



Life In Brief

Current Title: Governor

Political Party: Democratic Party

Born: August 16, 1957

Birthplace: Needham, MA

Ethnicity: White/Caucasian

Marital Status: Married

Education:

- Harvard University, AB, 1979

Family:

4 children

Work History:

- Government of New Jersey, 2018-present
- U.S. Ambassador to Germany, Department of State, 2009-2013
- National Finance Chair, Democratic National Committee, 2006-2009
- Principal, Murphy Endeavors LLC
- Senior Director, Goldman Sachs, 2003-2005
- Global Co-head of the Investment Management Division, Goldman Sachs, 2001-2003
- Member of the Management Committee, Goldman Sachs, 1999
- President, Goldman Sachs (Asia), 1999
- Head of the Frankfurt, Germany Office, Goldman Sachs, 1993-1997
- Various positions, Goldman Sachs, 1983-1993
- Summer Associate Intern, Goldman Sachs, 1982

Quick Summary

A Harvard-educated investment banker deeply rooted in Democratic Party politics, Murphy advanced progressive causes with nonprofits after stints with the DNC and as Ambassador to Germany

- Underwrote deals for German and Chinese telecom giants as part of 23-year international tenure at Goldman Sachs
- Chaired task forces on national public education and the 2005 New Jersey pension crisis, which spring-boarded him into NJ politics
- Leveraged finance industry connections to raise \$300 million as the DNC's finance chair
- Shrewd navigator of Germany's political scene who was well-known within Atlanticist circles; embraced their dual apprenticeship education and infrastructure bank models
- Spearheaded nonprofit initiatives in public health and economic development partnerships
- Ambitious governor who has made aggressive moves to remake state's tax programs and defied the Trump Administration on immigration

Approach and Motivations

Charismatic and results-oriented organizer whose paycheck-to-paycheck childhood motivated him to fight for economic justice

- Forged views while observing his father work numerous odd jobs; Murphy ran a nonprofit to help displaced workers find jobs and advocates for raising minimum wage and paid sick leave
- Surrendered his dream of going into musical theater for investment banking while putting himself through college
- President of a Harvard theater club who leverages his theater roots in politics



- Talented speaker who attributes his success at Goldman to being a calm and abled mediator
- Walked the red carpet at film festivals and was featured on magazines as a diplomat in Germany
- Raised his profile in NJ with a massive media campaign pushing a progressive narrative

- Pursues removing religious exemptions for childhood vaccines; supports law disallowing unvaccinated kids to attend public school

Policy Position and Areas of Focus

Focused on a diverse range of issues

Economics: *Pro-growth progressive; promotes smarter tax incentives and raising taxes*

- Ordered an audit of NJ corporate tax incentive programs in first three days, revealing an inefficient system paying \$160k per job created
- Calls for fairer, strategic incentives that invest in people and communities; overhauled old credit programs for ones that focus on urban centers, apprenticeships, and underused resources
- Strongly pushes for a millionaire’s tax to pay for infrastructure and education priorities; sought to raise the sales tax and new taxes on rideshare
- Seeks to create a state bank similar to North Dakota’s; created implementation board in 2019

Education: *Dramatically increases state funding*

- Half of his \$41B 2020 budget earmarked for education; boosted funding for pre-K and K-12 education, expanded high school computer science programs, aided college affordability
- Will fully fund the school aid formula by 2025
- Wants to eliminate standardized testing

Health: *Prioritizes ACA and religious exemption*

- Supports protecting key areas of ACA in NJ and nixing the religious exemption for sexual health

Civil Rights: *Advocate for justice and welfare*

- Resumed NJ oversight of refugee resettlement
- Created NJ office to advance integration of refugees and immigrants into state initiatives
- Limited the ability of state and local law enforcement to assist federal immigration officials; sued by Justice Dept in 2020
- Champions women’s and LGBTQ rights; signed the equal pay act in 2018 and outlawed the gay and trans panic defense for criminal homicide

Core Communities

Communities deeply connected to his work

National Democrats: *Well connected to influential party brass*

- Helped Howard Dean use the “Fifty State Strategy” to rebuild the Democratic Party’s grassroots efforts at the DNC from 2006-2009
- Fundraised for Clinton-Gore campaigns as well Clinton’s 2016 bid, worked with John Podesta
- Co-chaired an education task force with Janet Napolitano at Center for American Progress

New Jersey Democrats: *A relative newcomer who continues to build his network*

- Started progressive policy nonprofits that ran events with activist and singer Jon Bon Jovi
- Rickety rapport with State Senate leader Steve Sweeney and Assemblyman Craig Coughlin; education dispute nearly shut down government
- Wrangles with wealthy politico George Norcross
- Worked with former Governor Jon Corzine at Goldman Sachs



Goldman Sachs: *Ties to influential executives*

- Worked closely with former Treasury Secretaries Robert Rubin and Hank Paulson, Gary Cohn, and Peter Rose
- Wife is a former Goldman colleague who ran civic orgs with and campaign's finances for him

Germany: *Robust relationship with the country since first working there in the 1990s*

- Helped conduct the privatization of former state-owned East-German assets, which landed him membership to Atlantik-Brück; co-founded the nonprofit's International Advisory Council
- Ascended to celebrity status as Ambassador; close to German Marshall Fund President Karen Donfried, frequented social events and used soccer to relate to politicians
- Opened a Choose NJ office in Berlin to foster ties between Germany and the state in 2018

Political History

- Chair, NJ Benefits Task Force, 2005

Relevant Financial Information

Intricate financial connections to Democrats

Biggest Industry Donors (Career)

- Lawyers & Lobbyists, \$565,881
- Real Estate, \$349,150
- General Trade Unions, \$323,800
- Health Professionals, \$205,933
- Security & Investment, \$182,315
- Public Sector Unions, \$113,600

