

POLITICO

POLITICO NEW YORK



## The Strategist

*A reported briefing on money in politics, executive moves, and trends in communications, lobbying and consulting.*

---

# The Strategist: Clinton's New York 'Hill Blazer'; Daily Fantasy Sports industry spends big in Albany

07/28/16 07:00 AM EDT

**By Laura Nahmias and Bill Mahoney**

*Welcome to The Strategist, a weekly newsletter covering the business of politics and policy in New York City and Albany. It provides behind-the-curtain reporting on the latest news about money in politics, executive moves, and the latest trends in communications, lobbying and political consulting, exclusively for POLITICO Pro New York subscribers.*

**BLAZING — Nassau chair raises for, rises with Hillary — POLITICO New York's Jimmy Vielkind in Philadelphia:** "Most of the time, you can spot **Jay Jacobs** at Democratic Party events by the pin on his lapel: a golden H, the insignia of **Hillary Clinton's** campaign.

It marks Jacobs, the 60-year-old chairman of the Nassau County Democratic Committee and former head of the Democratic State Committee, as a "Hill Blazer," a top donor to the Clinton campaign.

The Clintons have many friends in New York — a governor who once served in **Bill**

**Clinton's** cabinet, a mayor who managed Hillary Clinton's first political campaign — but Jacobs, who oversees several summer camps on Long Island and in the Catskills, has shined this year as a key ally on multiple levels.

He played a major part earlier this year in gathering nominating petitions for Clinton and arranging the slates of delegates who represented her at the Democratic National Convention. He held two fundraisers for her this cycle, one at his home and another on April 11 — a week before New York's presidential primary — on the grounds of a day camp he runs in Glen Cove. Jacobs estimated he'll contribute or raise \$1 million for Clinton before the end of the cycle.

While his day job keeps him in the Catskills for much of July, Jacobs is set to fly here Thursday evening to watch Hillary Clinton accept the Democratic Party's nomination for president. It's an honor, he says, that Clinton wouldn't let him miss."

<http://politi.co/2aiNu8A>

**Happy Thursday**, and thanks for reading The Strategist. We're doing this newsletter for you, so please send feedback, tips (always appreciated) and suggestions to [BillMahoney@politico.com](mailto:BillMahoney@politico.com) and [LNahmias@politico.com](mailto:LNahmias@politico.com).

## **STRATEGY SCOOPS:**

— "An advocacy group backed by daily fantasy sports companies spent \$100,000 to hire two former NFL quarterbacks to push a bill legalizing the industry.

According to a filing with the **Joint Commission on Public Ethics, Fantasy Sports For All**, a group backed by the industry, paid Sports Legends Group LLC a flat \$100,000 for **Jim Kelly**, who led the Buffalo Bills to four Super Bowls, and **Vinnie Testaverde**, who took the New York Jets to the AFC championship game in 1998. The pair appeared at a press conference and made the rounds with legislators on June 14 in favor of daily fantasy sports legislation.

The group also spent nearly \$250,000 on TV advertising and reported spending \$322,880 on lobbying between May and June, according to JCOPE. In total, pro-daily fantasy sports groups spent more than \$679,000 on lobbying efforts." <http://politi.co/2axNkiB>

— After Mayor Bill de Blasio's nonprofit **Campaign for One New York** came under intense scrutiny for its fundraising practices, and significantly curtailed its fundraising in the fall of 2015, some of the donors who had previously given to the nonprofit gave to other city nonprofits, like the Mayor's Fund to Advance New York City and the Gracie Mansion

Conservancy, according to a review of donations made to the Mayor's Fund and Conservancy between April 1 of 2015 and March 31, 2016.

**Isaac Chera**, the head of Crown Acquisitions, which donated \$20,000 to the Campaign for One New York in 2015, also gave to the Gracie Mansion Conservancy.

**TF Cornerstone** donated between \$20,000 and \$59,999 to the Gracie Mansion Conservancy between October 2015 and March of 2016, and also donated \$25,000 to the Campaign for One New York in November of 2015.

