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Power 100

The 2020 Long Island Power 100

The leaders of Nassau and Suffolk

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Where Long Island goes, so goes New York. Two years ago, Democrats picked up several Long Island seats in the state Senate, which proved pivotal in giving the party full control of the state Legislature and ushered in a wave of progressive policymaking. This year, Republicans bounced back on Long Island, holding onto their House seats while proving more competitive in state legislative contests as well. City & State's Long Island Power 100 reflects those shifting political winds, highlighting not only the most powerful political figures in Nassau and Suffolk counties – elected officials, government appointees, business and labor leaders, academics and advocates – but also how they stack up against each other in 2020.

96. Lynda Perdomo-Ayala



Chair, Suffolk County Human Rights Commission

In a letter to Newsday in May, Lynda Perdomo-Ayala urged Long Islanders to take a stand against racism after the Suffolk County Human Rights Commission saw an increase in harassment and attacks aimed at Asian and Asian Pacific American community members. Appointed as chair a year ago, Perdomo-Ayala is a licensed master social worker and serves as administrator in the Department of Pharmacological Sciences at Stony Brook University Medical Center.

1. Steve Bellone

Suffolk County Executive

[Steve Bellone - Suffolk County Executive's Office.jpg](#)



Suffolk County Executive's Office

Suffolk County Executive Steve Bellone oversees one of the most populous suburban counties in the state. Bellone's long history of public service began in the Army and continued with a rise through the ranks in the Town of Babylon. Throughout his political career, he has focused on sustainable development, environmental causes and quality-of-life issues. A self-styled reformer and an ally of Gov. Andrew Cuomo, he hasn't ruled out a possible campaign for governor.

[RELATED: Steve Bellone the last of the New York centrists](#)

2. Laura Curran

Nassau County Executive

[Laura Curran - Nassau County Executive's Office.jpg](#)



— Laura Curran (Nassau County Executive's Office)

In her first term, Nassau County Executive Laura Curran has already made a mark on the county. As the first woman to hold the position, she's made headlines for expanding economic development in Nassau through projects like the Nassau Hub, the Belmont Arena, and plans to upgrade and improve Hicksville. During the pandemic, she has led county efforts like drive-through rapid testing sites and the deployment of contact tracers.

3. Michael Dowling

President and CEO, Northwell Health

[michael-dowling-northwell-health.jpg](#)



Photo courtesy Northwell Health

Northwell's Michael Dowling is one of the most important health care executives crafting the state's response to the coronavirus pandemic, frequently joining Gov. Andrew Cuomo in planning discussions and in public appearances. Northwell, which is Long Island's biggest employer, estimates it treated nearly 100,000 COVID-19 patients. The system employs 68,000 people in 23 hospitals and more than 700 outpatient locations, and brings in \$12 billion in annual revenue.

4. Jay Jacobs

Chair, State Democratic Party

[Jay Jacobs - Nassau County Democratic Committee.jpg](#)



Nassau County Democratic Committee

Winning state elections in New York means winning the suburbs, so it's no surprise that Jay Jacobs was brought back last year for another stint heading up the state Democratic Party. Jacobs, who is also the longtime Nassau County Democratic Committee chair, has seen Long Island steadily shift to the left.

5. Kevin Law

President and CEO, Long Island Association

[Kevin Law - LIA.JPG](#)



Kevin Law (LIA)

As president of Long Island's leading business group, Kevin Law has been a staunch advocate for business owners through the pandemic-driven economic shutdown that has threatened major corporations and Main Street storefronts alike for much of 2020. A trusted adviser of Gov. Andrew Cuomo, Law since last year has held the Suffolk County seat on the Metropolitan Transportation Authority board, where he recently advocated against looming rate hikes.

6. Patrick Foye

Chair and CEO, Metropolitan Transportation Authority

[Patrick Foye - Port Authority of New York and New Jersey.jpg](#)



Port Authority of New York and New Jersey

Few essential institutions have borne the brunt of the coronavirus pandemic quite as harshly as the Metropolitan Transportation Authority, which experienced a 90% drop in commutes during the height of the quarantine. Patrick Foye, the MTA leader and a former Nassau County official, has called on the federal government to cease and desist its “Hunger Games” type funding policies and support the massive transportation network that serves more than 15 million riders.

7. Todd Kaminsky

State Senator

[Todd Kaminsky - New York Senate.jpg](#)



Todd Kaminsky (New York State Senate)

Not long ago, Todd Kaminsky was a federal prosecutor taking down state lawmakers. Today, he's one of the most influential members of the state Legislature. Now the most senior Democrat in Long Island's state Senate delegation, he has balanced economic development and environmental conservation, advocating for bold partnerships and environmentally friendly practices and policies. He sponsored the Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act, which aims to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

8. Tracey Edwards

Long Island Regional Director, NAACP

[Tracey Edwards - Douglas Martines Photography.jpg](#)



Tracey Edwards (Douglas Martines Photography)

The NAACP's Tracey Edwards defends the rights of Black New Yorkers in Suffolk and Nassau counties. She is advocating for criminal justice reform as part of the Long Island Advocates for Police Accountability. Edwards, who previously served as a top regional executive at Verizon and on the Huntington Town Board, serves on the state Public Service Commission and in May was named to the governors "Regional Control Room" to reopen Long Island businesses.

9. Frederick Brewington

Founder, Law Offices of Frederick K. Brewington

[Frederick Brewington - Tyree Curry.jpg](#)



Frederick Brewington (Tyree Curry)

Hempstead attorney Frederick Brewington is no stranger to well-publicized civil rights cases on Long Island. Most recently, the civil rights litigator won a federal case against the Town of Islip resulting in the rejection of the current at-large Town Board election system to replace it with representatives from more racially equitable districts. Brewington has also partnered with the NAACP's Tracey Edwards to represent Long Island Advocates for Police Accountability, a coalition pushing for criminal justice reform.

10. Kathleen Rice

Member of Congress

[Kathleen Rice-Shutterstock.jpg](#)



Kathleen Rice (Shutterstock)

Having built name recognition in Nassau County as Long Island's first female district attorney, Rep. Kathleen Rice is about to start her fourth term representing New York's 4th Congressional District. As part of the New Democrat Coalition, she's aimed to reform the Democratic Party by bringing progressives and traditionalists together. Rice has advocated for a national plan to fight the coronavirus and remains outspoken on the need for economic stimulus.

11. Thomas Suozzi

Member of Congress

[suozzi.jpg](#)



Rep. Thomas Suozzi (United States House of Representatives)

Rep. Thomas Suozzi had a minor scare when Republican challenger George Santos pulled ahead on Election Day, but the former Nassau County executive and current representative of New York's 3rd Congressional District came out ahead once absentee ballots were counted, and he declared victory in mid-November. The vice-chair of the bipartisan House Problem Solvers Caucus, Suozzi has been calling for further stimulus measures and has distributed thousands of masks in his district.

