

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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NOW NJ Elects New Slate of Officers – LaZare Elected President

The largest feminist organization in the state, the National Organization for Women of New Jersey, is pleased to announce its newly elected slate of officers for 2023-2025. The candidates were unopposed and took office as of Monday, September 11, 2023.

The new president is Jill LaZare, a South Orange attorney. “I am so thrilled to be the new president of NOW New Jersey,” said LaZare, who was the acting president for the last year and had been the administrative vice president of NOW NJ in 2019-2020, next in line to lead the organization if the president was unable to do so for any reason.

“I can’t wait to get to work on the crucial issues affecting all the women and girls in our state. Specifically, I look forward to working for more elected representation by women. The majority of New Jersey residents are women; in fact, there are 200,000 more women than men in this state,” she noted. “And yet, of the 12 congressional representatives, only two are women. This must change. A similar disparity exists in Trenton as well.”

LaZare has served on the executive boards of the Women Lawyers of Union County and the Summit Jewish Community Center. In addition, she was a candidate for NJ Assembly from Legislative District 21 and an executive board member of the Union County Women's Political Caucus, a bipartisan organization for women in politics.

“Next year is going to be a crucial election year in New Jersey because our Congressional District 7, currently represented by Republican Tom Kean, Jr., is one of the few swing districts in the entire country,” said LaZare. “Kean is on record opposing abortion rights, and New Jerseyans cannot count on him to uphold their rights to self-determination if a federal abortion ban is proposed. NOW New Jersey looks forward to endorsing candidates who support access to affordable reproductive health care and a women’s right to control her own body.”

NOW NJ’s State Executive Board will be convening a meeting with the new officers in the near future to set other priorities, said LaZare.

The other newly elected officers are:

Treasurer: Michelle Deimling

Secretary: Diane Scarangella

Administrative Vice President: Maureen Yewaisis

Communications Vice President: Karen Lontka

Membership Vice President: Shirley Henderson

To join the organization: [NOW New Jersey | National Organization for Women of New Jersey \(nownj.org\)](http://nownj.org).

ABOUT NOW: Incorporated in 1975, NOW is the oldest women's organization in the country. NOW NJ is a state-wide grassroots women's rights activist organization consisting of thousands of members, activists, and allies. It has local chapters throughout the state and serves as a training ground for women's leadership by recruiting and training young women on campuses and high schools to develop their own independent voice and self-determination. We engage and encourage mothers and women from under-represented communities to become active in the legislative process to help influence policies that affect them and their families, such as gun control, reproductive health, paid family leave, child care, public education, domestic violence, substance abuse, and sexual trafficking.



LaZare – President



Yewaisis – Administrative VP



Scarangella - Secretary



Henderson - Membership VP



Deimling – Treasurer
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Lontka – Communications VP