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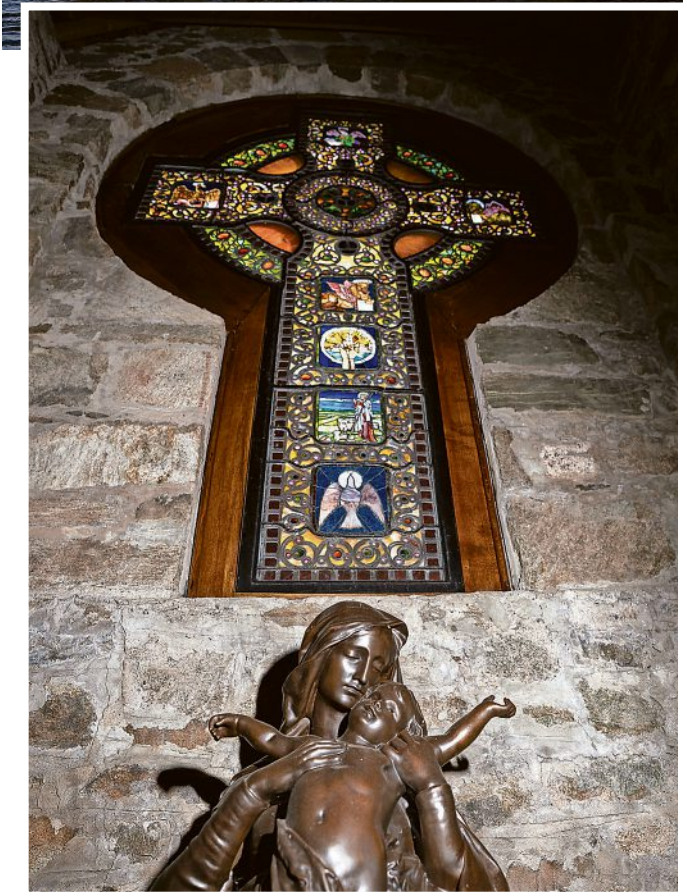
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Daily Record

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 23, 2026 | DAILYRECORD.COM

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ABOVE AND AT TOP: St. Hubert's Chapel was built in the 1880s on an island in Lake Kinnelon.
PHOTOS BY MICHAEL KARAS/NORTHJERSEY.COM

Deena Yellin NorthJersey.com | USA TODAY NETWORK – NEW JERSEY

I was instantly intrigued when I heard about an exquisite Gothic Revival chapel that appears to float on a lake. ♦ This sounded like something I had to go see for myself. ♦ With its intricate stained-glass windows and hand-carved woodwork, St. Hubert's Chapel is indeed a masterpiece. But the New Jersey gem is tucked away on a small island in Smoke Rise, a private, gated community that guards its seclusion fiercely.

Gaining access required persistence. After months of phone calls, emails and lots of patience, I was granted a tour. Even then, we had to schedule, reschedule and pray for clear skies.

When I arrived at the gate of the Kinnelon community earlier this month, I met my guide, Tom Kline. The local historian has devoted over 50 years to restoring the chapel, a passion project that began at age 13 when he was a Boy Scout. He's an expert in every aspect of the chapel, since he has spent years working on it.

Kline brought me and NorthJersey.com photographer Michael Karas to an empty beach (save for a few birds) where the three of us boarded a small pontoon boat. As we drifted

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Voters arrive at a polling site early on Election Day in Montclair on Nov. 4, 2025. MIKE SEGAR/REUTERS

Debate expands over voter registration

David M. Zimmer

NorthJersey.com
USA TODAY NETWORK – NEW JERSEY

A record 6.7 million people are registered to vote in New Jersey, but the state's voter rolls are under scrutiny going into the November 2026 election after state officials acknowledged that roughly 6,600 people were incorrectly registered through a Motor Vehicle Commission error.

The scrutiny comes as the state's political landscape grows more competitive. Republicans spent the past several years narrowing Democrats' longstanding registration advantage before Democrats regained some ground over the last year.

The debate over voter registration has expanded beyond party gains and losses. A congressional hearing, an ongoing state investigation and questions about how ineligible voters were added to the rolls have thrust election administration into the center of New Jersey's campaign season.

As of Sept. 1, the state had 6,709,471 registered voters. State officials are still sorting through the fall-out from MVC software that improperly registered roughly 6,600 people who had answered "no" when asked whether they were U.S. citizens.

Democrats remain the largest group, with 2,569,509 registrations, followed by 2,379,398 unaffiliated voters and 1,686,473 Republicans,

See REGISTRATION, Page 3A

Trump-aligned super PAC backs Kean reelection effort

Katie Sobko

NorthJersey.com
USA TODAY NETWORK – NEW JERSEY

With new polling and election projections indicating that New Jersey's 7th Congressional District is leaning Democratic, the super PAC aligned with President Donald Trump is sending millions to Republican Rep. Tom Kean Jr. in his effort to fend off Democratic newcomer Rebecca Bennett.

New reporting indicates that a Trump-aligned political action committee sent about \$3.3 million to Kean's reelection effort.

The two-term congressman has also received money from Elon Musk's super PAC. The billionaire businessman and

former Trump adviser has contributed \$90,000 to eight House races so far, including Kean's.

"Donald Trump and Elon Musk want reliable yes-men in Congress to push their billionaire agenda that hurts everyday families — and they are trying to buy this seat to shore up one of their most loyal foot soldiers," said LeRoy J. Jones Jr., chairman of the New Jersey Democratic State Committee. "Sadly, this money dump is no surprise, given that Tom Kean Jr. votes with Donald Trump 100% of the time. The message is clear: in return for Tom Kean Jr.'s blind support for the MAGA agenda that hurts New Jersey, Trump and Musk are returning the favor with millions in dark-money spending meant to influence our

elections."

Under federal law, there is no limit to the amount a super PAC can spend.

Through June, Kean has raised more than \$4.89 million to Bennett's \$4.27 million.

This isn't the first time Kean has gotten support from Musk. During the 2024 election cycle, Musk's super PAC spent more than \$1 million to elect Kean.

Recent polling

The Cook Political Report, which assesses all of the races nationally, called the race a toss-up, and the Center for Politics at the University of Virginia reported that it leaned Democratic as of Sept. 16.

A poll sponsored by InsiderNJ and conducted by StimSight Research earlier in September gave Bennett a five-point lead over Kean, at 47% to 42% of the 498 likely voters in the district who responded.

In the poll, Kean's approval rating stood at 37%, with 60% disapproving of him.

It is a race that Democrats have been focused on as a potential seat to flip in their effort to regain control of the House of Representatives.

Trump carried the 7th Congressional District in 2024, but Gov. Mikie Sherrill won it in her 2025 race for governor.

The district covers Hunterdon and Warren counties and parts of Morris, Somerset, Sussex and Union counties.

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