12. Lee Zeldin

Member of Congress

[lee-zeldin-Jacquelyn-Martin-AP-Shutterstock-web-only.jpg](#)



Rep. Lee Zeldin. (Jacquelyn Martin/AP/Shutterstock)

Representing New York's 1st Congressional District, on the east end of Long Island, Rep. Lee Zeldin represents what was once a swing district, having won the seat in 2014 against incumbent Democrat Tim Bishop. Since then he has become a staunch supporter of President Donald Trump, often touting the president's Israel policy. Zeldin is an Army veteran who now serves on the Financial Services and Foreign Affairs committees.

13. Anna Kaplan

State Senator

[Anna Kaplan - New York State Senate.jpg](#)



Anna Kaplan (New York State Senate)

Unlike other first-term Democrats who flipped seats on Long Island in 2018, state Sen. Anna Kaplan avoided some of the political attacks over criminal justice reforms enacted in newly all-blue Albany last year – and ultimately had an easier path to reelection this year. The daughter of Jewish parents who fled Iran during the Islamic Revolution, Kaplan served on the Town of North Hempstead Council before seeking a state Senate seat.

14. James Gaughran

State Senator

[james-gaughran-jim-gaughran-for-state-senate.jpg](#)



James Gaughran (Courtesy James Gaughran for State Senate)

State Sen. James Gaughran came into office thanks to the 2018 blue wave that flipped several swing seats on Long Island and handed over control of the state Senate. The Democratic lawmaker found himself behind in the count on Election Day this year, but overcame his Republican challenger once absentee ballots were counted. An attorney, Gaughran previously served on the Huntington Town Board and the Suffolk County Legislature.

15. Kevin Thomas

State Senator

[Kevin Thomas headshot credit New York State Senate.jpg](#)



State Sen. Kevin Thomas (New York State Senate)

When Kevin Thomas was elected in 2018, he became the first Indian American state senator. In that race he knocked out Republican Kemp Hannon, a veteran lawmaker, and helped Democrats take control of the Senate for the first time in years. This year, the Levittown resident narrowly fended off a Republican challenge and attacks over his support for criminal justice reforms, with absentee ballots putting him over the top.

16. Scott Rechler

Chair and CEO, RXR Realty

[Scott Rechler - submitted.jpg](#)



Scott Rechler (Submitted)

A leading commercial real estate developer on Long Island and in New York City and chair of the Regional Plan Association, Scott Rechler is an influential voice the business community both listens to and respects. He served as Gov. Andrew Cuomo's appointee on the Metropolitan Transportation Authority board in the past, touting the benefits of the East Side Access project and other rail developments as a boon for Long Island's economy.

17. Stuart Rabinowitz

President, Hofstra University

[stuart-rabinowitz-hofstra-university.jpg](#)

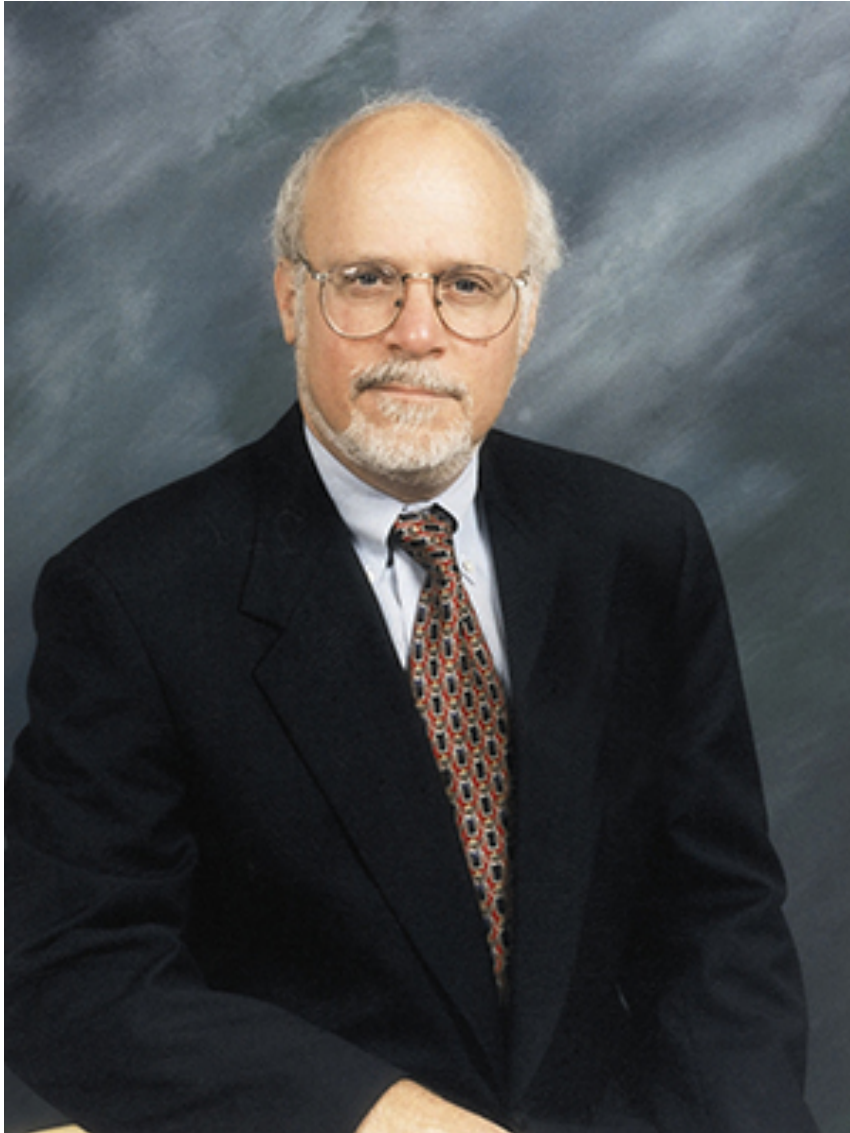


Photo courtesy Hofstra University

As president of Hofstra University, Stuart Rabinowitz has been instrumental in the institution's expansion and its rising status on the nation's higher ed stage. He's been with the university for nearly 50 years and led the institution to host debates for U.S. presidential candidates in 2008, 2012 and 2016. He also served as co-vice chair of the Long Island Regional Economic Development Council, awarding \$727 million for 885 Long Island projects.

18. Patrick Dolan

Owner, Newsday

[patrick-dolan-submitted.jpg](#)



Patrick Dolan (Submitted)

As newspapers across the globe decline, Newsday continues to expand its media footprint by investing in digital assets and state-of-the-art technology that maintain its relevance and its reputation as Long Island's paper of record. That's largely thanks to majority owner Patrick Dolan, who is also the president of News 12 Networks at Altice USA, where he started out as a reporter in 1986. He bought his majority stake in Newsday Media Group from Altice in 2016.

19. Debby Krenek

Publisher, Newsday

At the height of the coronavirus outbreak, publisher Debby Krenek dropped the paywall for Newsday's pandemic-related coverage to give readers access to trustworthy information. Krenek's newspaper, which recently marked its 80th anniversary, also published a bombshell series exposing racial discrimination in Long Island's housing market, spurring multiple state investigations. The former editor of both the Daily News and Newsday, Krenek has also helped cultivate a top-notch roster of reporters.

