



GOVERNOR'S OFFICE OF EQUITY

Office Newsletter
September/October 2023

New Jersey's Third Lieutenant Governor Tahesha L. Way



On September 8, 2023, Governor Murphy appointed Secretary of State Tahesha L. Way as the third Lieutenant Governor of New Jersey, following the passing of Lieutenant Governor Sheila Y. Oliver. Way will continue to serve as Secretary of State, a role she has held in the Administration since 2018.

During her tenure as Secretary of State, Way became the first Black person and the first Secretary of State from New Jersey to serve as President of the National Association of Secretaries of State. Lieutenant Governor Way began her journey in public service in 2006 when she was elected to the Passaic County Board of Chosen Freeholders, and later served as the Freeholder Director. She was previously Special Counsel for the Passaic County Board of Social Services overseeing all agency litigation. Prior to her cabinet appointment, Way served as an Administrative Law Judge.

Lieutenant Governor Way is a graduate of Brown University and holds a Juris Doctor from the University of Virginia School of Law. She enjoys spending time with her family - husband Charles Way, retired NY Giant fullback, and their four daughters.

"I come to this position as the child of two public servants who molded me into the person I am today. Having experience at different levels of government has showed me the important role that those of us in public office can play in improving the lives of families across our state."

- Lieutenant Governor Tahesha Way

Acting Governor Way Signs Legislation to Strengthen Mental Health Support for College Students

Advancing the commitment of the Administration to address the national mental health crisis affecting New Jersey students, on October 19th, Acting Governor Way signed legislation that builds on the "Madison Holleran Suicide Prevention Act" and strengthens mental health support for college students. With the leadership of Secretary of Higher Education Brian Bridges and the legislative sponsors, the new law requires annual suicide prevention training for faculty, staff, and peer leaders on college campuses. The legislation also requires assessment and response plans to ensure that college students facing challenges receive mental health resources. To support awareness and education, the enacted legislation requires annual mental health awareness campaigns on college campuses throughout the state.





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ANNOUNCEMENTS AND NEWS RELEASES

- Governor Murphy's Successful Nine-Day East Asia Economic Mission Trip (October 14th to October 21st):** Joined by a delegation that included the New Jersey Economic Development Authority, ChooseNJ, and higher education representatives, Governor Murphy and First Lady Tammy Murphy completed a successful nine-day East Asia mission trip, during which the Governor met with leaders and innovators in Japan, South Korea, and Taiwan.
- Free Menstrual Products for Students in Grades 6 to 12:** Governor Murphy signed legislation requiring school districts to provide free menstrual products in every public school that teaches students in grades six through twelve.
- Prescription-free Contraceptives:** Governor Murphy announced that by next year, an individual will be able to walk into any New Jersey pharmacy and buy birth control without a prescription whether or not they live in the state. Senator Shirley Turner (pictured here with Governor Murphy) championed this legislation for five years along with other sponsors, including Assemblywoman Verlina Reynolds-Jackson, before it was enacted earlier this year.
- New State Reproductive Health Website:** Governor Murphy signed legislation establishing a new [state website](#) that provides resources and information regarding reproductive rights, access, and health care services.
- Officially Recognizing Central Jersey:** Governor Murphy signed legislation officially recognizing Central Jersey and taking measures to promote marketing and tourism for the region.
- First in the Nation Gun Trafficking Legislation:** New Jersey is the first state in the nation to establish strict liability criminal penalties for gun traffickers when they sell an illegally trafficked firearm that is used in a crime that results in serious or significant bodily injury or death.
- Veteran's Benefits Assistance Compensation:** Governor Murphy signed legislation establishing standards that must be met when an individual receives compensation for providing assistance or advice to veterans and their families regarding veteran's benefits.
- Safe Haven Infant Protection Act Expansion:** New Jersey's Safe Haven Infant Protection Act was expanded when Governor Murphy signed legislation to clarify that an individual who gives birth in a licensed general hospital may safely surrender a newborn infant under the Act.
- State Right to Interracial Marriage Codified:** Governor Muphy signed legislation affirming the fundamental right of New Jerseyans to marry or enter into a civil union with a person of any race.
- State Artificial Intelligence Task Force:** Governor Murphy announced an Artificial Intelligence (AI) Task Force that is charged with studying emerging AI technologies. Additionally, New Jersey's Office of Innovation, in collaboration with InnovateUS, will launch a nation-leading AI training initiative to support state workers in the efficient and ethical use of AI technology.



