

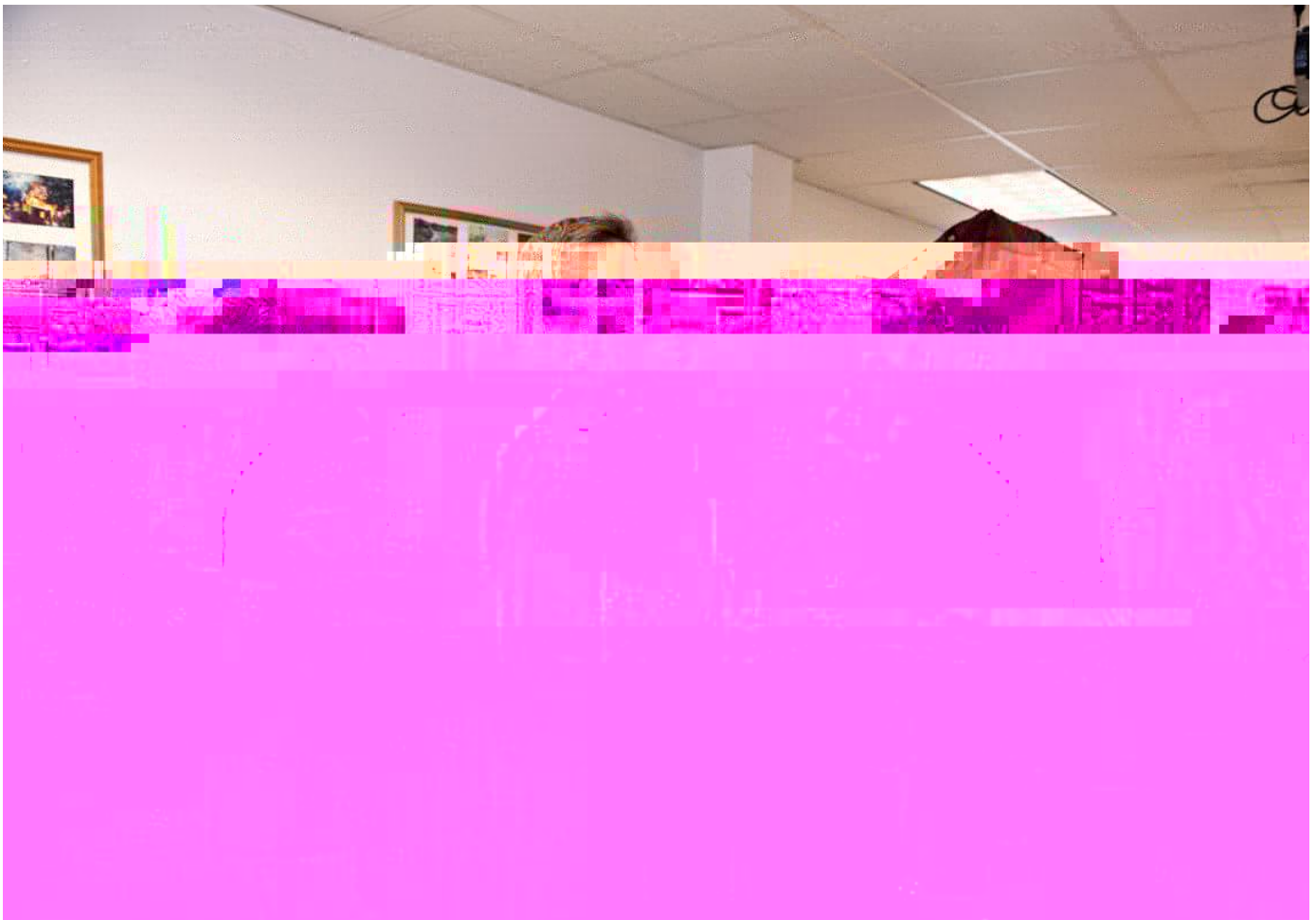
[https://pressofatlanticcity.com/news/local/govt-and-politics/polistina-leads-in-atlantic-county-state-senate-race/article\\_f2ca246a-c87b-11eb-a527-8373a420e4f8.html](https://pressofatlanticcity.com/news/local/govt-and-politics/polistina-leads-in-atlantic-county-state-senate-race/article_f2ca246a-c87b-11eb-a527-8373a420e4f8.html)

TOP STORY

## Polistina leads in Atlantic County state Senate race

Michelle Brunetti Post

Jun 8, 2021



On June 8 2021, at the Bargaintown Fire Dept in Egg Harbor Township, State Senate GOP candidate Vince Polistina arrived at the polls to cast his ballot. Polistina (center) after casting his ballot, standing with his family

MATTHEW STRABUK FOR THE PRESS

Michelle Brunetti Post

Republican Vince Polistina, of Egg Harbor Township, was leading conservative lawyer Seth Grossman after Tuesday's primary election to be the party's  
**R** nominee for state Senate in Legislative District 2.

"Tonight the voters of Atlantic County sent a clear message about the kind of Republican they want leading our ticket," said Polistina, the owner of an engineering firm. "Now, it's the time for our party to come together and defeat Vince Mazzeo and the increasingly radical Phil Murphy Democrats this November."

Assemblyman Vince Mazzeo, D-Atlantic, will be the Democrats' nominee for state

Of the 5,878 vote-by-mail ballots counted countywide, 1,903 were from Republicans and 3,975 from Democrats.

It was a low-turnout election, with far fewer voters than last year's record breaker of 49,394 primary ballots cast.

"Low turnout favors organization candidates," said John Froomjian, executive director of the William J. Hughes Center for Public Policy at Stockton University. "Party activists are people who vote every election. ... If there is low turnout, they are probably the only ones voting."

The Atlantic County Republican organization came through for Polistina, "who appears headed for a 2-1 victory over Seth Grossman," Froomjian said early Tuesday night.

The 2nd District covers most of Atlantic County. but some towns on the edge of the county, like Hammonton and Galloway Township, are part of neighboring districts.

The unofficial results do not include provisional ballots, vote-by-mail ballots dropped off in person or delivered late Tuesday at the Board of Elections, or vote-by-mail ballots postmarked by Election Day but delivered through Monday.

Results will not be final until later in the month, after all vote-by-mail and provisional ballots are counted.

Polistina will now face Mazzeo in the fall. They will vie for the seat vacated by state Sen. Chris Brown, R-Atlantic, who opted not to run for a third term.

Running for Assembly on a ticket with Mazzeo are Assemblyman John Armato, D-Atlantic, and Atlantic County Commissioner Caren Fitzpatrick, who ran unopposed Tuesday.

Running with Polistina will be Republican Assembly candidates Claire Swift, of Margate, and Don Guardian, of Atlantic City. Both ran unopposed in the primary.