20. Phillip Eng

President, Long Island Rail Road

[EngP HEAD SHOT \(002\) \(1\).jpg](#)



Phillip Eng (Patrick Cashin MTA Photographer)

Since taking the helm of the Long Island Rail Road in 2018, Phil Eng has overseen seismic changes at the nation's largest commuter rail system, including the construction of the third track in Nassau County and newly unveiled upgrades at Lynbrook. While the coronavirus pandemic devastated public transit's revenues, the native Long Islander has made the health of LIRR riders a priority by piloting new antiviral cleaning technology and air filters.

21. John Durso

President, Long Island Federation of Labor

As president of the Long Island Federation of Labor since 2005 and as the longtime leader of Local 338, John Durso is the voice of Long Island's labor movement. His role became even more critical as coronavirus stripped so many workers of their positions or – in some cases, deemed them essential. He also joined Gov. Andrew Cuomo's regional control room to navigate Long Island in its reopening.

22. Timothy Sini

Suffolk County District Attorney

[Timothy Sini - Suffolk County District Attorney's Office.jpg](#)



Timothy Sini (Suffolk County District Attorney's Office)

District Attorney Timothy Sini is cleaning up Suffolk County – inside and outside government. Previously as the county's police commissioner and now as its top prosecutor, he has made reforms following a corruption scandal that ensnared a former police chief and Sini's predecessor as district attorney. He's also taking on union boss James Cahill for allegedly accepting bribes and Suffolk County Legislator William "Doc" Spencer, who's been charged in an alleged drugs-for-sex scheme.

23. Andrew Garbarino

Congress Member-elect

[Andrew Garbarino - Andrew Garbarino.png](#)



Andrew Garbarino (Andrew Garbarino)

Assembly Member Andrew Garbarino is set to succeed a King – Rep. Peter King, that is. When the longtime House member decided not to seek reelection this year, Garbarino won the backing of local Republican leaders, including King, then beat fellow Assembly Member Mike LePetri in the Republican primary and vanquished Democrat Jackie Gordon in November. An attorney, he focused on insurance issues while in Albany.

24. Rich Schaffer

Chair, Suffolk County Democratic Committee

[Rich Schaffer - Best Years Studios.jpg](#)



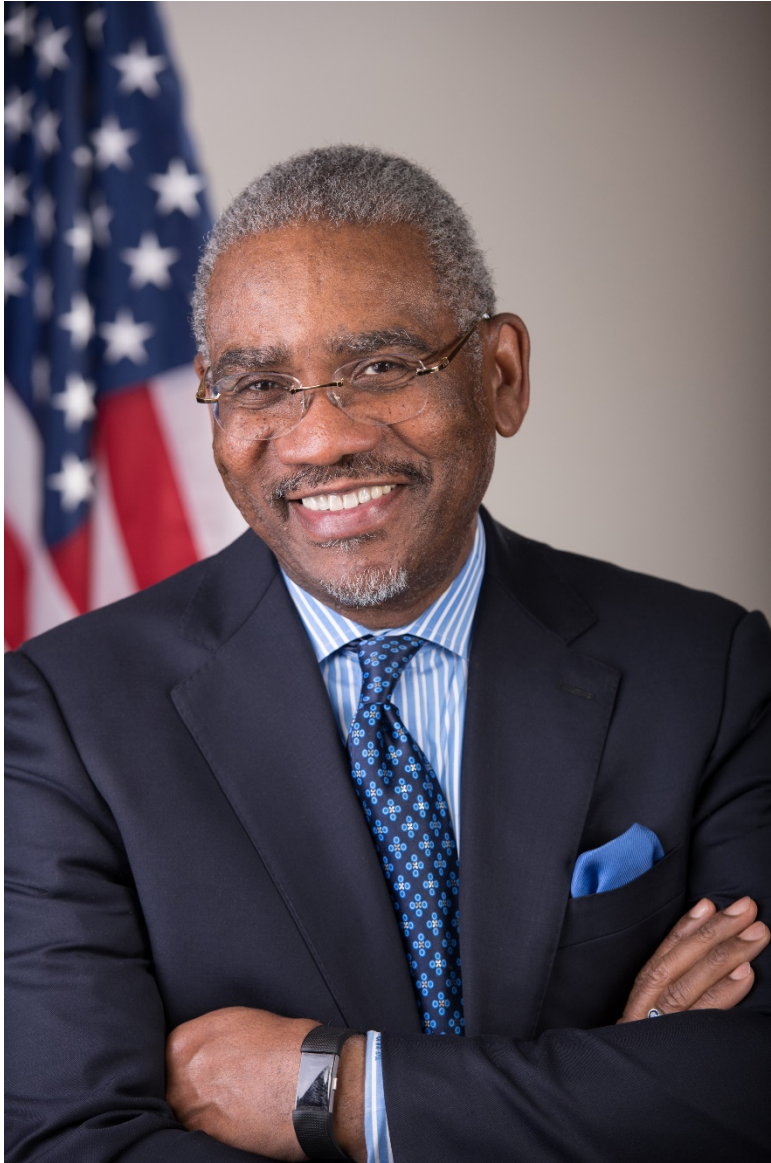
Rich Schaffer (Best Years Studio)

Rich Schaffer is a political powerhouse on Long Island, with several avenues to exert his influence. He holds elected office as the supervisor of the Town of Babylon, a Long Island municipality with a population of more than 200,000. He's the leader of the Democratic committee on Suffolk County, which has been trending blue. And he's adept at making deals with Republicans and Conservatives, bolstering his own power locally.

25. Gregory Meeks

Member of Congress

[Rep. Meeks Headshot.jpg](#)



Gregory Meeks (Office of Congressman Gregory Meeks)

Rep. Gregory Meeks is widely known as a Queens politician: He lives in St. Albans, has represented Southeast Queens in the U.S. House of Representatives for more than two decades, and since last year has served as the chair of the borough's Democratic Committee. But the congress member's district also covers parts of Nassau County, including Elmont and North Valley Stream, and he has sought to better protect Long Islanders from flooding.

26. Madeline Singas

Nassau County District Attorney

[Madeline Singas - Madeline Singas.jpg](#)



Madeline Singas (Madeline Singas)

As Nassau County district attorney, Madeline Singas deserves significant credit for the county's designation by U.S. News and World Report as the safest county in the country. She has been a steady advocate for crime victims, especially when it comes to children and victims of sexual abuse or domestic violence. During election season, she deployed teams to ensure Nassau County residents could exercise their right to vote.

27. Alan Guerci

President and CEO, Catholic Health Services

Dr. Alan Guerci oversees a workforce at Catholic Health Services of more than 18,000 frontline heroes. While recognizing that 2020 was a [“challenging time for health care.”](#) Guerci positioned his teams at St. Francis in Roslyn and Good Samaritan Hospital and Medical Center in Bayshore to earn top state rankings from US News and World Report. Out of 208 hospitals surveyed, St. Francis was ranked No. 8 and Good Sam was ranked at No. 21.

