New York; Former First Lady
- Martin O'Malley: Announced May 30; Former Maryland Governor; Former Mayor of Baltimore
- Bernie Sanders: Announced April 30; U.S. Senator (VT)

Democrat-Soon to Announce:

- Jim Webb: Launched an exploratory committee Nov. 2014; Former U.S. Senator (VA); Former U.S. Navy Secretary

New Jersey Primary Election 2015

Results of the June 2 primary in New Jersey showed incumbents winning all races, with less than 5 percent of registered voters statewide casting a ballot.

Hudson County's 31st District had 7 Democrats, the largest number of candidates, and no incumbents on the ballot. Angela McKnight led with about 35 percent with running mate Nicholas Chiaravallotti following closely. Assemblyman Charles Mainor nor Jason O'Donnell did not seek reelection.

Union County's 20th District proved well for incumbent Assembly members Annette Quijano and Jamel Holley, who beat A. Tony Monteiro and Giuliano Farina by nearly a 2-to-1 margin, as well as a third Democratic ticket of Jorge Batista and Vivian Bell. Here, incumbents spent three times more than the competition, ranking spending second highest statewide.

In the 15th District, which includes parts of Hunterdon and Mercer counties, Assembly incumbents Reed Gusciora and Elizabeth Maher Muoio defeated Dan Toto, sole challenger. Gusciora and Muoio will face Republicans Peter Mendonez Jr. and Anthony Giordano in the November election.

In the 9th District, which includes portions of Atlantic, Burlington, and Ocean counties, Assemblyman Brian Rumpf and Assemblywoman DiAnne Gove defeated challengers Fredric Kociban and Howard Height. Rumpf, a 12-year incumbent, and Gove, a six-year incumbent, will face Democrats Fran Zimmer and John Bingham in November.

State Assemblyman Parker Space and Sussex County Freeholder Gail Phoebus won the Republican nominations for Assembly in the 24th District. Space and Phoebus, who ran together, challenged former Green Township Mayor Marie Bilik and Nathan Orr, who ran separately. They will face Democrats Michael Grace and Jacqueline Stapel in the Fall. Phoebus hopes to replace Assemblywoman Alison Littell McHose, who did not seek reelection after being hired as administrator of Franklin.

The primary winners of the Democratic-led Districts (15th, 20th and 31st) and Republican-led Districts (9th and 24th) are slated to have success again on November's ballot. More competition may be seen in the 1st and 2nd Districts in South Jersey as well as the 38th Districts that include Bergen and Passaic counties due to split representation. However, low voter turnout, the proposed North Jersey casinos, Democratic write-in candidates (8th and 23rd Districts), independents, and a constitutional amendment could add some uncertainty on where the votes will be tallied.

Democrats are likely to maintain control of the legislature come the general election with 80 Assembly seats at the top of the ballot. Republicans need to gain at least nine Democratic-held seats to win a majority in the lower house for the first time since 2002.

The Morris County Freeholder race for 3 seats was one of the most contentious and one of the biggest surprises of the primary. Morris County's GOP was divided when Freeholder incumbent John Cesaro departed from his former running mates, joining

forces instead with firefighter Angelo Tedesco and Mendham Township businesswoman Christine Myers. The two other incumbents, Dave Scapicchio and John Krickus, recruited 20-year Denville Councilwoman Deb Smith. Smith was the top vote-getter, followed by Myers, and then Cesaro. Per Freeholder Douglas Cabana, the longest-serving member of the board, with Smith and Myers joining Kathy DeFillippo on the board, this is the first time three of the seven freeholders are women. The race grew heated in May due to issues concerning campaign finance reports as well as the county's stalled solar project.

Pennsylvania Primary Election 2015

The Commonwealth's primary election was held on May 19, with statewide voter turnout rate slightly over 19 percent. In addition, the Pennsylvania Department of State reported that nearly 3 million hits were recorded in its newly redesigned [election returns website](#) in the first four hours.

Party nominees were selected for three statewide races; three open seats on the state Supreme Court, one seat on the Superior Court and one seat on the Commonwealth Court. Democratic nominees Christine Donohue, Kevin Dougherty, and David Wecht, and Republican nominees Anne Covey, Mike George, and Judy Olson will compete for seats on the Pennsylvania Supreme Court in November. Republicans have held a 4-3 majority on the court since 2010. Each party will have two seats with the opportunity to gain three. Philadelphia Judge Alice Beck Dubow defeated Robert Colville in the Democratic election to challenge for a seat on the State Superior Court. Dubow will face Republican Emil Giordano in the November General Election. In one of the bigger upsets, Michael Wojcik, Solicitor for Allegheny County, won the Democratic nominee for a seat on the PA Commonwealth Court. Wojcik defeated Todd Eagen, an attorney who was [endorsed by the Democratic Party](#).

Philadelphia Mayoral Candidate Jim F. Kenney won the Democratic nominee. With over 50 percent of the vote won, the former City Councilman is now the favorite to become [the 99th Mayor of Philadelphia](#). Kenney goes up against Melissa Murray Bailey, who ran the Republican nomination uncontested. Philadelphia hasn't elected a Republican Mayor since 1948.

Democratic incumbents Blondell Brown and William Greenlee retained their seats for Council at-Large in Philadelphia. Allan Domb, Derek Green, and Helen Gym will be the new Council at-Large members that replace the losing incumbents.

The race for the two GOP City Council seats will include incumbents Councilmen David Oh and Dennis O'Brien vs. newcomers Terry Tracy, Daniel Tinney and Al Taubenberger.

Philadelphia City Councilman Kenyatta Johnson won the Democratic Party's nomination for the 2nd Council District, retaining his seat, defeating challenger Ori Feibush. Johnson will run unopposed in November. In the 7th Council District in Philadelphia, Councilwoman Maria Quinones-Sanchez won the battle over Manny Morales.

In the Democratic primary race for Allegheny County Controller, Chelsa Wagner beat Mark Patrick Flaherty. Should Wagner win the November election, this would be her second term serving as County Controller. To date, no Republicans have entered the race.

Duane Morris Government Strategies, LLC will continue to monitor these and other important issues. Contact us if you have an issue you would like additional information on, or to be removed from the Capitol Commentary distribution list:

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