

## Opinion: N.J. state Sen. Richard Codey is up against the political machine

Published: Thursday September 13, 2012, 6:59 AM



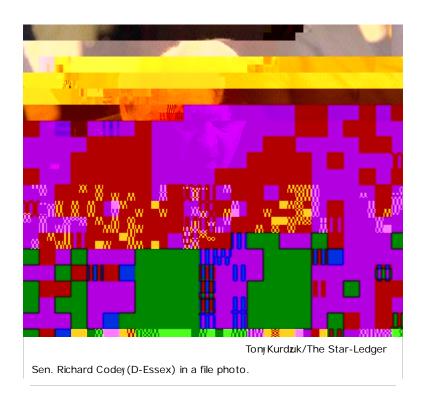
Times of Trenton guest opinion column

By Carl Golden

While most of the states leading Democratic figures were in Charlotte, N.C., awash in the enthusiasm and euphoria of the parts national convention, Essex Countystate Sen. Dick Codey (D-Livingston) brought them thumping back to Earth—some sayreality—with his comment on the condition of the party in New Jersey.

We've got to stop letting partybosses dictate our agenda and enabling Mr. Christie, when hes wrong, to succeed."

Codeyloves to crack wise about people and politics, but when he turns serious, he chooses his words carefully assesses their impact and anticipates a reaction.



There's not much political insight required to determine whom Codey had in mind when he spoke: South Jersey leader George Norcross, who masterminded Codes ouster as Senate president; Essex County Executive Joe DiVincenø, who plajed a central role in deposing Codey in return for the selection of Assemblywoman Sheila Oliver –a county emplojee in the executives office –as speaker; and Newark power plajer Steve Adubato Sr., whose close association with Gov. Christie has helped them both.

Codey is still smarting from his defeat at the hands of Gloucester Counts Steve Sweeney whose political career has been guided by Norcross. Both DiVincenø and Adubato have delivered key votes in the Legislature for major elements of Christies agenda, including those bitterly opposed by organiæd labor.

Codes comment gave public voice to the just-below-the-surface grumbling of a number of legislative Democrats, namely that the partyhas failed to use its majority status to present a credible counterpoint to the governor, giving in instead to the partybosses, "whose primary interest is in solidifying a power sharing arrangement of sorts with

1 of 3 9/13/2012 11:54 №

Stockton College of New Jersey.

Follow @TimesofTrenton



More Times of Trenton editorials

©012 NJ.com. All rights reserved.

3 of 3 9/13/2012 11:54 AM