28. Stanley Bergman

Board Chair and CEO, Henry Schein

As a distributor of medical supplies, and Long Island's only Fortune 500 company, all eyes were on Henry Schein Inc. in March when the coronavirus pandemic arrived. The company helps lead the Pandemic Supply Chain Network, a public-private partnership launched in 2015, and was among the first companies to develop and distribute a rapid antibody test. Chair and CEO Stanley Bergman also responded by volunteering to take a 100% paycut.

29. Doon Gibbs

Laboratory Director, Brookhaven National Laboratory

As laboratory director of Brookhaven National Laboratory, Doon Gibbs commands a world-class research institute. BNL is known for attracting some of the world's top scientists to Long Island, and for its forthcoming \$2 billion supercollider, which is aimed at solving some of the greatest scientific mysteries while also generating jobs. BNL is owned by the U.S. Department of Energy, but is a point of pride for local legislators.

30. Michaelle Solages

Chair, Black, Puerto Rican, Hispanic, and Asian Legislative Caucus

MS Media Profile Headshot copy.jpg



Michaelle Solages (Submitted)

Assembly Member Michaelle Solages was first elected to her seat in 2012, when she became the first Haitian American to serve in the state Legislature. The lifelong Elmont resident, who previously was a librarian at Hofstra University, has maintained ties to Long Island's many immigrants. In July, she was elected chair of the Black, Puerto Rican, Hispanic, and Asian Legislative Caucus, an influential group with members from both houses.

31. John Bruckner

President, National Grid New York

National Grid New York President John Bruckner is tasked with supplying Long Island, Staten Island, Queens and upstate customers with uninterrupted gas services. That mission remains challenging in light of National Grid's rejected application for the Northeast Supply Enhancement pipeline, which would have expanded long-term gas capacity. As Bruckner continues to navigate capacity and financial issues, he's also offering support to customers struggling due to the pandemic.

32. Richard Daly

Executive Chair, Broadridge

Broadridge is one of the premier global fintech operators, and according to Newsday, it's also Long Island's [“second largest public company based on revenue.”](#) As the company's founder and chair, Richard Daly helped Broadridge join the S&P 500 in 2018 and continued to provide leadership throughout its ongoing expansion. The company recorded record profits in the third quarter of 2020 despite the economic collapse due to the coronavirus pandemic.

33. James Simons

Founder, Renaissance Technologies

An investor who founded the hedge fund Renaissance Technologies in 1982, Jim Simons is a preeminent mathematician, codebreaker and student of pattern recognition, as well as a major philanthropist. One of the few who have seen financial gains in the year of the coronavirus pandemic and the shutdown of the nation's economy, he is the second largest donor to the Biden campaign, contributing \$7 million to supporting PACs.

34. Seymour Liebman

Executive Vice President, Chief Administrative Officer and General Counsel, Canon U.S.A.

[Seymour Liebman - Canon USA.JPG](#)



Seymour Liebman (Canon USA)

Seymour Liebman, who serves in a range of leadership positions at Canon U.S.A. Inc., has worked for the company for more than 45 years and was instrumental in bringing Canon to a new Melville headquarters in 2013. Liebman serves on several influential Long Island boards of directors including the Long Island Regional Economic Development Council, the Long Island Association and Gov. Andrew Cuomo's Life Science Advisory Board.

35. Steve Englebright

Assembly Member

[Assemblyman-Englebright.jpg](#)



Assembly Member Steve Englebright. (Submitted)

As a trained scientist, Steve Englebright pivoted to public office after advocating for the preservation of the Long Island Pine Barrens, a natural space atop the region's aquifer. In the Assembly, he has crafted major legislation on solar and wind net-metering. In 2015 he was named chair of the Environmental Conservation Committee, and last year he sponsored the Climate Leadership And Community Protection Act, New York's ambitious climate change law.

36. Theresa Sanders

President and CEO, Urban League of Long Island

In 2020, people of color have found themselves disproportionately harmed by the coronavirus while carrying on a renewed fight for equality. Theresa Sanders, who leads the Urban League of Long Island, has provided leadership throughout, as a driving force for a new state law making police disciplinary records public, and highlighting the socio-economics compounding the impact of the pandemic within communities of color.

37. Daniel Eichhorn

President and Chief Operating Officer, PSEG Long Island

As president of PSEG Long Island, Daniel Eichhorn oversees the Long Island Power Authority's electric grid and is responsible for keeping the lights on for more than a million Long Islanders. In 2020, Eichhorn faced challenges from Tropical Storm Isaias, which left 420,000 people without power, but he also earned some brownie points for proactively deploying a pandemic response plan in March to keep employees and customers safe.

38. Joseph Cairo Jr.

Chair, Nassau County Republican Committee

While some commentators predicted another blue wave this fall, the Republican Party held its own in places like Nassau County. Joseph Cairo, who succeeded Joseph Mondello as party chair in 2018, saw Assembly Member Andrew Garbarino keep the seat of retiring Rep. Peter King in Republican hands this cycle, but in two other races he targeted, state Sen. Kevin Thomas and Assembly Member Judy Griffin – both Democrats – beat their challengers.

39. Jesse Garcia

Chair, Suffolk County Republican Party

One striking election takeaway was President Donald Trump's significant support among Latinos – but Republicans like Jesse Garcia knew that firsthand. Garcia, who became the first Hispanic person to lead the Suffolk County GOP in 2019, has overseen a Republican resurgence, with victories by Rep. Lee Zeldin and House candidate Andrew Garbarino. Garcia is an established Brookhaven politico, formerly serving as Brookhaven Town leader.

40. Maurie McInnis

President, Stony Brook University

Stony Brook University's sixth president, who took office in July, comes to the position from the University of Texas at Austin, where she served as chief academic officer. Maurie McInnis is a renowned cultural historian and author. She will be expected to play a key role in economic development on Long Island as well as carry out Stony Brook's role co-managing Brookhaven National Laboratory.

41. Wayne Grossé & Linda Armyn

President and CEO; Senior Vice President of Corporate Affairs, Bethpage Federal Credit Union

Wayne Grosse - Judy Walker.jpg



Wayne Grossé (Judy Walker)

Linda Armyn - Bethpage Federal Credit Union.jpg



Linda Armyn (Bethpage Federal Credit Union)

Wayne Grossé heads New York's largest credit union. Under his leadership, and aided by Linda Armyn, Bethpage Federal Credit Union has expanded both its brand – as the named sponsor of marquee events like the Jones Beach Air Show, Bethpage Ballpark and its bike share program Bethpage Ride – and its reputation as a community bank by helping consumer and business account holders navigate and apply for funds through the pandemic.

42. Mitchell Pally

CEO, Long Island Builders Institute

[Mitchell Pally - Judy Walker Photography.JPG](#)



Mitchell Pally (Judy Walker Photography)

With the coronavirus pandemic threatening to derail infrastructure projects in 2020, Long Island Builders Institute CEO Mitch Pally has had his work cut out for him. The outspoken leader called on local officials to streamline the antiquated approvals process to quickly get builders to work. As Long Island confronts its lack of residential housing and embraces mixed use developments, Pally will be at the forefront of how they get built.

