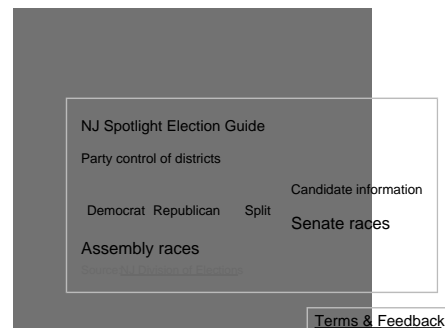


## INTERACTIVE MAP: IT'S OFF TO THE RACES IN SEVERAL KEY LEGISLATIVE DISTRICTS

COLLEEN O'DEA | SEPTEMBER 6, 2013

Outcome of contests for state Senate and Assembly certain to have big impact on agenda of state's next governor.



With two high-profile statewide elections this year – for governor and U.S. Senate – contests for state legislative races have mostly gone unnoticed.

But the complexion of the New Jersey Senate and Assembly is going to be important to the next governor and the fate of his or her agenda for the state.

Gov. Chris Christie has enjoyed a mostly cordial relationship with a generally cooperative Legislature despite its being controlled by the opposite party. Still, with Christie able to sway his own party members to vote his way on important issues virtually all the time, a Republican Legislature would likely be much friendlier to him, should he be re-elected. Likewise, Sen. Barbara Buono, D-Middlesex, would rather see her party keep its majorities because most Democrats share most of the vision she has laid out to date.

So the question is whether the Democrats will be able to maintain their majorities – 48 votes in the