Civil Service Commission in partnership with the Essex County Office of LGBTQ Affairs

Statewide Job Fair

Thursday, October 26, 2023 | 9:00 am to 1:00 pm

Essex County College
177 West Market Street
Cleo Hill, Sr. Physical Education Center
Newark, New Jersey 07103

- Please bring copies of your resume.
- Onsite Typing Certification Test will be conducted.

Register at
<https://forms.office.com/g/YpXUpQiszfQ>

Connecting Talents, Building the Future of New Jersey!

JOB OPPORTUNITIES

- Join the Statewide Job Fair on Thursday, October 26 from 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM at Essex County College
- For more information on job openings, see the [NJ Civil Service Commission](#)



NJ GOVERNOR'S OFFICE OF EQUITY

“New Jersey will not stand for any type of hate crime - neither Islamophobia nor antisemitism. Period. Full stop. Let our state be a shining example of how diverse communities can live, work, and pray together in harmony.” ~ Governor Murphy

GOVERNOR'S OFFICE AND CABINET TRANSITIONS



On September 25, 2023, Governor Murphy named New Jersey Department of Transportation Commissioner **Diane Gutierrez-Scaccetti** as **Chief of Staff**.

Gutierrez-Scaccetti succeeds George Helmy, who served in the role since early 2019 and holds the distinction as the longest serving gubernatorial Chief of Staff in New Jersey's history. Governor Murphy also promoted **Tim Hillmann** as **Principal Deputy Chief of Staff**. Hillman formerly served as Deputy Chief of Staff for Governmental Affairs.

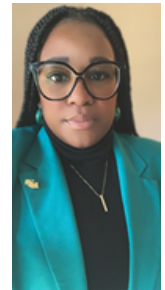


Governor Murphy promoted **Emy Quispe** to **Deputy Chief of Staff for Labor Relations and Stakeholder Engagement** following the departure of Brianna Earle, who served as Deputy Chief of Staff for Outreach. Quispe, a proud Latina, joined the Murphy for Governor campaign as Deputy Director for Latino and Faith-Based Outreach in 2021 before becoming the Director of Legislative Affairs in the Governor's Office in 2022.



Lieutenant Governor Tahesha Way announced that **Sam Parker**—who currently serves as the Governor's Director of Appointments—will additionally take on the role as her new Chief of Staff.

Lieutenant Governor Way also selected **Kiah Lattimer** to serve as Special Assistant. Lattimer formerly worked in the Governor's Office of Outreach.



Governor Murphy appointed **Christine-Guhl Sadovy** as the **President of the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities**, following the passing of President Joseph L. Fiordaliso, a career public servant who was one of the longest serving members of the Cabinet. Before joining as a Commissioner of the Board of Public Utilities, Christine served the Administration as Cabinet Secretary and was previously the Chief of Staff at the Board of Public Utilities.



Governor Murphy appointed **Jacquelyn Suarez** as **Acting Commissioner of the Department of Community Affairs**. Kimberly Holmes served in the role after the passing of Lieutenant Governor Oliver and resumes her role as Assistant Commissioner. **Kia King** has joined the Department's executive leadership as Chief of Staff. She formerly served in the Department as Director of Legislative Affairs.





NJ GOVERNOR'S OFFICE OF EQUITY

SEPTEMBER AND OCTOBER OBSERVANCES



The Governor's Office Latino ERG held a festive event to celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month! Kudos to organizers Emy Quispe, Andrea Garcia, Rob Matos-Moran, and all of our participants for making this event a huge success!

SEPTEMBER AND OCTOBER HOLIDAY OBSERVANCES

September 15th to October 15th - Hispanic Heritage Month

October - Italian-American Heritage Month

October - Filipino-American History Month

October - Disability Employment Awareness Month

October - First Responders Appreciation Month

September 4th - Labor Day

September 16th - Rosh Hashanah Day

September 23rd - Bruce Springsteen Day

September 25th - Yom Kippur

September 29th- Gold Star Mother's and Family's Day

October 5th - World Teacher's Day

October 6th - German-American Day

October 9th - Columbus Day

October 9th - Indigenous Peoples' Day

October 9th - Lief Erikson Day

October 11th - Coming Out Day

October 11th - General Pulaski Memorial Day

October 17th - Divine 9 Day



Jayné J. Johnson,
Director of the Office
of Equity

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