43. Victoria Gumbs-Moore

Judge, Suffolk County Family Court

In January, Victoria Gumbs-Moore became Suffolk County's first Black family court judge as well as the first Black woman elected to a countywide post. Gumbs-Moore co-founded the Amistad Black Bar Association in 1996 in order to increase networking and leadership opportunities for attorneys of color on Long Island. She previously worked as a court attorney referee in the county's family court.

44. Thomas Garry

Uniondale Office Managing Partner, Harris Beach

When it comes to economic development in the region, few attorneys have the expertise, influence or reach that Thomas Garry has. A leading power broker in zoning, development and land use matters, Garry's clientele includes Catholic Health Services and the Town of Babylon. In this election year, Garry also served as New York state counsel for the Biden presidential campaign, a recognition of his deep knowledge of New York election law.

45. Bruce Stillman

President and CEO, Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory

As Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory's top scientist, Bruce Stillman oversees more than 1,100 employees – including hundreds of scientists – in their study of cancer, neuroscience, plant biology and quantitative biology. Under Stillman's leadership, the laboratory has grown into a jewel of the North Shore, catalyzing the “research corridor,” often touted by Gov. Andrew Cuomo and the Long Island Association, putting Long Island on the map as a destination for scientists and researchers.

46. Thomas Falcone

CEO, Long Island Power Authority

[Thomas Falcone - LIPA.jpg](#)



Thomas Falcone (LIPA)

As CEO of the Long Island Power Authority, Thomas Falcone is responsible for the electrical grid that serves more than a million Long Islanders. As pandemic-related unemployment continues to plague Long Island and utility bills go unpaid, Falcone has planned for larger write-offs while emphasizing that LIPA can absorb the losses. This fall, Falcone led LIPA in celebrating its new \$25 million energy and nature center at Jones Beach.

47. Robert Coughlan & James Coughlan

Founders, Tritec Real Estate Co.

Brothers Robert and James Coughlan launched their real estate company in 1986 and have grown Tritec to become one of the region's top mixed-use developers, with projects that encompass commercial, residential and sometimes industrial use. Their community-focused approach has made them a favorite for projects like the Ronkonkoma Hub, as they modernize the region's downtowns and suburbs. They are often recognized for their contribution to Patchogue's revitalization.

48. Howard Lorber

Executive Chair, Douglas Elliman

Howard Lorber is a major player in New York, but his nationwide reach comes in handy too. As the coronavirus wreaked havoc on the New York City real estate industry, Douglas Elliman made up for its losses by capitalizing in California, Colorado, parts of Long Island and Florida. Under Lorber's leadership, the firm reported a record \$11.8 million in net income during the third quarter, according to The Real Deal.

49. Steve Israel

Director, Cornell University Institute of Politics and Global Affairs

[Steve Israel - Steve Israel.jpg](#)



Steve Israel (Steve Israel)

In his role as director of Cornell University's Institute of Politics and Global Affairs, Steve Israel is known for gathering top politicians and leaders to engage in nonpartisan conversations of global importance. The author and former congress member's Long Island roots and bipartisan attitude color his columns for The Hill and guest appearances on cable TV. Israel also remains plugged into Democratic networks, recently advising the Biden campaign on suburban voters.

50. Errol Toulon Jr.

Sheriff, Suffolk County

[Errol Toulon - Suffolk County Sheriff's Office.jpg](#)



Errol Toulon (Suffolk County Sheriff's Office)

In 2018, Errol Toulon became the first Black sheriff of Suffolk County. Since then, the county's highest-ranking law enforcement official has taken on gangs, drug dealers and human traffickers while relying on technology to improve policing. He opposed the state's bail reform law, saying at an Albany press conference in February that the passage of the law was rushed. In response to the Black Lives Matter movement, he formed a community advisory board this summer to allow for more feedback to his department.

51. Daniel Levler

President, Association of Municipal Employees

[Daniel-Levler-Suffolk-AME-520x480.jpg](#)



Daniel Levler (SUFFOLK AME)

Daniel Levler heads the Association of Municipal Employees, Suffolk County's largest employee union with more than 6,000 members. Levler, who ran unopposed in 2018, sided with Suffolk County Executive Steve Bellone this year in supporting a ballot measure to use sewer funds to balance the budget and avoid layoffs of the government workers he represents. However, initial election results showed the vote was too close to immediately call.

52. Resi Cooper

President, CooperHill

There isn't much that happens on Long Island without the behind-the-scenes input from Resi Cooper. A former aide to then-U.S. Sen. Hillary Clinton, Cooper's voice is sought after in key development and infrastructure projects for political maneuvering and government insight. As a member of the Long Island Regional Economic Development Council, she is helping to develop a roadmap to rebuild Long Island's economy.

53. Jon Ledecky

Co-Owner, New York Islanders

Although the 2019-2020 hockey season was shortened, Jon Ledecky, the co-owner of the New York Islanders, has seen major progress in the construction of the new UBS Arena at Belmont Park, where the Islanders expect to play for the 2021-2022 NHL season. The home opener next year will signal a new beginning for the home team following a contentious exodus to Brooklyn after being ousted from Nassau Coliseum.

54. David Kilmnick

President and CEO, LGBT Network

Under David Kilmnick's leadership in 2020, the LGBT Network responded to the pandemic by opening a virtual center offering more than 20 events weekly, serving community members through virtual drop-in hours and organizing a town hall series connecting the community with elected leaders during the peak of the COVID-19 crisis. He is also developing a workplace initiative with the region's largest employers to make the workplace safer for all LGBT employees.

55. Adam Barsky

Chair and Director, Nassau County Interim Finance Authority

Adam Barsky's day job is as a top executive with the New York Power Authority. But he also has power as chair of the Nassau County Interim Finance Authority, which was created in 2000 to oversee and manage the county's budgeting. Nassau County Executive Laura Curran wants NIFA to refinance county debt to balance the budget, but Barsky warned last month that the move won't help in the long run.

56. Marc Herbst

Executive Director, Long Island Contractors' Association

As executive director of the Long Island Contractors' Association, Marc Herbst is a proponent of the construction industry of Nassau and Suffolk counties. As COVID-19 ravaged Long Island, Herbst advocated for more investment in public infrastructure as a recovery tool, and he joined a coalition aiming to maintain funding for environmental projects. LICA also recently assisted with a transportation research study on the Island's accessibility.

57. Phil Ramos

Assembly Member

As Latinos struggle to break through in Long Island elections, Assembly Member Phil Ramos is one of relatively few Long Island Hispanic people to hold an elected office – and he's held his seat since 2003. A retired Suffolk County police officer and the founder of the Suffolk County Police Hispanic Society, he was an outspoken proponent of legislation passed this year that makes police disciplinary records available to the public.