Biggest Corporate Donors (Career)

- AT&T (Dallas, TX), \$8,600
- NJ Apartment Association, \$8,600

- NJ Shipping Association, \$8,600
- Airbnb, (San Francisco, CA), \$8,600
- Fedway Associates, Inc (Basking Ridge, NJ), \$8,033

Biggest Individual Donors (Career)

- Alan & Susan Solomont, Attorneys, \$8,600
- Evan Karzhevsky, who, \$9,500
- Laurene Jobs, Emerson Collective, \$8,600
- Henry van Ameringen, H. van Ameringen Foundation, \$8,600
- Jonathan Tisch, billionaire and former Loews CEO, \$8,600

Political Donations: *Gave nearly \$1.5 million to Democratic candidates by 2009*

- Democratic Senatorial Committee, \$400,250
- Democratic National Committee, \$389,900
- Hillary Clinton (D), 1999-2008, \$14,800
- Barack Obama (D), 2008, \$4,600
- Al Franken (D), 2008, \$4,600

Miscellaneous:

- Net worth estimated to be between \$60 million and \$100 million due to he and his wife's long tenure at Goldman Sachs
- Made \$2.2 million in 2018 while governor
- A Super PAC that raised him \$6.8m released its donor list after staying secret for two years; \$4.5m from NJ Education Association

Publications, Media and Speaking

Strong and comfortable speaker since his theater days

Publications: *Few outside of campaigning*



- Preferred Outlets: NYT, local NJ papers like the Bergen County Record, Dallas News,
- Favorite Subjects: Gun control, COVID-19, Greg Abbott, anti-Semitism, taxes

- Former Board Member, National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP)
- Former Finance Chair, Democratic National Committee
- Founder, New Start New Jersey, present

Media: *Frequent appearances balanced across national, local, and online outlets. Hosts Ask Murphy, a call-in show for constituents*

- Preferred Outlets: National cable news like MSNBC and CNN; local news like the Star-Ledger and NJ.com, Sunday Talk Shows like Face the Nation and This Week; online video platforms like Now This
- Favorite Subjects: Taxes, gun control, climate change, religious exemptions, jobs, economic security infrastructure, the ultra-wealthy
- Social Media Habits: Active on twitter and posts some videos to Facebook

Speaking: *Passionately discusses progressive issues, personal plans, and political theory everywhere from rallies to academic panels*

- Favorite Subjects: Climate change, budgets, economics, pensions, civil rights, Cory Booker, Germany-American relations, COVID-19
- Preferred Audience: Academics at colleges and other institutions like the Hertie School and the Princeton Adlinger Center; conferences like TedX; DNC events; the public at venues like the Liberty Science Center; business groups like local chambers of commerce

Congressional Testimony: *One appearance*

- Testified before The House Committee on Transportation about funding for the Gateway Project to rebuild a tunnel linking NY and NJ damaged by Superstorm Sandy, May, 2019

Professional Affiliations

- Chair, Democratic Governor's Association

Family and Personal Background

Early life

- Grew up around Boston where he describes his family as “middle class on a good day”
- His parents were engaged in politics and he recounts one of his most influential memories as when the NFL decided to continue to play games in the aftermath of JFK’s assassination
- A lack of financial security turned him away from musical theater at Harvard, where he was president of Hasty Pudding Theatrics, to pursuing a career in finance
- His wife, Tammy, also worked at Goldman Sachs before becoming engaged with civic life; she was recruited by Al Gore to be a founding member of the Climate Reality Project
- The couple amassed wealth of more than \$50M – his tax filings often exceed 300 pages – and have four children whom have attended elite private schools, like Phillips Academy

Public Figure

- Helped run a nonprofit that supports victims of sexual assault and domestic abuse
- Several times served as the grand marshal of the St. Patrick’s Day Parade in Rumson, NJ
- Was a superdelegate in the 2008 Democratic primary

Sports

- Developed a lifelong interest in sports, which he believes builds community, despite taking heat for rooting for Boston teams over ones from NJ



- Counts Bill Russell as his sports mentor, whom he admired for “both ends of the court”
 - Worked for the U.S Soccer Foundation after becoming obsessed with soccer in Germany
 - Working hard to bring the World Cup to NY/NJ
 - Runs 3-5 times a week; completed one marathon and three half marathons with his wife
- Murphy said he was unaware of the hiring and supported the inquiry; also denied knowing that his aides tried to restrict the investigation
 - The legislative panel found in June of 2019 that Murphy’s staff “failed her at every step of the way” and that “it is highly unusual that several of the governor’s top aides were aware of the sexual assault allegations, which they believed to be true, but failed to mention it to him during the ten-month period
 - Scandal was highly publicized and is ongoing

Criticisms and Controversies

Controversies involving Ambassadorship and staffing decisions

Leaked memos during time as Ambassador

- Was central to the United States diplomatic cables leak in 2010
- In the memos, published by Wikileaks, Murphy called German Chancellor Angela Merkel “insecure” and gave her the name “Teflon” for her pattern of avoiding political conflict and called their foreign minister Guido Westerwelle, “incompetent, vain, and critical of the United States”
- The incident soured relations between the U.S. and Germany for a period
- Murphy apologized for the incident and took responsibility for the leak

Hiring of a top staffer with known sexual assault allegations

- In 2018, Katie Brennan, a former campaign volunteer, made a rape allegation against Al Alvarez, a Murphy campaign official
- The administration hired Alvarez for a key position in the Schools Development Authority despite the serious allegations against him
- Brennan repeatedly made attempts to bring the administration’s attention to the matter and investigation began into the lack of addressing issue pre-hiring