African American Chamber of Commerce of New Jersey
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# NEWS & COMMUNITY RESOURCES

NOVEMBER 4, 2026

## Democrats oust incumbent Republicans Kean, Van Drew in New Jersey election upsets

CONTINUE

**BINJE | Stacie Sherman | November 4, 2026**

Democrats have unseated incumbent Republican U.S. House representatives Tom Kean Jr. and Jeff Van Drew, shifting New Jersey's political representation in Washington.

The results signaled voters' growing concerns about President Donald Trump and the Republican Party as Democrats won control of both chambers of Congress.

"This isn't just a wave; it's an absolute wipeout," said Democratic strategist Joshua Henne. "I'm surprised Democrats didn't win Greenland, too."

Kean, whose family is a political dynasty in New Jersey, lost with 41.4% of the vote, according to the Associated Press. With 94% of votes counted, Democratic businesswoman Rebecca Bennett won with 57.1% to represent the 7th congressional district, which includes Hunterdon and Warren counties and parts of Union, Somerset, Morris, and Sussex counties.

In the 2nd congressional district, covering the southern-most part of the state, Cape May Mayor Zach Mullock beat Van Drew, 51.1% to 47.9%, according to the AP, with 89% of votes counted. Before the election, Cook Political Report had rated the race as Likely Republican.

## NJ Chamber appoints George Helmy to executive committee, elects seven new board directors

CONTINUE

**BINJE | Linda Lindner | November 4, 2026**

The New Jersey Chamber of Commerce has named George Helmy, Executive Vice President and Chief Corporate Affairs Officer at RWJBarnabas Health, to its Board Executive Committee. The appointment was confirmed by the Chamber's Board of Directors during its Oct. 15 meeting.

In addition to Helmy's elevated leadership role, the Chamber elected seven new board members representing key sectors across New Jersey's economy, including health care, higher education, entertainment, infrastructure, legal services, finance, and workforce development.

Helmy, who joined the NJ Chamber Board of Directors in December, brings extensive public policy, legislative, and corporate governance experience to the Executive Committee.

His background includes serving as Chief of Staff to former New Jersey Gov. Phil Murphy and filling the unexpired term of former U.S. Senator Bob Menendez in 2024.

Helmy also serves as Chairman of the Finance and Facilities Committee on the Rutgers University Board of Governors and holds a commissionership at the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey, where he sits on committees overseeing capital planning, governance, and ethics.

## Democrat Keisha Lance Bottoms makes history in Georgia as 1st Black woman to be elected governor

CONTINUE

**Amsterdam News | Bill Barrow & Kate Brumback A.P. | November 3, 2026**

Democrat Keisha Lance Bottoms was elected governor of Georgia on Tuesday, making history as the first Black woman to be elected governor in the United States, defeating Republican businessman Rick Jackson and flipping the top job in a key swing state.

A former Atlanta mayor, Bottoms won Tuesday despite a staggering campaign spending deficit driven by the billionaire Jackson tapping more than $200 million of his own fortune. She becomes the first Democrat to prevail in a Georgia governor's race since 1998.

"What we do in this moment will echo through history," she said ahead of Election Day. Bottoms often sidestepped the barrier-breaking possibilities of her candidacy and instead emphasized her plans to improve an uneven economy and counter President Donald Trump's administration in Washington.

"Let's choose hope over fear, progress over division, and come together to build a better Georgia for everyone," she said. The outcome bucks voters' longtime reluctance to put Atlantans in the governor's mansion, and Bottoms' victory is the latest example of how the growth of the state's largest metro area is reshaping Georgia politics.

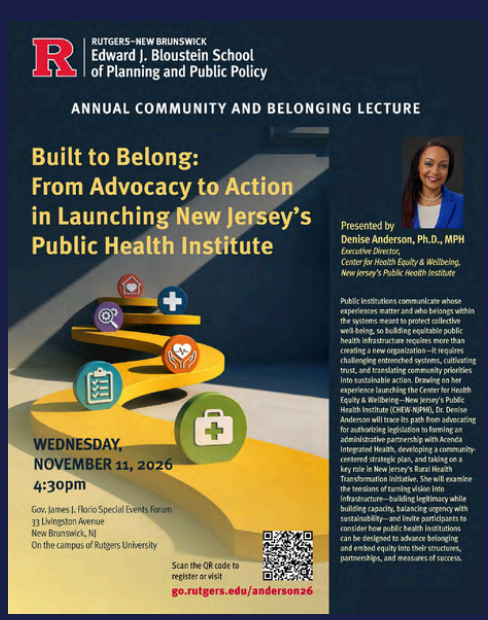
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379 WEST STATE STREET, TRENTON, NJ 08608
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