58. Theresa Regnante

President and CEO, United Way of Long Island

As the coronavirus pandemic hit the region, United Way of Long Island, led by Theresa Regnante, established an emergency assistance fund for families who had been directly affected by the virus and the ensuing economic fallout. United Together: A Response Fund for COVID-19 aimed to reach Long Islanders who became unemployed, furloughed, or forced to take pay decreases to help pay for utilities, food and child care.

59. Howard Fensterman

Founder and Managing Partner, Abrams Fensterman

[Howard Fensterman - Alex Towle Photography.jpg](#)



Howard Fensterman (Alex Towle Photography)

As the founder and managing partner of the Lake Success law firm of Abrams, Fensterman, Fensterman, Eisman, Formato, Ferrara, Wolf & Carone, LLP., Howard Fensterman concentrates his practice on health care and malpractice suits. He is an ally and donor to Gov. Andrew Cuomo and makes regular donations to such varying causes as Crohn's & Colitis Foundation, the Israel Children's Cancer Foundation, and organizations supporting elder care and drug addiction recovery.

60. Kevin O'Connor

CEO, Dime Community Bank

Kevin O'Connor took on a new role as CEO of Dime Community Bank earlier this year when it announced a merger with BNB Bank. He will oversee an expanded institution with almost double the assets (\$11 billion) and a total of 66 branches from Montauk to New York City. O'Connor has a history of advocating for small businesses and processed about 4,000 Paycheck Protection Program loans at the height of the shutdown.

61. Noel DiGerolamo

President, Suffolk County Police Benevolent Association

A big political battle in Albany – and on Long Island – over the past two years has been bail reform, and Suffolk County Police Benevolent Association President Noel DiGerolamo has publicly opposed changes that eliminated bail in most cases. His union actively supported a number of Republican candidates this cycle, helping Rep. Lee Zeldin, Rep.-elect Andrew Garbarino and several state legislative candidates win key races.

62. Neela Mukherjee Lockel

CEO, American Red Cross of Long Island

[Neela Mukherjee Lockel - American Red Cross.png](#)



Neela Mukherjee Lockel (American Red Cross)

After taking a five-month interim assignment to lead the American Red Cross merger of the Maine and New Hampshire chapters, Neela Lockel returned to Long Island – and had to confront the COVID-19 outbreak. She pivoted the organization’s disaster response to operate virtually and organized regional partners to establish COVID-19 sheltering plans for Nassau and Suffolk counties. She’s also become a regional resource on emergency preparedness, particularly during hurricane season.

63. Joseph Greco

Senior Vice President and Chief of Hospital Operations, NYU Langone Hospital—Long Island

[Joseph Greco - NYU Langone Hospital—Long Island.jpg](#)



Joseph Greco (NYU Langone Hospital-Long Island)

After John Collins' retirement last year after a career of dedicated service to health care, Dr. Joseph Greco – former chief medical officer – was elevated to lead NYU Langone Hospital—Long Island. Despite a leadership change just before the coronavirus hit the region, the hospital was named a recipient of Healthgrades' 2021 excellence awards with a designation of being one of the top hospitals for critical care in the nation.

64. Gwen O'Shea

President and CEO, Community Development Corporation of Long Island

As the leader of Community Development Corporation of Long Island, Gwen O'Shea is gearing up for a wave of economic unrest as unemployment continues to rise on Long Island and more and more families miss mortgage payments. O'Shea is a leading local housing advocate and continues to make the case for inclusionary zoning to address the region's history of illegal, segregated and unjust housing policies.

65. Kimberly Cline

President, Long Island University

Although Long Island University was founded in Brooklyn in the 1920s, it also has a major presence in Nassau County with its Brookville campus, LIU Post. Kimberly Cline, who has served as president since 2013, has improved the institution's finances and boosted its endowment while earning herself a contract extension through 2023 from the trustees. Like many schools, the Brookville campus had to temporarily switch to remote classes last month due to a COVID-19 outbreak.

66. Christine Riordan

President, Adelphi University

[Christine Riordan - Adelphi University.jpg](#)



Christine Riordan (Adelphi University)

After taking the reins at Adelphi University in 2015, Christine Riordan has spearheaded rising enrollment, a more diverse student body and the launch of 17 new academic programs. Formerly the provost of the University of Kentucky, Riordan is the first woman to lead Adelphi. In early October, she reported a 0.4% positivity for COVID-19, with about 15 cases on campus. She also chairs the Commission on Independent Colleges & Universities in New York.

67. Teresa Miller

Officer-in-Charge, SUNY Old Westbury

[Teresa Miller - AJ Letterel - SUNY Old Westbury.jpg](#)



Teresa Miller (AJ Letterel /SUNY Old Westbury)

It's been a long time since a new leader came on at SUNY Old Westbury, which was led for two decades by Rev. Calvin Butts III. When Butts stepped aside this year, he was replaced on an interim basis in September by Teresa Miller, who remains in her role as SUNY's senior vice chancellor of strategic initiatives and chief diversity officer. As a top SUNY administrator, she helped review campus reopening procedures.

68. Robert Zimmerman

Co-Founder and Partner, ZE Creative Communications

Robert Zimmerman is one of Long Island's go-to consultants in public relations, communications and crisis management. He and Ron Edelson founded Zimmerman/Edelson in 1988, and recently did some rebranding of their own with a name change to ZE Creative Communications. Zimmerman has also been outspoken in his political views, criticizing Rep. Thomas Suozzi last year but opting against a Democratic primary challenge to focus instead on ousting President Donald Trump.

69. Ian Wilder

Executive Director, Long Island Housing Services

[Ian Wilder - Images by Jonathan.jpg](#)



Ian Wilder (Images by Jonathan)

Newsday's "Long Island Divided" series exposed entrenched housing discrimination, drawing attention to the work done by groups such as Ian Wilder's Long Island Housing Services. The Bohemia-based nonprofit, which has received new funding from HUD and the state Attorney General's Office this year, has secured settlements with landlords accused of discriminating against potential tenants and recently filed a lawsuit accusing the real estate brokerage Redfin of racial discrimination.

70. Derrick Robinson & Dorian Glover

Presidents, Suffolk County Bar Association; Nassau County Bar Association

This summer, Suffolk County District Court Judge Derrick Robinson was elected president of the Suffolk County Bar Association, the first Black person in the post. The founding president of the Amistad Long Island Black Bar Association as well, Robinson aims to make his current organization even more inclusive. At the same time, the Nassau County Bar Association installed Dorian Glover, an attorney in private practice, as president, only the second Black person to lead the organization.

71. Richard Amper

Executive Director, Long Island Pine Barrens Society

One of the most venerable environmental organizations on Long Island is the Long Island Pine Barrens Society – and just as venerable is its leader, Richard Amper, who has run it for more than three decades. The organization made its mark securing conservation protections for the Central Pine Barrens, and still advocates for clean water. This year, Amper has opposed Suffolk County’s efforts to divert drinking water protection funds to balance the budget.

