



Maryland Influencers



If there was one place where the Democratic Party could take solace on Election Day 2010, it was Maryland, a rock that broke part of the red tide sweeping the country. In a year where Republicans hoped to make gains across the board, Democrats proved their dominance in the biggest races, holding the governor's mansion in a landslide, losing just a handful of seats in the state House of Delegates, and actually gaining ground in the state Senate. Any doubts about how deep blue Maryland is—particularly within the state's heavily populated central corridor—were surely dissipated.

Yet the next few years will be pivotal for both parties. Age and term limits are taking their toll on veteran officeholders, opening up opportunities for ambitious Republicans and Democrats alike to make their mark. The blood sport of redistricting will play out as well.

Here is our list of the Democrats and Republicans who are helping to make the decisions and start the important political conversations today in the Chesapeake Bay State—as well as some likely to play a bigger role in the future.

Top 10 Republicans

Robert L. Ehrlich, Jr.

The only Republican governor in Maryland since the 1960s was dealt a huge blow in November when his rematch with O'Malley ended in a landslide loss. His place atop the list is a testament to how few Republicans are in a position right now to be their party's lodestar, and until another comes along, Ehrlich will remain its leader.

Andy Harris

In one of the few bright spots for Maryland Republicans in 2010, Harris managed to win a congressional seat back from the Democrats on the eastern and western shores of the Chesapeake Bay. An extraordinarily divisive figure already trying to recover from a well-publicized gaffe in which he complained about how long it would take for his congressional healthcare benefits to kick in, Harris nonetheless has an opportunity to make himself a spokesman for conservative policies in Maryland.

Allan Kittleman

As the state Republican Party searches for a way forward, the former Senate minority leader could be a key player in determining whether it takes a more moderate approach or limits its appeal by embracing hard-line conservative positions. Kittleman resigned his leadership post in January because of his public support for a same-sex marriage bill. His political future may indicate how much support there is among

GOP voters for representatives who are fiscally conservative and socially moderate.

Anthony O'Donnell

The House minority leader now enjoys the addition of several members and will be able to groom them for future roles in the party. O'Donnell takes the lead in pushing Republican talking points during debates and is a consistent critic of state agencies such as the Department of Juvenile Services.

Alex Mooney

Mooney may have lost his state Senate seat in 2010, but he managed to stick to his position as one of the party's hard-line social and fiscal conservatives. As the new chairman of the state Republican Party, he will be tasked with making the party relevant again to voters and taking his own fundraising success to a new level.

Michael Steele

The embattled former chairman of the Republican National Committee will always have clout in Maryland even as it dissipates on the national scene. As a former Maryland lieutenant governor, he remains a popular draw for fundraisers throughout the state.

Kendel Ehrlich

The former governor's wife is one contender to pick up the banner from

her husband. She may be ending her conservative talk radio show on WBAL 1090-AM in Baltimore—a thorn in Democratic sides for years—but she will remain beloved in the party and may yet prove the rumors true and run for public office herself.

James Pelura

Vilified by some members of the Republican Party for lackluster fundraising and efforts to shape policy proposals, the former state GOP chairman is still able to generate buzz in conservative circles. Whether his break from Ehrlich to support Brian Murphy's primary challenge in 2010 leaves him as an outsider with diminished influence remains to be seen.

Brian Murphy

Despite Ehrlich's presence in the governor's race, Murphy was unafraid to mount a primary challenge. His campaign was unsuccessful, but Murphy's future trajectory will be a telling sign of whether Maryland Republicans are ready to embrace new talent.

Audrey Scott

The outgoing chairwoman of the Maryland Republican Party is credited with getting it back in fiscal shape. Even without an official post, she will be an important player as the party seeks to rebuild.



Top 10 Democrats

Martin O'Malley

The Democratic governor secured a second term in a rematch, this time managing to beat former Republican Gov. Robert L. Ehrlich, Jr., by more than twice his winning margin in 2006. O'Malley's victory was even more impressive given the historic tax increases, chronic deficits, and employee furloughs that marked his first term. Recently anointed leader of the Democratic Governors Association, offering him a prime opportunity to increase his national profile.

Michael E. Busch

Known affectionately as "Coach," the state House speaker is a master at coralling votes in his 141-member chamber. Many of the toughest debates and hardest compromises of the past several years came out in his favor. Busch clearly has the ear of the governor and the loyalty of his deputies.

Thomas V. Mike Miller, Jr.

