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# Massachusetts Influencers



**P**oliticos inside and outside the Bay State describe the Massachusetts breed as a unique one—forged in the home of the world’s oldest continuous democracy, where one longtime observer once noted that three industries mattered in the capital city: sports, politics and revenge—often inextricably. From brewmaster and governor Sam Adams to rascal king James Michael Curley to Edward Brooke, the first African-American elected to the U.S. Senate, to the late Ted Kennedy, the Commonwealth has churned out colorful and savvy political players who mattered both at home and on larger stages. Consultations with the current crop turned up the most pivotal campaign influencers from both parties in the still-left-leaning state. Where two or more individuals functioned inseparably, we counted them as one; independent power centers within the same entity got their own slot.

\*No current elected officials, candidates, reporters or talk-show hosts allowed.

*By Jim O’Sullivan*

*Jim O’Sullivan is a reporter for the State House News Service in Boston.*

## The Top 10 Democrats

### Daniel Cence & Jay Cincotti

Founders of eponymous consulting firm, the classic message and numbers duo handles a hefty load of races around the state.

### Carol Fulp

John Hancock Financial's corporate philanthropist, an inhabitant of every board imaginable, is on a first-name basis with President Obama.

### Vicki Kennedy

The widow of the late senator has shown she can shape a field with a nod or shake of her head.

### Michael Kineavy

Michael Kineavy, Boston Mayor Thomas Menino's political architect, is unaccustomed to losing.

### Drew O'Brien

Sen. John Kerry's state director has worked voodoo magic restoring the senator's goodwill in-state after 2004.

### Frank Perullo & Bill Carito

The founders of Sage Systems got the jump on everyone with database management breakthroughs popular with local and statewide campaigns.

### Doug Rubin

Gov. Deval Patrick's top political adviser and Fireman Capital partner is probably il capo di tutti capi among campaign strategists and is close to the White House.

### John Sasso

The consummate behind-the-scenes mandarin is a former Dukakis presidential campaign manager.

### Mark Sullivan & Jim St. George

This duo heads up the Voter Activation Network, a political organizing software giant relied on to contact voters and manage volunteers by campaigns ranging from state rep. to—in Barack Obama's case—president.

### John Walsh

Rose from renowned local organizer to Patrick confidante and the state Democratic Party chairmanship.

## The Top 10 Republicans

### Andy Card

The onetime state representative was President George W. Bush's chief of staff and is now perennially eyed as statewide timbre.

### Chris Egan

The president of Carruth Capital was Bush 43's pick for U.S. Ambassador to the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development and is oft-mentioned as a potential candidate.

### Eric Fehrstrom, Peter Flaherty & Beth Myers

Longtime advisers to former Gov. Mitt Romney who founded the Shawmut Group after his 2008 bid and then pulled the levers to guide long-shot state Sen. Scott Brown to the U.S. Senate and celebrity.

### Rob Gray

The Gray Media founder is a longtime top player in statewide races, currently advising Republican gubernatorial candidate Charles Baker.

### Dan Haley

An attorney McDermott Will and Emery, he's been a strategist for Romney, former Lt. Gov. Kerry Healey, Brown, and now Baker.

### Kerry & Sean Healey

The former lieutenant governor and state GOP chair, and her husband, president Affiliated Managers Group, well-networked and well-financed.

### Ron Kaufman

National GOP committeeman close to the Bushes is an avuncular presence in a party short on active graybeards.

### Jennifer Nassour

The previously unknown state party chairwoman has in two years has presided over the GOP's rejuvenation.

### Mitt Romney

The former governor and potential 2012 presidential candidate commands an army of loyalists in-state.

### Rob Willington

The party's former executive director went on to found the Willington Group and SwiftCurrent Strategies as well as earn stardom as the web and political adviser for Brown's campaign.

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# The Top 80 Across the Spectrum

**Barbara Anderson**

Citizens for Limited Taxation president

**Sydney Asbury**

Patrick campaign manager

**Mukiya Baker-Gomez**

GOTV operator in Boston minority neighborhoods

**Joel Barrera**

Metropolitan Area Planning Council executive director and founder of the Commonwealth Seminar minority candidate incubator

**Arthur Bernard**

Patrick chief of staff

**John Brockelman**

Fidelity executive and former state GOP executive director who's close to Baker

**Wayne Budd**

Senior counsel Goodwin Procter, former U.S. attorney

**Adrienne Camire**

Young Republican fundraiser and organizer

**Heather & Chuck Campion**

Dem power couple: Former V.P. Citizens Bank and founder Dewey Square Group

**Tim Carpenter**

National director of Progressive Democrats for America and former Dennis Kucinich hand