72. Laureen Harris

President, Association for a Better Long Island

[Laureen Harris - Laureen Harris.jpg](#)



Laureen Harris (Laureen Harris)

As president of the Association for a Better Long Island and an accomplished tax attorney at Cronin, Harris & Associates, Laureen Harris is sought after for her expertise by some of the region's top developers. She was recently appointed by Gov. Andrew Cuomo to the board of trustees of the Long Island Power Authority, where she will put her expertise to use challenging property taxes on power plants.

73. William Kee

Vice President, 1199SEIU United Healthcare Workers East

One of the most powerful labor unions in the state is 1199SEIU, which represents hundreds of thousands of workers at nursing homes, homecare agencies, hospitals and community clinics. William Kee, who has been a vice president with the union for more than two decades, plays a key role on Long Island, representing 6,000 members and serving on the executive board of the Long Island Federation of Labor.

74. Kristen Jarnagin

President and CEO, Discover Long Island

[Kristen Jarnagin - Kur International Consulting.jpg](#)



Kristen Jarnagin (Kur International Consulting)

In her five years running Discover Long Island, Kristen Jarnagin has been tasked with overseeing – and expanding – Long Island’s \$6.1 billion tourism economy. The coronavirus pandemic led to 80,000 layoffs and over \$500 billion in losses in the regional travel industry, leaving Jarnagin to pick up the pieces. She recently stood with state legislators to support a new “Tourism Recovery Improvement District” to spur a comeback.

75. Jennifer Garvey

New York Market Affairs Manager, Ørsted U.S. Offshore Wind

New York has committed to achieving zero-emission energy by 2040 – and to do so, wind power off the coast of Long Island will play a big part. Ørsted, a renewable energy company headquartered in Denmark, is already developing a wind farm off Montauk Point that will have a capacity of 880 megawatts. Ørsted's New York point person is Jennifer Garvey, a local expert on energy and environmental policy.

76. Lucas Sanchez

Long Island Director, New York Communities for Change

[Lucas Sanchez - Sandra Castro.jpeg](#)



Lucas Sanchez (Sandra Castro)

One of the primary geographic targets for New York Communities for Change is Long Island, which the organization argues was “founded on the principle of exclusion that reverberates today.” Lucas Sanchez, who heads up NYCC’s efforts on Long Island, has recently spoken out about the threat of evictions due to coronavirus restrictions and praised a ruling striking down Islip’s at-large council system that kept Latinos out of office.

77. John Cameron Jr.

Founder and Managing Partner, Cameron Engineering

As the chair of the Long Island Regional Planning Council and a professional engineer, John Cameron Jr. is a go-to expert on land use. As Long Island grapples with the coronavirus pandemic, downtowns zoned for mixed-use properties seem to be at an advantage, something the council noted when it released an in-depth study of the Village of Farmingdale. Cameron is leading the charge in creating a roadmap for the region's sustainable future.

78. V. Elaine Gross

Founder and President, Erase Racism

[Elaine Gross - ERASE Racism.jpg](#)



V. Elaine Gross (ERASE Racism)

Elaine Gross is a longtime advocate endeavoring to expose and eliminate systemic racist policies that continue to plague Long Island. After Newsday exposed racist practices in Long Island's real estate industry, and the Black Lives Matter movement gained new local followers this summer, Gross has the ears of key policymakers who are finally ready to listen to what she has been telling them since the inception of ERASE Racism in 2001.

79. Kevin McDonald

Conservation Project Director for Public Lands, The Nature Conservancy on Long Island

[Kevin McDonald - Anthony Graziano.jpg](#)



Kevin McDonald (Anthony Graziano)

As clean water issues continue to arise on Long Island, Kevin McDonald has found himself in the spotlight more and more, defending the basic tenets of environmental science. He stood with Suffolk County legislators this fall to announce that all new construction projects must include nitrogen-reducing septic systems, and has been a long-time champion of sewer systems throughout the county.

80. Luis Vazquez

President and CEO, Long Island Hispanic Chamber of Commerce

A longtime leader in Long Island's Latino business community, Luis Vazquez partnered with the Town of Hempstead earlier this month to distribute 1,000 kits with medical supplies and personal protective equipment to Spanish-speaking business owners. The Long Island Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, founded in 1988, is known for networking events such as the Latina Hat Luncheon and Annual Gala Awards – though it is hosting only virtual events until next year.

81. Liza Milgrim

President, Long Island Hispanic Bar Association

In her role as a personal injury attorney with law firm Sullivan Papain Block McGrath Coffinas & Cannavo, Lisa Milgrim represents mostly Spanish-speaking clients who have suffered an injury or need help navigating the legal system. Milgrim, who is new to her role as head of the Long Island Hispanic Bar Association, recently helped launch a legal information program to assist people during the coronavirus pandemic.

82. Robert Catell

Chair, Advanced Energy Research and Technology Center at Stony Brook University

As board chair of Stony Brook's Advanced Energy Research and Technology Center, Robert Catell oversees critical research into emerging energy technologies that could fuel efforts to slash carbon emissions. Catell, who previously served as chair and CEO of KeySpan Corporation and KeySpan Energy Delivery, and a chair of National Grid, also chairs the New York State Smart Grid Consortium and serves on the National Offshore Wind Research and Development Consortium.

83. Retha Fernandez

Chief Diversity and Inclusion Officer, Suffolk County

In December, Suffolk County Executive Steve Bellone issued a report with a troubling finding: Of the 77 employees at the Department of Civil Service, only one was a person of color. Part of the solution was to create a chief diversity and inclusion officer position, with Retha Fernandez to fill the post. Fernandez previously was project director of the Urban League of Long Island's groundbreaking State of Black Long Island Equity Council.

84. Lionel Chitty

Executive Director, Nassau County Office of Minority Affairs

[Lionel Chitty - Femy Aziz.jpg](#)



Lionel Chitty (Femy Aziz)

Last year, Nassau County Executive Laura Curran appointed Lionel Chitty to run her Office of Minority Affairs, bringing some stability to an office previously filled temporarily. Chitty, who's also a business consultant, now promotes diversity through government contracting and has responded to the COVID-19 pandemic by helping out with food drives, setting up testing sites in minority communities and distributing information to the public about the virus.

85. Patrick Halpin

Managing Director, Mercury

Patrick Halpin has had a long history in local politics – as a member of the Suffolk County Legislature, as a representative in the state Assembly, and finally as Suffolk County executive. But while he's now a managing director at Mercury, a top consulting firm, he is still directly involved in Suffolk County, including serving as chair of the Suffolk County Water Authority, which supplies drinking water.

86. Geoffrey Prime

Mayor, South Floral Park

South Floral Park Mayor Geoffrey Prime is a co-chair of Nassau County's new Police And Community Trust, which aims to improve relations between activists and law enforcement after this summer's Black Lives Matter demonstrations gained momentum. Prime is also a criminal defense attorney and a founding partner of the Garden City law firm Prime & O'Brien. He formerly served on the Nassau Community College board of trustees.

87. David Kapell

President, Stirling Public Policy

[Dave Kapell - Dave Kapell.jpg](#)



David Kapell (David Kapell)

David Kapell brings experience solving fiscal challenges to his work as a consultant, having served as the mayor – and community development director, trustee and planning board chair – of the Village of Greenport. A key client of his Stirling Public Policy is the Rauch Foundation, which focuses on children and families and environmental issues. A real estate developer, he also has been a proponent of the Long Island Rail Road's expansion.