A prolific fundraiser with a knack for turning a phrase, the Senate president is

a lion of Maryland politics who has held his leadership post since 1987. Even a short-lived pledge to retire did little to diminish his power. Working in his office is a sure ticket to political relevance.

Steny Hoyer

Recently voted minority whip in the U.S. House of Representatives, Hoyer has the most significant national post among Maryland Democrats and still brings home plenty for his district.

Jim Smith

The future plans of the outgoing executive of Baltimore County and former judge will undoubtedly be a consistent topic of speculation, and his name is sure to come up during discussions about candidates for statewide office. Smith's fundraising skills will keep him relevant for years to come.

Peter Franchot

The state comptroller is generally seen as a mere tax collector, but Franchot has turned the relatively obscure post

into a bully pulpit, earning plenty of enemies along the way. Undaunted, Franchot has become a watchdog over government contracts, a herald regarding the state's fiscal health, and the source of plenty of speculation about which job he will seek next.

Chris Van Hollen

The outgoing head of the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee will keep his relevance as the ranking member of the House Budget Committee. If the pendulum starts to swing back to his party, Van Hollen is in a good position to obtain even more clout.

Douglas Gansler

The state attorney general took a significant political risk last year in deciding that Maryland can recognize gay marriages performed in other states, yet he wasn't even challenged in his re-election bid. Gansler has maintained a moderate public profile but is willing to stand behind his decisions, making him a potential 2014 contender for governor.

Anthony Brown

The lieutenant governor has taken on some of the toughest policy tasks from a managerial standpoint, heading committees dealing with military base realignment and federal healthcare reform. An Iraq War veteran, Brown is sure to be on the shortlist of candidates to succeed O'Malley in 2014.

Matthew Gallagher

The governor's chief of staff, Gallagher built his reputation running the CitiStat program in Baltimore, a statistics-driven approach to governing credited with everything from decreasing absenteeism among municipal workers to reducing response times to reported potholes. Gallagher moved up with O'Malley and helped establish the StateStat sister program before being promoted to his current position.



Other Republicans

Ellen Sauerbrey

The only other Republican besides Ehrlich to come close to the governor's mansion in the past few decades, the former ambassador to the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women under President George W. Bush is revered within her party.

Martin Madden

The former Senate minority leader is now an influential GOP consultant and helped win one of the toughest state Senate primary fights this year, giving his friend Ed Reilly another term.

David Craig

The Harford County executive has established statewide cachet during his recent term as president of the Maryland Association of Counties.

George Edwards

The state senator is one of the few Republicans who consistently demonstrate a knack for cooperating with Democratic colleagues. He also excels at securing funding for his district in the western part of the state.

Mary Kane

The recent Republican candidate for lieutenant governor and special projects director in the U.S. Chamber of Commerce launched an unsuccessful try for party chair and may suffer waning power because of the large loss on Ehrlich's ticket.

John Kane

Husband to Mary, Kane is a past chairman of the state GOP and a successful businessman with a large moving company. His involvement in a federal lawsuit under the False Claims Act was an opening for Democrats to question Ehrlich's choice of his wife as his running mate, since she had been a director in the family business.

Larry Hogan

A 2010 candidate for governor until Ehrlich entered the race, Hogan served as the former governor's appointments secretary and runs The Hogan Companies, a real estate company that is involved in deals ranging from senior living facilities to golf course communities.

Lawrence Scott

The son of outgoing GOP Chairwoman Audrey Scott, he is a prolific campaign consultant through Scott Strategies, Inc., working on local and state races. He is frequently criticized in Democratic and Republican circles alike for what some believe are misleading tactics.

Richard Vatz

A professor of rhetoric and communication at Towson University and longtime friend of Ehrlich, he tries to identify bias in the media and pick apart Democratic talking points.

Red Maryland

The grassroots activists, pundits, and party insiders who contribute to this conservative blog provide a window into what the Republican faithful is thinking.

Wayne Gilchrest

Although plenty of conservatives consider him a RINO (Republican In Name Only), the former congressman represents an increasingly scarce moderate brand of Republican politician on the state's Eastern Shore.

Andrew Langer

A GOP activist who runs the D.C. advocacy group Institute for Liberty, which advocates for smaller government, he helped keep the Tea Party alive in Democrat-heavy Maryland.

Richard Cross

Once a speechwriter for Ehrlich, Cross runs his own blog and believes the state Republican Party has protected incumbents at the expense of developing new candidates.