**Larry Carpman**

Adviser to Deval Patrick and Dem Party spokesman

**Greg Casey**

Longtime Brown aide and gatekeeper

**Paul Cellucci**

Former Republican governor

**Jack Connors**

Prototypical city father

**Nick Connors**

State director of the RNC's Victory 2010 program

**Jack Corrigan**

Longtime op who handled Florida recount for Gore, owns Boston law firm

**Frank Cousins**

Essex County sheriff frequently eyed as GOP statewide candidate

**Darrell Crate**

CFO Affiliated Managers Group, former state GOP chair

**Steve Crawford**

Communications strategist for Patrick's campaign committee, unions

**Cheryl Cronin**

Dem attorney and fundraiser

**Robert Crowe**

Attorney, philanthropist and serious Dem fundraiser

**Meredith DeWitt**

Heavy bundler, former DNC New England finance chair

**Larry DiCara**

Nixon Peabody law firm managing partner, former Boston City Council president

**Evan Dobbelle**

Westfield State College president

**Tarah Donoghue**

State GOP communications director

**Michael Dukakis**

Former governor, 1988 Democratic presidential nominee

**James Eisenberg**

House Speaker Robert DeLeo's chief of staff

**Joyce Ferriabough**

Democratic grande dame, longtime message masseuse, fundraiser

**Scott Ferson**

Liberty Square Group founder and former aide to Sen. Edward Kennedy

**Andrew & Amy Goodrich**

Husband-and-wife advisers to Healey 2006 and Baker 2010

**Harris Gruman**

SEIU state political director

**Paul Guzzi**

Greater Boston Chamber of Commerce president

**Bob Haynes & Tim Sullivan**

State AFL-CIO president & legislative and communications director

**Ray Howell**

Communications and PR pro, onetime senior aide to Gov. Bill Weld

**Dominick Ianno**

Pfizer public affairs director, former state GOP executive director

**Arline Isaacson**

Lobbyist, Mass. Gay and Lesbian Political Caucus co-chair

**Georgia Hollister Isman**

Director of the progressive coalition Mass Alliance

**Tito Jackson**

Patrick's campaign political director

**Eddie Jesser & Connie Kastelnik**

Husband and wife advisers to Menino and prototypical Boston ops

**Jason Kauppi**

Founder Kauppi Communications, press secretary for former Acting Gov. Jane Swift

**Tom Keady**

Boston College vice president and lobbyist, longtime Dem operative

**Steve Kerrigan**

DNC convention planner, former Kennedy and Reilly aide

**Joe Kennedy**

RFK's son and Sen. Kennedy's nephew, former congressman, Citizens Energy founder

**Will Keyser**

Communications consultant who worked for Sen. Kennedy, Rep. Martin Meehan and Attorney General Thomas Reilly

**Christina Knowles**

Mass. NOW state director

**Roger Lau**

Sought-after Dem campaign mechanic

**Barbara Lee**

Financier for female candidates

**Grace Lee**

Top adviser to Treasurer Timothy Cahill, Independent gubernatorial candidate

**Beth Lindstrom**

Scott Brown campaign manager, now steering Jim Bender's N.H. Senate race

**Margaret Lynch**

Rep. Stephen Lynch's wife and savvy political adviser

**Elizabeth Mahoney**

Baker's research director

**Jack Manning**

Boston Capital co-founder and big-time funder

**Mary Anne Marsh**

Dem consultant at Dewey Square Group and Fox News commentator

**Ralph Martin**

Bingham McCutcheon law firm managing partner, former Republican Suffolk County D.A.

**James McGee**

Newgrange Consulting founder and numbers guru

**Michael McLaughlin**

Chelsea Housing Authority executive director

**Marty Meehan**

UMass-Lowell chancellor, former Dem congressman, oft-mentioned for statewide office

**Nikko Mendoza**

Campaign manager for Rep. John Tierney, former Menino strategist

**Stacey Monahan**

State Democratic Party executive director

**Liz Morningstar**

Patrick's chief fundraiser, now senior administration aide

**Giovanna Negretti**

¿Oiste? founding executive director, leading Latina pol

**Dennis Newman**

Attorney General Martha Coakley's campaign strategist

**Darby O'Brien**

Western Mass. advertising and PR player

**Tim O'Brien**

Campaign manager for Healey in 2006 and Baker in 2010

**Thomas O'Neill III**

Son of former House speaker owns influential lobbying and PR shop

**P.J. O'Sullivan**

Democratic political consultant in on every cycle

**Priti Rao**

Mass. Women's Political Caucus executive director

**Larry Rasky & Joseph Baerlein**

Founders of lobbying and PR powerhouse, ballot question masters

**Dean Serpa**

GOP's go-to operations whiz

**Brian Shortsleeve**

Principal at General Catalyst Partners, fundraiser, former Romney political aide

**Stephen Silveira**

ML Strategies lobbyist, high-level adviser to GOP candidates

**Lynda Tocci**

Dewey Square Group consultant who helped Clinton win New Hampshire in 2008

**Robert Travaglini**

Lobbyist/wiseman, former Dem state Senate president

**Christen Varley**

Tea Party leader and grassroots comer

**Naakh Vysoky**

Throwback Ukrainian-born ward-heeler

**Meredith Warren & Fred Van Magness**

GOP campaign consultants

**Corey Welford**

Promoted in Coakley camp post-race

**Bob White**

Major fundraiser and longtime Romney confidante

**Michael Whouley**

Somewhat mythical strategist and field architect, heavyweight for Clinton/Gore and Kerry 2004 and Dewey Square Group founder

**Spencer Zwick**

Solamere Capital founder, national finance director Romney 2008

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