

David Levinsky Staff writer | Posted: Tuesday, August 14, 2012 5:55 am

Romney may not have selected Chris Christie to be his running mate, but the soon-to-be Republican presidential nominee is still expected to lean heavily on New Jersey's Republican star in his bid to unseat President Barack Obama.

Starters, Christie, who was passed over as Romney's No. 2 in favor of Wisconsin Congressman Paul Ryan, is widely expected to deliver the keynote address at this month's Republican National Convention, an assignment that has been sought by many politicians, including Obama, as a launching pad for future White House bids.

Christie also is expected to continue crisscrossing the country this summer and fall as a surrogate / fundraiser / attack dog for the Romney-Ryan campaign.

In a statement issued Saturday by Romney's campaign, Christie praised Romney's selection, calling the move "a sign that the administration understands the economic stagnation our country has been facing the last four years."

"The Romney-Ryan team is uniquely positioned to make the tough choices necessary to get the economy back on track and get results," Christie said.

Some believe Christie's political future is better served off the campaign trail.

Even if Romney wins the White House, there's speculation that Christie is the top choice to become Romney's U.S. ambassador to the United Kingdom as the Republicans' likely presidential pick.

Words of one New Jersey...

Christie had a very good record as governor, director of the state's largest pension fund, and well in the national spotlight.

Christie demonstrated particular...

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seniors," Adler said. "No greater example exists than the Ryan-Runyan budgets that would dismantle Medicare, costing future beneficiaries \$6,400 more a year, and providing tax breaks for millionaires, Big Oil and companies that ship American jobs overseas."

In New Jersey's U.S. Senate race, incumbent Democrat Robert Menendez blasted Romney's selection, calling Ryan "the architect of the budget plan that favors the nation's wealthiest people and corporations."

"As a result of Rep. Ryan's proposed budget, seniors on fixed incomes would face greater hardship, as there would be an end to Medicare as we know it, and the Social Security system they spent most of their lives paying into would be privatized and subjected to the whims of the stock market," Menendez said.

Menendez's Republican challenger, state Sen. Joe Kyrillos, responded with praise for Romney's pick and criticism of the incumbent Democrat's record.

"We need thoughtful leaders who want to solve our problems and strengthen our economy like Congressman Ryan, not politicians like Bob Menendez who make our problems worse," Kyrillos said.