

POLITIFAX

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The Races to Watch Next Week

president Bob Vandersplice, the other Democrat Lower Alloways Creek Committeeman Sherman Wood. The race is complicated by the candidacies of Tea Partyers Ken James, a registered Democrat who is running for the fifth time, and Mike Kennedy of Penns Grove.

LDs 5 & 31. Without even checking to see if the Republicans have nominated candidates, we're prepared to call the Senate race in LD 5 for Donald Norcross, the Assembly race in LD 5 for Flip Wilson, and the Assembly race in LD 31 for Jason O'Donnell.

LD 14. We're much less sanguine about the Tom Goodwin-Linda Greenstein race to serve the rest of Bill Baroni's Senate term. The incumbent, who gained the seat eight months ago in a County Convention, raised more than \$206,000 and had more than \$67,000 left as of October 4, while the Assembly challenger raised almost \$672,000, including in-kind contributions and money left over from previous campaigns, and had \$116,500 left in the bank. The race is widely regarded as a referendum on the Governor's performance.

CD 3. Jon Runyan soared 10 points in a Stockton College/Zogby Poll to a three point lead (40-37) over John Adler, took the lead (48-43) in the Monmouth Poll, and pulled into a tie (44-44) in a Rutgers-Eagleton Poll. *The Courier-Post* endorsed Runyan; Adler added the Atlantic City *Press*, the Burlington County

Times, and the State Police PBA to his list of endorsements; and the Asbury Park *Press's* answer to the question "Adler or Runyan?" was "Sorry, neither one." The candidates were on NJN's *On the Record* this week.

CD 6. *The Star-Ledger*, *The Home News Tribune*, and the Asbury Park *Press* endorsed Frank Pallone for a 12th term in his race against Anna Little. On the other hand, Little closed the gap in the Monmouth University Poll from 53-41 three weeks ago to 52-45, among likely voters.

CD 12. Last week it was the Asbury Park *Press*, this week *The Home News Tribune* endorsed Rush Holt. Ordinarily we don't hold newspaper endorsements in high regard, but in a close race, which this may well be, they can help, especially in a close race.