Don Murphy

A former state delegate and widely quoted GOP consultant with Genn & Murphy, LLC, he runs the lobbying shop with a Democrat and has represented clients from Diebold to General Dynamics.

Dan Snyder

The owner of the Washington Redskins provides deep pockets for Republicans. He has supported the Republican National Committee and campaigns by Ehrlich and Steele.

Richard Hug

A key fundraiser for Ehrlich, the chairman and CEO of Hug Enterprises has plenty of experience in the corporate world, including a stint as head of the Maryland Chamber of Commerce.

Chris Cavey

A veteran of the local Republican central committee scene who has had influence in statewide races and conversations.

Mark Hyman

A controversial commentator from the Sinclair Broadcasting Group, one of the country's largest television chains, he used to have a daily television editorial and his writings still appear in the conservative *American Spectator*.

Corey Stottlemeyer

A Republican campaign consultant, he has been a key part of state campaigns in western Maryland.

Charles Lollar

His 2010 run against longtime Congressman Steny Hoyer ended in resounding defeat, but Republicans feel he could be a player in the years ahead. Lollar is now the state director for the free market advocacy group Americans for Prosperity.

Joe Steffen

A former aide during Ehrlich's administration nicknamed the "Prince of Dark-



ness” for his role as a hatchet man, Steffen now writes the entertaining political blog “Darkness Rising.”

Roscoe Bartlett

One of the most successful Republican politicians in Maryland, the ten-term congressman will have his western Maryland seat until he doesn’t want it anymore.

Louis Pope

National committeeman of the Maryland Republican Party, Pope is a past chairman of the state party with solid business ties, including some service on the Small Business Administration’s National Advisory Council.

Joyce Terhes

A national committeewoman of the Maryland Republican Party, she has worked in statewide campaigns and the governor’s office of intergovernmental relations. She has also chaired the state party for nine years.

Sandy Schrader

Former state senator and now a lobbyist with the Artemis Group who focuses on areas such as healthcare, education, and energy.

Carmen Amedori

A former state delegate and parole commissioner who still has the potential to return to office for the Republican Party. A member of the Worcester County central committee, she will be part of the effort to strengthen the party on the Eastern Shore.

Robert Flanagan

A former state delegate and secretary of transportation under Ehrlich who is now practicing business law, he helped shepherd approval of the Intercounty Connector, a massive toll road in the heart of Maryland.

David Brinkley

The state senator and former Senate minority leader has been in and out of leadership posts as the party tries to find its way. Brinkley is one of the few Republicans who have the Senate president’s ear and is an important minority voice on the Senate’s budget committee.

Jeanne Allen

President of the Center for Education Reform, which operates as a charter-school think tank and advocate in the press. She helps keep the charter-school conversation alive in a state overwhelmingly committed to traditional public schools.

Ron Smith

A conservative commentator on the radio and in the *Baltimore Sun*, Smith routinely questions the capacity of any status quo politician to effectively handle the nation’s fiscal and foreign policy challenges. He doesn’t see much hope for Republicans to be relevant in a state with a large African-American population and heavy reliance on federal dollars.

Joseph Getty

Heading to the state Senate after a few years working behind the scenes as

policy director for Ehrlich and an advisor for state Senate Republicans. He played an important role in fashioning Republican fiscal policies during O’Malley’s first term.

John Leopold

The Anne Arundel County executive is a quirky lone wolf—he is considered the founding father of roadside sign-waving in the area and idolizes Abraham Lincoln to the point of publicly appearing as the president in costume—but his position could prove a launching pad to a bid for higher office.

Eric Wargotz

This former Queen Anne’s County commissioner’s 2010 bid for the U.S. Senate against Mikulski may have failed, but the increased name recognition and fundraising practice it provided could come in handy for future races.

Jeannie Haddaway-Riccio

The new state House minority whip could become one of the GOP’s rising stars in the next few years and is often rumored as a potential congressional candidate.

Kevin Igoe

The former GOP executive director and veteran consultant with Igoe Associates recently did a stint as former RNC Chair Michael Steele’s deputy chief of staff.

Lowell Stoltzfus

The outgoing Eastern Shore state senator has been an important voice in the Republican Party and earned respect on both sides of the aisle. He has been a tireless advocate for the interests of Maryland’s rural farmers and watermen.

Robert Neall

After having served as a state delegate, state senator, and county executive, Neall remains one of the most respected former politicians on all sides. He was most recently in the public eye as a member of the state’s slot machine commission.