Grocery store magnate and former Republican Mayoral candidate **John Catsimatidis**, who donated \$20,000 to the Campaign for One New York in April of 2015, gave between \$5,000 and \$19,999 to the Gracie Mansion Conservancy.

— Green technology company **BioHiTech Global, Inc.**, which is developing technologies for improving waste management, has announced its plans to partner with **Tusk Ventures**, the political and regulatory consulting firm founded by former Mayor Michael Bloomberg aide **Bradley Tusk**.

## IN THE NEWS:

**AIRBNB FIGHT TURNS TO DNC — Daily News' Ken Lovett:** "The fight over Airbnb in New York and elsewhere is making its way to this week's Democratic National Convention in Philadelphia. Anti- and pro-Airbnb forces have each scheduled media buys and other measures designed to grab the attention of Hillary Clinton and Democratic delegates. ShareBetter, a coalition of politicians, housing and tenant groups, and unions fighting the online home-sharing company, will run television, newspaper and digital ads that will highlight reports of racial discrimination by Airbnb hosts. 'We are bringing these issues to Philly because the eyes of the country will be there and our coalition believes this company needs some good old-fashioned accountability from our country's leaders,' said Neal Kwatra, chief strategist of the New York and national anti-Airbnb campaign."  
<http://nydn.us/2aev4Fs>

**PHARMA UPS SPENDING — "Under assault, pharma increased campaign contributions" — POLITICO New York's Josefa Velasquez and Bill Mahoney:** "As the governor and Legislature pushed proposals this past legislative session that would have had broad-ranging effects on prescription drugs, the pharmaceutical industry increased its campaign donations in Albany. According to a POLITICO New York review of financial disclosures filed with the state's Board of Elections, the pharmaceutical industry spent a

combined \$384,000 on campaign contributions between January and July of this year, an increase of nearly \$100,00 from the same time period the year prior, although it was about \$66,000 less than in 2014, the previous election cycle." <http://politi.co/2aOmFUI>

**PREET LOOKS TO WESTCHESTER — U.S. Attorney's office expands corruption probe — New York Post's Carl Campanile:** "U.S. Attorney **Preet Bharara**'s corruption probe into the dealings of two shady businessmen and donors to Mayor de Blasio has expanded to Westchester County, The Post has learned. Bharara has subpoenaed the offices of Westchester County Executive Rob Astorino about dealings with de Blasio financial backers Jona Rechnitz and Jeremy Reichberg, who have been linked to recent city pay-to-play scandals." <http://nyp.st/2ab9HIX>

— Westchester County Executive **Rob Astorino** says his office is "absolutely" cooperating with Bharara's office. <http://politico.pro/2ahQ2GT>

**DE BLASIO V. TRUMP, JR. — Mayor would welcome run against Trump's son — POLITICO New York's Laura Nahmias:** Donald Trump Jr. won't rule out a run for mayor of New York, which de Blasio says he'd be ready for. "In terms of Donald Trump Jr., I will predict something right here and now," the mayor said this week. "That his father and his values will be rejected soundly by the people of New York City in November. So, if after that he thinks that it's a great idea to run against me, be my guest." <http://politi.co/2a5oocO>

— **Bradley Tusk**, who is leading an effort to find a challenger to run against de Blasio, says his group wouldn't back Trump, Jr. <http://politi.co/2afvWw>

**WHAT'S TUSK THINKING? — Ross Barkan for the Village Voice:** "Tusk says he prays every morning and writes in a 'gratitude journal.' The latter probably featured Uber at some point, after Tusk charted new ground in the tech world with his equity-for-representation model. In exchange for shares in the \$60 billion company, he bludgeoned de Blasio last year over a proposal to cap the number of for-hire vehicles in the city. As de Blasio, a former operative himself, limply punched back via newspaper op-eds and the occasional press conference, Tusk marshaled Uber's bottomless resources for a coalition-building exercise that successfully pitted a key de Blasio constituency, blacks and Latinos, against him..."