88. Amy Flores

Executive Director, Nassau County Office of Hispanic Affairs

[Amy Flores - Morale Visual Production.jpg](#)



Amy Flores (Morale Visual Production)

Nassau County Executive Laura Curran marked National Hispanic Heritage Month last year by appointing Amy Flores to a revamped Office of Hispanic Affairs. Flores runs one of several Nassau County offices that are aimed at better serving minority populations. Flores is also a co-founder of Empress Group, a women's empowerment organization, and sits on the board of the Nassau County Industrial Development Agency.

89. Todd Shapiro

President, Todd Shapiro Associates Public Relations

[todd-shapiro-todd-shapiro-associates.jpg](#)



Todd Shapiro (Todd Shapiro Associates)

A quarter century ago Todd Shapiro launched his own communications and crisis management firm, Todd Shapiro Associates Public Relations, which over the years has become a significant player on Long Island. Shapiro's firm has developed a specialty in representing law enforcement unions, including the Suffolk County Police Benevolent Association and the Nassau County Police Benevolent Association, as well as political clients, academic institutions and businesses large and small.

90. Phil Andrews

President, Long Island African American Chamber of Commerce

[Phil Andrews - Ronald Wright.JPG](#)



Phil Andrews (Ronald Wright)

Phil Andrews heads the Long Island African American Chamber of Commerce, the largest organization of its kind in New York, working with Black business owners to ensure they have the tools and resources they need to survive and thrive. LIAACC is also asking the Long Island community to “Buy Black” whenever possible. With the economic slowdown shuttering nearly three times as many Black-owned businesses as white-owned businesses in New York, Andrews’ work is critical.

91. Adrienne Esposito

Executive Director, Citizens Campaign for the Environment

[Adrienne Esposito - Citizens Campaign for the Environment.jpg](#)



Adrienne Esposito (Citizens Campaign for the Environment)

One policy issue that often transcends partisan politics on Long Island is the environment, with elected officials in both parties getting behind conservation, clean water and other initiatives. A leading Long Island environmental organization is Citizens Campaign for the Environment, which has been run for years by Adrienne Esposito. Since mounting a failed bid for the state Senate in 2014, Esposito has focused on offshore wind, toxic chemicals and clean energy.

92. Farrah Mozawalla

Executive Director, Nassau County Office of Asian American Affairs

Farrah Mozawalla - Zaynab Ubaid - Office of Asian American Affairs.JPG



Farrah Mozawalla (Zaynab Ubaid/Office of Asian American Affairs)

Farrah Mozawalla's work on the Nassau County Asian American advisory board led to the creation of an Office of Asian American Affairs in the county, and once the office was established, the Valley Stream resident was speedily installed as its leader. Mozawalla continues to be a powerful advocate for the county's Asian Americans, working to make sure they can access resources and relief during the pandemic and encouraging the county to contract with businesses owned by Asian Americans.

93. Robert Creighton

Managing Partner, Farrell Fritz

At Farrell Fritz, Robert Creighton heads up a Uniondale law firm that handles a range of matters, from bankruptcy to commercial litigation to taxes. A health care specialist who represented Winthrop-University Hospital's move to the NYU Langone health system, his expertise is invaluable as the industry contends with the coronavirus pandemic. The firm also opened an Albany office with a new regulatory and government relations practice in 2018.

94. Harry Singh

President and CEO, Bolla Oil Corp.

Harry Singh has built a gasoline-fueled empire with his company, Bolla Oil Corp., which has dozens of gas stations on Long Island. The Indian immigrant and millionaire has continued to expand despite the economic slowdown wrought by the coronavirus pandemic, recently opening a new Bolla Market station in Seaford – along with a Tim Hortons coffee shop. Singh and his wife, Kamiljit, also give back to the community through their Bolla Charity Foundation.

95. Shelley LaRose-Arken

Commissioner, Long Island MacArthur Airport

The coronavirus pandemic has battered the airline industry, taking a toll on airports like the Long Island MacArthur Airport. But while the Islip-owned airport saw flights drop by 75% this spring, Shelley LaRose-Arken has taken steps to keep people flying – securing stimulus funds, installing a system to clean the air, and facilitating COVID-19 tests for arriving passengers. This fall, both American Airlines and Southwest Airlines announced plans to resume more flights.

96. Lynda Perdomo-Ayala



Chair, Suffolk County Human Rights Commission

In a letter to Newsday in May, Lynda Perdomo-Ayala urged Long Islanders to take a stand against racism after the Suffolk County Human Rights Commission saw an increase in harassment and attacks aimed at Asian and Asian Pacific American community members. Appointed as chair a year ago, Perdomo-Ayala is a licensed master social worker and serves as administrator in the Department of Pharmacological Sciences at Stony Brook University Medical Center.

97. Tessa Hultz

CEO, Long Island Board of Realtors

Tessa Hultz was hired on last year to run the Long Island Board of Realtors, a 28,000-member trade association. Hultz, who previously served in several roles at other official Realtor Boards across the country, now runs one of the largest such groups, replacing longtime leader Joseph Mottola. She applauded a 2019 Newsday investigation into housing discrimination on Long Island and pledged to revamp LIBOR's anti-bias trainings.

98. Pedram Bral

Mayor, Village of Great Neck

[Pedram Bral \(Bral is on left - please crop\) - Maimonides Medical Center.jpg](#)



Pedram Bral (Maimonides Medical Center)

Mayor Pedram Bral took action early during the coronavirus pandemic – declaring a state of emergency in Great Neck and seeking permission from the governor to enact a mask mandate for the village of over 10,000 residents. He is again urging caution as coronavirus infections increase in Nassau County. Bral is also a gynecological surgeon at Maimonides Medical Center and founder of its Minimally Invasive Robotic Surgery division.

99. Liuba Grechen Shirley

Founder and CEO, Vote Mama PAC

[Liuba Grechen Shirley - Ann Parry.jpg](#)



Liuba Grechen Shirley (Ann Parry)

Liuba Grechen Shirley mounted a credible challenge against Rep. Peter King in 2018, and might have had a shot at succeeding him had she run again for the seat that King is vacating. But after getting the Federal Election Commission to allow campaign funds to be spent on child care, she shifted gears by launching Vote Mama PAC, which exclusively backed mothers – and a number of local and national candidates have broken through.

100. Sergio Argueta

Founder and Board President, S.T.R.O.N.G. Youth Inc.

[Sergio Argueta - Thomas Bonano.jpg](#)



Sergio Argueta (Thomas Bonano)

Sergio Argueta, a longtime advocate for racial justice and youth empowerment, recently told Newsday that young people are going to lead the way forward and inspire change during a time defined by the coronavirus pandemic and nationwide protests. Argueta, who also works as dean of academic services and discipline at Uniondale High School, founded S.T.R.O.N.G. Youth Inc. in an effort to end gang violence.