Other Democrats

Peter O'Malley

The former chief of staff for outgoing Baltimore County Executive Jim Smith is also the governor's brother, and has been a trusted part of his sibling's campaigns. His profile is on the rise after becoming the new chairman of the Maryland Democratic Party.

Michael Enright

Although he left the governor's office for a job in the private sector, Enright has been one of O'Malley's closest allies throughout the governor's career. Now the managing director of Beowulf Energy, he has been friends with O'Malley since high school.

Peter Angelos

The owner of the Baltimore Orioles is one of the largest power players in the state and can change the news cycle whenever he turns up to talk to the governor or legislature.

Barbara Mikulski

Indomitable at the ballot box, the five-term U.S. senator is the leader of the Maryland delegation in Washington and the longest serving woman in Senate history.

Sean Malone

An advisor to O'Malley since the governor's days on the Baltimore City Council, Malone is now a lobbyist with Harris Jones and Malone, LLC, a rising firm in Annapolis.

Joe Bryce

A fixture behind the scenes of state government, Bryce worked as an aide for Senate President Thomas V. Mike Miller, Jr., and a lobbyist for the University System of Maryland before becoming Governor O'Malley's chief legislative officer.

John Favazza and Kristin Jones

As co-chiefs of staff to the state House speaker, Favazza and Jones are the eyes and ears for Busch in policy and vote operations. Their presence in a hearing room immediately raises its subject's importance.

Victoria Gruber

Chief of staff to the state Senate president, Gruber is sometimes referred to as the "48th senator." She is an integral part of shaping and shepherding policy through the Senate.

Stephanie Rawlings-Blake

Mayor of Baltimore, Rawlings-Blake is in charge of the most influential city in the state and has been trying to reinvent the area after her predecessor left office mired in a scandal. Her city is Maryland's heart and holds dramatic sway in the legislature.

Thomas Perez

The former state secretary of labor, licensing, and regulation was tapped in 2009 by President Barack Obama for a post in the U.S. Department of Justice's Civil Rights Division.

Donald Fry

The president of the Greater Baltimore Committee is one of the most prominent and powerful voices on business issues in the state. A former state delegate and senator, Fry also heads the state's slot machine commission.

Casper Taylor

The former state House speaker still carries weight in his current position as a lobbyist with Alexander & Cleaver and as the chairman of a state commission studying pensions.

Patrick Moran

As head of the state branch of the American Federation of State, County, and Municipal Employees, the most powerful union in Maryland government, he will be a big presence at the collective bargaining table as he tries to protect his member's wages and benefits from budget cuts. He is the strongest voice for the state's rank and file.

Clara Floyd

In a state that values its high national ranking in education, the president of the state teachers union will always be important. The first African-American woman elected as president of the Maryland State Education Association, Floyd's roots are in Montgomery County, one of the wealthiest and most important parts of the state.



Len Foxwell

As the comptroller's chief of staff, Foxwell is a constant companion to Franchot and is sure to play a big part in his future political career. He has helped scrutinize state contracts and shape the office of the comptroller's message of fiscal accountability.

Colleen Martin-Lauer

A go-to fundraiser for Democrats, she runs the Martin-Lauer Associates consulting firm in Baltimore. Her portfolio is stocked with high-profile clients such as the governor, House speaker, and Baltimore mayor.

Gary Alexander

A former state delegate, Alexander runs Alexander & Cleaver, one of the state's most prolific and profitable lobbying shops.

Susan Turnbull

The outgoing chair of the state Democratic Party, Turnbull was able to defy national expectations and keep the state blue in a big way in 2010. Whatever momentum Republicans had was quashed by significant voter registration drives and substantial fundraising.

Kweisi Mfume

The former congressman and past president of the NAACP is an influential Baltimore force and perpetually rumored to be considering a run for mayor.

Doug Duncan

One of the few dissenting voices in the Democratic Party, Duncan has been a vocal critic of O'Malley's tenure, calling him disengaged and lacking economic vision. A former Montgomery County executive who dropped a 2006 primary challenge to O'Malley because of depression, Duncan could reboot his political career in the next few years if he decides to take another run at governor.

Alan Rifkin

A managing partner of Rifkin, Livingston, Levitan & Silver, one of the most powerful legal and lobbying shops in Annapolis. Rifkin is an important business attorney in areas such as sports law and played a lead role in challenges to Maryland's slot machine program.