**Tusk describes his effort to unseat de Blasio as a civic duty.** 'I did this because I looked at it and said, there is a distinct possibility that if no one stands up, despite de Blasio being a really bad mayor, despite there being big corruption, he could still get re-elected. And someone needs to make the first move to pave the way for someone else to run.'"

<http://bit.ly/2aiml5N>

## FROM THE FILINGS:

Over the past week, 20 new clients have appeared in JCOPE's lobbyist registration database. Here's a list:

LOBBYIST	CLIENT
99 SOLUTIONS LLC.	19-20 BUSH TERMINAL OWNER, LP
AKERMAN LLP (FKA AKERMAN SENTERFITT LLP)	H&M LLC
ALLEN & DESNOYERS LLP	DIAMOND GAME
BARCLAY DAMON, LLP (FKA HISCOCK & BARCLAY, LLP)	NATIONAL GRID
BROWN & WEINRAUB, PLLC	CAYUGA HEALTH SYSTEM
BROWN & WEINRAUB, PLLC	MCKINSEY & COMPANY, INC. WASHINGTON D.C.
BROWN & WEINRAUB, PLLC	START TREATMENT AND RECOVERY CENTERS, INC.
BROWN & WEINRAUB, PLLC	STEUBEN TECHNOLOGIES, LLC
BRYAN CAVE LLP	TOLL BROTHERS, INC.
BURGOS, TONIO AND ASSOCIATES OF NEW JERSEY, LLC	WALTZ, INC.
GREENBERG TRAUIG, LLP	255 E. HOUSTON MANAGER, LLC
KASIRER LLC (FKA KASIRER CONSULTING LLC)	STAHL ASSOCIATES, LLC
KENSWORTH CONSULTING	EMPRESS EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES (EMPIRE STRATEGIC PLANNING, INC)
LAW OFFICE OF DOMENIC M. RECCHIA JR.	COMMUNITY HEALTH PROJECT, INC. DBA CALLEN-LORDE COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTER
LYNCH, PATRICIA ASSOCIATES, INC.	SRB CONCESSION INC.
MANATT, PHELPS & PHILLIPS, LLP	OURBUS, INC.
PARK STRATEGIES, LLC	A & R LOBOSCO, INC.
ROFFE GROUP P.C. (THE)	SBH HEALTH SYSTEM
SLATER & BECKERMAN	BRP CATON FLATS LLC
WILSON ELSEER MOSKOWITZ EDELMAN & DICKER, LLP	SULLIVAN COUNTY FABRICATION, INC.

## MOVES:

BerlinRosen has elevated **Stephanie Mueller, Jeremy Soffin, Ben Wyskida** and **Lynsey Kryzwick** to executive vice president positions. **Josh Cook, Keri Fulton, Moira Herbst, Jaclyn Kessel, Dan Levitan** and **Danny Massey** were named senior vice presidents.

## LINKS:

**Michael Kane**, a longtime top staffer to the Democratic Assembly Campaign Committee,

passed away at 56. <http://nydn.us/2a9bhqE>

**Assemblyman Michael Blake** will host a fundraiser for Hillary Clinton's campaign on August 4th in New York City. Donations for the fundraiser start at \$45.

<http://bit.ly/2acxkD2>

Former de Blasio press secretary **Karen Hinton** and her husband **Howard Glaser** attended an event backed by Walgreen's at the DNC, mingling with lobbyists.

<http://bit.ly/2anWmOK>

**Cuomo** had a closed door meeting with AIPAC Tuesday while in Philadelphia for the DNC.

<http://bit.ly/2afni1g>

**Lyft** and Philadelphia cab companies have clashed with **Uber** drivers trying to pick up passengers at the DNC. <http://bit.ly/2abZiyZ>

Behind **Uber's** partnership with the DNC: <http://for.tn/2ayYEIf>