



Public Policy Forum
The Road to Recovery: Business Leading the Way
Tuesday, November 30, 2021

Assembly Speaker Craig J. Coughlin

Speaker Coughlin was born Jan. 31, 1958, in Perth Amboy. He attended public schools in South Amboy going on to graduate summa cum laude from St. John's University in 1980 and then earn his law degree from St. John's University School of Law in 1983.

Before running for the Assembly in 2009, he was a member of the South Amboy Board of Education, then served as a City Councilman for six years. Speaker Coughlin has served in various legal capacities including as a municipal court judge, prosecutor and public defender.

Speaker Coughlin is serving in his sixth term in the General Assembly representing the 19th Legislative District. In January 2018, he garnered the support of the Democratic caucus becoming the chamber's 171st Speaker. Highlights of the Speaker's legislative over his twelve-year tenure in the legislature consists of a wide range of accomplishments which includes raising the state's minimum wage, reforming the state's economic and business incentives, expanding the state's micro brewing industry, implementing automatic voter registration, and modernizing the state's brownfield remediation process. His wealth of knowledge of government operations has led to several key pieces of legislation being passed into law. Boosts to school funding, fighting for Senior Freeze, improving the fairness of landlord-tenant relations, revitalizing the workforce through childcare, and strengthening food security are areas encompassed by Speaker Coughlin's more recent efforts.

In partnership with dozens of area businesses and organizations, Speaker Coughlin also spearheads an annual bowling fundraiser that has raised over \$300,000 to benefit local food pantries since its inception in 2010.

Coughlin is a partner in Woodbridge-based law firm, Rainone, Coughlin, Minchello LLC. He and his wife, Letitia, have three sons—Craig Jr., Vincent and Nicholas.