Nancy Grasmick

A rocky past with O'Malley hardly matters for the state superintendent of schools as long as Maryland's public education system continues to rank among the nation's best. The longest-serving appointed education head in the country, Grasmick has helped protect schools from major budget cuts despite the recession. She plans to retire at the end of June.

T. Eloise Foster

The governor's budget secretary has been a critical member of the cabinet as Maryland tries to deal with the fallout from the recession.

Terry Lierman

A former chairman of the Maryland Democratic Party, Hoyer's chief of staff is known for managerial and policy expertise after stints in the federal committee, lobbying, and campaign sectors.

Vinny DeMarco

Although he has many critics for his relentless media campaigns, DeMarco is an indefatigable advocate for progressive politics and is known for being able to bring coalitions together. Short-term failures don't dissuade him from pursuing long-term success as president of the Maryland Health Care for All Coalition.

Stewart Bainum, Jr.

The chairman of Choice Hotels International once served in the Maryland House of Delegates and state Senate, and is now an active Democratic donor.

Josh White

A former O'Malley aide and executive director of the state party, White is a lobbyist with Rifkin, Livingston, Levitan & Silver. He has been a visible part of the negotiations to save horse racing in Maryland.

Gerard Evans

Despite having a sketchy legal past, Evans still runs a successful lobbying firm in Annapolis. A fraud conviction more than a decade ago hasn't stopped him from being one of Maryland's top earners and the representative for power players like Angelos.

Rion Dennis

The executive director of Progressive Maryland will face some tough tasks in the next few years trying to protect the working class from cuts in services. His group is one of the loudest voices in trying to keep a liberal agenda on track.

John Porcari

Now a deputy secretary of transportation in the federal government, Porcari was a strong member of O'Malley's cabinet as secretary of the state Department of Transportation. He successfully steered the state's road plan through some dramatic cuts at the start of the recession.

Fred Puddester

A dean at Johns Hopkins University, Puddester is one of the elder budget statesmen in Maryland politics. His most recent accomplishment was successfully guiding a 2008 referendum allowing slot machines in the state.

Clarence Mitchell IV

Known as "C4" to his listeners, Mitchell hosts a talk show on WBAL-AM 1090 in Baltimore. A former state senator from a political family, he takes pride in bucking his party and supporting Republicans such as Ehrlich.

Michael Cryor

The former chairman of the state party is still playing a large role in the Baltimore region. He was recently involved in plans to put a casino in Baltimore.

Neil Bergsman

The director of the Maryland Budget and Tax Policy Institute is an important spokesman for progressive causes. His think tank provides the resources and research for data on issues facing the working class.

Barbara Hoffman

A lobbyist with the Artemis Group, Hoffman is a former state senator and seen as one of the state's experts on budget issues. She recently served on a commission studying state pension problems.

MISCELLANEOUS

Will Baker

The president of the Chesapeake Bay Foundation, Baker is a rock in the environmental world. His group makes sure legislators keep an eye on the bay.

Bruce Bereano

Although he has a past conviction for mail fraud, this lobbyist remains successful and profitable with his own office, maintaining his place as one of the most popular and quotable gadflies in Maryland politics.

David Cordish

Cordish is one of the most significant developers in the state and possibly the country. He has political muscle after winning a referendum campaign on his planned casino in Anne Arundel County, which will become the largest gambling hub in Maryland when it is completed in 2012.

Todd Eberly

An assistant professor at St. Mary's College of Maryland, Eberly is part of one of the most influential political science departments in the state. He is often quoted in the media about the challenges faced by Republicans in a state dominated by Democrats.

William E. Kirwan

He is the chancellor of the University System of Maryland in a state that values its higher education and relies on it to help produce a prepared workforce.

Mayo Shattuck

The head of Constellation Energy, one of the country's largest producers of electricity, is one of the most controversial business figures in the state as the government struggles to get a handle on rising energy prices. Shattuck—along with his generous compensation—has



been a frequent target for O'Malley's populist jabs.

Christopher Summers

The president of the Maryland Public Policy Institute coordinates one of the

only visible think tanks in the state. The group advocates for traditional conservative philosophies such as spending restraint but has found common ground with the left on issues such as increasing government transparency.

Maryland Nonprofits congratulates "Top Political Influencer" Neil Bergsman!

Since 2007, Neil has been the director of the Maryland Budget & Tax Policy Institute, a project of Maryland Nonprofits. The Institute conducts research and provides assistance to advocates on fiscal issues and policies affecting disadvantaged populations. Visit the Institute's website at www.marylandpolicy.org.

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