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# Barbara Buono's kryptonite? Everything

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By Rob Tornoe for NewsWorks

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(Cartoon by Rob Tornoe)

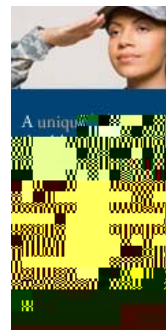
*This is commentary from political blogger and cartoonist Rob Tornoe.*

Poor Barbara Buono. The only Democrat in the state with the guts to take on Chris Christie has languished for months beneath a media radar that's begun to turn her obscurity into a campaign narrative.

Sadly, it's a narrative that's only going to get worse with a new special election to contend with. Instead of the Aug 13 Democratic primary being a coronation for Newark Mayor Cory Booker, signs point to it being a political dogfight between challengers Rep. Frank Pallone, Rep. Rush Holt and Assembly Speaker Sheila Oliver.

**More Info:**

- [Barbara Buono campaign downplays Chris Christie's Democratic endorsements](#)



BLOGS

In addition to helping sap away what little coverage Buono's campaign was receiving, this new special election will feature big-name candidates raising money from liberal donors, buying up TV ads and doing all the other politicking actions that will continue to suffocate Buono under a cloak of obscurity. I wouldn't be surprised if every single baby in New Jersey were kissed by a Democrat seeking statewide office before Buono even has a chance to moisten her lips. All this has left Buono's poll numbers as cold as a microwaveable dinner, and just about as palatable. A new poll from the Stockton Polling Institute shows **Buono 40 points down** from Christie.

A Quinnipiac University poll says 56 percent of New Jerseyans **haven't even heard of her**.

And the icing on this underwhelming cake? A Rutgers Eagleton poll shows eight in 10 Democrats **think Christie will win**.

Ouch. Remember how hard it was to find Waldo among a crowd of people on those classic "Where's Waldo" books? Now imagine you weren't told who Waldo was or what he looked like. That's Buono's campaign.

If all that wasn't bad enough, Democrats seem to be in love with Chris Christie these days. Last week alone, Christie collected the endorsements of prominent Democratic power broker Joseph DiVincenzo, a Democratic state senator Brian Stack and five Democratic mayors. All told, the guy who defunded planned parenthood and rejected raising the minimum wage has collected 26 endorsements from elected Democrats, and has been filmed glad handing everyone on the left from President Barack Obama to former President Bill Clinton. There's the b-roll for the media's narrative about Buono, whose best media spot was a Hardball segment where the phrase **"Dawn Quixote" appeared above her name**.

Unfortunately for Buono, it seems Democrats are more intere

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